

28th October 1946

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

• Volume VII, 1946

(28th October to 11th November, 1946)

SECOND SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1946



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CORRIGENDA

In the Legislative Assembly Debates, Autumn Session, 1946— In Volume VII—

1. No. 1, dated the 26th October, 1946—
 - (i) Page 71, In the footnote, for "Excluding" read "Including".
 - (ii) Page 118, line 15, for "joint" read "join".
2. No. 2, dated the 29th October, 1946—
 - (i) Page 174, line 3, for "the" read "they".
 - (ii) Page 186, line 3, from bottom for "an soul" read "our souls".
 - (iii) Page 187, line 4, for "preceed" read "proceed".
 - (iv) Page 198, line 24, for "18:48 crores" read "18.48 crores". ✕
3. No. 3, dated the 30th October, 1946—
 - (i) Page 271, line 8, for "chose" read "choose".
4. No. 7, dated the 6th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 577, last line, for "appreciable" read "appreciate".
 - (ii) Page 601, line 15, for "infstation" read "infestation".
5. No. 8, dated the 7th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 655, line 23, for "shatrus" read "shastras".
6. No. 10, dated the 11th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 754, second line, heading to starred question No. 870, for "CASE" read "CASTE".
 - (ii) Page 818, insert the top heading "STATEMENT OF BUSINESS" between lines 2 and 3.

In Volume VIII—

7. No. 1, dated the 12th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 884, line 14 from bottom for "iability" read "liability".
 - (ii) Page 886, line 29, for "evatars" read "avatars".
8. No. 2, dated the 18th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 926, the first line of part (c) to Starred Question No. 486 should read "(c) Are Government aware of the fact that earlier in 1939-40, Government".
 - (ii) Page 986, line 15 from bottom for "took" read "look".
9. No. 3, dated the 14th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 1015, in the table under "Pre-war" for "General Wagons Service" read "General Service Wagons".
 - (ii) Page 1027, line 28, for "supar" read "sugar".
 - (iii) Page 1067, line 6, for "person" read "persons".
 - (iv) Page 1048, in heading to Starred Question No. 568, for "se" read "re".
 - 7/ (v) Page 1012, line 10 from bottom delete the asterisk. ✕

(vi) Page 1077, for the last 6 lines *substitute* the following lines—

“Regarding the powers of the industrial tribunals, the Government has put in in clause 15, that they will accept the decision of the tribunal wholly or in part. If you appoint high eminent judges to decide the disputes, I cannot understand why the Government desires that they may ask the industry to implement the decision wholly or in part. I feel that it is possible that the Government may also find itself in difficulties. Government owns so many industries. They”

10. No. 4, dated the 15th November, 1946—

(i) Page 1100, line 15, for “preter” read “prefer”.

(ii) Page 1116, for the existing heading to Starred Question No. 616, read “HOUSING OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS”.

11. No. 5, dated the 16th November, 1946—

Page 1211, in the *last but one* line of the quotation in small type for “all” read “small”.

12. No. 6, dated the 18th November, 1946—

(i) Page 1237, under the heading “INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL”, *delete* the fifth line.

(ii) Page 1265, line 27, for “countdy” read “country”.

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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

VOLUME VII—1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 28th October, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Section 68-D(2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935.

MEMBERS SWORN:

- The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations Departments);
- The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member);
- The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting);
- The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member);
- The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport);
- The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Education and Arts);
- The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies);
- The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member);
- Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A. (Delhi: General);
- Mr. Narayan Malhar Joshi, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-official);
- Sir Pheroze Merwan Kharegat, C.I.E., M.L.A., (Secretary, Department of Agriculture);
- Mr. Bhalchandra Krishna Gokhale, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Department);
- Mr. Govardhan Shankerlal Bhalja, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Defence Department); and
- Sir Wilfred Harold Shoobert, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Communications Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ACTION FOR THE REDUCTION OF LOSSES IN STORAGE OF GRAIN

1. *Mr. C. P. LAWSON: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state:

- (a) what steps have been taken in the past year to reduce losses in storage of grain stocks (i) in Government godowns, (ii) in the hands of Government agents, and (iii) in private hands;
- (b) what estimated saving is expected to result from these steps;
- (c) what tonnage of stocks has been subjected to protective measures; and

(d) what are the estimated losses on grain in storage (i) by rats and insect pests, and (ii) by deterioration owing to bad storage?

Mr. B. B. Sen: (a) The following steps are being taken to reduce losses in storage:

(i) and (ii).—Provision of dunnage, proper stacking, regular inspection and turnover of stocks, immediate separation of infested grain and its re-clamation by means of screening, etc., are some of the steps taken to reduce losses.

Training courses have been held at Delhi, in future these will be supplemented by regional courses, for officers from Provinces and States to improve technical supervision over grains in storage. Construction of Scientific Storage both by the Centre and the Provinces is also making progress.

(iii) Technical advice is given for the improvement of existing godowns, approved designs for the construction of new storage to suit varying requirements are made available to prospective builders, assistance is given in obtaining controlled constructional materials, disinfectants, etc. On our advice, the Punjab Government have amended their marketing rules making it obligatory on grain dealers to maintain their warehouses up to an approved standard as a condition of their license.

(b) The saving effected as a result of these measures cannot be estimated with any exactitude but it must be considerable.

(c) It is not possible to give an estimate of stocks subjected to various protective measures.

(d) The loss of foodgrains by rats is very roughly estimated at 1,000,000 tons and by insects and deterioration due to bad storage about 2,000,000.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if any investigation was made into the position of granaries in which grain is stored by the villagers, and if there were any defects, what steps have been taken by Government to improve those granaries?

Mr. B. B. Sen: The importance of improving storage conditions in the country has been impressed upon the Provincial and State Governments. These Governments are making investigations into the points mentioned by the Honourable Member. We help the private holders of godowns with advice and technical assistance and with priority materials for effecting improvements.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that these investigations have been going on for more than one year?

Mr. B. B. Sen: That is correct.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any conclusion been reached till now?

Mr. B. B. Sen: There is no conclusion. It is a question of making progress. The Honourable Member has probably read in the press a statement made by one of the officers of the Food Department that during the last two years about 12 lakhs tons of storage has been constructed by Provincial Governments and about 11½ lakhs tons by State Governments. Apart from that, 195,000 tons of storage has been constructed by the Government of India on a 50/50 basis, i.e., half the expenditure is paid by the Centre and half by the Provincial Government concerned.

Mr. Vaddhal Lalubhai: How much of this deteriorated grain has been utilised?

Mr. B. B. Sen: I do not follow the Honourable Member?

Mr. President: How much of this deteriorated grain has been utilised?

Mr. B. B. Sen: I am not in a position to give exact information about the quantity protected by these measures. Further it is not possible to say how much of such grain was utilised.

Seth Govind Dass: Does Government receive periodical reports from Provincial Governments about the improvements in their respective provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is the loss that the Honourable Member has said about three millions less than in the previous year or more?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This is a very rough figure. A few hundred thousand tons saved, does not make much difference to the overall figure of loss.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My question is about more or less than in the previous year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There seems to have been some improvement but I am not in a position to say what the extent is.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Government of India make an effort to obtain reliable statistics about the food position in India? The Honourable Member in reply to this question has not given any exact figures about the savings or about the storage arrangements. He has only.....

Mr. President: Order, order. What is the question?

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member has said that the total loss by storage due to rats and insects is about three million tons. Is this loss less or more than in the previous year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The reply obviously is that the loss is less. But I am not in a position to say by how much the loss is less.

ACTION FOR INCREASING THE YIELD OF FOOD FROM FISHERIES.

2. ***Mr. C. P. Lawson:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department please state the steps taken in the past year to increase the yield of food from fisheries in (i) Bombay, (ii) Bengal, and (iii) South India?

(b) What extra tonnage of fish supplies is expected to result from these measures?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The steps taken by Provinces and the Travancore State with the aid of grants from the Centre include:

(1) The setting up of training classes in Bengal and Madras for training fishery officers.

(2) The supply of 10,000 carp fry to Bombay from Bengal for stocking tanks.

(3) The installation of a Diesel engine in a power boat for Bombay for catching sharks.

(4) A daily supply of 170 tons of ice in Bombay which it is hoped will shortly be increased by another 105 tons.

(5) The bringing into use of carrier vessels of a total tonnage of 300 tons in Bombay for bringing in catches quickly. It is expected that eight more carrier vessels now under construction will be ready for use shortly.

(6) The starting of a company for fisheries (India Fisheries Limited) in Bombay with a capital of Rs. 20 lakhs which is arranging to import a modern fishing boat.

(7) The liberation of 4 lakhs of fry in tanks in the Sunderbans area in Bengal covering 100 acres.

(8) The starting of rural pisciculture in nine districts in Bengal.

(9) Taking up paddy cum fish culture in the 24 parganas in Bengal.

(10) The supply of 44,000 fish fry to 179 tank owners in Madras.

(11) The appointment of two special officers in Madras for the improvement and modernisation of the primitive types of indigenous craft and tackle.

(12) The taking up of technological work for improving fish preservation at Calicut (Madras).

(13) The stocking of a fish farm of 160 acres with mirror carp at Ootacamund (Madras).

(14) The construction of a Marine fish farm in the Adyar Backwaters (Madras).

(15) The stocking of a freshwater farm with 1,33,000 fingerlings at Chetput (Madras).

(16) The improvement of fish curing yards (Travancore) for the better preservation and marketing of fish.

(17) The use of a motor fishing vessel for experimental fishing in Travancore.

(18) The starting of a fishing Company [West Coast Fisheries (Travancore) Ltd.], with a capital of Rs. 25 lakhs to exploit the Wadge Bank off Travancore.

(b) Bombay secured 800 tons of fish more in 1945-46 than in the previous year. Bengal expect to secure some 3,000 tons of extra fish when their plan is in full swing and South India expect some 50,000 tons extra.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he can tell the House of the particular steps Government are taking to attract capital for big-scale fishery operations?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is hoped that the capital that will be required for big-scale operations will be found by the capitalists in the country. But the Government are taking steps to carry out experimental work, and they hope before long to set up a fisheries research institute with several sections, possibly at Karachi, Bombay, Mandapam and Calcutta, in order to find out what the most suitable means are for securing more fish. It is also understood that a private company is shortly being started for the exploitation of fish in the Andamans.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary be pleased to state that the Government will see that the fishery matter does not go into the hands of capitalists?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is presumed that the Provincial Government will take care to see that the profits arising from the exploitation of fish do not remain with the capitalists.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Apart from big-scale fishery operations, is the Honourable Member satisfied that so far as Bengal at least is concerned, the fishermen have got an adequate supply of fishing nets and fishing boats which they lost during the war years and also due to the famine?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am fully aware of the fact, Sir, that there is an acute shortage of fishing nets and fishing boats in Bengal. But steps are being taken by the Government to supply the yarn required for the making of more nets and the timber that is needed for the building of more boats.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether Government have taken any action in improving fisheries in country ponds and tanks which is being overlooked, because the matter is in the hands of the capitalists?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, many of the items which I have referred to in my reply relate to inland tanks. In the U.P. in particular I believe something like 45,000 maunds of extra fish have been secured by developing tanks and ponds.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know what steps are possible for the Government of India to take for the rehabilitation of those fishermen of East Bengal who have lost their nets and their houses during the recent disturbances in that part of the Bengal?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The matter has not yet been considered but we presume that the Government of Bengal will send up their proposals in due course.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Government of India take the initiative in coming into contact with the Government of Bengal in this matter?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Certainly.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I know what is the total tonnage built by either the Government of Bengal or will be built by the Government of India to replace the boats withdrawn in the denial policy adopted in Bengal during the war?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I must ask for notice of that question, because the matter relates primarily to the action taken by the Government of Bengal.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: As regards the notice asked for by the Honourable Member, I should like to know how much of the tonnage built has been distributed between transportation and fishing?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I do not follow the question.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Many thousand tons of boats have been built in Bengal and I thought the Government of India knew something about it. Now I want to know the tonnage of boats that are already in the possession of the Government, and how much of it will go for transportation purposes and how much to the poor fishermen whose boats were taken away?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I must again ask for notice, because the information will have to be obtained from the Government of Bengal.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Have Government assured themselves that fish is proper and suitable food for human beings and that the cruelty involved in killing fish is justified by the results achieved?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The reply is in the affirmative.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Secretary inform the House what is the percentage of the extra fish caught which is unknown to all classes of people who refuse to consume it and which is therefore thrown away?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not follow the question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does the Honourable Member know that past experience has shown that some fish from deep sea fishing is unknown to our people of all classes who therefore refuse to consume it? Will the Honourable Member therefore take steps to educate our people with regard to the classes of fish which are being caught now and teach them to consume it, because it is wholesome edible fish?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Please do not do anything of the sort!

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We are aware of the fact that there are certain types of fish which are caught at present which are not generally eaten by the people and steps will be taken when the Research Institute is set up to find out what types of fish caught are edible and suitable to the tastes of people and steps will be taken to utilise the other fish for commercial purposes.

RAIL-ROAD COORDINATION SCHEME

3. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state:

(a) whether the Interim Government have prepared any scheme for Rail-Road Co-ordination; if not, whether they contemplate to do so in the near future; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to consult the Motor Transport Unions before launching on any scheme of Rail-Road Co-ordination and further assure this House that in any such scheme the interests of the operators now on Road will be adequately safeguarded?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b). The main principles of the Interim Government's policy are as follows—

(i) They are convinced of the necessity for rail-road co-ordination in order to avoid wasteful competition, to protect Government finances and to provide more efficient and co-ordinated transport services for the benefit of the public.

(ii) They consider that in most, if not all, Provinces this can best be achieved so far as passenger transport is concerned, by the formation of tripartite companies on the lines of the White Paper.

(iii) If any Provincial Government does not favour the formation of tripartite companies but wishes to form some other road transport organisation such as a provincialised transport organisation and such a scheme provides for substantial financial participation by the Railways, the Central Government, while not objecting to financial participation by the Railways, would continue to urge that an equitable adjustment of the existing operators' rights should not be overlooked.

As desired by the House during the last Budget session, the Provincial Ministry Governments were asked whether they would be able to accept the broad principles of the scheme set out in the White Paper. The details of Government's policy will be subject to modification in the light of views expressed by Provincial Governments. So far only three final replies have been received from the Provinces who doubtless have already consulted or will consult local transport interests.

As regards goods transport, the general policy is to reserve long-distance traffic for the railways and to allow road transport to cater for short distance and door to door traffic. This policy has been accepted by a majority of the Provincial Governments, and, as regards the remainder, the matter is under their consideration.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that some of the Provinces are going ahead with this rail-road co-ordination scheme? For instance, in the United Provinces they have formulated a scheme of their own. May I know from the Government of India whether they intend to have a uniform policy all over India in consultation with the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As the Honourable Member knows the intention of the Government of India was to have a uniform scheme all over India but we have no power over the Provinces. It is a provincial subject and if they wish to provincialise road transport, we cannot prevent them. All that we would like to be able to do is merely to tell them what we think is the best thing in their own interests and in the interests of the Government of India, because both the assets naturally belong to the nation.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member referred to tripartite companies. Does he mean that a majority of the shares will be held by the Railways and the Provincial Governments concerned and only a certain percentage will be thrown open to the public?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: My Honourable friend is even better aware than I am (because he has been taking a lot of interest in road rail co-ordination) that the tripartite scheme does not necessarily mean that the Railways and the Provincial Government concerned should hold a majority of shares in these companies whenever they are formed but they may or may not do so, and we cannot force them to do so either. All that we can insist upon is that so far as the Central Government are concerned the Railways should have a financial interest in it which should not be less than 25 per cent.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: In view of the undoubted importance of this question, will not the Government think it advisable to call a conference of Provincial Ministers and review the whole position?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have already addressed all the Provincial Governments on the subject and we have sent also reminders after reminders. I have myself personally interviewed almost every Provincial Minister who came from the provinces and tried to persuade him to agree to the scheme and I am fully prepared to call a conference of all Provincial Ministers interested in this scheme and I am prepared to discuss the whole thing with them.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know which are the three Provincial Governments which have accepted the scheme and sent a reply and if so, to what effect?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am prepared to answer that question, although I wish my learned friend had put down notice of it. At present

there are three governments who have definitely replied officially; we have received replies from other governments unofficially which it would not be worth my while or your while to reveal here. The three governments who have officially replied are the North-West Frontier Province, the Punjab and Sind.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know which province is in favour of state control or provincial control of motor transport entirely?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As far as I can judge the tendency from the replies received and from the various information that is available to us is for the provinces to provincialise road transport as far as possible.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that the opposition in the last assembly session was against the formation of companies of this kind, will the Honourable Member consult this assembly before a final decision is taken regarding the formation of similar companies?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid my Honourable friend is under some misapprehension. The opposition in the last Assembly session was not to the tripartite scheme—it was entirely and absolutely confined to one point namely, that the popular Provincial Ministries should have a chance of looking into this scheme: they did not object to the tripartite scheme at all, and we have waited all this time for the answers of the various governments. As you know, some of them were forming their own schemes. We have not received all the official replies so far, but I shall bear the point to which the learned questioner has referred, in mind.

Miss Maniben Kara: May I have an assurance from the Honourable Member that, in such scheme of rail-road co-ordination wherein a large mass of the public is very greatly interested and which affects the lives of conductors, drivers and various other menial staff, as well as the travelling public—the trades unions will get representation and have a voice in the shaping of the policy of this committee?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As far as I know the government's intention is to see that every one gets a fair deal, particularly those who are working, and I can assure the Honourable Member that in so far as lies in our power we will try and see that they get a fair deal, but we cannot force the provinces to do what is their duty: we cannot interfere with them.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member know that some statements were issued by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant in the United Provinces before the elections took place and he had given a sort of assurance to the bus conductors or bus owners in a certain manner. Does the Honourable Member think that he is going to stick to those assurances given by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant now?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think this question really ought to be put to Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant—it hardly arises here. I do not know what he is going to do now.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: The Honourable Member informed the House that it was the policy of the Government of India to reserve long distance traffic for rail transport. May I ask him to tell the House whether in consulting the Provincial Governments or making any recommendations to them, that was laid down as a *sine qua non* or whether the provincial governments were allowed any discretion on that particular point?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That question is still under discussion between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

4. *Sadar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether Government of India have decided to appoint an Industrial Commission with comprehensive terms of reference or contemplate to appoint one in the near future; and

(b) whether Government will consider that the terms of reference include matters relating to the fiscal policy also?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I trust, on behalf of the Honourable Industries Member, I may be permitted to answer the questions today.

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the Government of India is considering the appointment of an Industrial Commission?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have said the answer is in the negative.

COTTON TEXTILE FACTORIES IN INDIA

5. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many cotton textile factories are there in India at present and what is their number province-wise?

(b) How many new cotton textile factories have been sanctioned and how have they been distributed amongst the different provinces?

(c) What will be the full productive capacity of factories when all of them are in full working order?

(d) Have the interests of the handloom workers been properly safeguarded while framing the scheme of the organisation of the textile industry? If so, how?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) A statement giving the desired information is placed on the table of the House. The spindlage of the new mills is not uniform. Some Provinces have accepted our suggestion that a "coarse" mill should be composed of 25,000 spindles and a "fine" mill of 10,000 spindles; but in certain cases they have decided to establish mills of fewer spindles. Government of India have allotted the number of spindles to various provinces as in the statement placed on the table. It has been left to the Provinces themselves to distribute these spindles amongst the various factories within the province.

(c) 6,500 million yards a year if all mills work 14½ hours per day for 300 days in the year.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 5 of the Government of India, Resolution No. 205-TA/46, dated the 4th May, 1946, passed on the Planning Committee's report on expansion of the Cotton Textile Industry.

Statement showing the number of existing and proposed new cotton textile mills in India.

Name of Province	Number of existing mills	Number of proposed mills
Bombay	209	24 (352,000 spindles)
Madras	69	16 (325,000 spindles)
Bengal	37	12 (264,000 spindles)
U. P.	30	15 (437,000 spindles)
Punjab	8	9 (213,000 spindles)
Bihar	2	6 (151,000 spindles)
C. P. & Berar	11	4 (119,000 spindles)
Orissa . . . . .	..	3 (75,000 spindles)
Sind . . . . .	..	4 (100,000 spindles)
Assam . . . . .	..	..
Delhi	6	..
In States	45	32 (708,000 spindles)

Total

417

125

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know which of the provinces have decided to nationalise the textile industry?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: As far as I know, no province has yet nationalised the textile industry.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Government aware that the Assam Government have decided to nationalise the textile industry and for that reason all private enterprise is stopped supply of machinery and spindles?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have already said that the discretion is with the governments of the provinces to distribute the quota within the province—which includes themselves if they nationalise the industry.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member if the government are in complete agreement with the textile policy proposed by the Madras Premier and if not what their policy is going to be?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Notice, Sir, for that.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: How many textile factories are there in Assam?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Today in Assam, nil.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: On what principle are the spindles distributed among the various provinces?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The elements that go to decide the distribution among the provinces are—the present number, deficit quantity, and other circumstances of importance.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that the Jalan industry applied for spindles for starting textile mills in Assam and that permission given has been withdrawn by the government of India?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have not quite followed the first part of the question.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I explain? Before the Assam Government issued a communiqué that they will nationalise the textile industry in Assam, the Jalan industries applied for machinery and spindles and such application was granted but subsequently the supply of spindles was stopped?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: There was a request for increasing the spindles allotted to the Karnatak Province, and it was supported by the Government of Bombay; but afterwards permission to give additional spindlage was refused on the ground that Bombay was treated as a surplus province?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have already said that the Bombay Government will have to take the responsibility of distributing their quota within the province, whatever the linguistic area may be.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that the Madras Government is following a particular policy with respect to textile industry, will the Government of India think of having some uniform policy in this respect for all provinces?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That is an argument. It is left to every province to follow its own line of action.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: What is the quantity of spindles for the Bombay Province?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The number of existing mills is 209, the number of proposed mills is 24; and the total new spindlage is 352,000 for Bombay.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member please state what steps have been taken by Government to implement the resolution which was moved by Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang and adopted by the House to the effect that one-third of the total output of yarn should be made available for handloom weavers?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That will be coming in a subsequent question.†

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is open to any Provincial Government, if any allotment has been made to that Provincial Government by way of spindles, to say that the spindles shall not come into that province and shall not be given to persons who have started the textile industry there?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The question should be put in the Provincial Assembly?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the attitude of the Central Government towards those who have already started construction of buildings and sent in applications for machinery and spindles?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: When the difficulties arise the Central Government will consider them. No such complaints have yet come to the Central Government.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the permits to purchase textile factories are given by the Government of India on the recommendation of a committee in which the textile manufacturers have got a preponderating voice and that is the reason.

Shri Sri Prakasa: He has answered his own question!

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The dominating consideration is the recommendation of the province and not of any private bodies.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is there any committee appointed by the Government?

(No reply.)

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS INTO INDIA FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

6. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state what quantity of food-grains have been imported into India from the United States of America during the last six months from 15th April to 15th October 1946?

(b) Has the allotted full quota been received? If not, what is the shortage and how do Government propose to make up the deficiency?

(c) What were the estimates of production of food-grains in India and how is the position now?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) 322,429 tons.

(b) No. Shipments from the United States of America are some 164,000 tons behind the programme. The Government of India have done what was possible to mitigate the effect of this by importing grain from other sources and by tightening up both procurement and distribution in India.

(c) The position as estimated in January was that the total production of foodgrains would be 55.78 million tons. The latest estimate is that the 1945-46 crop was only 53.96 million tons.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member tell us what was the shortage from the U. S. A.?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The shortage is 164,000 tons.

Sardar Mangal Singh: How much has been met by imports from other countries?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The overall deficit in India is much greater. It has been made up to a certain extent by imports from countries like Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Argentine.

Sardar Mangal Singh: How much has been imported. Surely the Government of India must have the figures?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member is putting the question in a form which is difficult to answer. We have a heavy deficit this year. The deficit is being met not only from the United States of America, but also from other countries.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: What is the programme of further shipments?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have got a programme for October. The programme for November and December is still to be sent.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether any arrangement has been made to send grains to the various provinces according to the tastes of those provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is one of the primary considerations we have in mind.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then why not send the wheat supplied to South India now to the north and send rice instead to South India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This is an old question. The fact of the matter is that the deficit of Madras runs into millions of tons. We can supply only a certain quantity in certain grains. If we do not supply the wheat which we are supplying to Madras now, Madras will have to go without any grain in its place.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Both in U. P. and the Punjab there are quantities of rice which are not wanted there. They are dumping rice in a province where it is not wanted?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is not wholly correct. This proposal has been before the House from time to time. In the case of the United Provinces, there is a certain population, particularly in the Eastern districts, whose food is rice and not wheat. In the Punjab, there are certain districts like Kangra where the staple food is rice. We have made a definite proposition to the Punjab Government that if they give us one lakh tons of rice we are prepared to send one lakh tons of wheat in its place. That proposition is before the Punjab Government now and we hope to get an early reply.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: What is the total quantity imported from Australia?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The total quantity, as far as I remember is 520,000 tons this year.

Miss Maniben Kara: There is always a shortage of food. Food shortage is more or less a chronic situation in this country. May I know if the Government of India are considering the policy of nationalisation of land?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I want notice of that question.

DE-CONTROL OF SUGAR.

7. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state when it would be possible for Government to decontrol the scale and supply of sugar?

(b) What is the total production of sugar during the last year and the current year and what are the military requirements during these two years?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The control on sugar is necessary to effect an equitable distribution to the public of the inadequate supplies available. It is not, therefore, proposed to remove the control in the near future.

(b) The production of sugar during 1944-45 and 1945-46 seasons was 9,72,000 tons and 9,48,000 tons respectively. The military requirements during these years were 79,282 tons and 84,892 tons.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is Government taking any steps to increase the production of sugar and remove the control?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Government are taking steps and one of them is the recent announcement that the price of sugarcane will be increased in Bihar and U. P. from 0-14-6 to Rs. 1-4-0 per maund.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are any steps being taken to minimise the disparity in the quotas of distribution of sugar between rural and urban areas?

Mr. B. E. Sen: That is a matter entirely in the discretion of the Provincial Governments.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it the policy of Government that persons with incomes of Rs. 10 and less should have no sugar at all in urban areas in the U. P.?

Mr. B. E. Sen: The distribution is made on the basis of consumption before the war and it is left to the Provincial Governments to make the best use of the sugar that is allotted to them.

Seth Govind Das: For how many years has there been no export of sugar from this country?

Mr. B. E. Sen: So far as I am aware, there has been no export of sugar from this country.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Was there a ban on such export from this country?

Mr. B. E. Sen: I am not aware of that.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: What does he mean by equitable distribution? Does he mean that those persons who were accustomed to *gur* should now be forced to eat sugar, as is being done now?

Mr. B. E. Sen: That is not our intention. It is left to the Provincial Governments to make the most equitable distribution according to the circumstances of each area.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You must define what equitable distribution means.

TENDERS FOR BOOKSTALL LICENCES ON RAILWAYS

8. *Sardar Sampuran Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that in reply to question No. 250 asked by the Honourable Mr. Surput Singh in the Council of State on the 8th April, 1946 it was stated that Government would consider the advisability of inviting public tenders for book-stalls on the station premises of different railways by publishing necessary advertisement to this effect in all the important newspapers of the country before deciding the question of awarding this contract?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative will Government please state how it is that the East Indian Railway and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway administrations do not propose to call for tenders for book-stall licence?

(c) Are Government aware that it is the established practice in all the Government Departments to invite tenders for different contracts?

(d) If so, what special reasons there are for the East Indian Railway and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway to violate this practice?

(e) Are Government aware that the North Western Railway administration invited tenders for a similar contract some time back and that even the old contractor offered to pay by way of Royalty as much as five times the amount which he was paying before?

(f) Do Government propose to see that the East Indian Railway and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway do not put the Government to financial loss by not inviting public tenders for this contract?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes.

(b) The Railways concerned do propose to call for tenders before the date of termination of the present agreements. I may, however, state with regard to the contract on the B., B. & C. I. Railway that the information given in reply to part (c) of Question No. 250 asked by the Honourable Mr. Sarput Singh in the Council of State on the 8th April, 1946, has been found incorrect to the extent that the termination on 31st December 1945, of the contract entered into by the B., B. & C. I. Railway was dependent on a notice having been given

12 months earlier in terms of the contract itself. Actually such notice was not given and in consequence the contract was automatically extended upto 31st December 1951, as provided for by the terms thereof.

(c) Yes.

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

(e) Yes.

(f) In view of the reply to part (b) of the question, does not arise.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: Has the Government now taken note of the fact that in future when they want to make such provisions in their agreement, they should give notice of one year before the termination of the contract?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is not the usual practice and various agreements are bound to vary from time to time. It certainly is not the policy of the Government to make a twelve months notice obligatory or accept any such notice always.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES IN DELHI

9. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of transport difficulties in Delhi and the costly nature of available facilities;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that motor cars which are available for hire charge very heavy rates;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is no regular convenient motor bus service for officemen and for newcomers to Delhi; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of improving motor bus service in the city and introducing taxis on metre rates?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Such transport difficulties as exist in Delhi are believed to be no more serious than those in many other large cities in India and abroad. At the same time Government admit that such difficulties exist and will do what they can to remove them. The G. N. I. T. fleet has been increased by the addition of a large number of vehicles during the past six months and now operates over practically the whole of Delhi. The number of taxi cabs has been raised from 200 to 225 recently. The fares charged by the G. N. I. T. have recently been reduced.

(b) Taxi cab fares have been fixed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. When detected, overcharging is punished by the suspension of permits.

(c) Suburbs inhabited to any appreciable extent by Government servants are connected with the Government offices by special services. Delhi main station is situated on a number of bus routes.

(d) Constant efforts are being made to improve the bus services in Delhi. The compulsory fitting of taxi meters to the taxi cabs is not at present feasible since meters are not yet available.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is it not a fact that as no meters or very few of them are available, the taxi drivers charge most exorbitant fares and there is no redress against it? Has the Honourable Member ever travelled in a taxi cab?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think I have had occasions to engage taxis from time to time, but in so far as the question of exorbitant rates goes, I can assure the Honourable Member that every time a driver is detected his permit shall go.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What are the steps that can be taken to ensure such detection more easily?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The very best thing that can be done under the circumstances will be for the person who has suffered to go and report the matter to the police.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I ask if the Honourable Member will not make an effort himself and try to adopt the method which was practised by Harun-ur-Rashid?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I would leave it to the Honourable Member to try.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: The Honourable Member is undoubtedly aware of the fact that there is a great deal of public resentment against the monopoly held by the G. N. I. T. for running buses in Delhi and now that he is in a position to remove this favoured treatment, may I ask what steps he is going to take?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, the policy of the Government is not to allow any monopolies anywhere, and in so far as the G.N.I.T. is concerned, the whole question is under review today. In fact, there is a question down on the paper by Dr. Chatterjee which I shall answer a little later.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that I had to pay Rs. 4 for each tonga yesterday—and I had two—from the Delhi Railway Station to my place, while the Government pays me only Rs. 2 for this journey?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Government allows Rs. 5 a day to every Honourable Member for conveyance.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I suggest that the system of charging by meters be introduced in Delhi because the taxi drivers charge very high rates? I was charged Rs. 8 yesterday from the Railway Station to my place.

Mr. President: Next question.

PRICE OF INDIAN SILK

10. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is the policy of Government to treat Indian Silk as a national industry?

(b) What steps are being taken by the Government of India for ensuring fair, economic and remunerative price for Indian silk?

(c) What steps are being taken for protecting Indian silk from foreign competition and for seeing that it is not displaced by such foreign silk in Indian market or put to low price level as a result of competition?

(d) What steps are being taken by the Government of India for co-ordinating the efforts of different provinces and the states for the purpose of standardising quality and grades of silk and for standardising prices?

(e) How do Government propose to fix the price of foreign silk which India has received and will be receiving as part of war reparations scheme?

(f) What are the general recommendations of the Silk Panel with regard to the foregoing and how far and in what way do Government propose to deal with such recommendations for the purpose of speedy implementation?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) It is not clear what exactly the Honourable Member means by "national" industry; but Government certainly consider the silk industry to be a very important industry.

(b) Silk was controlled as regards prices from June 1945 to August 1946. Government are collecting from the main producing centres data regarding costs of production to enable them to determine what should be regarded as fair prices for Indian silk. The present market prices are higher than the old control prices, which had been fixed after due enquiry.

(c) As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the Indian silk industry enjoys tariff protection. Every care will be taken to safeguard the industry against unfair competition.

(d) At a conference held in September 1946 with the Provinces and States concerned this matter was taken up, and action in the sense referred to by the Honourable Member is under consideration.

(e) No foreign silk has so far been received by India as part of reparations. If and when an allotment is received, Government will sell it at a fair price.

(f) Government have received the report of the Silk Panel. The report will after finalisation be placed before the proposed Central Advisory Planning Board. Finalisation means consultation with the Provinces and the States.

(After a pause)

If there is no supplementary question on this I should like to correct a mistake with reference to answer to a previous question.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am putting a supplementary question, Sir. The Honourable Member has said that the price of silk has gone up. May I know if the Government of India are thinking of re-imposing control on the price of silk?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I cannot promise that.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I ask if it is not a fact that during the last one month or so the price of Indian silk has gone down below the control rate and that on account of the fact that some merchants were able previously to have access to the Government they were able to spread a rumour that foreign silk was available and therefore they were putting down the prices?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I am not aware of what has been suggested.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member has said that if he receives any quota of silk as a reparation, he will sell it to the public at a fair price. May I ask if he will similarly consider the question that the silk that may be available in the Disposals Directorate will be sold to the public at a fair price and not at a competition price?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That is a definite policy in regard to all disposals.

Miss Maniben Kara: Am I to understand from the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question that the policy of the Government will be to safeguard Indian industry by giving it tariff protection?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have answered about silk. It would not be right to treat other matters as supplementary to it.

Miss Maniben Kara: I want to know whether the Government have decided already to have the policy of giving protection to the silk industry by raising tariffs?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have already answered that in the matter of silk the policy of the Government is to protect it against foreign competition. I am not able to follow what the supplementary question is.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may now correct the answer to the supplementary question.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: With reference to question No. 5, a supplementary question was put by an Honourable Member about protection to handlooms and I said it was coming in a later question. It was involved in a sub-clause of that question itself. I might assure the Honourable Member that sufficient safeguard has been provided by reserving at least 25 per cent. of the new spindlages for free yarn for handloom production.

Mr. President: Order, order, the question hour is over.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, whenever a large portion of the time in the question hour is taken up in oath taking, the convention of the House is to give extra time for questions.

Mr. President: The convention is to the contrary. I myself made enquiries yesterday as I thought I might give some time if permissible.

Shri Sri Prakasa: On one occasion, I remember, Sir, Sir Abdur Rahim, the former President gave 20 minutes more for questions.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS**FACILITIES FOR RAILWAY PASSENGERS**

11. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanjal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state what steps Government are taking for:

(a) the running of larger number of trains, particularly those running long distances;

(b) the allocation of larger number of third class and inter class coaches for each of such trains;

(c) the increased and improved water supply for such coaches;

(d) the introduction of more satisfactory method of getting tickets at all hours of the day and night;

(e) providing sleeping accommodation for inter class and third class passengers travelling long distances during nights;

(f) providing fan service and sanitary amenities for such classes and passengers;

(g) the catering arrangements for such passengers inside the train;

(h) providing medical facilities for passengers of all through trains;

(i) the introduction of a common class for all passengers particularly for trains which run during day time; and

(j) the introduction of watch and ward for each compartment so that the passengers are constantly looked after and their grievances promptly redressed?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Between the cessation of hostilities and the 1st October 1946, Class I Railways have reintroduced or extended a total of 988 trains, representing an additional daily train mileage of 64570 on both Broad and Metre Gauge Railways. Similar figures for Class II Railways are 28 trains, involving an addition of 952 train miles per day.

As more stock becomes available by release from the Defence Department and by building in Railway workshops, passenger services will be further increased.

Apart from the above, the principal means of putting on more passenger trains is by obtaining more passenger vehicles. By March 1948, the Railway Board expect to obtain nearly 1,000 additional Broad Gauge passenger vehicles. This represents about a 12 per cent. increase on the coaches at present available for service. A further 5 per cent. improvement can be expected in the repair statistics by that date. It is therefore expected that a further improvement of about 17 per cent. in the number of passenger trains operating, principally long-distance trains, will be obtained by about April 1948.

Somewhat similar figures are expected in respect of Metre Gauge services.

(b) Of the new Broad Gauge vehicles mentioned in (a), it is intended that the great majority will be III class and these will effect a greater improvement in the availability of III class accommodation than in other classes. The allocation of the number of coaches of each class on particular trains must be left to the Railway Administrations to arrange in proportion to the number of passengers of each class normally travelling.

(c) The Railway Board have formulated long-range plans to effect an improvement in the water supply of all coaches. Such long-range plans will take some time to become effective. For immediate purposes, arrangements have been made for the more frequent filling of water tanks. It is not expected that any substantial improvement can be effected immediately due to difficulty in obtaining supplies of material.

(d) The number of stations with 24-hours booking arrangements has been increased and at other stations booking hours have been extended as required. Additional booking windows and more booking clerks have been provided at a number of stations where the demand has been felt.

(e) The provision of sleeping accommodation for a considerable percentage of Inter and III class passengers is a prominent feature under consideration in the Railway Board's post-war coach design. The financial implications of providing this amenity are now under close and detailed examination. It is anticipated that the provision of such amenities cannot be separated from the question of increasing fares.

(f) For the future III class, a larger number of better designed lavatories have been planned and these will come into circulation as new vehicles to the post-war designs are built. As regards fans in III class carriages, a new method of meeting the additional electric load which would be involved is under close examination by the Railway Board, but no decision has yet been reached.

(g) Some Railways have Indian Dining Cars running on certain trains which cater for all classes of Passengers. Their extension as well as introduction of any further arrangements necessary to meet demands will be considered after the next meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways, at which the subject is to be discussed.

(h) Facilities for rendering first-aid are available at stations and in trains. Station Masters maintain up-to-date lists of available medical practitioners either belonging to the Railway or outside, and are required to summon medical aid from the nearest source available whenever required and, if necessary, to arrange transport to the nearest hospital.

(i) The Government do not contemplate the introduction of a common class for all passengers.

(j) The Government do not consider it would be either practical or useful to post a watchman in each compartment. Railways have increased the strength of their Watch and Ward staff to give greater protection to passengers and railway property. Some Railways have running on their important trains some staff known as Conductor Guards to look after passengers' needs. Certain Railways have also appointed Passenger Guides at important stations to help passengers while on station platforms. Government propose to consider the question of further extending these arrangements.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO RE-PUBLISH THE *SEWAK* FROM AKOLA.

12. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that a Marathi Weekly newspaper by name *Sewak* was being printed and published at Akola from 1937 to February 1940?

(b) Is it a fact that the said newspaper discontinued publication owing to shortage of paper on account of war conditions?

(c) Is it a fact that after the cessation of hostilities the printer and publisher of the said newspaper applied for permission for re-publishing the said newspaper and also for a quota of news-print, four times during the last twelve months and whether permission was refused?

(d) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Akola recommended for the grant of permission and quota?

(e) Why was permission refused for the re-publication of the said newspaper, when permission for new newspapers has been granted?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes.

(b) The paper suspended publication in 1940 before the promulgation of the Newsprint Control Order. It may be due to the cause stated.

(c) It is true that several applications were made on behalf of the paper.

(d) The report of a district officer to his Provincial Government cannot be made the subject of an answer.

(e) Permission was refused due to acute shortage of Newsprint.

PERMISSION FOR PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPERS IN C. P. AND BERAR AFTER TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES AND THE QUOTA OF NEWS PRINT DEMANDED BY THE SEWAK

13. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that permissions for publication of new vernacular and English newspapers in Central Provinces and Berar have been granted after the cessation of hostilities? If so, how many such newspapers have been permitted to be published and how much quota of news-print has been allotted to such new publications?

(b) What was the quota of news-print demanded by the publisher of the *Sewak* the Marathi Weekly published at Akola? What was the quota allotted to new newspapers?

(c) Are Government aware that the said newspaper, *Sewak* served a very useful purpose in the Akola District and was particularly devoted to the cause of Agriculturists in the District and was also recognised by the education department?

(d) Do Government propose to grant the necessary permission for publication and quota of newsprint especially when the demand for news-print is a very small one and when the newspaper is much in demand in Akola District?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes. Two newspapers with a total quota of three tons and three cwts. have been granted permission to start publication.

(b) 1½ tons per year. For the second question please see (a) above.

(c) This may be so.

(d) Permission has been granted for re-starting the newspaper with a suitable quota.

MONOPOLY OF THE G. N. I. T. CO. FOR RUNNING BUS SERVICES IN DELHI PROVINCE

14. *Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state if it is a fact that the Gwalior and Northern India Transport Company have been granted the monopoly for running Bus services in Delhi Province?

(b) Do Government intend to permit other transport companies to run Bus services in Delhi Province?

(c) Are Government aware—

(i) that the bus services run by the Gwalior and Northern India Transport Company are inadequate and that there is a great deal of overcrowding;

(ii) that the number of buses is insufficient and run at infrequent intervals;

(iii) that the fares charged by this company are approximately two annas per mile; and

(iv) that a number of buses used by the Company on long runs are old and extremely uncomfortable?

(d) Will Government be prepared to investigate into the very high rate of fares charged and the grievances of the public using these buses?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The reply is in the negative. Companies other than the G. N. I. T. operate buses on the rural routes.

(b) Government have the future of Delhi transport under consideration.

(c) (i) and (ii). The number of buses and services operated by the G. N. I. T. are reported to be now adequate. It is realised that there is some congestion during peak periods but steps including the authorisation of additional petrol and a large increase in the number of buses have recently been taken to alleviate the position.

(iii) The reply is in the negative. Except in the case of one special service the basic rate was formerly one anna per mile but this has recently been reduced to one anna per mile for the first three miles and six pies per mile for any subsequent mileage.

(iv) Some of the buses are old but the old vehicles are gradually being replaced by new vehicles fitted with comfortable bodies.

(d) The present fares are not considered to be unduly high in the circumstances. Government are always prepared to investigate any reasonable complaints.

**APPOINTMENT OF SIR HENRY KNIGHT IN THE FOOD DEPARTMENT
FOR SOUTHERN INDIA**

15. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for appointing Sir Henry Knight to a special appointment in the Food Department for Southern India;

(b) the terms of his contract stating the period for which he was employed and the salary fixed;

(c) the actual period of his service;

(d) whether the post was advertised, if not, why not;

(e) why no Indian was appointed to this post; and

(f) whether his successor has been appointed; if so, who is he?

Mr. B. B. Sen: The proposal for the appointment of Sir Henry Knight was dropped. The question does not, therefore, arise.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON RAILWAYS

16. ***Seth Sukhdev:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) which of the Railway Systems passing through British India, have not yet set up Railway Advisory Committees;

(b) if Government propose to take steps to have such Committees appointed, if not, why not; and

(c) what arrangements exist for the public to advise Railways on matters generally brought before Railway Committees, where no Advisory Committees exist?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Among Class I Railways, the Jodhpur Railway; Class II, the Gaekwar's Baroda State Railway, the Bhavnagar State Railway, the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur-Light Railway; and Class III, all Railways passing through British India.

(b) The Jodhpur Railway are considering the question of the formation of a Local Railway Advisory Committee. As regards Class II and III Railways, they are small and the Government do not consider it necessary to press for the formation of Local Advisory Committees on those Railways.

(c) The public can advise the Railways concerned through the usual channels of letters, publication in newspapers, or through personal interviews with the officers of the Railways.

**INTERFERENCE BY THE JODHPUR RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION IN THE MANAGEMENT
OF HYDERABAD (SIND) STATION**

17. ***Seth Sukhdev:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad (Sind) is a joint working station of North Western and Jodhpur Railways, if so, whether there is any agreement

for such working, and whether a copy thereof will be laid on the table of the House;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Hyderabad (Sind) Station is managed by the North Western Railway agency;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Jodhpur Railway Administration has given an agency for the issue of upper class tickets at Hyderabad (Sind), if so, why;

(d) what other sources exist at Hyderabad (Sind) for the purchase of upper class tickets, and the number of tickets sold during the months of April, 1946, and August, 1946, separately, by all these sources; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to avoid interference by the Jodhpur Railway Administration in the management of the Hyderabad (Sind) Station in the matter of sale of tickets?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes. A copy of the Agreement under execution is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The Jodhpur Railway is a party to a tripartite agreement which the North Western Railway have with City Booking Agents for the issue of all classes of tickets from Booking Offices in Hyderabad City. The Jodhpur Railway is a party to this agreement because the booking of passengers from Hyderabad (Sind) to and *via* that Railway is a local transaction of that Railway.

(d) The Indian Railway Conference Association have recognised a number of tourist agents and the Jodhpur Railway have a general agreement with one of them for the issue of tickets. This Agency have an office in Hyderabad (Sind) from which Upper Class tickets are issued.

A statement showing the number of tickets issued for April, 1946 and August, 1946 by all sources is laid on the table of the House.

(e) In view of reply to part (c) above, this question does not arise.

NORTH WESTERN AND JODHPUR RAILWAYS, HYDERABAD JUNCTION STATION AGREEMENT

Agreement between the North Western Railway (as the working Agency for Hyderabad joint station) and the Jodhpur Railway for the performance of all work in connection with Jodhpur Railway Traffic at Hyderabad Station.

SCHEDULE No. 1

Working Arrangements

1. General Principles.

This Agreement is based on the following principles and is to be interpreted in accordance with them:—

(a) That all broad gauge track and all premises works and working plant provided for the exclusive use of the North Western Railway as well as for the joint use of both the Railways are the property of the N. W. Railway.

All metre gauge track all works provided for the exclusive use of the J. Railway are the property of the Jodhpur Railway.

(b) That the North Western Railway is solely responsible for the Administrative control, maintenance of all works in joint use and provision of facilities at joint stations.

(c) For working and maintaining Hyderabad Station including transhipment of goods both ways and all other expenses that may in the ordinary course arise therefrom, Jodhpur Railway will adequately remunerate the North Western Railway as provided in part II of this agreement.

(d) That except where otherwise specially provided, the conference Rules, with regard to working arrangements shall apply.

(e) The "Local" traffic of the Jodhpur Railway means all traffic booked from or to Hyderabad to, from or *via* the Jodhpur Railway.

(f) That "through" or "interchanged" traffic means all traffic booked *via* Hyderabad between the Jodhpur Railway and *via* on the one hand and the North Western Railway and *via* on the other hand.

(g) North Western Railway passing traffic means all traffic of N. W. Railway between stations on the N. W. Railway on the either side of Hyderabad Sind Junction Station and which, therefore, only passes through the junction station.

2. *Duration of Agreement and Notice of termination.*—This agreement shall be deemed to have come into force from 1st October, 1937, and shall remain in force for ten years and six months from the said date; provided however, that unless this agreement is determined or modified by either party on six months' notice in writing, terminating on 31st March, 1948, such notice being accompanied by a new agreement or a corrigendum, it shall be deemed to be in force from year to year till determined on six months' notice terminating on 31st March, subject to the aforesaid stipulations by either party.

NOTE:—This agreement cancels the previous agreement dated 22nd November, 1905, between the North Western and Jodhpur Railways for the working of Hyderabad (Sind), Detha and Tando Thara joint stations.

3. *Limits of Hyderabad Station.*—(a) On the Jodhpur Railway Main Line, the outer signal at Mirpur Khas end.

(b) On the N. W. Railway the up outer signals of Hyderabad station in up direction and down outer signal in the down direction.

4. *Construction, maintenance and provision of Permanent Way, Structures, Buildings and other facilities.*—(a) The North Western Railway is entirely responsible for constructing, renting or otherwise providing and maintaining in good order all structures, buildings, and other facilities and providing adequate staff for the purpose of dealing with Jodhpur Railway's traffic subject to the proviso that the Jodhpur Railway shall be responsible for providing and maintaining all buildings, structures, Rolling Stock, including lighting thereof, permanent way and other works required by them for their exclusive use.

(b) The Jodhpur Railway shall make their own arrangements for working and maintaining their own line and other properties, which are for their exclusive use at their own expense in such a manner as to be in keeping with the standard of efficiency and appearance of the N. W. Railway buildings, etc.

(c) All electric energy whenever supplied to the Jodhpur Railway for their exclusive use shall be paid for by the Jodhpur Railway at the rates agreed upon between Jodhpur Railway and North Western Railway.

(d) Both North Western and Jodhpur Railways will provide a reasonable reserve of coaching and goods stock in order to meet the traffic demands.

No Jodhpur Railway wagon or wagons belonging to any Railway working in connection with Jodhpur Railway shall be detained under load beyond 36 hours after arrival at Hyderabad and should any wagon be so detained, it shall be subject to a charge of demurrage at the rate which may be laid down from time to time for interchange of Rolling Stock in accordance with the Conference Regulations. The calculation of penalty charges will commence from the first complete hour after expiry of this period, fractions of hours being disregarded.

(e) To protect the North Western Railway from risk or loss arising from undue delay on the part of Jodhpur Railway in providing wagons for loading, the Jodhpur Railway shall be liable to a penalty at the demurrage rate which may be laid down from time to time for interchange of Rolling Stock in accordance with Conference Regulations on the stock detained with such goods booked through to stations of the Jodhpur Railway or connected Railways as the Jodhpur Railway may fail to provide wagons for after 36 hours Notice, such penalty to be leviable up to the time the Jodhpur Railway wagons become available for loading at the transfer platform.

The calculation of penalty charges is to be made as in the case of clause 4(d) above.

The penalty laid down in this and the preceding clause shall not apply to girders, timber and such heavy and bulky articles as may from time to time be exempted by special agreement between the two Railway Administrations.

(f) Both Railways shall make their own arrangements for separate sick lines for damaged stock and reasonable facilities for running repairs including staff and spare parts.

(g) The running and inspecting staff of the Jodhpur Railway shall be allowed the free use of running rooms and rest rooms provided for joint use.

(h) (i) *Watering, greasing and oiling Rolling Stock.*—Each Railway shall make its own arrangements for watering its own engines, and also for greasing, oiling, examining and repairing its own engines and stock at the joint station. The Jodhpur Railway shall pay for water consumed for their exclusive use at rates that may be fixed from time to time by the N. W. Railway.

(ii) Each Railway shall provide the material and staff for lighting its own trains.

5. *Haulage of goods from Jodhpur Railway siding or platform to North Western Railway siding or platform and vice versa.*

(a) Haulage should be done by the Railway concerned.

(b) Hand shunting to be done by the joint staff.

(c) The North Western Railway shall book, deliver and deal with all Jodhpur Railway traffic in Hyderabad area.

(d) The Jodhpur Railway shall haul their own coaching trains to and from Hyderabad.

(e) The Jodhpur Railway staff working trains within the limits of Hyderabad area shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the North Western Railway.

(f) The timings of Jodhpur Railway trains running to and from Hyderabad shall be settled by the Jodhpur Railway in consultation with the North Western Railway.

(g) Correspondence including telegrams relating to the joint business of the contracting Railways shall be interchanged free.

6. *Forms and Returns.*—(a) The Jodhpur Railway shall provide all tickets, books, forms and stationery required in connection with booking and delivery of its own local traffic.

(b) The North Western Railway shall keep such books, statements and accounts and furnish such returns on Jodhpur Railway local traffic as they may require. These will be open to inspection by the Jodhpur Railway Officials.

(c) The North Western Railway as the working agency shall provide all platform tickets at its own cost.

7. *Accounts.*—The Jodhpur Railway shall be responsible for checking its own accounts.

8. *Rates and fares.*—The Jodhpur Railway shall quote rates and fares for their own traffic to and from Hyderabad and *via*.

9. *Earnings.*—(a) Earnings on Jodhpur Railway local traffic shall be credited to that railway in such manner as that railway may direct.

(b) Wharfage and demurrage charges on Jodhpur Railway local coaching and local goods traffic shall be credited to the Jodhpur Railway.

(c) Siding charges accruing on traffic of North Western or Jodhpur Railways shall be credited to North Western Railway and the Jodhpur Railway respectively.

(d) Telegraph earnings in respect of the local traffic of each Railway shall be credited to the respective Railways.

10. *Compensation claims.*—(a) Each Railway shall deal with, dispose of and bear all claims on its local traffic.

(b) Claims in respect of through or interchanged traffic shall be dealt with and adjusted between Railways directly concerned, *e.g.*, earning freight when Jodhpur Railway is concerned in the settlement of a claim and decides that the responsibility rests either wholly or in part with the staff of Hyderabad joint station, it will report the case to the North Western Railway who will deal with the staff responsible.

(c) Claims arising :—

(i) on traffic interchanged between the North Western Railway and Jodhpur Railway or

(ii) under Conference Rules on traffic interchanged between the North Western Railway and the Jodhpur Railway for misdespatch, shall be borne by both Railways in proportion to freight earned from the consignments, when the responsibility is fixed on the staff in the Hyderabad joint station.

11. *Miscellaneous items.*—(a) All irrecoverable debits arising on the Jodhpur Railway local traffic shall be borne by that Railway.

(b) Unclaimed goods and parcels received from the Jodhpur Railway shall be disposed of under order of that Railway and the sale proceeds, if any, will be credited to that Railway.

12. *Accidents.*—The Jodhpur Railway shall be responsible for all expenses due to accidents arising from the acts of its staff within the Hyderabad joint station area.

SCHEDULE No. II

Remuneration Schedule

1. For the services and facilities afforded in the Hyderabad junction station as detailed below, the Jodhpur Railway shall remunerate the North Western Railway by paying half yearly the following lump sum payments :—

(a)

(b)

(i) For maintaining all the works in joint use including furniture, tools and plants.

(ii) For transhipment of all goods traffic from and to Jodhpur Railway, *via* Hyderabad Station.

(iii) For supply of platform tickets.

(iv) For general services.

(v) For cost of North Western Railway staff working in Hyderabad junction station for joint purposes.

(vi) For medical attendance including charges incidental thereto on the joint staff.

(vii) For stationery and consumable store used by the joint staff including home line freight on stores.

(viii) Compensation for accidents, damages, losses attributable to joint staff.

(ix) Compensation paid to joint staff under W. C. Act.

(x) For cost of Order Police.

(xi) Other expenditure that may be ordinarily incurred in working a joint station.

NOTE:—The Jodhpur Railway shall also pay for the following items for which specific provision exists in addition to the lump sum payable to the North Western Railway.

- (i) Compensation claims clause 10 schedule 1.
- (ii) Expenses arising in connection with accidents (Clause 12 schedule 1).
- (iii) Supply of electric energy [Clause 4(c) schedule 1].
- (iv) Cost of water consumed for the exclusive use of the Jodhpur Railway vide clause 4 (h) (i).
- (v) Penalty charges [Clause 4(d) and (e) schedule 1].

2. Any dispute arising in connection with this agreement shall be referred to the Railway Board.

3. The lump sum of Rs. _____ per annum payable by the Jodhpur Railway to the North Western Railway will remain in force for the first five years from 1st October, 1937.

It will be liable to revision for the latter five and a half year, viz., from 1st October, 1942, according as the percentage of the expenses to be borne by the North Western Railway on account of its passing traffic determined on the actual figures of passing traffic for the year 1940-41 may vary from 33-1/3 per cent., the percentage adopted on this account while calculating the lump sum of Rs. _____ of the first five years.

The total working expenses and the proportion in which the same are to be shared between the North Western Railway and the Jodhpur Railway for the latter five and a half years, viz., from 1st October, 1942, will, however, remain the same as for the first five years from 1st October, 1937.

General Manager,

North Western Railway, LAHORE.

Manager,

Jodhpur Railway, JODHPUR.

Dated _____

Dated _____

Statement showing the number of tickets issued by all sources from Hyderabad (Sind) for April, 1946 and August, 1946.

	April, 1946		August, 1946	
	First Class	Second Class	First Class	Second Class
Station	144	1,004	153	1,294½
City Booking Agents	4	192	16	313
Tourist Agents	15	155½	8½	133
Total	163	9,951½	177½	17,402½

DENIAL OF RELIEF OF RS. 4/8— IN PAY TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES WHO CEASED TO BE IN SERVICE AFTER 1ST JULY, 1945

18. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the relief of Rs. 4/8 per mensem has been sanctioned in the pay of Railway employees with retrospective effect from the 1st July, 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees in service on this date, but not in service on the 1st August, 1946, have been deprived of this increase;

(c) under what specific rule of the Railway Codes this increase in pay has been denied to employees in service during the period to which it refers; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue instructions to give this increased pay to the employees for the months during which they were in service, but who resigned, retired or left service for any reason at any time after 1st July, 1945; if not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The orders regarding the grant of interim relief to non-gazetted railway servants were issued on the 2nd of August, 1946, and, in terms of Rule 2045(2) of the State Railway General Code, have retrospective effect only to the extent provided in the letter itself conveying the sanction. There is no specific rule in the Railway Codes prescribing the conditions under which retrospective effect should be given to a sanction, the matter being within the discretion of the competent authority.

The increase in pay was given on the recommendation of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in order to relieve the staff actually in service of their most pressing financial anxieties to make their continuance in railway employment possible. The relief was given with retrospective effect in order to place a lump sum amount in the hands of the serving employees to meet their immediate needs, pending the enquiry by the Pay Commission. It was, therefore, decided to exclude persons who had left service before the 1st August 1946, from this relief.

(d) In view of my reply to part (c), Government do not propose to modify their instructions.

FIXATION OF PRICE OF WHEAT IN U. P.

19. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department kindly state if Government intend to continue the Grain Procurement Scheme this year also? If so, what price they propose to fix for wheat in the United Provinces?

(b) Was the price fixed for wheat this year in the United Provinces much less specially in the districts having big rationed cities in them?

Mr. B. B. Sen: (a) Assuming that the Honourable Member refers to the U.P. Grain Procurement Scheme, the answer is that the U.P. Government intend to continue their Procurement Scheme for the rest of the crop year. The existing statutory maximum of Rs. 10/4/- per maund for wheat in the main producing areas will remain in force till the end of the crop year.

(b) No, Sir.

FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA

20. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the present food situation in the country;

(b) the supply of foodstuffs expected from other countries; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take or are taking to meet the situation?

Mr. B. B. Sen: The Honourable Member is referred to the Memorandum on Food Situation laid on the table of the House.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

MEMORANDUM ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY UP TO THE 20TH OCTOBER, 1946.

A.—India and International Food Organisations

The second and third quarters of the year 1946 have seen important developments in the representation of India on international bodies dealing with food, and in her relations with foreign countries from whom India draws or seeks to draw supplies. In this connection, a clear distinction must be drawn between international bodies which deal with the allocation of supplies, such as the Combined Food Board and the International Emergency Food Council, and bodies which deal with the planning of future production and price policy, such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation, which recently held an important Conference at Copenhagen.

2. To deal first with international bodies allocating supplies, the body charged with this duty on a world basis at the time when the Indian Delegation visited Washington in March, 1946, was the Combined Food Board. This body was, in effect, nothing more than a war-time co-ordinating body set up to deal with the procurement of supplies needed by the Western Allies under war-time conditions. It was not a representative body in a world-wide sense; nor had it any executive authority to compel exporting nations to programme supplies according to its recommendations. It had dealt with a war-time situation in which the main difficulty in distribution lay, not in procuring supplies of grain, but in shipping them. The proceedings of the Combined Food Board assumed a very different complexion in the beginning of 1946, when it became apparent that the expectations formed in the middle of 1945 as to the relation of grain supply to demand in 1946, were totally erroneous and that a serious shortage was unavoidable. India had suffered an almost unprecedented short-fall owing to the failure of the rains in the latter part of 1945, and the early part of 1946, but she was not alone in her misfortune, and there was widespread failure of production against estimates and shortage of supplies in many other parts of the world. In such circumstances, the Combined Food Board was quite unable to find sufficient supplies and recommend programmes which would anywhere near satisfy the competing demands of claimants all over the world. It was felt that a more representative and authoritative body must be created to deal with the new situation and accept the responsibility for deciding how the insufficient resources were to be parcelled out. While this was under consideration, India's position was improved to the extent that she was admitted to Membership of the Cereals Committee and of the Rice Committee of the Combined Food Board; and special measures were taken to strengthen the staff of the Agent-General in Washington in order to secure that India's case was satisfactorily explained and pressed after the Indian Delegation had left Washington.

3. To replace the Combined Food Board, the nations eventually agreed on the constitution of the International Emergency Food Council. The full Council consists of 24 nations as follows :—

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, India, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Siam, Switzerland, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America.

The Executive Body of the Council is the Central Committee composed of 8 nations as follows :—

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, India, United Kingdom and United States of America.

It will be seen that India is thus much more fully and directly represented in the International Emergency Food Council than she had been with the Combined Food Board. She is, of course, a Member of the Commodity Committees operating under the International Emergency Food Council as she had been under the Combined Food Board. The International Emergency Food Council is still, however, constitutionally a recommendatory Body, and is not in the position that the world's surpluses are placed unreservedly at the Council's disposal to be distributed under its orders.

As the year proceeded, it became increasingly evident that in the case of rice, the International Emergency Food Council Committee in Washington could not keep in sufficiently close touch with the situation in South East Asia. Estimates of availability of supplies were constantly changing, and allocations made by the International Emergency Food Council bore little quantitative relation to the supplies which could actually be shipped. This situation was, to a certain extent, mitigated by the presence in Singapore of the Special Commissioner, South East Asia, Lord KILLEARN. He acted as a co-ordinating authority on the spot for South East Asian supplies including supplies to India under International Emergency Food Council allocations. He had requested the appointment of Liaison Officers by the interested Governments, and held a series of special and periodic Conferences in order to secure the best possible programming of supplies with due regard to International Emergency Food Council allocations. The Government of India's regular representative at these meetings was Mr. S. K. Chettur, the Representative of India in Malaya, but Conferences were attended from time to time by other Officers including the Food Secretary. It has now been decided to appoint a special Sub-Committee of the International Emergency Food Council at Singapore to advise and assist the Special Commissioner in his task of food co-ordination in South East Asia, and in adjusting the actual supplies available to the changing needs of different areas, with greater degree of speed and accurate knowledge than is possible from Washington. India is, represented on this Sub-Committee at Singapore.

4. To turn to the other type of international organisation dealing with food planning, rather than with the allocation of supplies, the most important event has been the emergence of *World Food Board* proposals put forward by Sir John Boyd Orr, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organisation to the recent Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference at Copenhagen. The objectives of the proposed *World Food Board*, as stated to the Copenhagen Conference, are :

Firstly, developing and organising production, distribution and utilisation of the basic foods to provide diets on a health standard for the peoples of all countries, and

Secondly, stabilising agricultural prices at levels fair to producers and consumers alike.

An aspect of the proposals of special importance to India is the establishment of Food Reserves adequate for any emergency that might arise due to failure of crops in any part of the world. India was represented at the Copenhagen Conference, when it was decided that

a Preparatory Commission should be set up in Washington to examine the *World Food Board* proposals in detail, and attempt to work out a practical plan to achieve the objectives. A Delegation to represent India on this Preparatory Commission has already left for Washington.

5. The attempts which have been made by the Government of India to add to, or supplement supplies under allocation by the International Emergency Food Council, are summarised in the paragraphs dealing with imports, but the following points may be of special interest to Members of the Legislature :

Firstly.—The question of obtaining supplies from Russia—which country is not a Member of the International Emergency Food Council—has received special attention. A direct appeal to Russia was made at the United Nations Organisation Conference in London, and enquiries were made subsequently during the year regarding the prospects of grain being available for export from Russia. Only recently, Mr. Krishna Menon, on behalf of Pandit Nehru, interviewed Monsieur Molotov in Paris to place India's needs before him. Up to the present, the Government of the U. S. S. R. has not found it possible to make available any supplies for India.

Secondly.—A special Mission was sent to Argentine in order to secure the shipment of supplies of grain which had been purchased there on behalf of the Government of India, but for which export licenses had not been granted. This Mission has been more fortunate, and substantial quantities are now on their way to India.

Thirdly.—The offer of exports of paddy for India from Java has been actively followed up, but has encountered a succession of practical difficulties which have not been rendered any easier by the difficult international and political situation which obtained in that country. So far, thirty thousand tons of Indonesian paddy have been shipped to India, and, it is hoped that greatly increased quantities will be forthcoming now that motor transport has been made available to improve movement from the interior to the railheads and to the Ports.

Fourthly.—In Siam, India has accepted an invitation to become a Member of the Siam Rice Commission. This is an International Body composed of representatives of His Majesty's Government, the United States, Siam and China, in addition to India, to stimulate and regulate the export of rice from Siam under the Tripartite Agreement and in accordance with International Emergency Food Council allocations.

Fifthly.—An interesting feature has been the visit to India of the un-official American Famine Mission under the leadership of Dr. Schultz. This Mission was treated by the Government of India as their guests, and given full facilities to visit different parts of the country, and see for itself the supply position, the administrative measures taken to prevent starvation, and the condition of the people. The object in view was to enable the Mission, on its return to America, to report its findings for the information of the American people and the guidance of their Government. The report of the Mission included strong support for the importation of grain into India in the quantities asked for by the Government of India, and a notable tribute to India's internal procurement and distribution system.

B.—Crop Prospects

From reports received from various parts of the country, it appears that the all India total out-turn of Kharif crops will be upto average. So far as rice is concerned, Southern India which suffered from unprecedented drought last year is expected to have an average crop, which would mean an increase of 1 million tons over last year in Madras alone. The only Province where the rice crop is reported to have suffered damage to an appreciable extent is Assam. Rice crops in some districts of Assam have been destroyed by recent floods but the extent of the damage is not yet known. In the Punjab the rice crop has suffered from drought but the loss in yield has to a large extent been offset by the increase in acreage. From Sind, too, reports of drought have been received but the figures of area and yield have not yet been communicated to us by the Sind Government.

Jowar and Bajra crops are also reported to be normal in all parts of the country. In Bihar, the maize crop which was expected to be better than last year has suffered considerable damage by floods in the Ganges.

C.—Progress of the Basic Plans

Kharif Plan 1945-46.—This Plan attempted the distribution of 8.4 lakh tons of rice, 2.3 lakh tons of millets and 0.9 lakh tons of maize from surplus to deficit areas. This quantity was, of course, quite inadequate to meet even the original declared deficits. When later the deficits increased considerably due to drought and failure of crops and it was clear that internal surpluses were wholly insufficient to meet the situation, special missions were sent abroad to press for more imports.

As the Plan progressed, even the meagre surpluses previously declared were found to be unavailable either because in some cases the original estimates of the surplus areas were over-optimistic or because the crops, both kharif and rabi, suffered damage due to floods and drought. The original combined total movement target was 11.2 lakh tons, the revised one was 9.9 lakh tons. Against this revised target the surplus areas have despatched to the deficit areas upto the 25th September, 1946, 8.97 lakh tons. The following table shows

the upto date quotas of rice and millets from the principal surplus areas and their performance so far :—

(In '000 tons)

Name of surplus area	Export quota		Despatches—1st November 1945 to 26th September 1946	
	Rice	Millets	Rice	Millets
Punjab	135	15	122	15
Sind	200		160	..
C. P. & Berar	177		170	..
Assam	126	..	81	..
Orissa	100	..	69	..
Eastern States	50	..	44	..
Coorg	13	..	11	..
Hyderabad . . . . .	..	98	..	62
Gwalior . . . . .	..	30	..	24
Punjab States . . . . .	..	30	..	27
Baluchistan	10	10	8	10

The following table shows the quantities of foodgrains supplied to each of the principal deficit areas against the 1945-46 Kharif Plan allocations.

(In '000 tons)

Name of deficit area	Despatches—1st November 1945 to 26th September 1946	
	Rice	Millets
Bengal	38	..
Bombay	167	91
Madras	252	27
Travancore/Cochin	219	..

Rabi Plan 1945-46 :—(May 1945—April 1946).

Under this Plan, against a total programme of 9.5 lakh tons wheat, a total quantity of 7.6 lakh tons wheat was despatched from the surplus areas. In addition to these supplies a total quantity of 9.2 lakh tons of wheat was received from overseas and distributed to the deficit areas during the currency of the Plan. It may be mentioned in this connection that owing to the difficulties of wheat procurement in the Punjab, the largest surplus Province, resulting largely from the poor prospects of the 1946 wheat crop, there were very small exports of wheat from internal sources during the last four months of the Rabi year 1945-46, i.e., in the period January to April, 1946. The wheat requirements of the deficit areas during this period had therefore to be met almost wholly from overseas arrivals, which amounted to 3.7 lakh tons (from 1st January to 30th April, 1946).

Rabi Plan 1946-47 (May 1946 to April 1947).

The only wheat surpluses that were declared were 40,000 tons by Sind and 30,000 tons by Bahawalpur. In view of this and as the import programme has been uncertain and known only for a few weeks ahead, the Food Department have had to modify the earlier system of 12 monthly Basic Plans, with effect from May last. A system of monthly budgets on the basis of which allocations of available supplies are made has been introduced instead. These

indicate for each deficit area the stock position at the beginning of the month, local procurement within the area, stocks to be moved into the area from surplus areas in India, allocation of imports from abroad, the total resources available for the month and the consumption for the month. Stocks refer to stocks held by Government, and consumption is the offtake of non-producers or partial producers dependent on supplies from Government. On present estimates we expect to enter the month of November with stocks in hand in the principal deficit areas equivalent to a month's offtake from Government sources. The stock in hand at the commencement of December will be less than the equivalent of one month's offtake from Government sources. These working stocks are inadequate to ensure the smooth working of rationing schemes, etc.

For this purpose it is estimated that an immediate allocation of a further 5,15,000 tons of foodgrains for arrival in India before the end of the year will be necessary. The case for these additional imports has already been put to His Majesty's Government and the International Emergency Food Council.

The following table shows the receipts of foodgrains from overseas during the period 1st May 1946 to 30th September 1946 and their distribution among the principal deficit areas :—
(',000 tons)

Recipients	Rice	Wheat	Flour	Millets	Maize	Barley	Total
Bengal	10	78	20		4	..	112
Bihar	15	26	2	..	27	1	71
Bombay	6	36	20	8	24	5	99
Madras	83	119	38	19	57		316
Mysore	14	42	9	9	21	..	95
Tr. Cochin	45	47	1	..	3		96
Others . . . . .	..	188	30		12		230
Total	173	536	120	36	148	6	1,019

The following two points deserve special mention :—

(1) We have received loans from some Provinces and States to help us to tide over a critical period in some of the deficit areas, on a guarantee of replacement, later in the year when they might need it to meet their own requirements.

The quantities so far loaned are :—

Punjab	90,000 tons wheat and atta
Sind	60,000 " "
U. P.	10,000 " "
Bhawalpur	7,000 " "
Jaipur	5,000 " barley

The bulk of these quantities has already been despatched to the deficit areas. Despatches of the balance are progressing satisfactorily. We have started repayment of the Sind loan. The others are repayable from December onwards if repayment is insisted upon.

(2) The seamen's strike in United States of America in September and October 1946, and the delay in arriving at an agreement with the Argentine Government over the issue of export permits for the Government of India's purchases of foodgrains, have very seriously affected the imports in the months of October and November. Special appeals were therefore made in September last to surplus areas in India to come to the rescue of deficit areas in this critical period. As a result of these appeals, the following fresh surpluses of rice, wheat and millets have been offered for export during October and November :—

Orissa	20,000 tons rice
Punjab	10,000 tons rice
C. P. & Berar	10,000 tons rice (in exchange for wheat)
Indore	4,300 tons mil ets
Khairpur	1,000 tons wheat.

Estimates relating to the Kharif surpluses and deficits for the next year commencing from 1st November 1946 are still being collected.

D.—Imports.

Throughout the last three years the Government of India have steadily and continuously pressed upon His Majesty's Government the imperative need and urgency of importing into India substantial quantities of grain from abroad with a view to offset the overall deficiency in foodgrains, to facilitate the procurement of local surpluses, to hold and maintain the accepted price policy and to build up an adequate reserve for meeting emergency needs. The import position has been reviewed almost every quarter in close consultation with His Majesty's Government and India's case for imports has been supported by officers of Government during their visit to the United Kingdom and fully explained to some of the experts in Great Britain who had visited this country. The Foodgrains Policy Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1943, recommended that the Government of India should press for current consumption imports of about 1 million tons a year plus 500,000 tons to build up a central foodgrains reserve. The general Food situation during the war and particularly the shipping situation, was such that despite all our efforts we were unable to obtain the full amount of grain recommended by the Committee. Our imports during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945 were actually as follows :—

1943	1944	1945
328,686 tons	649,041 tons	844,225 tons

With these imports, the highest reserve that the Government of India could build at any stage was about 120,000 tons and this too was dissipated in rescue operations for the United Provinces at the end of 1944. The serious situation which developed towards the end of 1945 owing to the failure of the monsoon in the South required special measures. It was obvious that the imports recommended by the Policy Committee were insufficient to meet the situation which had arisen and, therefore, the Government of India decided to send a Food Mission to the Combined Food Board to press their case for increased and accelerated imports. The mission was instructed to demand 2.2 million tons for the first half of the year and 2 million tons for the second half. They returned with a tentative import figure of 1.4 million tons for the first half of the year, with a further allocation to be settled later, for the second half. Shortly after the mission returned to India, however, there was some doubt over the figure communicated to them and the matter was further taken up with His Majesty's Government as a result of which an agreement was arrived at between His Majesty's Government, United States of America and Canada under which shipments of 11,65,000 tons were promised to us during the period May to September, 1946. Between January and May we had received about 5,11,000 tons of grain. The total quantity of foodgrains imported into India during the first half of 1946 amounted to about 682,000 tons.

In addition to pressing our case before the Combined Food Board, the possibility of importing foodgrains from a number of other sources was actually investigated. The results are summarised below :—

Egypt.—The Indian Government Trade Commissioner, at Cairo purchased 40,700 tons of millets and 7,007 tons of Barley which have been received in India.

Iraq.—We have purchased 2,000 tons of millets through a firm established in Iraq and have completed arrangements for a further import of 6,000 tons through the same firm. The Ministry of Food have also promised to give us a share out of the exportable surpluses of barley which they have purchased. This is expected to be about 80,000 tons.

Iran.—The Iran Government have promised to issue export licence upto 60,000 tons of barley in favour of India. An officer of the Food Department has been deputed to Iran and Iraq to make the necessary arrangements for purchase.

Burma and Siam.—Transport difficulties and slow rehabilitation of the agricultural economy of Burma and Siam are standing in the way of substantial imports from these countries. The Government of India have assisted both Burma and Siam with transport and consumer goods and have given a special quota of textiles to Siam with a view to facilitating the procurement of rice. An officer of the Food Department has been lent to Siam as the head of the Siam Rice Unit which advises on purchases of rice in that country. In spite of all efforts hitherto made, however, the position of supplies from Siam continues to remain extremely unsatisfactory.

Indonesia.—An officer of the Government of India was deputed to pursue the offer of 500,000 tons of rice made by the Indonesian Premier. About 6,000 tons of paddy has so far been received and about 24,000 tons is on the way from Indonesia. There have been many difficulties in the way of accelerating supplies and an officer of the Government of India is even now in Java to assist in removing the difficulties. Another officer, with suitable staff, is in Java to supervise loading of ships at various ports. Lighters and transport have been made available to the Indonesians in addition to consumer goods to facilitate the flow of rice.

Argentine.—Purchases of maize and millets amounting to over 300,000 tons had been effected through the Indian Government Trade Commissioner and commercial firms. A mission headed by Dewan Chaman Lal was sent to Argentine to explore the possibility of further purchases and expedite the issue of export permits for quantities already purchased. The mission has successfully concluded an agreement with the Argentine Government under which export permits which had previously been withheld are now being issued. Considerable quantities of Argentine grain have already arrived in this country and more is on its way.

Turkey.—We expect to get 80,000 tons of barley and 20,000 tons of wheat from purchases made by His Majesty's Government in Turkey.

Abyssinia.—We have appointed a purchasing agent in Abyssinia and 1,500 tons of Jowaree has already been received through this agency. A further 500 tons is expected to arrive shortly.

East Africa.—Trade offers of foodgrains from British and Portuguese East Africa are being investigated.

2. *Subsidisation of foodgrains.*—The landed cost of some of the imported foodgrains is higher than the price levels prevailing in various parts of the country. In order not to disturb the present price structure in the different provinces which is the result of strenuous efforts during the last years and to protect the consumer against further increases in prices. The Government of India have decided to subsidise the sale of imported foodgrains to the extent necessary. The extent of the subsidy during 1946 would amount to Rs. 15½ crores.

The attached table shows the details of foodgrains received in India in 1946, month by month upto the end of September 1946 distinguished by sources and grains.

Imported foodgrains—Arrivals during 1946

A. Foodgrains other than rice

(i) Arrivals against shipments made in 1945

	<i>From</i>	<i>Tons</i>
January, 1946	U. S. A.	29,78 wheat
	Canada	50,433 "
	Total	80,211 "
February	U. S. A.	22,246 "
	Canada	48,346 "
	Total	70,592 "

(ii) Arrivals against 1946 shipments

February	U. S. A.	15,015 wheat
	Canada	24,195 "
	Total	39,210 "
March	U. S. A.	27,881 "
	Canada	4,443 "
	Australia	36,091 "
	Total	68,415 "
April	U. S. A.	29,706 wheat
	Canada	7,500 "
	Australia	62,182 "
	Australia	12,808 Wheat equivalent of 9,350 tons of flour at 73 % extraction basis.
	Total	112,196
May	Australia	62,189 wheat
	Australia	42,470 wheat equivalent of 31,003 tons of flour.
	U. S. A.	26,164 wheat
	Canada	3,500 "
	U. K.	5,500 wheat equivalent of 4,000 tons of flour.
Total	139,823	
June	Australia	52,398 wheat
	Australia	15,895 wheat equivalent of 11,603 tons flour.
	Canada	39,314 wheat
	Total	107,607

	<i>From</i>	<i>Tons</i>
July	Australia	48,471 wheat
	Australia	45,478 wheat equivalent of 33,199 tons of flour.
	Canada	53,212 wheat
	U. S. A.	33,879 "
	U. S. A.	76,979 maize
	Total	258,019
August	Australia	52,931 wheat
	Australia	19,245 wheat equivalent of 14,049 tons of flour.
	Australia	1,050 Berley
	Canada	9,308 wheat
	U. S. A.	43,105 "
	U. S. A.	8,913 maize.
	Argentina	25,301 "
	Burma	2,730 "
	Iraq	170 millets
Egypt	19,625 "	
	Total	182,378
September	Australia	43,836 wheat
	Australia	35,764 wheat equivalent of 26,103 tons of flour.
	Australia	200 millets
	U. S. A.	67,581 wheat
	U. S. A.	5,100 maize
	U. S. A.	7,625 milo
	Burma	2,300 maize
	Argentina	26,182 maize
	Egypt	4,709 barley
	Egypt	14,644 millets
	Abbyssinia	1,421 "
	Total	209,362

B. Rice

(i) Arrivals against 1945 programme

	<i>From</i>	<i>Tons</i>
January	..	29,368

(ii) Arrivals against 1946 programme

May	Burma	9,381
June	Burma	24,377
July	Burma	37,110
	Siam	8,700
	Saigon	3,890
	Total	49,700
August	Burma	22,908
	Brazil	9,500
	Total	32,408
September	Burma	54,248
	Java	4,000 Rice equivalent of 6,019 tons of Paddy.
	Total	58,248

E.—Procurement

Since 1943 many Provinces and States have made considerable progress towards a policy of Government monopoly procurement of foodgrains. In 1944, a detailed examination of the principal schemes operating at the time was undertaken by an officer of the Food Department whose report warranted the conclusion that monopoly procurement had justified itself in practice and should continue to be the goal towards which the development of all procurement systems should proceed. The 5th All India Food Conference held on 29th January to 2nd February 1945 also recommended that the results obtained in the working of monopoly procurement system justified their further study and their development, in each Province and State, so far as circumstances permitted. The system of monopoly procurement has now been adopted by most of the Provinces and States and the particular systems obtaining in various provinces are briefly described in Annexure 'A' attached to this memorandum.

F.—Storage

Apart from godowns built by the Central Government at their own cost and on 50 : 50 basis, described in the report circulated at the beginning of the last session, the Provincial Governments and private enterprise have been encouraged to build further storage accommodation at their own cost. A statement showing the storage accommodation at present held by the Provincial Governments and States or covered by the schemes in hand is given below :—

(Figures in tons)

Situation	Existing storage		Proposed constructions	Total
	Govt. owned	Leased		
Provinces	1,327,361	6,548,912	365,386	8,241,659
Administrations	54,633	13,900	44,800	113,333
States	1,170,382	1,501,969	38,220	2,710,571
Total	2,552,376	8,064,781	448,406	11,065,563

The Punjab Government are building a chain of bulk bins spread over 40 important stations and having an aggregate capacity of about 70,000 tons. These bins are expected to be fitted with mechanical lifting tackle and when completed they should play an important role in handling the surplus wheat of those districts.

2. *Co-ordination.*—Under the stress of emergency conditions which prevailed in the earlier stages, the original constructions were mostly in the nature of *ad hoc* schemes. The position is now being reviewed with a view to evolve a more co-ordinated and well-balanced development of storage in the country. The new constructions are being so designed and located as to ensure that they will continue to be used for storage of foodgrains even after the controls are withdrawn.

At the instance of the Food Department, the Punjab Government have passed a legislation to provide that only merchants who are in possession of approved warehouses should be granted licences for dealing in foodgrains. Other Provinces have been requested to adopt similar measures.

The Reserve Bank of India have sponsored a scheme for establishing licensed warehouses. The N. W. F. P. and Travancore State have already initiated legislation in this direction. By means of these warehouses, it is proposed to co-ordinate the storage policy with the welfare of farmers linking it with the problem of transport of agricultural produce and rural credit.

3. The third annual course for the training of the Provincial and States' staff engaged in the work of storage was held in the third week of October 1946, and was attended by 144 delegates. In addition to the courses in Delhi, it is now proposed to hold regional courses to train local personnel with particular reference to local conditions.

4. *Experimental work.*—Experiments are being carried out in the Food Department on disinfectants. It has been found that Gammexane smoke can disinfect godowns and Gammexane dust on floors and walls of godowns kills insects. These methods have been recommended to Provinces and States.

Ethylene Dichloride Carbon Tetrachloride has also been found to be a very effective fumigant for disinfection of grain and has been recommended for adoption. Experiments have successfully been made to fumigate grain even under tarpaulins. This method of fumigation will go a long way in controlling infestation as it can be conveniently carried out everywhere as against the restricted use of fumigants in air-tight godowns.

For rat control, apart from rat-proofing the godowns, poison baiting by Zinc Prosthid and cyanogassing rat-burrows are the methods adopted.

The Food Department has made arrangements for the supply of sufficient quantities of these insecticides and fumigants.

Advantage is also being taken of the already established scientific institutions to carry out research on problems concerning stored grains. The Indian Institute of Science of Bangalore has undertaken experiments on heat treatment of grain for reducing its moisture content. Another scheme has been sanctioned to study the development of mould, fungus, etc. Collaboration with other scientists is being secured. Universities have also been approached to give a proper place to the study of grain storage in the curriculum of Agricultural Colleges.

G.—Price Control

(i) *Rabi Prices.*—In April 1946 the Government of India after considering the views of the Governments of the main wheat producing areas and the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee decided that there should be no change during the Rabi crop year 1946-47 in the existing statutory maximum prices of wheat, gram or barley. It was also decided that there should be no change during the next 12 months in the guaranteed minimum price of Rs. 7-8-0 for fair average quality wheat.

(ii) *Kharif Prices.*—The question of fixation of the Kharif grain prices for 1946-47 is under consideration.

(iii) *Pulses Prices.*—The Government of India have decided that prices of pulses should be controlled in the various Provinces and States. For this purpose the Provinces and States have been classified as (i) Deficit, (ii) Self-sufficient, and (iii) Surplus. For deficit areas the adoption of the weighted average purchase price plus average cost of transport plus handling and other incidental charges has been suggested and such Provinces and States have been asked to notify such a pool price as the statutory maximum price. In surplus and self-sufficient areas, the Government of India have agreed to the adoption for the time being of the prices prevailing in July as the statutory maximum prices in order to guard against the risk of stocks going underground.

H.—Rationing

1. *Extension of Rationing.*—The food crisis since the end of 1945 has led to further and very rapid extension of rationing in the country especially in the semi-urban and rural areas. 215 more towns and rural areas representing a population of over 97 millions have been rationed since January 1946. In all, 771 towns and rural areas covering a population of over 150 million persons have been rationed up to the beginning of October 1946. 420 more towns covering a population of 5.5 million in the urban and rural areas are expected to be rationed shortly.

2. *Nutrition.*—In most of the Provinces and States, expert nutrition officers have been appointed for nutritional work. The available protective foods, especially milk, are being distributed to vulnerable groups, namely expectant and nursing mothers and children in preference to other groups. Such priority schemes are functioning in Bombay City, Madras, Travancore State, Cochine State and Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

School feeding Schemes are being extended and are now in operation in Bombay, Madras, Punjab (Simla), U. P., Orissa, Bihar (E. I. Railway), C. P. and Berar, Rampur State, Mysore State, Bangalore Civil and Military Station, Cochin State, Travancore State and Hyderabad State.

3. *Publicity.*—The demand for the Food Department's two publications "Nutrition" and "Canteens in Industry" has increased and the number of copies now being published has reached 10,000 monthly in the case of "Nutrition" and 6,000 quarterly in the case of "Canteens in Industry". Extracts from these publications are being translated into local languages by some of the Provinces and States. The two Nutrition Exhibitions held in Delhi during the last year to stimulate popular interest in dietetics attracted a large number of visitors and were very successful.

I.—Sugar and Salt

1. *Sugar.*—The production of sugar this year did not come up to the original estimate of 11,14,000 tons—the actual production being only 9,48,000 tons. The result was that a 13 per cent. cut had to be applied to the quotas allotted to the Provinces and States at the beginning of the season for civilian consumption. A cut of 10 per cent. was also effected in the quotas allowed for export to some of the Middle East and neighbouring countries while in the case of Iran no exports were allowed. The total quantity for export was, after the cut, 14,573 tons.

To enable the factories to pay higher wages to labourers and to meet the cost of replacements and renewals of plants, the ex-factory price of D. 24 quality sugar was raised by 6 annas with effect from 5th March 1946.

At the instance of the U. P. Government the price of khandsari sugar was decontrolled. The inter-provincial movement was, however, subject to the issue of permits by the Sugar Controller for India. This did not have the desired effect and the price of khandsari went up very high. As this would have adversely affected the production of factory sugar during 1946-47 season it has been decided to bring this sugar again under control.

For 1946-47 the Governments of U. P. and Bihar on the advice of their Joint Control Board suggested higher cane prices than in the previous year. There were similar demands from Punjab and Frontier also. This advice was endorsed by the Sugar Control Advisory Committee. Government of India after carefully considering the whole problem decided to accept the above recommendations and raise the sugar price to Rs. 20-14 ex-factory for all-India, except Punjab and Frontier, where the price will be Rs. 24. An Ordinance has been issued to realise the difference between the old and the new price in the form of a special excise duty on the existing stocks.

The Government of India have taken decisions in regard to the two of the major recommendations of Sugar Panel, viz., (i) the target of sugar production and (ii) the establishment of two additional units and their location to meet the increased target. The requirements of sugar during the first five years of the post-war period have been estimated at 18,50,000 tons. The normal production capacity of the existing units is 10,84,000 tons and it is proposed to cover the gap by:—

- (a) expansion of existing uneconomic unit,
- (b) installation of new units,
- (c) development of sugarcane, construction of roads in existing factory areas, shifting certain units to more suitable sites, etc., and
- (d) khandsari sugar.

2. *Gur*.—In case of gur also the estimated surplus did not materialize. The result was that the price of this commodity showed a sharp rise in most deficit areas.

In view of the short production of gur, the Provincial and State Governments were requested to prohibit the utilization of gur for distillation purposes. Almost all the Provinces and States have agreed to this suggestion.

3. *Salt*.—The position has been satisfactory regarding supply of this commodity all over India.

J.—Oilseeds and Oils.

The question of a co-ordinated all-India control over oilseeds and oils has been engaging the attention of Government of India for some time. Various attempts were made to evolve a common policy but the failure of certain Administrations to fall into line made implementation of an all-India policy difficult. The whole question was reviewed at a Conference at the end of September of representatives of Provinces and States which recommended, after prolonged discussions, a uniform all-India policy of control over prices and movement of oilseeds and oils. This recommendation has been carefully examined by the Government of India and accepted as a basis of future policy.

K.—Army Demands and Processed Food Stuffs

During the last few months the purchases for the Army have been drastically reduced in respect both of quantity and variety of items required. The important reductions are:—

	Tons
Atta	54,435
Dhalls	7,691
Ghee	3,845
Vegetable Product and Hydrogenated cooking oil	6,484

These reductions have proportionately released the pressure of Army demands on the available foodstuffs of the country.

The production of processed foodstuffs for the Army which had been undertaken by the Food Department has come to an end. There has been no dehydration of vegetable for the Armed Forces but the 3 Government-owned dehydration factories in the U. P. were employed to produce 340 tons of dehydrated potatoes for supply to scarcity areas in the country. Dehydration of meat continued up to the end of April since when the nine factories have closed and are being reported for disposal. The Fruit Canning Factory at Nasarpur on a lease which expires at the end of this year will be transferred to the Agriculture Department for training students and arranging advanced courses in fruit and vegetable preservation. It is intended that the factory which is situated in a fruit producing region will pay for itself and will be a model in respect of fruit preservation. The Fruit Processing Factory at Peshawar has been handed over to the N. W. F. P. Government according to the terms of their contract with the Central Government. The factory will be used for drying fruit under scientific methods in replacement of sun drying which is less economic and unhygienic. Ghee Heating Centres have been reduced from 6 to 2 and flour mills from 9 to 2. The industrial capacity which has been given up represents corresponding saving for the civil market. Privately-owned factories which were started or extended to meet the Defence demand are being assisted to the extent possible to turn over to the civil market. To the extent they can meet the specifications of the Army, the demand for processed foods now placed abroad will be diverted to these factories. The demand from the civil market is also being assured to them by limiting the competition of foreign imports. Some of the industries have already applied to the Tariff Board for protection while others are for the time being protected under the Import Control Regulations.

Technical Panel

The Technical Panel met twice during the year and made various recommendations. The following schemes of research which were recommended by the Panel were sanctioned by the Food Department :—

- (a) The erection of a pilot plant for the preparation of soyabean milk.
- (b) Construction of a plant for heat treatment of grains.
- (c) Improvement in the quality of foreign liquors produced in India.
- (d) Studies in the use of seed cakes as human food.

In addition a Rice Technological Committee has been set up by the Panel to consider problems in connection with the processing of rice, including methods of conservation.

Considerable research work has been done in the laboratory attached to the Food Department, which has recently been provided with a Cold Storage Plant. This research includes :

- (i) Determination of the moisture limits of dried fruits.
- (ii) Storage tests of dehydrated meat, fish, onion and potatoes.
- (iii) Conversion of groundnut, mustard and sesame cakes for human food.
- (iv) Standardisation of Vanaspati.
- (v) Different culinary uses of dehydrated potatoes.
- (vi) Uses of groundnut flour for making chapattis, biscuits, etc.
- (vii) Fortification of atta with Calcium Carbonate
- (viii) Suitability of soyabean products as substitute for milk.
- (ix) Analysis of American surplus foods in respect of their storage life.

In order to place research in respect of extending and improving food resources on an organised basis the Food Department has supported the proposal of the late P. & D. Department for the establishment of a Food Technological Institute at a capital cost of Rupees 15 lakhs and a recurring cost of about 4 lakhs. A similar proposal for setting up a Food Advisory Unit at the Indian Institute of Science, Banagalore, at an annual cost of about Rs. 20,000 is being considered in consultation with the administrations which support this Institute.

Food Industries

The Food Department has also undertaken the planning and development of about forty food industries. Factual information obtained by questionnaires issued to provinces and industries is now ready to be placed before the five Panels for groups of allied industries. The personnel of the Panels has been approved and it is expected that they will meet in the near future. Such plans as the Panels may recommend will be considered by Government to determine the control, encouragement, and help which different industries may require. The plans will also be published for the benefit of the investing public, which is now generally without information about the potentials of different industries and the cost of setting them up.

An Information Bureau is also being set up to provide industries with information about availability and cost of manufacturing equipment. In this connection much literature is being received from United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. His Majesty's Senior Trade Commissioner in India has been interesting himself in this work and has referred the various firms of manufacturers to the Food Department. The information received is being catalogued. It is also intended that it should be summarised and issued in booklet form for the information of the public.

The Food Department has itself been progressing industries. First in importance is the Vanaspati Industry. 18 factories in British India and 11 in Indian States, comprehended in the short term plan, are being assisted to obtain plant from abroad and controlled material in India. It is expected that 14 of these factories will be in production before the end of 1947. It has been decided that until the results of this expansion are known no further assistance or encouragement may be given for new factories. It is proposed to control this industry from the Centre. This would incidentally enable uniformity in the quality of Vanaspati which is very necessary in an article which imitates ghee and therefore must be clearly distinguished from it. The control over quality will also make it possible to fortify vanaspati in order to make it a more wholesome food. The Food Department has also been progressing the project for the establishment of a Food Yeast Factory to produce 3,000 tons. The expert's report on the project was brought to the notice of Provincial Governments and industrialists. So far Provincial Governments and States have indicated that they would have an annual demand for about 1,500 tons of food yeast at a stated price of about 0.6-0 lb. It is being considered whether the factory should be set up by Government or by a private firm which has agreed to produce and distribute the product according to directions of Government. Food Yeast, which is produced from molasses, has been found by tests conducted recently by the Food Department in schools and by the Army in their messes to be a valuable addition to the general diet.

Disposals

The Food Department is responsible for disposal of all surplus foods. The surpluses with the Quarter Master General are not considerable but those of the U. S. A. Army were about 55,000 tons. These were declared to the Food Department at the beginning of May 1946 since when an active programme of disposal has enabled the sale of about 20,000 tons valued at about Rs. 325 lakhs. This represents a welcome addition to the food resources at a time of general shortage and austerity. Another 35,000 tons valued at about Rs. 450 lakhs still remain for disposal.

The procedure for disposal took account of requirements for famine relief for which suitable stocks with the necessary storage life were reserved. For the balance, prices were fixed in consultation with the trade, which were actually tested by allowing open tenders from the trade. The quantities not disposed by these tenders are being gradually sold at fixed prices. The less popular items were also offered for export, but were not taken up by the trade. Considering that there were nearly 1,000 items, many unknown before in the country and all extremely perishable, the disposal so far both in respect of prices and quantities has been very satisfactory. The sales made, however, have not been followed by deliveries in view of the disturbed conditions in Calcutta, where the stocks are lying.

ANNEXURE A

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD*Procurement arrangements in various Provinces*

Punjab.—The Punjab Government have now introduced a system of monopoly procurement of wheat. The essential features of the scheme are as follows:—

(a) Operations relating to purchase of wheat in nearly 500 mandis of the Province will be completely controlled by Government. All the pucca Artiyas of a mandi, or such of them who are willing to join, will be constituted into a Pucca Artiyas Association, and while the producers will be free to choose their Katchha Artiyas the purchases will only be made by this Association.

(b) All wheat purchased by the Artiyas Association will be disposed of only under the orders of Government.

(c) The purchases will be made at a price fixed for each mandi, subject to quality allowances, except that in villages within 5 miles of the mandi, this price will be 4 annas less and for those more than 5 miles away, 6 annas less. This should have the effect of encouraging movement towards the mandis.

(d) The Artiyas Association will get a commission of As. 12 per Rs. 100 of the value of grain and gunny bags supplied.

(e) Sale of wheat by growers in villages except for the requirements of the village, or to a consumer in a neighbouring village up to 20 seers at a time, is prohibited.

(f) Movement of wheat by rail and road is prohibited except between village and market or under Government permit from the market to the recipient areas.

The Punjab Government have also recently introduced a system of monopoly procurement of rice in the rice producing areas of the province. These have been called "controlled areas". The essential features of the scheme are as follows:—

(i) The rice mill will be the centre of procurement operations as all rice (except for small quantities of hand-pounded rice for domestic consumption) must inevitably pass through a mill. All rice produced at a mill will be disposed of only under the orders of Government.

(ii) Minimum prices have been fixed for all varieties of paddy in the controlled areas to ensure a fair return to the producers.

(iii) Maximum prices of each variety of paddy have been fixed for both the controlled and the uncontrolled areas.

(iv) Maximum ex-mill prices of various varieties of rice have also been fixed.

(v) The movement of rice and paddy in and from control areas will be controlled generally as in the case of wheat.

2. *N. W. P.*—Till recently, procurement was done through private trade under Government supervision and the requirements of deficit districts were supplied from surplus districts through normal trade channels. In 1945, a Wheat Procurement Order was promulgated which prohibited the sale or transfer of wheat by one person to another without authority from the Provincial Government, transactions of less than 20 maunds with the grower direct being excepted. For the current Rabi crop the N.-W.F.P. Government have imposed a compulsory levy on holdings of 50 acres or more. The assessment on un-irrigated land is at a flat rate of two maunds per acre. A higher assessment is to be made on irrigated land.

3. *Sind*.—With effect from the 15th May, 1946, the Sind Government have promulgated an order called the "The Wheat and Gram Procurement Order" under which a Purchasing Officer may order that a wholesale dealer in any area shall not, except to the extent permitted by that Officer, sell wheat or gram to any person other than a Government Agent. The Order further prohibits the retailers in non-rationed areas from selling wheat or gram in one transaction to any person in a quantity exceeding 20 seers at a time.

The system of procurement of rice has recently been changed. Under the Sind Rice Procurement Order (1946), rice mills cannot dispose of the rice produced by them except in accordance with the directions issued by authorised Government Officers. Movement by rail or river is controlled.

4. *United Provinces*.—Till lately, the system of procurement was dependent on purchase of grain coming to the markets. From the current year a direct procurement scheme for Rabi has been introduced. Small producers whose outturn of Rabi crops is less than 10 maunds or whose total annual production is less than 20 maunds have been excepted. The Provincial Government's target has been distributed among the surplus districts according to the surplus estimated to be available in each. The district demand is then broken up among homogenous tracts and within these tracts individual assessments are made after taking into consideration the average production per acre in the tract. Committees of peoples' representatives are to be closely associated with procurement at every stage.

5. *Bihar*.—Purchases (subject to the limits of approved prices) are made by Government officers through accredited Agents chosen from the trade. In addition, a compulsory levy on paddy has recently been imposed which prohibits a producer holding 100 acres or more from disposing of any paddy exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ of his total produce. Individual assessments are made. Government may not, however, demand more than half the total produce if it is less than 1,000 maunds and more than $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of the total produce in any case. The Bihar Levy Order has since been extended to wheat.

6. *Bengal*.—Purchases are made direct by Government Officers in certain districts and through Trade Agents called Chief Purchasing Agents in others. All rice mills producing more than 50 maunds rice daily are required to sell their produce to Government. Rice and paddy can move only on Government account by rail or river. The Provincial Government have recently resorted also to requisitionings of stocks with the larger holders at their discretion.

7. *Assam*.—Purchases in the Surma Valley are made direct by Government Officers on a tender system. The single trade agency which used to operate in the Assam Valley has since been replaced by an official procurement machinery.

8. *Orissa*.—Purchases are made direct from the producers and also in the open market through a number of agents in each of the six districts of the Province. Purchase or sale of rice on private account in quantities exceeding 10 maunds and stocking of more than 100 maunds by anyone barring Government Agents is prohibited. Government have fixed prices for rice and paddy payable to producers.

9. *Madras*.—A Scheme of intensive procurement in respect of rice, paddy, millets and other allied foodgrains is in force in the entire province. Under this scheme the entire surplus of the cultivator is acquired by Government through their Trade Agents after allowing for his annual domestic and seed requirements and for meeting labour and other customary charges in kind. The Provincial Government have formed village, taluqa and town committees to assist in the procurement and distribution operations.

In the Malabar District the trade has been completely eliminated and the work of procurement and distribution has been handed over to the Co-operative Societies.

10. *Central Provinces*.—Government are the sole buyers of foodgrains brought to the markets. In the case of Jowar there is a form of non-statutory levy under which the producer is expected to contribute a specific portion of his crop to Government. In the case of wheat a compulsory levy, first introduced in 1944 and not continued in 1945, has been reintroduced this year in all the districts of the Jubbulpore Division. The levy is applicable to holdings of 10 acres or more.

11. *Bombay*.—There is a compulsory levy on a graded scale with a minimum exemption limit of 27½ maunds per producer which is allowed for domestic and seed requirements for the year. Government are the sole buyers of other surpluses.

12. *Baluchistan*.—There is monopoly purchase by Government.

REMOVAL OF CONTROLS

21. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal**: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the steps Government propose to take to remove the various controls? When, and on which articles the control is to be removed?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Government is earnestly considering the problem. Nothing more definite can be stated at this stage. Statutory Powers of control have to be maintained whatever the actual decisions may ultimately be in regard to various items.

PAYMENT OF SALARIES, ETC., TO WORKERS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT FOR THE STRIKE PERIOD.

22. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state:

(a) whether Government intend paying to the workers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who were on strike in July 1946, the salaries and allowances due to them for the strike period; if so, when; if not, why not;

(b) whether Government are aware that an assurance to that effect, explicit or by implication, was given to the strikers by the Honourable Sardar Vallabh-bhai Patel; and

(c) whether Government propose to honour that assurance?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) No. The period of absence will be treated as leave without pay. The strikers will, however, receive for that period such allowances as they are entitled to under the rules applicable to employees on leave without pay.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

REMOVAL OF CONTROLS ON COMMODITIES OTHER THAN FOODSTUFFS AND PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

23. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please refer to his speech before the Oil Seeds Conference on September 26, 1946, and state:

(a) whether he made a categorical statement that he was for the abolition of controls over distribution of commodities other than foodstuff, retaining price control;

(b) whether what he stated is the policy of Government;

(c) if it is not the policy of Government, what steps does he propose to take to remove the misunderstanding in the public mind;

(d) whether, in view of the experience during the earlier years of war of futility of making price control effective without control over supplies, Government are aware that this new policy will adversely affect the availability of essential commodities to the public; and

(e) whether as an alternative to unlicensed distribution through normal trade channels he would consider the promotion of co-operative societies as a means of ensuring supplies of essential commodities?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) The Member for Industries and Supplies expressly made it clear that he was not stating the considered policy of Government to be in favour of de-control as described in the question, but was taking the opportunity of the Conference to encourage thinking on the subject.

(c) No misunderstanding exists in the public mind as all the newspaper comments on the subject show and therefore no question arises as to steps to remove misunderstanding.

(d) and (e) The problems involved are being examined in all aspects and the valuable suggestion in clause (e) of the question will also be taken into consideration.

CULTIVATION OF LAND NEAR SECRETARIAT AND WAR MEMORIAL ARCH, NEW DELHI

24. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of acres that were brought under cultivation on either side of Kingsway between the Secretariat buildings and the War Memorial Arch in New Delhi since the last session of the Assembly;

- (b) the amounts and sorts of grains that were produced;
- (c) what was done to them; and if sold, the amount of money realised; and
- (d) the amount of expenditure incurred in the undertaking?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) 55 acres were ploughed up, trenched, manured and prepared for cultivation. Due, however, to acute shortage of labour and water, only 25.3 acres were actually cultivated, 14.3 acres being put under maize and 11 acres under vegetables.

(b) 11.2 maunds of summer vegetables. The yield of maize is not known as the standing crop was sold.

(c) The crops were sold. The total amount realised up to date is Rs. 3,720/14/3. Maize was auctioned as a standing crop for Rs. 3,100. The vegetables were sold at site daily to the public up to the 7th June 1946. Thereafter, as the vegetables did not find a good sale at the spot, they were sent to the market for public auction through a commission agent. The income from this source is Rs. 620/14/3. An additional income of Rs. 56 is expected from the sale of Arvi which will be harvested in about a fortnight.

(d) The total amount of expenditure incurred is Rs. 10,173. This includes Rs. 3,000 for fencing and Rs. 4,815 for preparing 29.7 acres of land which were not brought under cultivation. The expenditure for the 25.3 acres actually brought under cultivation is Rs. 2,358.

COMPULSORY PROCURATION OF GRAIN FROM PEASANTS IN UNITED PROVINCES DURING 1945-46

25. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grain that was compulsorily procured by the Government of the United Provinces from the peasants in the Province during the financial year 1945-46;

(b) the manner in which the same was disbursed;

(c) the amount that was destroyed and the causes of this destruction; and

(d) the amount of profit that the Government of the United Provinces made in this transaction?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) There was no compulsory grain procurement in the U.P. during the financial year 1945-46.

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

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AND ENQUIRIES DURING THE YEAR

26. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major Railway accidents that have occurred since the beginning of the present financial year and the nature of the enquiries that have been instituted in each case;

(b) the results of such enquiries; and

(c) the steps that have been taken for the prevention of further accidents of this nature?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) 14 major accidents, in which passenger carrying trains were involved, occurred on all the Indian Railways during the period from 1st April, 1946, to the beginning of October, 1946. Enquiries into all such accidents by the Government Inspectors of Railways were obligatory. These were independent of the railway and magisterial enquiries.

(b) and (c) Seven of the 14 accidents occurred in the latter part of the year and their reports are not yet ready. I place on the table of the House statement showing the results of the enquiries completed and steps taken for the prevention of further accidents of the nature investigated.

Statement.

The causes of the accidents into which the Inspector's enquiries are completed.

(1) Failure by the railway staff to observe rules framed for the safe working of the railways—4.

(East Indian Railway 2, N. W. R. 1 and O. T. Railway 1.)

(2) Defective track—1 (N. W. R.)

(3) Accident fire—1 (G. I. P. Railway).

(4) Sabotage—1 (B. B. & C. I.).

(2) Steps taken to prevent further accidents.

The Railway Inspectorate makes recommendations intended to prevent a recurrence of similar accidents, to the Railway Department who give effect to these if they are in agreement with them. Following recommendations were made in connection with the seven accidents of which the Reports have been received from the Government Inspectors :—

(i) Adoption of "System of Automatic Train Stops" on Indian Railways. The Railway Board have already appointed an *ad hoc* Committee to enquire into the various system and to recommend the one suitable to the Indian Railways. This Committee has already submitted an interim report about the middle of September, 1946.

(ii) Adoption of electrical warning devices to the gatemen and protecting the level crossing with signals.

(iii) Adoption of certain measures to prevent buckling of track.

(iv) Fitting passenger locomotives with spark arrestors, where possible. use of A grade Bengal coal for passenger trains, use of non-inflammable material for cushions, etc., and provision of ash-trays in upper class compartments.

(v) Patrolling of the railway line which, in the opinion of the civil authorities and the Police, are likely to be tampered with.

REFURNISHING OF COMPARTMENTS ON RAILWAY TRAINS

27. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unsatisfactory condition of all classes of compartments in Railways;

(b) what steps, if any, are being taken to repair and re-furnish them and to put back all the fittings in the matter of lights, fans, pegs, racks, etc., that have been destroyed or stolen; and

(c) by what time he expects the Railway compartments will again be in their normal condition?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes. Government have received complaints from time to time about the unsatisfactory internal condition of some of the passenger stock.

(b) Every effort is made by railways to ensure that stock is maintained fully equipped, but the supply of fittings cannot be considered normal and railway workshops are and will continue to be for sometime, occupied with repairs to their maximum capacity.

(c) The intensity of use to which the present stock is subjected is consequent, to some degree, on the withdrawal for use by the Military Department, of a considerable number of vehicles. As releases are effected by that Department, it will enable more thorough repairs to be undertaken to vehicles now in service for the travelling public.

RENOVATION OF DUFFERIN RAILWAY BRIDGE AT BENARES

28. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the progress that has so far been made in the renovation of the Dufferin Bridge at Benares;

(b) the approximate date by which he expects the bridge to be ready and an approximate estimate of the total cost;

(c) the arrangements made or intended to be made for the passage of vehicles and pedestrians across the river Ganga when the Pontoon Bridge is not working due to monsoons; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the great discomfort felt during the recent months when all pedestrian and vehicular traffic over the bridge had been suspended and adequate arrangements were not made for their passage in any other way; if so, what steps he intends to take to obviate such difficulties in the future?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The first main span has been launched together with three of the secondary spans. The second main span is on the launching ways. The progress to date could be assessed at 20 per cent. of the total.

(b) The work is expected to be completed by February, 1949. The total cost of regrading is expected to be about Rs. 83 lakhs.

(c) A steam ferry under the control of the U.P. Government operates from 16th June to 14th December when the pontoon bridge is removed. Government's information is that all traffic wheeled and pedestrian—is handled without undue delay by the ferry service.

(d) The attention of Government has been called from time to time to the inconvenience caused by the above arrangement. It is understood, however, that the arrangements now made are adequate.

EFFECT OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN BENGAL ON RAILWAY ACTIVITIES

29. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to make a short statement, indicating how the activities of the Railways were affected on and from the 16th August, 1946, as a result of communal disturbances in some areas of Bengal?

(b) Has any property belonging to the Railway Department or any article handled by it been damaged or lost anywhere in Bengal as a result of communal disturbances since the 16th August last? If so, what is the nature and extent of such damage or loss? Has there been any casualty among the employees of the Railway Department, or among Railway passengers while travelling, or while within the limits of Railway lands, in any part of Bengal as a result of the said communal disturbances?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) On the B.A. Railway, in the Calcutta Area, passenger as well as goods train services were seriously affected. The supply of foodstuffs, vegetables, etc., was practically at a standstill from the 16th to the 20th August 1946. Work in the B.A. Railway Administrative Offices also suffered seriously, as the staff could not attend office owing to lack of convenience and the fear of being assaulted. In the Chittagong Area, a number of trains had to be cancelled on the 16th August. On the 17th August, there were several casualties amongst the staff in Chittagong. On the 29th August, Fouzdarhat Station was attacked by a mob who looted the quarters of the staff. In the Dacca Area, there was only one case of injury to railway staff. On the 25th August, at Bahadurabad Ghat Station, the work was suspended for the night owing to a mob of about 200 men assembling near the station.

On the B.N. Railway, on the 16th August, morning services between Khargpur and Howrah suffered detentions for periods varying between half-an-hour and one hour. The work at Shalimar and Shalimar Yard also suffered seriously and owing to fear of disturbances, the staff failed to turn up for duty. Consequently, the booking of all goods traffic to the Shalimar Goods Shed and Sidings served by the Shalimar Yard was stopped. There was a serious dislocation of the services in the Howrah area on the 21st owing to Cabinmen and Yard Staff at Santragachi remaining away from their duties. A number of local trains had to be cancelled and special arrangements had to be made to feed the train staff at Howrah.

On the E.I. Railway some local trains from 17th August to 19th August 1946, two Parcels Express trains ex-Howrah on the 18th, trains on the Calcutta Chord Railway and all workmen's trains for Lilloah Workshops on the 17th were cancelled. During the period 16th August to 9th September, the Up and Down Delhi Express trains were started from and terminated at Howrah, instead of Sealdah. 16 special trains were run from the 20th to the 25th August 1946 to cope with the heavy exodus of up-country inhabitants from Calcutta.

(b) On the B.A. Railway, staff quarters at Bahadurabad Ghat were looted on the 25th August. The Parcel Sheds and some wagons loaded with parcels were looted at Sealdah Station between the 17th and 19th August 1946. The loss is estimated at approximately three lakhs of rupees.

Particulars of the public injured while travelling in trains or while within railway premises are not available. Amongst the railway staff, the number of persons—

Killed is	7
Missing is	17
Whose belongings have been destroyed or looted	939

On the B.N. Railway the Lost Property Office at Ramrajatala was broken open on the 20th August and articles to the value of Rs. 491 were stolen. A few consignments were pilfered from Shalimar Goods Shed during the period 16th August to 26th August and the value of the articles is not yet known.

Three persons are reported to be missing from Shalimar Marine staff. Only one report was received of injuries to a passenger. A Muslim travelling in a local train was found dead at Ramrajatala on the 20th August, but it is not known whether he was a passenger or an assailant.

On the E.I. Railway, there were no reports of damage to railway property. The loss of merchandise due to the consignments not being taken delivery of is estimated at about Rs. 50,000. 100 consignments of perishable and luggage valued at Rs. 12,000 were stolen.

The casualties within the railway premises between the 18th and 20th August were five killed and six injured. It has not yet been determined whether any of these were railway employees or not. One railway employee of Bamagachi Shed was reported killed in the Police firing on the 18th August and another of the same Shed was reported missing from the 16th August.

STRENGTH OF THE RAILWAY POLICE IN THE METRE GAUGE SECTION OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY

30. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state what special precautions were taken by the Railway Police during the recent communal disturbances in Bengal for the purpose of protecting Railway property and passengers, as also ensuring regular running of train services?

(b) What is the normal organisation and strength of the Railway Police allotted for service in the Meter Gauge sections of the Bengal Assam Railway, particularly those Sections that serve the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Tipperah? Was the Railway Police re-inforced in these Sections by the Police authorities of the Province? If so, in what manner, from which date and in which Sections? Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the Police arrangements made during these days have been adequate for all practical purposes?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table any correspondence that may have taken place between any responsible officer of the Bengal Assam Railway and the Provincial Government or any of its officers on the subject mentioned in part (b) above?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) On the B. A. Railway in the Calcutta Area, the Railway Police were strengthened with armed police, but the force was insufficient to guard the whole of the Sealdah area. They, however, were instrumental in saving the Sealdah Railway Station from being attacked. It was not possible for the Police authorities to give such adequate aid as would ensure regular running of the train service as the men at their disposal were not sufficient to man every train that was run. The Superintendent of Railway Police did all in his power to help whenever he was approached with urgent requests for assistance from any points outside Calcutta.

In the Chittagong Area, the Superintendent of Police was unable to provide armed guards to protect the Chittagong Railway Colony, Pahartali area, etc., but he arranged for Police patrols to visit the affected areas periodically. The District Magistrate imposed a curfew.

In the Dacca Area, armed Government Railway Police patrolled the station premises and yard at night. Armed guards have been travelling on each train between Dacca and Narayanganj since September and with effect from 3rd October, 300 men of the Indian Pioneer Force have been detailed for the protection of the Railway premises.

On the B. N. Railway, the Railway Police responded promptly to requests for additional police protection at stations until their limited resources were completely absorbed in duties connected with the protection of stations, staff quarters and trains. The Superintendent of Railway Police, Howrah, was able to provide additional guards at Shalimar and Santragachi with the Military detachments placed under his command. This action, combined with a reinforcement of the Gurkha Railway Watch and Ward staff, was, in a considerable measure, responsible for the restoration of normal conditions in these localities.

On the E. I. Railway the Government Railway Police deputed extra staff from the 16th to 23rd August at Lillooh, Belur, Bally and Serampore stations. At each of these stations, one Sub-Inspector of Police and a few Constables (number ranging from 8 to 10) were posted as additional protection. No extra force of Railway Police was deputed at Howrah, but the whole of the force off duty were kept standing by from the 16th to 23rd August. Armed men of the Howrah District Police were also posted at Belur and other points. The number of the Railway Protection Force armed with lathies only in the affected area was about 100 at the beginning of the trouble, but was increased to about 250 by calling in detachments from outside stations.

(b) The normal strength of Railway Police allotted to the metre gauge section of the B. A. Railway, including the sections serving the Districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Tipperah, is—

Superintendent of Police	1
Inspectors	4
Sub-Inspectors	18
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	21
Sergeants	3
Head Constables	25
Constables	312
Others	10

Government are informed that the Government of Bengal have taken steps to protect the metre gauge section of the line in Dacca, Mymensingh and Tipperah Districts and also to ensure the safe running of trains by the deputation of a number of armed police. With regard to the last part, Railway Police force is considered adequate for normal times, but is not sufficient to meet with an emergency such as the one that arose in Calcutta in August last. This question is, however, receiving further consideration of Government.

(c) Government do not consider that public interest will be served by placing the correspondence on the table of the House as requested by the Honourable Member.

LAWLESSNESS ON THE DACCA-MYMENSINGH AND TIPPERAH SECTIONS OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY

31. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether Government are aware that certain portions of the Meter Gauge Section of the Bengal Assam Railway serving the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Tipperah, experienced, during the last few months, frequent acts of lawlessness, such as theft, loot, assault on passengers and kidnapping of women from trains? If so, will the Honourable Member please lay a detailed statement on the table of the House about the various incidents that took place during the last twelve months or so, giving dates? What complaints were received in this matter from time to time by the Railway authorities in Bengal and at Delhi, and what action was taken, and when, to deal with the situation?

(b) Was adequate action, both at the instance of the Railway Police and the Railway staff, taken in time for the purpose of preventing a recurrence of such occurrences and bringing the offenders to book? In how many such instances have the culprits been apprehended and put on trial, and with what result?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. A detailed statement of the incidents that took place during the last 12 months, together with full information regarding complaints received and action taken on them by the B. A. Railway has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course. No public complaints were received in the Railway Board's office but from early this year, they received from the General Manager, B. A. Railway, periodical reports of acts of hooliganism and lawlessness as a result of which considerable damage was caused to Railway property, running of trains was adversely affected, and Railway staff assaulted. The position was so bad that the General Manager considered it necessary to suggest that the Railway should have Armed Guards in the area near Bhairab Bazaar and that for this purpose, General Headquarters, (India), should be moved to authorise the retention of 200 armed personnel of the Railway Protection Company. The suggestion, however, could not be accepted as it is illegal for Railway administrations to maintain an armed force in time of peace and it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government to afford such protection. The Bengal Government were continually asked by the Railway Administration to take preventive action immediately but as there was no tangible improvement, night running of trains on the affected sections was stopped on 20th September, 1946. On 26th September, 1946, the Administration reported that the Bengal Government had arranged for a posse of armed police to be stationed at Bhairab Bazaar for the manning of Patrol trains and providing armed escorts on trains when necessary. With effect from 1st October 1946, night running of all trains was resumed on the Chandpur Laksam Section, and to a limited extent on the other sections affected. The question of temporarily increasing the strength of the Railway Police to meet the emergency is under the active consideration of Government.

(b) I am satisfied that all action that could be taken by the Railway Administration for the protection of train services in the affected area was taken in time. The Bengal Government are responsible for the maintenance of Law and Order and prevention of crime. As regards the latter part of the question, information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

EFFECT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN PROVINCES

32. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please lay a statement on the table of the House indicating how the activities of the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been affected since the 16th August, 1946, as a result of communal disturbances in each Province and local area affected?

(b) Has any property belonging to the Posts and Telegraphs Department or any article handled by its employees been damaged or lost anywhere as a result of communal disturbances since 16th August last? If so, what is the nature and extent of such damage or loss?

(c) Has there been any casualty among the employees of the Department in any part of the country as a result of the said communal disturbances?

(d) What is the normal understanding between the Department and the Provincial authorities in the matter of affording police and other necessary protection to premises of the Department and its staff as well as postal articles in transit (i) in ordinary circumstances and (ii) when any disturbances of the public peace take place?

(e) Has all necessary protection been afforded by the Provincial authorities in each place affected by the sforesaid communal disturbances?

(f) With reference to those Circles where the Postal employees were organised on a military basis during the war, has the question of resumption of militarisation of the departmental staff been under consideration, or is likely to be taken up for consideration, in order to meet any emergent situation that may prevail in such Circles or parts thereof due to communal disturbances or otherwise, as a measure of protection to the Department?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) to (c) and (e). Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(d) Arrangements exist between the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Provincial Governments for affording police and other protection both under ordinary circumstances and in time of disturbances, wherever necessary.

(f) No.

EFFECT OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES ON THE WORKING OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONE SYSTEM

33. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to make a statement indicating how the working of the telephone system in the City of Calcutta and its suburbs was affected since the outbreak of communal disturbances on the 16th August last?

(b) Did the situation on the 16th and subsequent days necessitate a curtailment of the services in different exchanges? If so, what was the nature of the curtailment in the case of each affected Exchange, and was any instruction or suggestion, as regards the method and extent of such curtailment received from any official of the Provincial Government?

(c) Is it the usual practice or understanding that, in the event of telephone services having to be "rationed" due to any emergent circumstances, the Provincial Government or its officers will be consulted as regards the services that have to be maintained and services that may be discontinued?

(d) What principles were followed in any such rationing of telephone services in the city and suburbs of Calcutta during the week beginning from the 16th August, 1946, in the case of each Exchange?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d). No. The Department tries to maintain telephone services of essential subscribers only in emergent circumstances. The lists of essential subscribers maintained by the Department are prepared in consultation with the Provincial Governments. The list for Calcutta was actually compiled at the beginning of the year in consultation with not only the Provincial Government, but the Calcutta Corporation, the Chambers of Commerce and the Railways.

Statement

(a) and (b). The telephone connections of only those subscribers who administered Essential Services were kept alive in the various exchanges as shown below. Other connections could not be worked during these periods for want of operating and technical staff:—

Calcutta Exchange	From 8 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 4 P.M. on the 23rd August, 1946.
Burra Bazar	From 12-10 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 9-30 A.M. on the 17th August, 1946. From 6 P.M. on the 19th August, 1946, to 9-50 A.M. on the 22nd August, 1946 The Exchange could not be worked at all from 9-30 A.M. on the 17th August, 1946, to 6 P.M. on the 19th August, 1946.
South Exchange	From 4-20 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 6 P.M. on the 21st August, 1946.
Park Exchange	From 6-40 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 5-30 P.M. on the 21st August, 1946.
Howrah Exchange	From 8 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 4-30 P.M. on the 21st August, 1946.

No instructions were received from the Provincial Government.

RESUMPTION OF NORMAL FUNCTIONS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT SINCE THE SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE

34. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to lay a detailed statement on the table of the House, indicating Province by Province the time when normal functioning of the Posts and Telegraphs Department was fully resumed in all aspects of its activity, since the settlement of the Postal strike?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that considerable delays are even now taking place in the transmission of letters and other postal articles from place to place in different areas? Have complaints been received by the Postal authorities on this subject, and if so, what action is proposed to be taken for avoiding such delays?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that telegrams received at the Central Telegraph Office in Calcutta are being delivered through the town Post Offices in the same manner as letters, no acknowledgment of receipt thereof being required and that as a consequence considerable interval, amounting to several days in some cases, elapses between the receipt of a telegram at the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, and its actual delivery to the addressee?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) and (c). The required information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(b) The Government of India have no information but Heads of Circles have been addressed, and instructed to submit reports.

EFFICIENCY IN THE BENGAL TELEPHONE SERVICE

35. *Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state who are the present Manager and the Supervising Engineer in the Bengal Telephone Service?

(b) Are they the same officers who were serving under the Rangoon Telephone Service before the fall of that city?

(c) Have they got sufficient knowledge and efficiency to run the Calcutta Telephone Service where the number of Telephone lines is much larger than at Rangoon?

(d) Is it not a fact that they were provided with the posts as temporary officers, subject to the condition that their services would be dispensed with after the end of the war?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that since the Bengal Telephone Corporation had been taken over by Government, the efficiency of the Department has been considerably undermined?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the General Manager and the Superintending Engineer of the Calcutta Telephone District. Mr. McGee is the General Manager and Mr. J. T. Duncanson is the Superintending Engineer of that District at present.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) The fall in efficiency is the result of the abnormal conditions created by the war and not due to the taking over of the system by the Government.

FAILURE OF TELEPHONE SERVICE IN CALCUTTA DURING THE COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES

36. *Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Telephone Service at Calcutta had been completely paralysed on the 16th August and subsequent few days;

(b) the reason behind the complete collapse of the Telephone Service when it was possible to run the other essential services like the Electric and Water Supply Corporations;

(c) was any help sought from the Government of Bengal to maintain the service intact during the riot; and

(d) will the Honourable Member enquire into the authenticity of the Departmental note published by the Department concerned immediately after the incident, for explaining the complete failure of the Telephone system?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) No. The service was not completely paralysed. The essential telephones were maintained.

(b) The dislocation was due to the inability of the operating and other staff, to report for duty.

(c) Yes, help was sought for the protection of the exchange buildings and installations and for escorts for staff. Military guards and transport facilities were made available from Saturday, the 17th August.

(d) The Press Note was based on the facts reported to the Government of India, who have no reason to doubt their authenticity.

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN PROVINCES

37. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the system of procurement of foodgrains followed by the various Provincial Governments and the amounts procured in the different Provinces thereunder since 1942-43 and the ratio they bear to the total production of foodgrains;

(b) how the system of procurement in Bengal has been working; and

(c) whether the system obtaining in Bengal has succeeded in procuring only a very small portion of the available rice in the Province; and if so, whether Government contemplate any change in the system of procurement of rice in that Province?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Statements are placed on the table.

(b) and (c). The system of procurement in Bengal has not been found to be fully satisfactory and is in the process of modification in order to be made more effective.

STATEMENT I
Showing the purchases and yield of Rice since 1943-44 to 1945-46
(In '000 tons.)

Name of Province	1943-44			1944-45			1945-46		
	Purchases during the Kharif Plan 1943-44 from 1-11-43 to 31-10-44	Yield 1943-44	% of purchases (col. 2) to yield (col. 3)	Purchases during the Kharif Plan 1944-45 from 1-11-44 to 31-10-45	Yield 1944-45	% of purchases (col. 2) to yield (col. 3)	Purchases during the Kharif Plan 1945-46 from 1-11-45 to 30-9-46 (i.e. 11 months)	Yield 1945-46	% of purchases (col. 8) to yield (col. 9)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assam	187	2,294	8.2	209	1,383	11.1	152	2,016	7.5
Bengal	1,029 (a)	11,816	8.7	642 (b)	10,476	6.1	613	9,597	6.4
Bihar	144	2,982	4.8	53	2,672	2.0	85	2,460	3.5
Bombay	153	847	18.1	182	825	22.1	178.5	839	21.2
C. P. and Berar	265	1,829	14.5	326	1,724	18.9	298	1,623	18.3
Madras	833	4,932	16.9	773	5,054	15.3	1,204	3,827	31.5
Orissa	129	1,349	9.6	136	1,337	10.2	114	1,286	8.9
Punjab	151	425	35.5	143	449	31.8	140	454	30.8
Sind	188	665	28.3	192	565	34.0	201	688	29.2
U. P.	74	1,874	3.9	84	1,540	5.5	103	1,853	5.5
Coorg	16*	69	23.2	13*	62	21.0	11*	65	16.9

NOTE.—(a) Purchases from 1-1-44 to 31-12-44.

(b) Purchases from 1-1-45 to 31-12-45.

*Represents quantities purchased for export against the Basic Plan quotas.

STATEMENT II

Showing the purchases and yield of wheat since 1943-44 to 1945-46

Name of Province	(In '000 tons)									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Purchases under Rabi Plan 1944-45 from 1-5-44 to 30-4-1945	Yield 1943-44	% of purchases (Col. 2) to yield (Col. 3)	Purchases under Rabi Plan 1945-46 from 1-5-45 to 30-4-46	Yield 1944-45	% of purchases (Col. 6) to yield (Col. 6)	Purchases under Rabi Plan 1946-47 from 1-5-46 to 3-10-46	Yield 1945-46	% of purchases (Col. 8) to yield (Col. 9)	
Assam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bengal	...	51	...	...	39	...	...	41	...	...
Bihar	16	407	3.9	11	435	2.5	2	376	0.5	...
Bombay	138	270	51.1	80	296	27.0	26	237	11.0	...
C. P. & Berar	27	370	7.3	33	510	6.5	18	443	4.1	...
Madras	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
N. W. F. P.	22	247	8.9	12	278	4.3	8	263	3.0	...
Orissa	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...
Punjab	577	3,442	16.8	630	3,954	15.9	327	3,230	10.1	...
Sind	257	508	50.6	99	343	28.9	152	321	47.4	...
U. P.	140	2,526	5.5	94	2,645	3.6	230	2,389	9.6	...
Ajmer/Merwara	...	10	...	0.6	9	6.7	...	7	...	...
Baluchistan	20	...	...	9	...	...	N. A.	...	...	...

Note :—N. A. = Not available.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

Procurement Arrangements in various Provinces

Punjab.—The Punjab Government have now introduced a system of monopoly procurement of wheat. The essential features of the scheme are as follows.—

(a) Operations relating to purchase of wheat in nearly 500 mandis of the Province will be completely controlled by Government. All the pucca Artiyas of a mandi, or such of them who are willing to join, will be constituted into a Pucca Artiyas Association, and while the producers will be free to choose their Katchha Artiyas the purchases will only be made by this Association.

(b) All wheat purchased by the Artiyas Association will be disposed of only under the orders of Government.

(c) The purchases will be made at a price fixed for each mandi, subject to quality allowances, except that in villages within 5 miles of the mandi, this price will be 0.4-0 annas less and for those more than 5 miles away, 0.6-0 annas less. This should have the effect of encouraging movement towards the mandis.

(d) The Artiyas Association will get a commission of As. 12 per Rs. 100 of the value of grain and gunny bags supplied.

(e) Sale of wheat by growers in villages except for the requirements of the village, or to a consumer in a neighbouring village upto 20 seers at a time, is prohibited.

(f) Movement of wheat by rail and road is prohibited except between village and market or under Government permit from the market to the recipient areas.

The Punjab Government have also recently introduced a system of monopoly procurement of rice in the rice producing areas of the province. These have been called "controlled areas". The essential features of the scheme are as follows:—

(i) The rice mill will be the centre of procurement operations as all rice (except for small quantities of hand-pounded rice for domestic consumption) must inevitably pass through a mill. All rice produced at a mill will be disposed of only under the orders of Government.

(ii) Minimum prices have been fixed for all varieties of paddy in the controlled areas to ensure a fair return to the producers.

(iii) Maximum prices of each variety of paddy have been fixed for both the controlled and the uncontrolled areas.

(iv) Maximum ex-mill prices of various varieties of rice have also been fixed.

(v) The movement of rice and paddy in and from control areas will be controlled generally as in the case of wheat.

2. *N.-W. F. P.*—Till recently, procurement was done through private trade under Government supervision and the requirements of deficit districts were supplied from surplus districts through normal trade channels. In 1945, a Wheat Procurement Order was promulgated which prohibited the sale or transfer of wheat by one person to another without authority from the Provincial Government, transactions of less than 20 maunds with the grower direct being excepted. For the current Rabi crop the N.-W.F.P. Government have imposed a compulsory levy on holdings of 50 acres or more. The assessment on un-irrigated land is at a flat rate of two maunds per acre. A higher assessment is to be made on irrigated land.

3. *Sind.*—With effect from the 15th May, 1946, the Sind Government have promulgated an order called the "The Wheat and Gram Procurement Order" under which a Purchasing Officer may order that a wholesale dealer in any area shall not, except to the extent permitted by that Officer, sell wheat or gram to any person other than a Government Agent. The Order further prohibits the retailers in non-rationed areas from selling wheat or gram in one transaction to any person in a quantity exceeding 20 seers at a time.

The system of procurement of rice has recently been changed. Under the Sind Rice Procurement Order (1946), Rice Mills cannot dispose of the rice produced by them except in accordance with the directions issued by authorised Government Officers. Movement by rail or river is controlled.

4. *United Provinces.*—Till lately, the system of procurement was dependent on purchase of grain coming to the markets. From the current year a direct procurement scheme for Rabi has been introduced. Small producers whose outturn of Rabi crops is less than 10 maunds or whose total annual production is less than 20 maunds have been excepted. The Provincial Government's target has been distributed among the surplus districts according to the surplus estimated to be available in each. The district demand is then broken up among homogeneous tracts and within these tracts individual assessments are made after taking into consideration the average production per acre in the tract. Committees of peoples' representatives are to be closely associated with procurement at every stage.

5. *Bihar.*—Purchases (subject to the limits of approved prices) are made by Government officers through accredited Agents chosen from the trade. In addition, a compulsory levy on paddy has recently been imposed which prohibits a producer holding 100

acres or more from disposing of any paddy exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ of his total produce. Individual assessments are made. Government may not, however, demand more than half the total produce if it is less than 1,000 maunds and more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the total produce in any case. The Bihar Levy Order has since been extended to wheat.

6. *Bengal*.—Purchases are made direct by Government Officers in certain districts and through Trade Agents called Chief Purchasing Agents in others. All rice mills producing more than 50 maunds rice daily are required to sell their produce to Government. Rice and paddy can move only on Government account by rail or river. The Provincial Government have recently resorted also to requisitionings of stocks with the larger holders at their discretion.

7. *Assam*.—Purchases in the Surma Valley are made direct by Government Officers on a tender system. The single trade agency which used to operate in the Assam Valley has since been replaced by an official procurement machinery.

8. *Orissa*.—Purchases are made direct from the producers and also in the open market through a number of agents in each of the six districts of the Province. Purchase or sale of rice on private account in quantities exceeding 10 maunds and stocking of more than 100 maunds by anyone barring Government Agents is prohibited. Government have fixed prices for rice and paddy payable to producers.

9. *Madras*.—A Scheme of intensive procurement in respect of rice, paddy, millets and other allied foodgrains is in force in the entire province. Under this scheme the entire surplus of the cultivator is acquired by Government through their Trade Agents after allowing for his annual domestic and seed requirements and for meeting labour and other customary charges in kind. The Provincial Government have formed village, taluqa and town committees to assist in the procurement and distribution operations.

In the Malabar District the trade has been completely eliminated and the work of procurement and distribution has been handed over to the Co-operative Societies.

10. *Central Provinces*.—Government are the sole buyers of foodgrains brought to the markets. In the case of Jowar there is a form of non-statutory levy under which the producer is expected to contribute a specific portion of his crop to Government. In the case of wheat a compulsory levy, first introduced in 1944 and not continued in 1945 has been reintroduced this year in all the districts of the Jubbulpore Division. The levy is applicable to holdings of 10 acres or more.

11. *Bombay*.—There is a compulsory levy on a graded scale with a minimum exemption limit of 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per producer which is allowed for domestic and seed requirements for the year. Government are the sole buyers of other surpluses.

12. *Baluchistan*.—There is monopoly purchase by Government.

CULTIVATION AND MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN PROVINCES SINCE 1938

38. **Sree Satyapriya Banerjee*: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly acreage under cultivation of foodgrains Province by Province, since 1938;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains produced in each Province yearly since 1938;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains imported yearly since 1938 and the names of the countries from which imported;

(d) the quantity of foodgrains exported yearly since 1938 and the countries to which exported; and

(e) the quantity of foodgrains purchased yearly by the Government of India and the different Provincial Governments since 1942-43?

Mr. B. B. Sen: (a) and (b). A statement showing the acreage and yield of the seven major foodgrains (rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, barley, maize and gram) for the year 1945-46 is laid on the table of the house. For figures relating to previous years, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to "Food Statistics of India," a copy of which is placed on the table.†

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) No exports of cereals are being allowed from August 1943 onwards, except small quantities as ship stores, etc., or on a replacement basis. For information relating to earlier years, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to pages 87-90 of 'Food Statistics of India' and the Government publications referred to therein.

†Not printed in these Debates. Copies placed in the Library of the House.

(e) A statement showing the purchases made by the various Provincial Governments during the years 1943-44 onwards is laid on the table. Information for the year 1942-43 is not readily available.

Statement showing area and yield of the seven major foodgrains in the various provinces during the year 1945-46.

Provinces	Area* (Figures in '000 acres)	Yield* (Figures in '000 tons)
Assam	5,303	2,016
Bengal	27,672	9,824
Bihar	16,256	4,010
Bombay	16,104	2,213
C. P. & Berar	15,328	3,362
Ceorg	87	65
Madras	16,456	5,153
Orissa	5,193	1,306
Punjab	24,317	6,195
Sind	4,044	1,243
United Provinces	33,464	9,244
N. W. F. P.	2,056	607
Delhi	157	42
Ajmer-Merwara	308	36

* These figures are subject to revision.

Statement showing quantity of foodgrains imported into India during the years 1937-38 to 1945-46.

Years	Quantity (in 1,000 tons)
1937-38	1,596
1938-39	1,872
1939-40	2,714
1940-41	1,519
1941-42	1,302
1942-43	86
1943-44	384
1944-45	731 (a) (a) Includes 4,500 on replacement basis.
1945-46	938 (b) (b) From 1st April 1945 to 30th March 1946. This includes imports amounting to 6,500 on replacement basis.

Up to the year 1943-44 imports of rice were received mainly from Burma, French-Indo-China, Siam. Imports of rice in 1944-45 were from Egypt and in 1945-46 from Burma and Egypt. Imports of wheat have been received mainly from Australia, Canada, U.S.A.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Statement showing the Purchases of different foodgrains by various Provinces
(Figures in 1,000 tons)

Name of Provinces	1943-44			1944-45			1945-46*		
	Total Procurement under Kharif Plan 1943-44	Total Procurement under Rabi Plan 1944-45	Total Purchases of 1943-44 crops	Total Procurement under Kharif Plan 1944-45	Total Procurement under Rabi Plan 1945-46	Total Purchases of 1944-45 crops	Total Procurement under Kharif Plan 1945-46	Total Procurement under Rabi Plan 1946-47	Total Purchases of 1945-46 crops
	Assam	187	...	187	209	...	209	152	...	152
Bengal	1,029	...	1,029	642	...	642	613	...	613
Bihar	156	22	178	53	11	64	88	2	90
Bombay	414	138	552	526	80	606	349	26	375
C. P. and Berar	365	27	392	404	33	437	340	18	358
Madras	833	...	833	773	...	773	1,222	...	1,222
N. W. F. P. . . . .	...	24	24	2	15	17	...	8	8
Orissa	129	...	129	136	...	136	114	...	114
Punjab	248	590	838	186	647	833	149	331	480
Sind	192	257	449	195	99	294	201	152	353
U. P.	143	180	323	180	111	291	204	271	475
Ajmer-Merwara . . . . .	...	...	...	...	0.6	0.6	...	...	...
Baluchistan	29	20.5	49.5	24	9	33	21	...	21
Coorg	16	...	16	13	...	13	11	...	11
Delhi	N.A.	...	N.A.	N.A.	...	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

* Figures incomplete.

EXTENSION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM JUBBULPORE TO NAGPUR

39. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether a preliminary or regular survey for laying a broad gauge Railway line from Jubbulpore to Nagpur (via Seoni) was made during 1910-11 or at any time thereafter;

(b) if so, whether the Reports of the surveys will be placed in the Library of the House;

(c) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid extension was included in the post-war development plans or programmes and a map showing the proposed line as a part of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway extension project was published by the Government of India; and

(d) if so, whether a copy of the said map will be placed in the Library of the House?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) According to the information available, neither a preliminary nor a regular survey for constructing a Broad Gauge line from Jubbulpore to Nagpur via Seoni was made in 1910-11, or at any time thereafter. An estimate for a Traffic and Engineering survey for this line, amounting to Rs. 77,000 was, however, prepared in 1927, and the C. P. Government were asked to bear the cost, but they declined to do so stating that they did not consider the prospects of the line warranted the outlay. In 1945, the Provincial Industries Committee Central Provinces and Berar recommended the construction of this line and the matter was referred to the G. I. P. and B. N. Railways, and both of them considered that the line would be expensive and unremunerative. As the Local Government also did not ask for this line to be included in the post-war plan of railways, the matter was dropped.

(b) In the circumstances explained in part (a) of the question, no survey was carried out and therefore no reports are available.

(c) and (d). Since the Local Government have not asked for this line to be included in the post-war plan of railways, the project has not been included in the post-war development programme and as such no map showing the proposed line as a part of G. I. P. Railway has been published by the Government.

EXTENSION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM JUBBULPORE TO NAGPUR

40. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the reasons, in detail, on account of which the Railway extension referred to in the preceding question instead of being taken up was given up?

(b) Do Government propose to take up the extension now, as it has been recommended by the Central Provinces and Berar Industries Committee, 1946, the Report of which has been accepted by the local Government in question?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The position has been fully explained in part (a) of the preceding question.

(b) Government would give prompt and due consideration to the investigation of this line, if recommended by the Local Government, who have so far not asked for this line to be included in the post-war plan of railways.

PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES IN BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY FROM MADRAS, BENGAL AND ORISSA

41. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state how many miles the Bengal-Nagpur Railway runs in the Central Provinces, and how many miles it runs in the Provinces of Madras, Bengal, and Orissa?

(b) What is the income to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway from each of these Provinces?

(c) What is the percentage of employees from each of these Provinces in Officers' rank, Inspectors' rank, Upper and Lower subordinate services?

(d) Is any quota fixed for the people of any Province?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(b) Government are unable to give the information as statistics are not maintained showing the income to a railway from each Province.

(c) Staff Statistics also are not maintained by Provinces and, therefore, the information required by the Honourable Member is not available with Government.

(d) No. Recruitment to Railway Services is not made on a territorial basis.

B. N. Railway statement showing mileage by Provinces.

Central Provinces	11,87.69
Madras	257.75
Bengal	244.00
Orissa	507.81

PROMOTION IN BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

42. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion for promotion in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway;

(b) whether Government are aware that academical qualifications are a disqualification in the Bengal Nagpur Railway; and

(c) the reason why fresh recruits are given preference over more qualified permanent employees of the Railway and why fresh graduates are appointed as Yard apprentices and fresh law-graduates as Claims Inspectors and Labour Inspectors, over the head of many law-graduates already serving the Railway who have much better knowledge of the Railway than the new recruits?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The Bengal Nagpur Railway follow the rules regarding promotion prescribed in Appendix II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I, as amended by Correction Slip No. N566. A copy of the rules will be found in the Library of the House. Briefly, the principle is that promotion to non-selection posts is made in order of seniority, the senior man being superseded only if he has been declared unfit for such promotion. Promotion to selection posts is made on the basis primarily of merit, due consideration being given to seniority.

(b) Government are informed that this is not so.

(c) I have called for the facts and will lay a statement on the table of the House in due course.

PROMOTION IN BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

43. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state why the Bengal Nagpur Railway does not adopt a uniform policy regarding all promotions by holding competitive examinations through competent authorities to be constituted for the purpose?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As I have just stated in my reply to part (a) of Question No. 42, the Bengal Nagpur Railway follow the rules regarding promotion prescribed in Appendix II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I, as amended by Correction Slip No. N566. A copy of the rules will be found in the Library of the House. Government do not consider that competitive examinations are suitable for the purpose of regulating promotions in non-gazetted railway services.

FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA

44. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the food situation in the country and the measures that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to cope with it?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member is referred to the Memorandum on Food Position laid on the table of the House.†

ENQUIRY INTO THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

45. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any enquiry by Government into the Co-operative movement in India since the MacLagon Committee published its report on Co-operation; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to co-ordinate the Co-operative movements in different Provinces; if so, whether the Government of India propose for this purpose, to enquire into the condition of the Co-operative movement in the country and take necessary action thereafter?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A number of enquiries into the working of the Co-operative movement in the different provinces have been held by the Provincial Governments concerned. The subject was also dealt with by the Royal Commission on Agriculture and by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee. A Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. G. Saraiya, was appointed by the Government of India in January 1945 to draw up a plan of Co-operative Development. The report of this Committee is expected to be published shortly.

(b) With a view to co-ordinate the Co-operative movements in different Provinces, Conferences of Registrars of Co-operative Societies and non-official workers have been convened by the Government of India periodically in the past. It is proposed to hold such a Conference early next year to consider the recommendations of the Saraiya Committee which was set up on the recommendation of the 14th Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies. The question of setting up a Central Co-ordinating body will be considered by the Government of India after the Conference has examined the recommendation of the Saraiya Committee in this respect.

CONTROL OF PRICE, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS IN BENGAL

46. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the high and sharp rise in the price of rice in the different districts of Bengal, especially the districts of Jalpaiguri, Comilla, Noakhali and Chittagong;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the reports in the Press of deaths from starvation;

(c) the steps taken so far by Government to control the price, supply and distribution of food-stuff, specially in Bengal;

(d) the quantity of import of food-grains from foreign countries during the last six months, the names of those countries and their quantities; and

(e) the quantity of export, if any, of foodgrains from India to other countries?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, but no authentic reports of deaths from starvation have been received from any of the districts.

(c) Government stocks are being sent to the deficit districts where prices are high and distributed at controlled rates under a system of modified rationing

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

(e) Exports of foodgrains outside India are totally prohibited except for small quantities allowed as ships stores, etc.

Statement showing foodgrains imported in India during six months

April to September 1946.

I Cereals other than Rice

April	U. S. A.	29,706	Wheat
	Canada	7,500	"
	Australia	62,182	"
	Australia	12,808	Wheat equivalent of 9,350 tons of flour at 73 % extraction basis.
	Total	112,196	
May	Australia	62,189	Wheat
	Australia	42,470	Wheat equivalent of 31,003 tons of flour.
	U. S. A.	26,164	Wheat
	Canada	3,500	Wheat
	U. K.	5,500	Wheat equivalent of 4,000 tons of flour.
Total	139,823		
June	Australia	52,398	Wheat
	Australia	15,895	Wheat equivalent of 11,603 tons of flour.
	Canada	39,314	Wheat
Total	107,607		
July	Australia	48,471	Wheat
	Australia	45,478	Wheat equivalent of 33,199 tons of flour.
	Canada	53,212	Wheat
	U. S. A.	33,879	Wheat
	U. S. A.	76,979	Maize
Total	258,019		
August	Australia	52,931	Wheat
	Australia	19,245	Wheat equivalent of 14,049 tons of flour.
	Australia	1,050	Barley
	Canada	9,308	Wheat
	U. S. A.	43,105	Wheat
	U. S. A.	8,913	Maize
	Argentine	25,301	Maize
	Burma	2,730	Maize
	Iraq	170	Millets
Egypt	19,625	Millets	
Total	182,378		
September	Australia	43,836	Wheat
	Australia	35,764	Wheat equivalent of 26,108 tons of flour.
	Australia	200	Millets
	U. S. A.	67,581	Wheat
	U. S. A.	5,100	Maize
	U. S. A.	7,625	Milo
	Burma	2,300	Maize
	Argentine	26,182	Maize
	Egypt	4,700	Barley
	Egypt	14,644	Millets
	Abbyssenia	1,421	Millets
Total	209,362		

ABSENCE OF RAILWAY IN HAMIRPUR DISTRICT OF THE UNITED PROVINCES

6. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. are aware that there is no Railway line in the Hamirpur District of the United Provinces;

(b) whether Govt. are aware that if a small line about twenty miles long from Harpalpore to Rath is constructed, it will go a long way to meet the demand of the Hamirpur public;

(c) whether Govt. are aware that there is no river or rivulet in the above twenty mile long patch; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of constructing this line; if so, when?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes, except that a portion of the Cawnpore-Khairada line, which is being restored, will pass through this area.

(b) There has been no demand either from the public or the Provincial Government for a railway line from Harpalpore to Rath.

(c) It appears from the Survey Map that there are some rivulets in the area.

(d) Government would first like to receive the views of the United Provinces Government.

PLATFORMS OF THE KHARAGPUR STATION AND DEFECTIVE ROOFS OF TRAIN COMPARTMENTS ON BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

7. **Mr. Debendra Lal Khan:** (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware of the fact that the platforms of the Kharagpore Station, the longest one in India, are totally uncovered, causing thereby much inconvenience and discomfort to the passengers during rains and in the summer?

(b) Are Government aware that most of the roofs of the compartments of the Bengal Nagpur Railway trains are defective due to innumerable leakage, causing much inconvenience to the passengers during incessant rainfall?

(c) Are Government aware that first class compartments of the local trains between Midnapore and Howrah, are in fact no better than third classes, consisting of wooden benches only and are without any light?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes. It is, however, understood from the Railway Administration that necessary provision has been made for the carrying out of this work in the post-war programme of that railway.

(b) Due to the shortage of supplies during the war, some carriages on the railway had to be re-roofed with painted canvas. Supplies of standard materials have now been received and carriages are being re-roofed at the rate of 38 per month. It is expected that before the beginning of the next monsoon, all carriages will have been re-roofed with standard material.

(c) The seats of 1st and 2nd class compartments of suburban trains running between Midnapur and Howrah had to be fitted with wooden slats on account of continuous thefts of and damage to rexine and canvas upholstery and the war-time impossibility of obtaining the necessary materials for replacement purposes. There has been also lack of lighting due to excessive thefts of lamps, lamp-holders and other electric fittings and the war-time difficulty of obtaining the necessary supplies. The position will be adjusted as materials and fittings become available.

TRAINS AND THIRD CLASS WAITING ROOMS ON BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

8. **Mr. Debendra Lal Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please State whether Government are aware of the fact that though the war emergency has long since ceased to exist, the number of trains on Bengal Nagpur Railway are still extremely limited and consequently the passengers are compelled to travel on the board of compartments or even on the roofs, causing the apprehension of great risk to human lives?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that the Bengal Nagpur Railway stations have practically no arrangements of waiting rooms for the third class passengers and only inadequate arrangements for the first, second and inter class passengers?

(c) What is the Government policy regarding the amelioration of the condition of the third class passengers specially in the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Since the cessation of hostilities, many trains have been restored and on the Bengal Nagpur Railway train services are now only 8.2 per cent. less in number than before the war. Government have no doubt that foot-board travel has had to be restored to; but it is hoped that such conditions will soon disappear.

(b) Government are aware that there is room for much improvement in the provision of waiting room facilities for all classes of passengers. The following provisions for additional waiting rooms have been made in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway's post-war programme:

	Rs.
1947-48	99,000
1948-49	194,000
1949-50	164,000
1950-51	56,000
1951-52	12,000
Total	525,000

(c) Government intend to do everything possible to improve the conditions of III Class travel at the earliest possible time.

EFFICIENCY IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

9. Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Communications aware of the fact that the efficiency of the Posts and Telegraphs Department has been considerably undermined during recent times, causing unusual delay in the delivery of letters and telegrams?

(b) Do Government propose to see that the former efficiency of the Department is restored at the earliest possible time and thereby save the people in general from lot of inconvenience?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) and (b) Yes, Government are taking steps to prove the efficiency of the Department and remove the inconvenience to the public.

STATEMENT RE FOOD SITUATION PROVINCE BY PROVINCE.

10. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement in continuation of one made on the 5th February, 1946, in the Legislative Assembly in answer to unstarred question No. 7, dealing with the food situation, Province by Province, and specially indicating—

(i) the crop prospects, (ii) the progress of the basic plan, (iii) stocks and supply position, (iv) prevailing prices in rationed as well as non-rationed areas, (v) imports received from outside India and their allocation to different Provinces, and (vi) imports expected in future, month by month, and their probable allocation?

(b) Are Government aware of the acute shortage of rice and prevailing high prices thereof in certain parts of Bengal? If so, will a separate statement be made dealing with the situation?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) A memorandum on the food position is laid on the table of the House.†

(b) In Bengal, shortages have occurred in the deficit districts particularly in East Bengal and prices have risen considerably. Supplies to these areas

were disorganised as a result of the disturbances in Calcutta in August 1946 and further dislocations have been caused by recent unrest in the districts of Noakhali and Tipperah. The Government of Bengal are trying to meet the situation by sending Government stocks to these districts, which are released at controlled rates under a system of modified rationing. Normal despatches are being supplemented by air-borne supplies to Tipperah and Noakhali.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN BENGAL

11. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state how many miles of roads of different descriptions have been constructed in the Province of Bengal ever since the Standing Committee for Roads met last, and when it last met?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Standing Committee for Roads last met on the 16th March 1946.

The mileages of roads of various descriptions constructed by the Government of Bengal since March 1946 are not known to the Government of India, and it has not been possible to obtain the information in the time available, but it will be called for, if the Honourable Member will kindly indicate whether he is referring to new construction or improvements.

ACTION ON RESOLUTION *RE* MORE YARN FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

12. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken or are being taken for implementing the resolution which was adopted with amendments by the House after the debates on the 31st January and the 4th of February, 1946, over the question of having more yarn for handloom weavers; and

(b) whether Government have considered the question of popularising *Charkha* for the purpose of getting increased output of yarn?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) In February 1945, an all-India Handloom Board was constituted to safeguard the interests of handloom weavers. It has not been found practicable to compel cotton textile mills to release one-third of the yarn manufactured by them for the use of handlooms. Handloom weavers at present are getting roughly one-quarter of the total yarn manufactured in India or about 90,000 bales a month. A reservation of 25 per cent. for handloom consumption has been made in respect of all further expansion of spindleage.

(b) This is receiving the attention of Provincial Governments.

ACTION BY THE POLICE AND RAILWAY AUTHORITIES *re* CONSIGNMENTS OF DAGGERS AND KNIVES IN TRANSIT.

13. Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving instances in which consignments of knives, daggers or other lethal weapons were discovered by the Railway authorities or the Railway Police while in transit in different parts of the country since July last, and indicating in each case, the date and place of such discovery, the place of origin of such consignments and their destination, the nature and number of weapons, and the action taken at the instance of the Railway authorities or the Railway Police?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available. In order to obtain the information a reference is being made to all railway administrations. On receipt of the information a reply will be laid on the table.

PARCELS OF KNIVES AND DAGGERS, THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

14. Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state whether there have been instances in which parcels containing knives, daggers or other lethal weapons have been discovered in any part of

the country while in transit since July last? If so, will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House particulars of each such instance, giving the date and place of such discovery, the place of origin of such parcels and their destination, the nature and number of weapons, and the action taken at the instance of the Postal authorities or the Police?

Sir Harold Shobert: The Government of India have no official information but enquiries are being made from the Heads of the Circles.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

[INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLY TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE—TODAY.]

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha's starred question No. 490 of 17th March 1944

BANKING FACILITIES TO PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ

(a) Indian pilgrims do take with them to the Hedjaz Indian currency notes. They face exchange difficulties in this sense that owing to a great demand of rials during the pilgrimage season and its being in short supply its price keeps rising and that of rupee and currency of other countries depreciates. Discount as such is not paid by pilgrims.

(b) Glattey Hankey & Co., who are the correspondants of the National Bank of India and the Netherlands Trading Society of Bombay give banking facilities to Indian pilgrims. The Indian Section of the British Legation Jeddah affords every possible assistance to pilgrims.

Late Mr. K. S. Gupta's starred Question No. 533 of 20th March, 1944

ALLOTMENT ON ENTERTAINMENT OF BRITISH AND INDIAN TROOPS

On the assumption that the Honourable Member desired information regarding the expenditure on entertainment (e.g., concert parties, etc.) as distinct from amenities and comforts, the answer is:—

(a) No figures of expenditure on entertainment as distinct from general amenities are available for the year 1942-43.

(b) The amount spent per head in 1943-44, was—

Indian troops—Rs. 6-1-3.

British troops—Rs. 3-0-4.

and in 1944-45—

Indian troops—Rs. 1-5-0.

British troops—Rs. 7-7-0.

(c) The proportion of British to Indian troops during the year 1944-45 was 1 : 7.

(d) No expenditure on entertainment is met from Indian revenues in respect of British and foreign troops not paid from the Indian Exchequer.

Mr. Hoosainbhoj A. Laljee's starred question No. 653 of 5th March, 1945

DIFFICULTIES OF OVERSEAS INDIAN STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION TO COLLEGES IN INDIA

(a) Government of India are not aware that any great difficulty is experienced by candidates from overseas (particularly from South and East Africa) in securing admission in Arts and Science Colleges in India, except when the degrees possessed by them are not recognised by the Universities concerned. The question of recognition of the degrees and diplomas of South African Universities possessed by Indian students by the Universities in India was referred to the Registrars of all the Universities in India and practically all the Universities have expressed their willingness to consider these cases sympathetically. The matter was also placed before the Inter-Universities Board at its meeting in December, 1945. They have also recommended that the Universities in India should consider sympathetically the question of the recognition of the degrees and diplomas of South African Universities possessed by Indian nationals.

(b) The Universities do not charge any capitation fees but Provincial Governments who run technical or professional institutions of their own do so for admitting students belonging to other Provinces. The Provincial Governments pay capitation fees only in respect of those candidates who are deputed by them.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's short notice question of 29th January 1946

CLOTH AND YARN POSITION

Mr. Muhammad Nauman's Supplementary question.

India was exporting much larger quantities of yarn before the war, the statement below shows annual exports of yarn.

EXPORTS OF YARN

Year	Quantity in tons
1929	16,964
1930	16,071
1931	14,732
1932	12,053
1933	11,160
1934	9,375
1935	8,031
1936	8,432
1937	16,071
1938	15,178
1939	12,053
1940	16,517
1941	39,732
1942	15,178
1943	3,977
1944	5,630
1945	5,280
1946 (1st half year)	298
(2nd half year)	180

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad's supplementary question

All counts of yarn produced in India are made available for distribution to handloom weavers.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal's supplementary question

Information in the possession of Government goes to show that there are very few un-employed handlooms, though not all are employed every day. Statistics are not maintained.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 110 of 8th February, 1946

RECRUITMENT OF SUBORDINATE STAFF ON B. B. AND C. I., AND SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS

The number of persons recruited direct during the year 1945 on the B. B. & C. I. Railway to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p.m. and over is as follows:—

Hindus	35
Muslims	7
Anglo-Indians	8
Other Minority Communities	30

Mr. K. C. Neogy's unstarred question No. 27 of 8th February 1946.

CLOSED AND REOPENED RAILWAY STATIONS

Statement showing Stations closed during the war and those reopened or proposed to be reopened in the near future as on 1st February 1946

Railways	Passenger Traffic			Goods Traffic		
	(a) Number of stations closed during the war	(b) Number of stations reopened since cessation of hostilities	(c) Number of stations which it is proposed to reopen in the near future	(a) Number of stations closed during the war	(b) Number of stations reopened since cessation of hostilities	(c) Number of stations which it is proposed to reopen in the near future
B. A.	30	21	2	71	22	2
B., B. & C. I.	64	20	24	80	48	2
B. N.	29*	•	5	...	...	...
Bikaner	...	...	...	...	...	...
E. I.	121	23	49	164	...	132
G. I. P.	13	...	2	92	...	38
Jodhpur	2	...	...	2	...	...
M. & S. M.	14	...	6	57	1	4
Mysore	29	15	9	...	...	...
N. S.	4	...	...	35	...	...
N. W.	100	34	...	301	53	...
O. T.	...	...	...	...	...	...
S. I.	109	17	...	125	1	26
Total	515	130	97	927	125	204

* 15 closed for lack of sufficient traffic.

Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 139 of 11th February 1946

PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FOR INDIAN LABOURERS IN BURMA

Further inquiries made from the Representative of the Government of India in Burma have revealed that the difference in the prices prevailing in Bombay and Rangoon varies substantially. Without house rent, the total of all the commodities is about 300 per cent. cheaper than in Bombay, but the other food items average more than 200 per cent. above Bombay. The items relating to cloth are over 300 per cent. higher than in Bombay. The conditions in Rangoon are still fluid and vary frequently. At times certain amenities may not be purchasable at all and in some cases these are substituted by others. In the circumstances it is not possible to estimate the cost at which amenities purchasable for Rs. 60 in Bombay by Indian labourers can be purchased in Rangoon by persons of the same class.

Prof. N. G. Ranga's supplementary to Sri M. Ananthasayanam's starred question No. 194 of 12th February, 1946

EDITOR OF *Perspective*

QUALIFICATIONS OF MISS OUWERKERK

Miss Ouwerkerk is an M.A. of Cambridge University. She has been in India for about 16 years during which time she has lectured on Economics in a South Indian State and has also been Travelling Secretary to the Indian International Fellowship. She has travelled extensively in India and has made a special study of a wide range of Indian problems.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No. 235 of 13th February, 1946

RECRUITMENT OF SUBORDINATE STAFF ON M. & S. M. RAILWAY

(a) to (f). The number of persons recruited by direct appointment during the year 1945, on the M. & S. M. Railway to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p.m. and over as follows:—

Anglo-Indians	1
Other Minority Communities—	
Indian Christians, Sikhs and Parsies	1
Hindus	6

Seth Govind Das's starred question No. 279 of 14th February, 1946

LOSS TO INDIANS IN MALAYA DUE TO CHANGE OF CURRENCY

(b) Burma Government have not exchanged Japanese currency and there is no information of their intention to do so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam's starred question No. 302 of 18th February, 1946

VICTORY DAY PARADE AT DELHI

Statement showing expenditure incurred on Victory in Europe Parade and other Parades held on the occasion of distribution of Victoria Crosses.

	(In thousands of rupees)
V. E. Parade	38
V. C. Parades—	
10th November 1941	..
1st July 1943	3
5th January 1944	1
24th October 1944	19
3rd March 1945	22
19th December 1945	24

NOTE.—The expenditure shown above includes cost of transportation of troops, their accommodation and other supplies and services such as electricity, water, etc. It does not include cost of rations which is a normal charge wherever the troops may be.

Mr. K. C. Neogy's Supplementary question to Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 340 of 19th February 1946

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECOND FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

The reply given to the Russian objection was that Indian troops had fought in great numbers in many theatres of war; India was a member of the United Nations and had been a founder member of the League of Nations.

Mr. Tamisuddin Khan's starred question No. 849 of 19th February 1946

COMPLAINTS AGAINST CONTRACTORS OF AERATED WATER SUPPLY ON E. SECTION OF N. W. RAILWAY

(a) and (b)—

(i) Faulty supply	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 under reference with the contractor. 3 contractor fined Rs. 10, Rs. 20 Rs. 100, respectively. 1 contractor warned. 3 complaints not substantiated.
(ii) Miscellaneous complaints, such as excess charges levied, balance of change not refunded, iceman refused to supply ice or aerated water, rate lists not shown or rates labels removed.	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 are under reference with the contractor. 16 not substantiated. 9 contractor asked to direct icemen not to charge in excess of fixed rates. 8 contractor asked to have adequate supply of ice and aerated water. 3 contractor asked to refund balance of change not refunded. 1 iceman discharged. 1 contractor warned.
(iii) Icemen found carrying passengers without ticket or pass or not wearing uniform, etc.	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iceman was discharged and fare recovered. 3 fares were recovered and contractor warned. 1 under reference with the contractor.
(iv) Theft on the part of iceman (stealing a bucket).	1	Contractor asked to pay wages Act to the iceman.

Prof. N. G. Ranga's Supplementary question to Mr. Vadasure incurred starred question No. 260 of 19th February, 1946.

A. P.

NEW INDUSTRIES DURING WAR IN INDIA

The specific industries in respect of which an assurance of post-war protection and fair competition from abroad was given by government during the war years

1. Bichromates.	7	1	0
2. Steel Pipes and tubes upto a nominal bore of 4 inches.	74		
3. Aluminium.			
4. Calcium Chloride.			
5. Calcium Carbide.			0
6. Starch.			

2. The Contact Sulphuric Acid Plants were allotted to the following four firms :—

- (i) Messrs. Bararee Coke Co., Ltd., Kasunda (Bihar).
- (ii) Messrs. H. Mumtaz & Co., Calcutta.
- (iii) Messrs. Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co., Ltd.
- (iv) Messrs. Anil Starch Products Ltd., Ahmedabad.

The Caustic Soda Chlorine plants were allotted to the following three firms :

- (i) Messrs. Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co. Ltd., Delhi.
- (ii) Messrs. H. Mumtaz & Co., Calcutta.
- (iii) Messrs. Ahmedabad Manufacturing & Calico Printing Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No. 400 of 20th February, 1946

SERVICE SUPPLIES FROM AUSTRALIA

(c) and (d) (i). Out of the articles given in the list in reply to part (b) of the question, importation of following articles is permitted without a licence as such importation is covered by Open General Licence No. VII, published with this Department notification No. 1-I.T.C./46, dated the 22nd January 1946, as amended from time to time :

- (1) Bearings.
- (2) Industrial chemicals (excepting certain specified chemicals).

- (3) Clothing.
 (4) Mess equipment.

(ii) Import of some varieties of the following articles is also covered by the said Open General Licence :—

- (5) Engineering equipment.
 (6) Hardware, e.g., garden tools, metal lamps and parts, incandescent mantles and Zip fasteners.
 (7) Electrical trade goods, e.g., electrical insulations, certain electrical instruments, and electric exploders.
 (8) Textiles, e.g., Artificial silk and fabrics and woollen fabrics.

(iii) The following statement gives particulars of the number of applications received for import licences for some of the remaining items and the total value of the licences issued :

Number of applications received	Description of goods	Value licensed
		Rs.
10	Electrical trade goods	54,108
18	Hardware	1,63,256
1	Metals	120
2	Motor vehicles	53,785
5	Textiles (mainly cotton)	15,020
24	Machine tools	£8,000
		(Australian pounds)

(iv) No applications for licences were received in respect of the items not mentioned above, viz., Canvaswar and allied goods, Hessian, and ships.

Pundit Thakudas Bhargava's starred question No. 401 of 20th February, 1946

BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

(d) Government are aware of the famines which occurred during the last 15 years in South-East Punjab. The Bhakra Dam Project is under the consideration of the Punjab Government with a view to avert recurrence of famine or distress in this area. } 3

Mr. Vadhil Lallubhai's starred question No. 445 of 22nd February, 1946

WAR ORDERS PLACED WITH INDIAN FIRMS

(a) The aggregate cost of total war orders placed with firms in India by the Department of Industries and Supplies and Department of Food, amounted to approximately Rs. 1,220 crores. As Defence Services requirements (including those of His Majesty's Government and the U. S. A. Forces) were ordinarily received in the form of bulked indents, it is not possible to furnish statistics representing separately the orders placed against the requirements of the government of India, His Majesty's Government and the U. S. A. Government.

(b) Information is not available as statistics have not been maintained in such a manner as to make possible the analysis required.

(c) Information is available only in respect of the orders placed by the Director General of Industries and Supplies, New Delhi, which is given below :—

Classification of firms	Total value of Orders (Approximately)	
	Rs. (crores)	Proportion percent.
Indian	559.58	61
Non-Indian	357.76	39

(d) For the reason given under (b) above, the required information is not available.

Pundit Thakurdas Bhargava's starred question No. 492 of 25th February, 1946.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

Statement showing the number of Government, Government aided and Municipal Schools, in each centrally administered area, where students were examined medically for health during 1945 and number of Schools where the students were not so examined during that year.

Name of Centrally Administered Areas	Total Number of Schools	Number of schools where students were medically examined in 1945	Number of schools where students not medically examined
1. Ajmer-Merwara	287	24	263
2. Delhi	360	246	114
3. Baluchistan	122	32	90
Total	769	302	467

Sri T. V. Satakopachari's starred question No. 580 of 27th February, 1946

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON LITIGATION UNDER PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT *vs* ILLEGAL DEDUCTIONS ON N. W. RAILWAY

Statement showing the expenditure incurred by the North Western Railway on :

(i) refund of amounts illegally deducted from the wages of employees during the last three years;

(ii) payment of the delayed wages of employees during the same period; and

(iii) compensation awarded by the authority appointed under the Payment of wages Act against the Divisional Superintendents persons responsible for the payment of wages to the employees.

Year	Expenditure incurred		
	Rs.	A.	P.
(i)			
1943			Nil.
1944			7 1 0
1945			Nil.
(ii)			
1943			72 5 0
1944			2 13 6
1945			Nil.
(iii)			
1943			} Nil.
1944			
1945			

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer's starred question of 6th March, 1946

COST OF STAFF AT KAMARAN QUARANTINE STATION

No. 721(d).—A provision for a sum of Rs. 4,458 was made in the budget for the year 1920-21 on account of pension. Information regarding actual expenditure is, however, not available.

CAPITAL AND RECURRING EXPENDITURE ON PILGRIMS AND STAFF AT KAMARAN

No. 722(c).—There are no military huts at Kamaran. The question, therefore, does not arise.

SUPPLY OF WATER BY CONDENSERS AT KAMARAN

No. 723(a).—No. Water is very seldom supplied to H. M.'s ships. Before the last war any water supplied was paid for by Royal Navy. During the war in one or two isolated cases some water was supplied to H. M.'s ships in emergency but only in lieu of services rendered such as demolition of enemy sea mines, sitting and relaying buoys, and bringing food supplies from Aden.

(b) No prisoners of war were accommodated during both the wars.

A military garrison was established after occupation of the island in 1915. The expenditure was included in the sums advanced by the British and Indian Governments to meet deficits which were incurred in the administration of the Quarantine Station and recovered out of the revenue of the Quarantine Station according to Anglo-Dutch Agreement.

During the second war some detainees were accommodated in the barracks which had never been used by pilgrims. All expenses including repairs to the barracks were recovered from the Governments concerned and no expenses were charged to the Kamaran Quarantine Station Fund. Information regarding the amount recovered is not available.

Mr. C. P. Lawson's starred question No. 776, of 8th March, 1946.

(RETURN OF REQUISITIONED PROPERTY.)

(b) The following was the position in respect of the three categories of buildings on the 28th February 1946 :—

Command	Housing Accommodation			Office Accommodation			Storage Accommodation		
	Derequisitioned	Derequisitioning ordered and in process of being effected	To be derequisitioned	Derequisitioned	Derequisitioning order and in process of being effected	To be derequisitioned	Derequisitioned	Derequisitioning ordered and in process of being effected	To be derequisitioned
Northern Command	14	10	5			3			1
Central Command	8	..	132	..	1	2	1	..	..
Southern Command	78	20	626	15	9	42	6	1	15
Eastern Command*	187	175	1793	31	11	141	31	20	99
Total	287	205	2556	46	21	188	38	21	
Percentage for India Command	9%	7%	94%	18%	8%	74%	22%	12%	66%

* Excluding 351 Sub Area return for which is awaited.

Shri Sri Prakasa's starred question No. 779 of 8th March, 1946

CLASSIFICATION OF I. N. A. PRISONERS

(a) The names of the jails in which ex-I. N. A. personnel sentenced by courts of law are held and the number in each are given below :—

RAWALPINDI Central Jail	3
AGRA Central Jail	1
LUCKNOW Central Jail	5
MULTAN Central Jail	1
HARIPORE Central Jail	2
LAHORE Central Jail	3
MEERUT Central Jail	1
MULTAN District Jail	1
HISSAR District Jail	1

(b) These prisoners are classified "A", "B" or "C" according to the Prison rules of the Province in which they are imprisoned.

(c) The number of prisoners under each class is as follows :—

"A"	2
"B"	13
"C"	3

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma's unstarred question No. 105 of 11th March, 1946

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF AEROPLANES FROM U. S. A.'s DISPOSALS

Details of aircraft taken over from the American Foreign Liquidation Commission.

Type of aircraft	Number	Carrying capacity	Total Price
Taylor Craft	3	2	} \$ 1,214,800
Aeroneca	1	2	
Sentinel	64	2	
Harvard	31	2	
Noordyn	19	7	
Expeditor	4	5	
Dakota	82	24	
Kaydet	8	2	
Cornell	4	2	
Douglas	70	24	
Not known	1	Not known	
Total	287		

Details of hangars taken over.

Total No. of hangars taken over :—118.

Number of hangars actually erected	Number of erected hangars	Price
100.7	17.3	Not known.

NOTE.—Under the Lease/Lend agreement between the United State of America and India the Government of India is not required to pay anything for Lease/Lend. Reciprocal Aid and surplus American property in India unless the proceeds exceed 50 million dollars.

Mr. Manu Subedar's starred questions of 12th March, 1946

MANUFACTURE OF RADIOS IN INDIA

No. 808.—Restrictions on the issue of wireless transmitting licenses for scientific or research purposes were withdrawn early in 1946. Since then a number of licenses have been issued to approved applicants, subject to the normal regulations.

RETURN ON OUTLAY ON AERODROMES IN INDIA

No. 814(a).—The total capital outlay on aerodromes and equipment connected therewith in India upto 1945-46, is Rs. 2,61,62,500. The revenue realized during 1944-45 on this outlay amounted to Rs. 1,51,451. The figures for 1945-46 are not yet complete but the total revenue realized upto the 30th September 1945, is Rs. 93,682.

(b) The total estimated expenditure on Civil Aviation during 1945-46 and 1946-47 is as follows :—

Year	Recurring Rs.	Capital Rs.
1945-46	40,81,000	12,26,000
1946-47	1,25,65,000	1,58,25,000

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No. 843 of 12th March, 1946

DIRECTORATE OF OPEN CUT COAL MINING

(a)(i) The total gross expenditure upto 30th November 1945 was Rs. 305 lakhs.

(iii) Taking average life of the machinery as 3 years, the estimated cost per ton of selected B grade coal loaded into wagons was Rs. 19 at Junkunda and Jambad. This cost will increase by Rs. 1 per ton if the interest on capital is also taken into account.

Information regarding cost of working other grades of coal at other collieries is not available at present.

(v) The information was supplied on 28th March 1946 in reply to part (a) of Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No. 1355.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer's starred question No. 865 of 12th March, 1946

AMENDMENTS TO ANGLO-DUTCH AGREEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION

Haj Committee or bodies interested in pilgrim matters were not consulted before signing the Anglo-Dutch Agreement and the International Sanitary Convention 1926. Reasons for not doing so are not known.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 951 of 13th March, 1946

QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR 'HINDUSTANI' NEWS EDITORSHIP AND OTHER POSTS

(a), (b) and (f). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the answer given in the Council of State on the 16th November, 1944, to the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh's Question No. 89.

(c), (d) and (g). A statement giving the information is attached. The staff knowing Urdu is encouraged to learn Hindi and vice versa. Elementary departmental examinations in these languages were held in 1940 and 1941. These examinations could not be held in subsequent years as the staff did not have time to prepare for them owing to pressure of work during the war. Steps are being taken to revive the system. The question of giving award for learning the second language is under the active consideration of Government.

REVISED STATEMENT

	Delhi Station of AIR	Bombay Station of AIR	Calcutta Station of AIR	Lahore Station of AIR	Lucknow Station of AIR	Peshawar Station of AIR	Central News Organisation	Total
(1) Total number of the members of the Hindustani staff.	37	8	2	20	16	16	16	115
(2) Total number of members of the Hindustani staff possessing degrees or diplomas :								
(a) in Hindi	2	1	2	3	3	1	2	14
(b) in Urdu	22	1	..	8	2	7	8	48
(c) In Hindi and Urdu both . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
(3) Number of the degrees or diplomas holders in the Hindustani staff, who had as their first language :								
(a) Hindi	3	..	..	3	3	1	3	13
(b) Urdu	21	1	2	8	2	7	8	49
(4) Number of posts held in Hindustani Programme Section by middle pass persons :								
Hindi (1) Permanent . . . . .	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	3
(2) Temporary	4	1	..	..	4	1	2	12
Urdu (1) Permanent	5	1	1	2	1	4	3	17
(2) Temporary	26	3	1	13	3	11	8	65
Hindi & Urdu both { (1) Permanent . . . . .	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	4
{ (2) Temporary	1	..	..	..	5	..	2	8

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No. 125 of 14th March, 1946

SANCTIONED POSTS IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF RAILWAY STAFF

(a) and (b). I lay on the table two statements giving the required information

(c) The leave reserve employed is not below the sanctioned percentage, except in the case of Assistant Station Masters (Ordinary), Signallers and Train Examiners on the Ferozepore Division and Signallers on the Rawalpindi Division which is due to a shortage of staff. The administration is taking steps to make good the shortage in future recruitment.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Enclosure to General Manager, Lahore, letter No. 776-E/470 dated 6th April, 1946

ANNEXURE 'A'

Statement showing the sanctioned strength (including leave reserve) of certain categories of staff employed on Divisions

Designation	Grade	No. of posts Division-wise							
		Lahore	Delhi	Rawalpindi	Karachi	Multan	Ferozepore	Quetta	
Station Masters . . .	Station Superintendent.	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
	VIII . . .	3	5+1 temporary	1	1	1	1	1	
	VII . . .	2	1	2	6	2	1	1	
	VI . . .	3+1 temporary	5	2	1+2 temporary	1	1	1	
	V . . .	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	
	IV . . .	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	
	III . . .	3	2	2	5+1 temporary	4	2	...	
	II . . .	13+3 temporary	20	14	10+6 temporary	12	6	7+3 temporary	
	I . . .	119+2 temporary	163+4 temporary	92+8 temporary	136+8 temporary	104+1 temporary	127	42+8 temporary	
Assistant Station Master .	IV . . .	9+5 temporary	18+4 temporary	6	15	1	3	2+1 temporary	

No. of posts Division-wise

Designation	Grade	Lahore	Delhi	Rawalpindi	Karachi	Multan	Ferozepure	Quetta
Parcel Clerks	V	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
	IV	...	1+2 temporary	1 temporary	1	...	...	...
	III	3+3 temporary	3+5 temporary	1 temporary	2 temporary	1	1	1
	II	43+12 temporary	41+9 temporary	16	18	4	4	3
	I	117+48 temporary	141+71 temporary	42+16 temporary	25+25 temporary	14+11 temporary	9	6+5 temporary
	V	1 temporary	1	...	...	...	...	...
	IV	1+1 temporary	...	...	1 temporary	...	...	...
	III	2+4 temporary	8+2 temporary	1+1 temporary	2+1 temporary	2	3	...
	II	63+15 temporary	49+5 temporary	37	36+2 temporary	28+5 temporary	26	5
	I	163+84 temporary	163+34 temporary	109+36 temporary	78+31 temporary	74+15 temporary	89	8+9 temporary
Trains Clerks	V	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	IV	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
	III	4+1 temporary	9+1 temporary	2	3	2	...	...
	II	27+9 temporary	48+17 temporary	12	36+13 temporary	12	...	4

ANNEXURE 'B'

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

Statement showing the percentage of leave reserve sanctioned and that actually employed.

Category of staff	Labore		Delhi		Rawalpindi		Karachi		Multan		Ferozapore		Quetta		Remarks
	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Leave reserve actually employed	
1. Station Master	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	(a) Due to shortage of staff.
Asst. and Station Masters ordinary.	20	21	25	20	20	33	33	18	25	25	25	25	25	34.75	34.75
	25	27.4	25	26	20	18	18	25	25	25	25	25	25	20	20
2. Signallers	25	28.9	22	22	10	17	17	17	15	15	25	25	25	20	20
					(b) 11.1							(a) 9			
3. Goods Clerks	15	17.9	15	15	10	15	15	15	15	15	10	10	15	15	15
4. Parcel Clerks	15	17.9	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
5. Booking Clerks	15	17.9	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
6. Train Clerks	15	17.1	15	15	10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
7. Electric and Carriage Clerks	10	12.5	10	10	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
8. Ticket Collectors	15	17.1	15	15	10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
		(c) 24													
9. Guards	25	24	15	15	10	12.4	12.4	12.4	25	25	20	20	20	10	10
10. Train Examiners	10	10.4	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	13	13	13	10	10

(b) Necessary provision made in shed Clerks.

(c) Shortage negligible.

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred questions of 14th March, 1946

SELECTION OF RAILWAY FOOD INSPECTORS AT KARACHI

No. 126.—(a) to (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

(e) No, the subject of the correspondence between the Divisional Personnel Officer, Karachi, and the Senior Assistant, Personnel, was in regard to the propriety of appointing an Assistant Food Inspector as Food Inspector.

(f) The officers holding these appointments in January 1946 were Muslims.

(g) As non-observance of the rules is set right as soon as it comes to notice, Government do not consider any special steps are necessary.

SELECTION FOR POSTS ON N. W. RAILWAY

No. 982.—(a) Selections on the N. W. Railway are made in accordance with the provisions of the rules contained in Appendices II and II-A of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the library of the House.

(b) and (d) Government are informed that the post of Food Inspector on the N. W. Railway is ordinarily filled by posting persons, in order of merit, from the list of persons approved for appointment as Assistant Staff Wardens. The post has so far not been declared a selection post, but it was erroneously treated as such by the Divisional Superintendent, Karachi, and a selection was held in January 1946, at which some of the persons eligible for promotion as Food Inspector were not called up, while some of those not eligible had been considered. The error was in the meantime noticed by the Divisional Superintendent and accordingly the result of the selection was not announced.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative.

(e) I would refer the Hon'ble Member to rule 6(c) of Appendix II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I, a copy of which is available in the library of the House, and would remind him that as the post had not been declared a selection post, a reference to the General Manager did not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar's starred question No. 964 of 14th March, 1946

DEATH OF MR. XAVIER IN POONA MAIL

(b) There was no light in the compartment in question, but one was provided at the request made by the other passengers after Mr. Xavier's death.

Shri Satya Narain Sinha's unstarred question No. 181 of 14th March, 1946

TRANSFER OF E. I. RAILWAY CLAIMS OFFICE FROM BENARES TO CALCUTTA

(b)(ii). Statement showing the number of claims dealt with in the Benares Office as well as in the "D" Section in Calcutta, and the average time taken to settle a claim for a period of two years from August 1944 to July 1946.

	Benares Office.	"D" Section Calcutta.
(i) Number of claims settled from August 1944 to July 1945	34,452	7,720
(ii) Average number of days taken to settle a claim for the same period	24	22
(iii) Number of claims settled from August 1945 to July 1946	38,095	7,247
(iv) Average number of days taken to settle a claim for the same period	23	18

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's supplementary question to Mr. Muhammad Nauman's starred question No. 1111 of 20th March, 1946

CONTROL PRICES OF SILK CLOTH AND ARTIFICIAL SILK CLOTH MANUFACTURED IN INDIA

The maximum selling prices of raw silk were fixed on the 30th June 1945 and those of the Indian pure silk fabrics and spun silk yarn on the 14th July 1945.

2. The control on silk and Artificial Silk yarn and fabrics has been withdrawn with effect from 17th August 1946.

Mr. Madandhari Singh's starred question No. 1119 of the 20th March, 1946

TENDERS FOR WORK IN E. I. RAILWAY LOCO. RUNNING SHEDS

(a) Tenders are called for through the press by the Divisional Superintendents concerned. All such tenders received are considered by "Tender Committees" of which an Accounts Officer is invariably a member.

(b) Either the Divisional Superintendent or the General Manager according to the annual value of the contract.

(c) Gaya 3, Moghalsarai 3, Jhajha 2.

(d) The lowest tenders were not always accepted for the following reasons:—

(i) Unsatisfactory work of the lowest tenderers at other sheds;

(ii) The lowest tenderers were unknown. As the administration was unable to ascertain their capabilities or financial reliability it was undesirable to entrust the work to them;

(iii) The tenderers were found to be petty contractors with no previous experience and the rates quoted were so low that they could not have been sufficiently remunerative to ensure efficiency of service and fair dealings with labour employed.

Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 1120 of 20th March, 1946

REVIVAL OF OLD INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT

(a) The strength of the gazetted and non-gazetted staff in the Department of Industries and Supplies on the 1st September, 1945, and 1st February, 1946, was as follows:—

Strength on 1st September 1945		Strength on 1st February 1946.	
Gazetted	Non-gazetted	Gazetted	Non-gazetted
2,052	38,826	1,383	30,281

(b) The total establishment charges amounted to Rupees 37,00,320 for the month of August, 1945, i.e., payable on 1st of September, 1945, and to Rupees 34,42,135 for the month of January, 1946, i.e., payable on 1st February 1946.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan's starred question No. 1123 of 20th March, 1946

CONSUMPTION OF CLOTH IN N. W. F. PROVINCE

(a) Statistics are not available.

(b) The amount of cloth supplied to Agencies is as follows:—

Agency	Bales per month
Khyber	212
Malakand	900
Kurram	132
Mohmand Tribal Territory	108
North Waziristan	106
South Waziristan	106

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No. 145 of 20th March, 1946

SELECTION OF FOOD INSPECTORS IN KARACHI DIVISION, N. W. RAILWAY

(a) Yes.

(b), (d) and (e). I would refer the Hon'ble Member to the reply laid on the Table today, parts (b) and (d) of his starred question No. 982.

(c) Yes, but such staff are eligible for confirmation against vacancies of Assistant Staff Warden in order of their seniority.

(f) The railway administration has already issued instructions to the Divisional Superintendent concerned.

(g) The reply is in the negative.

Sri A. K. Menon's unstarred question No. 148 of 20th March, 1946

RULES FOR FILLING OF SELECTION POSTS ON STATE MANAGED RAILWAYS

I lay on the table of the House a *statement showing the non-gazetted posts treated as selection posts on all the Indian Government Railways. The pay shown in each case is the revised scale of pay, except in the case of the O. T. Railway, which did not introduce revised scales of pay for such staff.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's starred question No. 1195 of 25th March, 1946

PAYMENT TO COOLIES FOR HANDLING OF PARCELS AT HOWRAH STATION

It has been ascertained that in order that the full benefit of the subsidy is passed on to the licensed coolies, the contractor is authorised to charge from each coolie a reduced licence fee of Rs. 3 p.m. only, instead of Rs. 4 p.m., which he would ordinarily have recovered. For the Honourable Member's information I would state that in order to get greater uniformity in the procedure on Railways, a matter to which I referred in reply to Supplementaries, it is proposed to insert in the standard form of agreement for Government Railways a clause to read as follows :—

"The contractor will be paid by the Railway Administration for all work required to be done by coolies on behalf of the Railway Administration and detailed in Schedule II annexed to this agreement at the rate of per month or as determined by the Railway Administration from time to time. The Contractor shall distribute the whole sum so paid by the Administration amongst the coolies required to do the said railway work according to the work performed by them, keep a proper record of such payment, viz., a register or Acquittance roll containing the signature or thumb impressions of each coolie for the payment received by him from the contractor, and submit a certificate every month to the Railway Administration of his having done so. The contractor shall see that for doing the work detailed in Schedule I, no coolie is employed more than hours per day."

Sundit Thakur Das Bhargava's starred question No. 1251 of 27th March, 1946

FULFILMENT OF AIMS OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(a) There is no record of any such promise having been given, or statement having been made by Mr. (now Sir Evan) Jenkins.

Sri A. K. Menon's starred question No. 1272 of 27th March, 1946

PURCHASE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES AS CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR ISSUE OF PERMITS FOR SUGAR, KEROSENE AND RICE

(a) and (b). Enquiries have been made from the Government of Madras who state that no complaints were made to them. Allegations to that effect appeared in a newspaper which the writer failed to substantiate when asked to do so and an enquiry held by the collector led to the conclusion that the allegations were baseless.

(c) No.

* Not printed in the Debate. Copy placed in the library of the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's supplementary question to Mr. Muhammad Neuman's starred question No. 1111 of 20th March, 1946

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Strength on 1st September 1945		Strength on 1st February 1946.	
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2,052	38,826	1,383	30,281

(b) The total establishment charges amounted to Rupees 37,00,320 for the month of August, 1945, i.e., payable on 1st of September, 1945, and to Rupees 34,42,135 for the month of January, 1946, i.e., payable on 1st February 1946.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan's starred question No. 1123 of 20th March, 1946

CONSUMPTION OF CLOTH IN N. W. F. PROVINCE

(a) Statistics are not available.

(b) The amount of cloth supplied to Agencies is as follows:—

Agency	Bales per month
Khyber	212
Malakand	900
Kurram	132
Mohmand Tribal Territory	108
North Waziristan	106
South Waziristan	106

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No. 145 of 20th March, 1946

SELECTION OF FOOD INSPECTORS IN KARACHI DIVISION, N. W. RAILWAY

(a) Yes.

(b), (d) and (e). I would refer the Hon'ble Member to the reply laid on the Table today, to parts (b) and (d) of his starred question No. 882.

(c) Yes, but such staff are eligible for confirmation against vacancies of Assistant Staff Warden in order of their seniority.

(f) The railway administration has already issued instructions to the Divisional Superintendent concerned.

(g) The reply is in the negative.

Sri A. K. Menon's unstarred question No. 148 of 20th March, 1946

RULES FOR FILLING OF SELECTION POSTS ON STATE MANAGED RAILWAYS

I lay on the table of the House a *statement showing the non-gazetted posts treated as selection posts on all the Indian Government Railways. The pay shown in each case is the revised scale of pay, except in the case of the O. T. Railway, which did not introduce revised scales of pay for such staff.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's starred question No. 1195 of 25th March, 1946

PAYMENT TO COOLIES FOR HANDLING OF PARCELS AT HOWRAH STATION

It has been ascertained that in order that the full benefit of the subsidy is passed on to the licensed coolies, the contractor is authorised to charge from each coolie a reduced licence fee of Rs. 3 p.m. only, instead of Rs. 4 p.m., which he would ordinarily have recovered. For the Honourable Member's information I would state that in order to get greater uniformity in the procedure on Railways, a matter to which I referred in reply to Supplementaries, it is proposed to insert in the standard form of agreement for Government Railways a clause to read as follows :—

"The contractor will be paid by the Railway Administration for all work required to be done by coolies on behalf of the Railway Administration and detailed in Schedule II annexed to this agreement at the rate of per month or as determined by the Railway Administration from time to time. The Contractor shall distribute the whole sum so paid by the Administration amongst the coolies required to do the said railway work according to the work performed by them, keep a proper record of such payment, viz., a register or Acquittance Roll containing the signature or thumb impressions of each coolie for the payment received by him from the contractor, and submit a certificate every month to the Railway Administration of his having done so. The contractor shall see that for doing the work detailed in Schedule II, no coolie is employed more than hours per day."

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava's starred question No. 1251 of 27th March, 1946

FULFILMENT OF AIMS OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(a) There is no record of any such promise having been given, or statement having been made by Mr. (now Sir Evan) Jenkins.

Sri A. K. Menon's starred question No. 1272 of 27th March, 1946

PURCHASE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES AS CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR ISSUE OF PERMITS FOR SUGAR, KEROSENE AND RICE

(a) and (b). Enquiries have been made from the Government of Madras who state that no such complaints were made to them. Allegations to that effect appeared in a newspaper which the writer failed to substantiate when asked to do so and an enquiry held by the collector led to the conclusion that the allegations were baseless.

(c) No.

Sri A. K. Menon's starred questions of 27th March, 1946

AWARD BY SPECIAL ARBITRATION COURT RE COMPENSATION FOR BETELNUT GARDENS IN SOUTH KANARA

No. 1315.—(a) 201 cases in all were referred to the Special Arbitrator out of a total of 1148 awards made. Of these 201 cases, 37 were referred because the whereabouts of the ryots concerned were not known or because the cases involved apportionment of compensation among several claimants. The number of cases in which there was actual disagreement with regard to the amount of compensation was therefore only 164, i.e., 14 per cent. of the total.

(b) The total amount of annual recurring compensation originally fixed by Government in these disputed cases was Rs. 47,014-12-0.

(c) Rs. 82,341-14-3.

(d) No definite observation to this effect was made by the Special Arbitrator. The yield estimated was generally accepted as correct. The main point of difference was about the income from the other fruit trees in areca gardens. According to the practice obtaining in South Kanara, the rental of an areca garden includes the income and rental of the other fruit trees in the garden and no separate rent is fixed for these trees. This fact is borne out by the lease deeds also. The court of the Special Arbitrator however allowed separate rentals for these trees.

COMPENSATION FOR ACQUIRED LAND IN SOUTH KANARA

No. 1316.—(a) In 947 out of the 1148 awards made by the Special Deputy Collectors in the South Kanara District, the compensation fixed by Government was accepted and the necessary agreements executed by the ryots concerned without objection. The remaining 201 cases (i.e., 18 per cent. of the total number) were referred to arbitration as explained in the answer to question 1315 (a).

(b) Of the persons who filed objection petitions, only one desired payment of compensation in advance. In this case the claim had to be rejected because the claimant was not the sole and undisputed person entitled to payment.

(c) No.

(d) Yes, two such representations were received. The suggestion was that even in cases which did not go up to the Court of the Special Arbitrator, the compensation fixed should be revised and enhanced on the basis of the Arbitrator's award. This is not possible as there is no provision for a revision of the amount of compensation awarded in cases which were not referred to the arbitrator and which were accepted voluntarily by the parties concerned. Offer notices were served by January 1945 and, although there was ample time to do so, no objection was raised.

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES ON DE-REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

No. 1317.—(a) The procedure for assessing damage to properties when they are derequisitioned is laid down in Section 19 of the Defence of India Act, 1939.

(i) When property is derequisitioned an endeavour is made in the first instance to reach an agreement with the owner as to the amount of the terminal compensation, this procedure being in accordance with clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Act, and in these negotiations Government is normally represented by the Collector of the District in which the property is situated. For the purpose of the negotiations the Collector, usually through his revenue staff, estimates what in his opinion is a fair amount of compensation.

(ii) If the amount of compensation cannot be fixed by agreement, the matter is referred to arbitration in accordance with clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Act, which provides that the arbitrator shall be a person who is qualified for appointment as a judge of the High Court and, in particular cases, the Government may nominate an assessor having expert knowledge of the property to assist the arbitrator, in which even the owner is also entitled to nominate an assessor for the same purpose.

(b) Yes.

(c) As stated in the answer to part (a) of the question, provision for this already exists in the Defence of India Act.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No. 1855 of 28th March, 1946

NAMES OF MINES AND EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT IN WORKING OPEN-CUT COAL MINING PLANTS

(b) The information asked for in the last portion of part (b) is contained in the reply to part (a) (iii) of starred question No. 843, laid on the table of the House.

(c) The detailed information promised is given below :—

Sites	Amount realisable for		Total
	(1) Coal Raising	(2) Removal of overburden	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Bokaro Earthwork at Bokaro	1,67,080	7,79,013	9,46,093
2. Goda Nullan Dum Railway Embankment	...	26,284	50,486
		24,202	
3. Sirka Blasting hard rock at Sirka	...	2,47,358	2,47,358
		2,274	2,274
4. Junkunda " adjustment of opening stocks "	10,93,809	...	10,93,809
5. Teetulmurree	4,68,825	...	4,68,825
6. Pure Jambad (after deducting cost of work done by contractor)	3,95,896	...	3,95,896
7. Selected Jambad (after deducting cost of work done by contractor)	2,73,314	...	2,73,314
Total	...	...	34,78,055

Estimated credit for incomplete work is Rs. 5,00,000 to Rs. 6,00,000.

Total approximate amount realisable—Rs. 40,00,000.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma's starred question No. 1407 of 29th March, 1946

ALLOTMENT OF CATTLE BYRES IN NEW DELHI TO GOWALAS

(a) The information asked for is as follows :

Total Number of stalls in various cow byres in New Delhi	Number of stalls rented to ministerial staff of the Government of India and its attached offices	Number of stalls rented to inferior staff of the Government of India and its attached offices	Number of stalls rented to Municipal employees	Balance left at the disposal of contractor for renting to gowas as or keeping his own cattle
1	2	3	4	5
441	225	110	47	59*

* As no applications were received for these stalls they were allotted by the contractors themselves according to the terms of their lease.

(b) No. The question of erecting additional byres is under consideration.

In accordance with the existing practice, the stalls are allotted to Government servants and Municipal employees in order of priority with reference to their date of application, and surplus stalls, if any, are left with the contractor for keeping his own cattle, or for allotment to private individuals, i.e., gowalas, etc.

(c) This is not borne out by the details of actual allotments for the current year.

(d) Yes. The procedure in vogue for the allotment of stalls by the Committee is strictly in accordance with this principle.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The number of stalls allotted to ministerial staff has steadily increased from 67 in 1941 to 225 in 1945 and that of stalls allotted to gowalas has decreased from 357 in 1941 to 50 in 1945. The second part of the question does not arise.

Sjt. B. S. Hiray's starred question No. 1421 of 29th March 1946

PERMISSION TO BUILD MORE SUGAR FACTORIES IN CERTAIN CANAL IRRIGATED
DECCAN AREA OF BOMBAY PROVINCE

(a) Yes.

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

(c) 3,76,123 acres in 1943-44; out of this 24,380 acres were utilised by Sugar Factories for their sugar cane crops.

(d) The Government of Bombay who have been consulted do not propose to allow the construction of more Sugar Factories in this area. Under the existing policy of the Provincial Government only 35 per cent. of the available supply in each storage is reserved for industrial purposes inclusive of sugar factory irrigation. The remaining 65 per cent. is reserved for agricultural purposes. 35 per cent. of the available supply from the various storages reserved for industrial purposes has been almost fully utilised under the existing guarantees. There is therefore hardly any scope for establishment of new sugar factories. A proposal to sanction new sugar factories using water from rivers, drains and nallas, supplemented to a very small extent by canal water, is however under consideration of the Government of Bombay.

Sri R. Venkatasubha Reddiar's starred question No. 1433 of 1st April 1946

REPATRIATION AND TRIAL OF I. N. A. OFFICERS IN SINGAPORE CAMP

Attention is invited to the reply given on the 15th April 1946 to Question No. 1785.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala's starred question No. 1448 of 1st April, 1946

NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS OF URDU AND HINDI PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS IN ALL
INDIA RADIO

(a) Several Programme Assistants know and use more than one Indian Language. The total number of Programme Assistants is 95. The following statement shows the number of Programme Assistants and the languages they know and use :

Number of Programme Assistants	Languages.
38	Urdu.
31	Hindi.
19	Tamil.
18	Bengali.
8	Telugu.
7	Gujerati.
7	Punjabi.
5	Marathi.
3	Pushto.
2	Malayalam.
2	Kannada.
1	Oriya.
1	Assamese.

(b) Fees for talks range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 100 depending mainly on the duration of the talk, the amount of work required for its preparation and the qualifications of the talkers. There is no difference in remuneration on account of the language of the talk.

(c) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table of the House.

(d) No. The remaining parts of the question do not arise.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statement showing the number of persons other than inferior Staff employed in various Offices of AIR and the Provinces to which they belong

Station/Office	European and other foreign nationalities	Bengal	Bombay	Madras	Punjab	U. P.	C. P.	Bihar	Orissa	Sind	N.-W. F. P.	Assam	Delhi	Indian States	Total
Delhi Station		6	...	10	66	19	...	2		...	2	1	23	3	132
Bombay Station		1	57	12	5	1	3	1		...	1	...		2	83
Calcutta Station	1	59	...	3	1	7			1	...		1			78
Madras Station	...	..	...	69	1	...	...	...		...				10	80
Lahore Station		1	...	1	58	4	1		...	1			1		67
Lucknow Station		4	...	...	7	50	1	1		...	1				64
Trichinopoly Station		...	...	53	...	...	...	...		...				11	64
Dacca Station		51	1	...	...	...	...	1		...					53
Peshawar Station		1	...	...	18	2	...	...		1	23		1		46
C. N. O.	36	11	12	35	65	42	1	5		...	11		30	1	240
Office of the Indian Listener.		5	...	...	14	9	...	...		...	...	...	3	1	32
Installation Department.		6	1	5	19	14	...	...		...		1	11	5	62
H. P. Transmitters		6	5	13	12	7	1	1		1			3	11	60
Research Department		2		4	0	9	...	...		...			1		22
Monitoring Office		1	...	..	39	3	...	2		1	1		7	6	63
Headquarters	1	9	...	17	33	32	...	1		3	2	...	12	2	116
Total	39	163	80	224	344	199	7	14	1	7	41	3	92	52	1266

Mr. B. B. Varma's starred question No. 1496 of 2nd April, 1946

STATE RAILWAY GRADES OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR OFFICERS OF O. T. RAILWAY

Statement showing the average mileage of Assistant Engineers' jurisdiction on the Indian Government Railways.

Railway	Mileage		Remarks
	Route	Track	
O. T. Railway	188.5	191	
G. I. P. Railway	145	238 (including sidings).	
B. A. Railway	145	161	
B. N. Railway	140	197 (including sidings).	
S. I. Railway	147	183	
E. I. Railway	127	234 (including sidings).	
M. & S. M. Railway	Broad Gauge	153	160
	Metre Gauge.	206	206
B. B. & C. I. Railway	Broad Gauge.	137.388	169.367
	Metre Gauge.	163.9	164.8
*N. W. Railway	*170	*193	* This excludes essen- tially works sub- divisions such as Delhi, Karachi and Lahore.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee's starred question No. 1525 of 3rd April, 1946

GODOWNS FOR STORING RICE IN CERTAIN BENGAL DISTRICTS

The Bengal Government have informed as follows :—

(a) and (c). The reply is in the negative.

(b) Like all concrete floors, the floors in the godowns in question were damp for a short time after construction. Small leaks also occurred in the roofs of some of the godowns and flanking in some of the earlier constructions was also found to be defective owing to the godowns having been rapidly constructed at a time when better quality material was not available.

(d) Necessary improvement have already been effected.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 1547 of 4th April, 1946

TERMINATION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS' SERVICE IN SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES

Number of officers drawing Rs. 500 and above in the Departments of the Government of India and their attached offices whose services have been terminated during the financial year ending the 31st March 1946.....388.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena's starred question No. 1566 of 4th April, 1946

REQUISITIONING OF ANAND PARBAT (RAMJAS COLLEGE AND SCHOOL) ESTATE, DELHI, BY GOVERNMENT

An effort was made to collect the information but it was found that the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

Pandit Govind Malaviya's starred questions of 4th April, 1946

TALKS IN HINDI AND URDU FROM VARIOUS STATIONS OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

No. 1570 (a).—Statement showing number of talks in (i) Hindi, (ii) Urdu Broadcast from A.I.R. stations during November and December 1945.

Station	Number of Hindi Talks	Number of Urdu Talks
Delhi	16	49
Bombay	3	4
Lahore	7	48
Lucknow	36	28
Peshawar	2	60

(b) Statement showing number of talks during November and December 1945 Broadcast by Outsiders.

Station	Number of talks broadcast by outsiders	
	Hindi	Urdu
Delhi	16	41
Bombay	3	4
Lahore	7	46
Lucknow	27	28
Peshawar	2	56

HINDI AND URDU QUALIFICATIONS OF HINDUSTANI TRANSLATORS IN ALL-INDIA RADIO, DELHI

No. 1572 (b).—Statement of qualifications of Script-writers at the Delhi, Lucknow and Lahore Stations of All-India Radio.

Name of Artist	Special Urdu, Hindi qualifications	Nature of scripts written
<i>Delhi.</i>		
1. Chiranjit Lal	Read Hindi and Sanskrit upto B.A.	1. "Features" for talks, music and Rural sections. 2. Short stories for Children's programmes.
2. Satya Dev Sharma, B.A.	Do.	1. "Features" and songs for programmes on Hindu religious festivals and anniversaries of Hindi writers. 2. Hindi notes on outstanding programme items for Sarang.
3. Balbir Singh Tyagi	Read Hindi up to B.A.	1. Dialogues and "Features" for women and Children's programmes.
4. Mohd. Mirza	Nil.	1. Dialogues or Trilogues on current events in the general and Rural programmes. 2. Translates Weather bulletins.
5. Pervez Shami	Nil.	1. Dialogues, plays and features in the Rural programmes.
6. Muztar Hashmi	Nil.	1. Hindustani News bulletins for Troops programmes.
7. Qaisi Rampuri	Munshi Fazil (Persian) and Adeeb Fazil (Urdu).	1. Feature programmes, discussions and plays, etc., for the Educational and general programmes.
8. Alimullah	B.A. in Urdu	1. Preparing daily news bulletins for Troops programmes.
9. Sultan Ahmed Rind	Adeeb Fazil (Urdu) knows Hindi.	1. Features programmes, dialogues, short plays, and replies to listener's letters for Rural programmes.
10. Muzaffar Shah Khan	Read Urdu up to B.A.	1. Compiling and translating of news items for Rural programmes.

Name of Artist	Special Urdu, Hindi qualifications	Nature of scripts written
<i>Lucknow.</i>		
1. J. N. Srivastava .	Sahityalankar in Hindi .	1. Plays, features and songs in Hindi.
2. Chandra Bhusan .	Nil.	1. Plays, features and songs in Hindi and Oudhi.
3. Suresh Chandra .	Nil.	1. Plays, features and dialogues in Hindi and Oudhi.
4. Behzad Lakhnavi .	Nil.	1. Plays, features and songs in Urdu.
5. Salam Machhlishchri .	Nil.	1. Plays, features and songs in Urdu.
6. Fatma Begam .	Munshi Fazil in Persian .	1. Plays, features and stories in Urdu.
<i>Lahore</i>		
1. Mumtaz Mufti	Nil.	{ 1. Plays and features General. 2. Short stories, Programmes, and School Broadcasts.
2. Farooq Ali Khan .	Nil.	{ 1. Skits and features 2. Stories 3. Variety programmes 4. Scripts of replies to letters from children. } Children's Programmes.
3. Amiu-ur-Rehman	Nil	{ 1. Plays & features 2. Script of news for Women's progs. 3. Replies to listeners letters in Women's programmes. } Women's Programmes.
4. Balwant Gargi	Nil.	{ 1. Translation of manuscript from Hindustani to English. 2. Replies to listener's letters about General programmes. Plays in Urdu and Punjabi.

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No. 177 of 4th April, 1946

EXTENSION IN SERVICE TO GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

(a) The number of gazetted officers employed under the Central Government in various Departments who were under extension of service was 60.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal's starred question No. 1655 of 9th April, 1946

PUNISHMENT TO CERTAIN I. N. A. MEN

The following statement answers the points made by Honourable Members in connection with the trial of 15 members of No. 4 Indian Coast Battery I. A. by Summary General Court Martial between the 6th July and 5th August 1943.

Points Made	Answers
(a) That some of the prosecution witnesses admitted that they had been tutored.	(a) Yes, but the Court was fully aware of this and bore it in mind when weighing the evidence and, in convicting the accused, took into consideration only such evidence as was worthy of acceptance.
(b) That copies of the proceedings were refused to the accused.	(b) No, there is nothing on record to show that any of the accused made a request under IAA Rule 133 for copies of the proceedings or that such a request, having been made, was refused.
(c) That the Lawyer whom they selected for the defence was not allowed to appear.	(c) Under Rule 82 (b) of the Indian Army Act Rules, permission for the appearance of civilian counsel was refused as trial was by Summary General Court Martial. It is, however, pointed out that the accused were defended by an Indian Commissioned Officer who in civil life was an advocate of a Presidency High Court, assisted by two other officers with legal experience.

- (d) That the defence witnesses were afterwards prosecuted and ill-treated
- (e) That the relatives of the accused were not informed of the charges.
- (f) That the ICO who defended the accused was prosecuted after the proceedings.
- (g) That the correspondence between Mr. D. M. Sen, an Advocate of Calcutta, and the Army authorities should be released to the House.
- (h) That the proceedings of the Summary General Court Martial Trial should be placed on the table of the House.
- (d) Eight of the defence witnesses were tried and convicted for perjury and were sentenced to dismissal and imprisonment. There is no evidence to show that they were ill-treated.
- (e) Yes, but it is not incumbent on the authorities to do so, nor has it been the practice in the past.
- (f) There is nothing on record to show that this officer was prosecuted as alleged.
- (g) All the correspondence available in this connection have now been obtained from the military authorities and copy is placed on the table.
- (h) It has not been the practice here nor in the U.K. where we have sought for precedents, to lay before the House Court Martial proceedings, except for very special reasons, as this would tend to make the House a Court of Appeal from the decisions of Courts Martial which would be most undesirable. In this particular case 9 out of the 12 sentences being death sentences, are irrevocable and cannot be affected by further enquiry. Moreover, there is in fact, nothing in the Court Martial proceedings relevant to the allegations made by Hon'ble Members. It is therefore, considered that there are no special reasons in this case which justify making an exception to the general convention, established both in the U.K. and in India, against placing the proceedings of Courts Martial before the House.

Copy of letter dated 19th June 1943 from: D. M. Sen addressed to Capt. G. C. Watkins, 106 L. of C. Area.

Dear Sir,

I have come back to Calcutta but my anxiety regarding the case against my client Mr. N. M. Mukherjee, Havildar 4th Indian Coast Battery No. 45993, has not ceased. I was told by Major G. Baker, D.A.A.G. A Branch 105 L. of C. Area to whom you referred me that final decision regarding Mukherjee's case would not be taken before 4 or 5 days. I am therefore writing to you to be good enough to let me know if Mukherjee has been charged at all. If so, he may be given facilities to send the copies of the charges and evidence to me as soon as they are given to him so that they may reach me in time.

Will you kindly allow Mukherjee to write to me for such advice as he may seek to have in the matter?

I would also request you to let me know on which date the trial has been fixed to begin.

I am enclosing a letter to Mukherjee which be kind enough to send to him:

An early reply to my letter will be very much appreciated.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) D. M. SEN, Advocate.

Copy of Telegram dated 25th June 1943 from D. M. Sen addressed to Major G. Baker, D.A.A.G. A Branch 105 L. of C. Area.

Wire information case against N. M. Mukherjee 4th Indian Coast Battery No. 45993. If charged date trial begins solicit interview with him reply.

Answered by reply paid telegram handed to G. III at 15-20 hrs. 26/6. Accused has sent telegram to relation stating no repeat no civilian advocate required.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's starred question No. 1691 of 11th April, 1946

NEED FOR COVERED RAILWAY PLATFORMS AND OVERBRIDES AT LEVEL CROSSINGS AT INDORE, B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY

The total receipts at Indore Railway Station, for the year ended 31st March 1946, amounted to Rs. 76,93,296.

Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain's starred question No. 1714 of 11th April, 1946

RECONSTRUCTION OF KATI HAR JUNCTION ON B. A. AND O. T. RAILWAYS ON ONE SIDE OF TOWN

(a) Katihar station is situated in the middle of the yard and is surrounded by railway lines.

(b) Foot-overbridges and road level crossings exist for the use of passengers and there is no need for them to cross the tracks otherwise, when approaching or leaving the station. The booking office is situated on the west side of the station. A proposal for constructing a new booking office on the east side to facilitate booking of passengers, luggage and parcels is also under consideration.

(c) The existing station building and offices are not considered insufficient for the purpose of work of the Railway staff.

(d) The necessity for the construction of a new station building on one side of the town has not arisen. As already stated, the proposal for constructing a booking, luggage and parcels office for passengers on the side of the town is under consideration.

Shri Sri Prakasa's starred question No. 1722 of 11th April, 1946

GATE-MEN AT LEVEL CROSSINGS BETWEEN ALLAHABAD AND GHAZIPUR ON O. T. RAILWAY

(a) The answer is in the negative but there are a number of level crossings without gates which are unmanned at roads over which traffic is light.

(b) No such cases have come to the notice of the Railway Administration.

(c) The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative. All level crossings on the main Provincial roads are manned either with 3 men or with 2 men.

(d) Proper arrangement exists. The classification of level crossings is originally fixed in consultation with the Local Government and is revised, from time to time, after a census of road and rail traffic is taken.

Mr. B. B. Varma's starred question No. 1733 of 11th April, 1946

SUPPLY OF DHOTIES AND SARERES TO BIHAR

A. Statement showing the supply of Standard Cloth Dhoties and Sarees to all Provinces and to Bihar in 1944-45 and 1945-46 :—

	1944-45 (in yards)		1945-46 (in yards)	
	Dhoties	Sarees	Dhoties	Sarees
All Provinces (excluding Bihar).	64,462,464	53,974,552	52,432,829	49,326,563
Bihar	10,152,740	19,932,327	14,077,134	10,886,384

B. Statement showing the supply of non-standard cloth Dhoties and Sarees to all Provinces and to Bihar during the period March 1945 to March 1946 :—

	Dhoties (in yards)	Sarees (in yards)
All Provinces (excluding Bihar)	112,360,500	72,858,000
Bihar	29,568,000	13,285,500

Sjt. Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury's unstarred question No. 207 of 11th April, 1946

CREATION OF ASSAM POSTAL CIRCLE AND CERTAIN OFFICERS' POSTS

(c) Statement showing (1) the number of posts sanctioned for Superintendents and Gazetted Officers, and (2) the number of selection grade and time scale Supervisors, in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47.

Superintendents of P.O. & R.M.S. and other Gazetted posts		Selection grade and time scale Supervisors	
1945-46	1946-47	1945-46	1946-47
78	24	277	178

Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop's starred question No. 1797 of 15th April, 1946

**EXEMPTION TO LANSDOWNE CANTONMENT BOARD AGAINST DEFENCE OF INDIA
RULES CONTROLLING HOUSE RENT**

(a) The rents of shops and stalls, have not been enhanced by the Cantonment Board, Lansdowne. They are the highest bids actually received in public auction held in accordance with section 200(c) of the Cantonments Act 1924. In certain cases stalls have been auctioned for 1946-47 at rents much lower than those obtained in previous years.

(b) In view of my reply to Part (a) above the question of hardship does not arise. As regards the operation of the Defence of India Rules, the power to promulgate Rent Control Orders under those Rules reads with the Provincial Government; and no such orders have been issued by the U. P. Government for Garhwal District.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar's starred question No. 1787 of 15th April, 1946

**INCONVENIENCE DUE TO INSTRUCTION TO GROWERS TO SELL TOBACCO BEFORE
FEBRUARY**

(a), (b) and (c). Such an announcement was made through the misreading of an instruction by an inexperienced officer. The matter was, however, brought to the timely notice of his senior officer who immediately took steps to have the announcement countermanded and to apprise the grower-curers of the correct position with the result that no financial loss was experienced by them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga's Supplementary question to Shri Mohan Lal Saxena's starred question No. 1849 of 16th April 1946

**REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO MR. ANAND SINGH OF GANESHGUNJ, NAWAIYA,
LUCKNOW TO START INDIA'S VOICE**

(1) Hand-made paper is excluded from the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1945 other than those relating to newspapers and periodicals. In other words, while there is no restriction on the consumption of hand-made paper for printing and publishing books, directories, Annuals, etc., Newspapers and periodicals cannot be started on hand-made paper without securing the permission of the Government of India under clause 9(a) of the said order.

(2) Permission to print periodicals on hand-made papers has been given in a few special cases but such permission could not be a general rule. The Supplies of hand-made paper are limited and there would be an obvious pressure on mill-made paper with consequent difficulties.

Miss Maniben Kara's starred questions of 17 April, 1946

**COST TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MR. M. K. GANDHI TO
PARTICIPATE IN TALKS WITH CABINET MISSION**

No. 1951 (a).—The cost of running a special train for Mr. Gandhi's journey to Delhi to meet the Cabinet Delegation and the Viceroy was borne by the Government of India in the same way as were the travelling expenses of the other leaders who were invited to Delhi for the same purpose.

(b) The cost was Rs. 8,694-8-0.

COST TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MR. M. K. GANDHI TO PARTICIPATE IN SIMLA CONFERENCE

No. 1952 (a) and (b).—No special train was run for Mr. Gandhi's journey to Simla in June 1945.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh's starred question No. 1956 of 17th April, 1946

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE DELHI MILK CONTROL ORDER

The total number of prosecution for violating the provisions of the Delhi Milk Control Order is—232, and

The amount of fine realised is—Rs. 35,435.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar's unstarred question No. 228 of 17th April 1946

WANT OF GOOD CATTLE AND HANDICAP IN GROWING FOODGRAIN IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT IN BOMBAY

(a) According to the information supplied by the Provincial Government, the Kanara Cattle are generally of poor constitution due chiefly to climatic conditions including the fact that though there is adequate grazing the grass is not very nutritious. This does handicap the agriculturist in growing food crops to a certain extent in as much as the unit of cultivated area per pair of cattle is smaller in Kanara than in other parts of the province.

(b) The Provincial Government are considering improvement of grasses and introduction of wider use of concentrates. Research work has been taken up on grass land improvement and on predigestion of rice straw with chemical agent to improve its nutritive value. Tagui loans for purchases of good cattle are freely sanctioned improvement of local cattle is being attempted by importing good variety of breeding bulls. The cattle Farm at Tagui is doing work on the breeding and improvement of Dangi and Nimer cattle with special reference to coastal areas including Kanara.

(c) Yes. The cotton seed imported is given mainly to buffaloes in Milk.

(d) Supply of cotton seed being very limited due to reduction of acreage under cotton. Only a small quantity could be imported from the Dharwar District.

(e) There is no proposal to sell cotton seed through Government agency.

Retail distribution of cotton seed to milch cattle is arranged through authorised retail distributors and rural distribution centres on rationed basis.

DEATHS OF MR. BHULABHAI DESAI AND DR. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): May 12 Noon
with your permission, Sir, refer to the passing away since this House last met, of two eminent Members of this Assembly, Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai and Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy. Some of us here who are new comers to this House were not associated with them in their work in this House. Most others had intimate association with them. We also, in other fields, knew them and worked with them. Mr. Bhulabhai Desai played during the last many years a very important part in this House. His brilliant intellect was directed to the service of the cause of the country's freedom, and in this House, as well as outside, he served that cause not only by the brilliance of his intellect but by the sacrifices which he made. His last great feat which is enshrined in the minds of his countrymen was his brilliant defence of the trials known as I.N.A. trials and the last speech which he delivered at that trial will long be found to be enshrined in the annals of freedom. Perhaps it was that great feat of his that hastened his death. He was an ill man at the time, but he preserved and when he went away it was only gradually to fade away.

Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy was eminent in many walks of life. He shone as an educationist, as a physician and in public life. I knew Mr. Bhulabhai Desai very intimately outside this House. We were colleagues. Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy was a much older acquaintance, with whom I first came into contact 27 years ago. In spite of the fact that during the intervening years, we did not see much of each other, yet the memory of our old acquaintance and friendship endured, for Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy was eminently an attractive and likeable person.

Well, Sir, death comes to all of us and it is an odd thing that though death is a certainty, yet we grieve for it. Life and death come one after another and herds of people die unremembered and live unremembered also. But the question is how a person has lived his life and how he has met the final challenge of death. If he has lived worthily for a worthy cause, and if he has died bravely, then it has been well with him. But if he has not lived worthily, it does not matter much whether he is alive or is dead. I am afraid that most people are tied up in their petty interests and do not pay much attention to the big things of life. But to those of us who have the honour of coming to this House or serving large causes elsewhere, it is given to some extent to shoulder these burdens, sometimes as with some of us here, who are new comers to this House—and may I say personally for myself, a novice, a complete novice in the ways of this House. I seek your indulgence and the indulgence of this House for my inexperience in any errors or mistakes that I may commit—we have been here some of us for some little time past facing days and nights full of toil and responsibility and worry which is no light task, and when I say this and when I think of those who have in their own way, in the past carried this burden, I sympathise with them very greatly. And, so, when I think of those who have in other days and in other manners faced this Assembly and carried on the work of this Assembly not from this side of this House but from the other and laid the foundations in many ways for the present, I am thankful to them. I am somewhat apprehensive at the same time whether we who follow them will also live up to the mark they set down. Therefore, Sir, I should like to pay on behalf of the House this homage to the memory of the two great members of this House who served not only this House but the country in the cause of freedom.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Sir, I rise to associate this Group and myself wholeheartedly with everything which has been said by the Leader of the House in regard to those two of our colleagues whose loss we all mourn today. We are particularly grateful to you, Sir, for dispensing with the normal convention and allowing us to express our feelings on this subject, for we feel that special circumstances demand and make it fitting, that we should in the first place, in the happily changed political circumstances, pay a great tribute to one whose highest aspiration was to see popular Government established in this country. Mr. Bhulabhai Desai was known to many of us, not only by his performance in this House, but outside, as an intimate friend. I myself first met him not in his capacity of the leader of the Congress party, but as a charming and courteous host and distinguished scholar. I once began to engage him in conversation about the history and the literature of my own country. I soon discovered that even on these subjects, his knowledge was so much greater and more profound than my own, that the conversation necessarily had to be one-sided. I next met him, as we all met him, in this House, where besides being a leader of a great party, he was unrivalled as an orator. Day by day we listened to his stately periods and his mellifluous eloquence. We listened with admiration and if indeed it were possible for any of us who fell so far short of his eloquence to envy him,—we listened with envy too. We recognised in him not only a great orator but a man who meant what he said, a man who had the courage of his convictions and who was never afraid of putting them forward in the most forcible possible manner. It is particularly fitting that we should think of him today, for in the presence on the Government benches of the representatives of both the major parties of this country, he would have seen the consummation of his highest hopes. As far as we in this group are concerned, it is still more appropriate that we should join in this expression of condolence because we shared his hopes then and we share now the satisfaction which would have been his, at the presence on those benches of parties representing the people of this country. We hope too as he would have hoped had he still been alive—that their presence on those benches today is but a prelude to a rapid solution of

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths.]

the long-term constitutional problem and to the final establishment of self-government for this country without qualification of any kind. That hope and that desire, provide the background of our thoughts today when we remember Bhulabhai Desai and when we ask you to convey to his bereaved relatives our deep sense of loss,—a loss which includes him not only as a politician and as an orator, but as a friend.

We would wish also, Sir, to be associated with what has been said regarding Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy. Many of us in this group knew him intimately and had long learnt to regard him with affection and respect. It is one of the many virtues of this House that, though opinions and parties may divide, the tie of friendship unites, and the loss of any Member of this House is a loss to all of us. That applies with particular force in the case of Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, whose charming personality and character had long endeared him to every section of this House. We would therefore wish to join in expressing our condolences to his bereaved relatives regarding the loss of our distinguished colleague.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on my own behalf as well as on behalf of the Muslim League Party I associate myself with everything that has been said by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition about the two gentlemen who have departed from amongst us. Mr. Desai was one of the most charming Members who ever sat in this House and he was a friend not only of the Members of his own party of the opposition Members but also equally a friend of those whom he criticised from day to day in this House. His great efforts in the cause of the country and in uplifting the status and keeping up the dignity of this House will be remembered by everyone. The House lost when he did not come here and his death is now a loss to the whole country.

Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy was a Member who filled high positions and gained a lot of experience in administration and public life. He was selected by the Muslim League Party as a Member of this House because the party thought that his valuable experience would be an asset to this House. We have lost in him a valuable colleague and we think that our loss is irreparable. The loss of both these Honourable Members is mourned by our party. We associate ourselves with all that has been said about them and we hope you, Sir, will include our party when you convey the message of condolence to their bereaved families.

Mr. President: I fully associate myself with all that has been said by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the spokesman of the Muslim League party. I shall convey to the relatives of the deceased Members, the feelings which have been expressed in this House.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. President: I have received notices of nineteen motions for adjournment, two of which have since been withdrawn leaving seventeen for disposal. I shall take up each of them in the order in which it has been received.

The first motion stands in the name of Sardar Mangal Singh, who wishes to discuss the "inability of the Government of India to prevent humiliating treatment being meted out to Indians in South Africa at the hands of the Union Government" I will state my reactions to this. A number of adjournment motions on this question have been discussed in this House; and I understand that, since the last session, trade relations with South Africa have been broken, the High Commissioner has been recalled and there has been a reference of this question in the U. N. O. Does the Honourable Mover still think that this is an urgent matter for discussion?

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, the fact that this matter is now before the U. N. O. should not be a bar to its being taken up here. Our countrymen in South Africa feel very deeply about it and they have started a civil disobedience movement there. The country feels strongly about it and it is surely an urgent matter which should be discussed here.

Mr. President: I take it that the intention of the motion is to convey to the South African Government the quantum or strength of Indian feeling on this question. I should like to know what the Leader of the House has to say about this.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): Sir, it is surely a strange way of conveying that quantum or strength of feeling by condemning the Government and by making them feel perhaps in South Africa that Government are not doing what they should do in the matter. As a matter of fact, as you yourself remarked, a very great deal has been done in this matter and I shall be very glad indeed if the Honourable Mover Sardar Mangal Singh could tell us what more we could do and in what directions we could pursue this matter further, short of sending an army across from here for purposes of war. At the present moment, as the House no doubt knows, the matter is before the United Nations General Assembly; and I may say that the delegation we have sent have already justified themselves not only by the great ability with which they have conducted the fight in the preliminary rounds but also by a certain measure of success that they have already achieved. I do not wish to mention names or say that some people have done better than others, but so far two names stand out prominently, the names of the Leader of the delegation and Mr. Chagla who very ably conducted the legal part of the argument there and who won his point in spite of stout opposition. I may also express in this connection our gratitude to the other nations who supported us, notably the Soviet, the U.S.A., China, Syria, Ukraine and France. I do not remember all, but only last night we received in our office a long telegram giving us some details of those arguments before the United Nations Assembly and telling us of the significant success that our delegation has achieved in this preliminary round and of the great sympathy of the various nations represented in the Assembly for India and for Indians in South Africa. Therefore I think that all that we can do at present is being done with vigour, and I hope that in the United Nations Assembly the position will go in our favour, but whether it goes in our favour or not we shall stand by our countrymen in South Africa to the end.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I did not quite follow the point which the Honourable the Leader of the House wanted to make. He admits that the question is before the United Nations Organisation and is very important and urgent, but his only idea is that this motion has been brought forward here to condemn the Government of India. I wish he had waited for my speech which I will make when I introduce the motion and seen whether my object is to condemn the Government of India or what I want. In this House rules are such that we can only bring forward questions in this form. That is my difficulty. I would have brought forward this question in some other form, but the rules do not permit. Therefore I was forced to bring this question in this form and I hold, Sir, that the motion is quite in order and it should be discussed today.

Mr. President: I do not think any argument on this question is now necessary. The wording of the motion makes it very clear—'the inability of the Government of India', whatever that means. However, I do not propose to discuss this matter any further. I do not think I can give my assent to this motion.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN BENGAL, BOMBAY, U. P., BIHAR, ETC.

Mr. President: The next motion is from the Honourable Member, Mr. Sunyal, which reads as follows:—

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing a definite matter of urgency and of public importance, namely the duty of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the Province of Bengal where the Governor as also the Government have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women from the 16th of August, 1946 (the Direct Action Day of the Muslim League) onwards, such failure still subsisting."

There are five other similar motions from different Honourable Members containing the same substance, and in some cases the same language, only with the difference that the places where these disturbances have occurred are differently mentioned. Otherwise, so far as the substance goes, all these motions practically stand on the same footing. I may just read them out, and I propose to consider all these together as the subject matter of all these motions is almost identical:—

Mr. Killedar's motion reads as follows:—

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the City of Ahmedabad, where the Governor of Bombay as well as the Government of Bombay have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the City of Ahmedabad from 1st August 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting."

Mr. Ahmed Jaffer's motion is this:—

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the Province of Bombay where the Governor of Bombay as well as the Government of Bombay have failed to protect the life, property, and honour of a large section of men, and women in the District of Nasik from the 2nd September 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting."

Mr. Killedar's second motion runs thus:—

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the City of Bombay where the Governor of Bombay as well as the Government of Bombay have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the city and suburbs of Bombay from 1st September 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting."

The next motion is from Mr. Ghazanfarulla which reads as follows:—

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in Allahabad where the Governor of the United Provinces as well as the Government of the United Provinces have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the city of Allahabad from June 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting."

And the last one on this subject is from Mr. Muhammad Nauman, which reads as follows:—

"That this Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the village Beniabad, P.O. Kutra, District Muzaffarpore, Bihar, where the Governor of Bihar as well as the Government of Bihar Province have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the village and its locality since the month of October 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting."

I do not see how these motions, which deal with practically a provincial subject and which take it for granted that the Provincial Governments and Governors have failed in their duties could be discussed here in this House. May I know from the Honourable Member as to how this motion is in order and as to how the Government of India figure in this?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammedan Rural): Mr. President, I am very glad that I have got so many friends and followers in the Muslim League. Without being competent to say anything on these motions, I will confine myself to mine on Bengal.

Mr. President: I may make the position clear. I do not wish to have a separate argument on each of these motions. The substance of the motions is identical in all cases.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: So far as I am concerned, I submit that the people of Bengal owe as much allegiance to this Government as they do to the Provincial Government. They pay large revenues to this Government also, and they expect that in this dire hour of crisis, which has no parallel and precedent in history, they will get some protection from the Government of India. I do not like to enter into the question of admissibility but I will expect the Government of India, if it is possible for them, to make such a statement, as in their wisdom they can at the present moment, which may give an impression as to how they can help these people who are suffering enormously even within the limitations of the Constitution Act. May I expect a statement from the Government of India? If the Honourable Member makes a statement giving an indication as to how they propose to help these men even within the limitations of the Constitution Act, the question of entering into a formal debate will not arise.

To-day, Sir, on the very first day, when the nation is represented on the Treasury Benches, nothing should be done by any member of the House to prejudice that concord and harmony for which we are going ahead. At the same time we expect that the Government will make such a statement and give such a gesture not only consistent with their limitations, but also assuring to their countrymen.

Mr. President: What we are concerned with is the question of the admissibility of the motions, not their merits.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In that case, irrespective of the question how the Provincial Governments deal with the matter, it is within the competence of the Government of India to take cognizance of the situation and to send such relief and such organizations which come to the aid of the people. If they cannot directly interfere, they can seek the aid of His Majesty's Government in this matter. After all, if the life and honour of women and men are not safe, I do not know for what purpose a Government exists!

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): Even on the point of the advisability of the admission of this question, I would draw the attention of this House that it is the primary duty of the Government of India to safeguard the lives of the people of this country, no matter in what province?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is going into the merits and feelings seem to be getting the better of the legal argument. What I am concerned with is to see as to whether within the four corners of the Statute, the rules and standing orders such a motion can be permitted to be discussed. I am not concerned with the desirability or otherwise of discussing these questions. But if it is pointed out to me that there is a duty of the Government of India in which they have failed—the Government of India would mean, not the Governor-General acting in his discretion, but the Governor-General in Council—then only I can see my way to admit the motions. But I find a difficulty there, so far as my own reading of the provisions is concerned.

I might invite Honourable Members' attention to Rule 23 which is to be read with Rule 12:

Rule 23 lays down restrictions on the subjects for discussion. It says:

"Every resolution shall be in the form of a specific recommendation addressed to the Governor-General in Council."

[Mr. President.]

I am reading this Rule because Rule 12 provides, that an adjournment motion cannot be made on a subject on which a resolution cannot be moved; it reads as under:—

"The motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved or save with the consent of the Governor-General in his discretion with a matter on which a resolution could not, save with such consent, be moved."

So where there is a matter which is for the Governor-General to decide in his discretion, then the consent of the Governor-General will be necessary; and one may now refer to rule 23 which says;

"No resolution shall be moved—

(ii) save with the consent of the Governor-General in his discretion,—

(c) on any action taken in his discretion by the Governor-General in relation to the affairs of a Province;"

That is the difficulty. Will the Honourable Member please just enlighten me on this point and show how the motions are admissible? None of the movers of these motions has obtained the consent of the Governor-General.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): The consent can be obtained. We can get that tomorrow, if your like.

Mr. President: It is not a question of my liking. An Honourable Member who brings in a motion of adjournment is supposed to know, the form in which it is to be brought. I am pointing out the difficulties. I cannot advise Honourable Members here in the House as to the proper way in which they could have framed their motions or obtained consent.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I take a minute, Sir? I wish to refer to the legal aspect. I am quite sure, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Sanyal has said, that on this day nobody would like to move any adjournment motion or to raise any point of discord. Things are very grave in Bengal. Words cannot describe it. The whole country is distressed and agitated over it. But we know that the Government which sits in charge today in this House is more competent than anyone else can be to look after things. Therefore while we feel most deeply concerned, we need not raise the point, and can leave it to our present National Government to deal with the situation. I only wish to refer to the legal and constitutional aspect. The legal point is very simple. The Government of India Act does contemplate interference in provincial administration by the Governor-General under certain circumstances. If this House, Sir, under a certain set of circumstances thought fit and you permitted it, it would be open to it to have a resolution recommending to the Governor-General that in view of those circumstances the Governor-General might bring into operation certain sections of the Government of India Act which would result in interference with the provincial administration. To that extent that matter can be discussed by a resolution. Similarly, I submit, Sir, that this motion can be taken up and discussed by this House. I am not going into the merits. Personally I am not for any adjournments to be moved or pressed today. I am dealing with the legal aspect only.

Therefore, Sir, it is open to us to suggest that since resolutions of that type can be discussed, there should be no ban against a motion of this type in view of the situation. Circumstances may arise in a province or in any part of the country which would justify this Assembly to say that even as the law stands, the Government of India, under those circumstances, could, do certain things in those parts to protect people's lives and property and honour, and to protect the fair name of this country from being sullied. Certain sections implying active interference could have no meaning except that if the necessity arose, we

could go into such matters. Therefore, I submit that these motions can be in order. This is only the constitutional and legal aspect, and I hope and trust that, if agreeing with this view you are pleased to say that the motions are in order, even then in view of the special circumstances of this historic day—I shall not go into it—no adjournment motion will be pressed.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces: Landholders): In 1942, when Congress passed a resolution the Viceroy and the Executive Council Members took immediate action, although.....

Mr. President: Order, order, The Honourable Member is going into the merits of the question.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: That is very much like the present situation. The Government of India can interfere as they did in 1942, that was when we were fighting for the freedom of the country.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member point out any section which imposes on the Government of India, that means the Governor-General-in-Council, the statutory duty of advising?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): May I point out that there is a certain amount of confusion. We are working under the Act of 1919. The Provincial Governments are acting under the Act of 1935. The Act of 1935 gives complete provincial autonomy. It was a different matter when Section 98 was in operation. Section 98 is no longer in operation, and I contend, Mr. President that this House has no right under the Act of 1935 to interfere with the Provincial Government. It is an extraordinary position that a Central Government should be working under the Act of 1919 and the Provincial Governments are working under a different Act. But that is to be taken as it is. Besides, may I point out that circumstances today are completely different to the circumstances that existed during the last session when a different Government was on the treasury Benches.

Today we have an Indian Government on the Treasury Benches and Indian Governments in the Provinces and therefore the wholesome practice of not interfering with Provincial Governments should prevail. Whatever your ruling may be, even if it be by convention, it should now be established that the Government of India should not interfere in such domestic matters except what is provided for by the law in the Act of 1935.

Mr. President: I would like to know what the views of Government are on the matter.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This matter relates specially to the Home Department and my colleague here may speak on it. But may I say one word in regard to this particular motion? I am zealous of the powers of this House and I should not like anyone to limit those powers. I am not such a big constitutional lawyer as many present here but I would resist any decision.....(*Pandit Govind Malaviya:* I am sorry I have to mention again that we cannot hear anything that the Honourable the Leader of the House says.) Naturally the Home Member will say what he has to say about the attitude of the Government in regard to these motions. Naturally any motion which is in the nature of a condemnatory motion against Government has to be resisted by us. As a legal argument I do submit that the matter is a very intricate one and I hope no decision will be given that will in future limit the powers of this House.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I fully appreciate and deeply sympathise with the feelings of representatives of Bengal and of others whose feelings have been deeply wounded by what has happened in the Eastern parts of Bengal and I wish to say that whilst I fully sympathise with them I would appeal to them and to all others to say nothing

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammad Nauman): Sir, on a point of order, I want you to say one thing in this connection.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

The Honourable the Home Member is referring to only one adjournment motion regarding Eastern Bengal. He has not made any mention of the other five adjournment motions.

Mr. President: The Honourable the Home Member has not finished his speech. The Honourable Member would do well to hear him first and then say what he has to say.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Whilst I fully sympathise with them I would appeal to them and to all others to say nothing or to do nothing which would have repercussions outside this House. You all know the situation in the country. We are meeting under peculiar circumstances. You will appreciate the difficult and delicate nature of the task that we have undertaken of governing this country. You also know that the constitutional position, whatever it may be, is being evolved and it would not be right for this House to take a position, a definite position, in which impediments may be created which would bind this House and limit its powers. At the same time if it comes to taking a position in which a censure motion is to be passed, this Government has to resist it. You will all appreciate that the time is not for a debate, a debate will not solve the problem—but the time is for action, such action as would prevent the shocking and disgraceful happenings that have taken place and we must all hope and expect that vigorous steps, adequate steps, will be taken to prevent such occurrences and at the same time to prevent disorder or the breaking down of Government. Therefore I can only say that I can assure you on behalf of the Government that whatever is possible will be done without any hesitation and at this stage I can only appeal to you all to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, I do not press my motion.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What about the minority Provinces?

Mr. President: The Honourable the Home Member said in respect to the whole of India.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: He was only referring to Bengal and nowhere else.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Not a word has been said about the happenings in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Nasik.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I said about all and I mentioned particularly the representatives of East Bengal, because they have suffered more. I said all whose feelings have been wounded by the happenings in the country.

Mr. Abdur Rahaman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I want your guidance on a phrase used by the Honourable the Home Member—"Whatever is possible will be done by the Government of India". And, therefore, if the Government of India can use its influence, why debar me from telling it how I want it to work and what are my grievances. This House has certainly the right to discuss in every aspect all matters in which the Government of India through the Home Department will do every thing possible—do this, that and the other. Therefore, may I submit that this House has the fullest right to discuss these matters, if the Government of India can interfere in them.

Mr. President: I do not think any further arguments over this question are now necessary. As I said in the beginning I have been entertaining doubts as to whether such motions would be in order, specially when they refer to provincial matters and want to criticise the actions of Provincial Governments or even the conduct of Provincial Governors. But I do see the point made by the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Honourable the Home Member and I should not be taken to have decided the question by any views expressed today. I think at present, it is sufficient for me to state that I do not feel satisfied that I should give my consent to this motion. The point which

has arisen now might be duly considered and studied, because it cannot be dealt with merely by references or arguments as to what is desirable, but by arguments on what is actually contained in the Government of India Act or the Rules and Standing Orders.

After thus clearing the position, I dispose of the motions by stating that I am unable to give my consent to them. That disposes of these motions and one which I omitted to mention—No. 11 from Mr. Satvapriya Banerjee, who wants to discuss—

“The situation in Noakhali arising out of mass massacre of Hindus, the burning of thousands of houses belonging to Hindus, the looting of Hindu properties, the forcible conversion of Hindus by Muslims, abduction of Hindu women and their forcible marriage with Mohammedans and blocking of all roads to affected areas.”

WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN TROOPS FROM INDONESIA

Mr. President: The next is by Sardar Mangal Singh who wants to discuss—

“The failure of the Government of India to arrange the withdrawal of the Indian troops from Indonesia.”

I think this is in pursuance of a promise given by government during the last session that they would withdraw the troops by a certain date. What is the position?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The present position is that Indian troops will be withdrawn from Indonesia at the latest by the end of November. I believe some delay has occurred partly owing to shipping difficulties—transport etc. But there is no doubt that this decision that has been made is being carried out, and by the end of November we hope it will be complete.

Sardar Mangal Singh: In view of the assurance given by the Leader of the House, I do not press the motion.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: The assurance given, does not satisfy me. Will the Honourable Leader of the House give us also an assurance that in case the Netherlands Government is unable to despatch its own soldiers, there shall be no delay beyond the 30th November in withdrawing our troops from Indonesia?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member will appreciate that the kind of assurance he asks from me is not very easy to give; but I will give him an assurance that so far as this government is concerned, we are not going to tolerate any delays or any subterfuges in the way of getting our troops back from Indonesia.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA

Mr. President: The next one is by Mr. Satvapriya Banerjee, to discuss—

“The terrible tragedy that overtook Calcutta on the 16th August, last and the following days and has been since continuing and which has caused the loss of thousands of human lives, the destruction and looting of property worth several crores and the utter ruination of a large number of families.”

This also shares the same fate as the other motions on the subject.

COLLECTION OF ARMS AND OTHER LETHAL WEAPONS FOR VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM

Mr. President: The next one is by Mr. K. C. Neogy, to discuss—

“The failure of the Central Intelligence Bureau to watch and discover in time traffic in, and collection of, arms and other lethal weapons by lawless elements, preparatory to outbursts of violence and terrorism on an organised scale, as revealed in the grave happenings in certain parts of the country on and after the 16th August 1946.”

Has the Honourable the Home Member anything to say on this?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, the ingenuity with which this motion has been drafted will make it clear that the Honourable Member is conscious of the constitutional difficulties involved in this and the other motions that have been brought forward in this House. The Honourable Member's motion involves two questions—one, the functions of the Central Intelligence

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

Bureau, and two, the traffic in and collection of arms. As regards one, the functions of the Bureau, it has to gather information which would be useful and which in the main is of a political nature. The Central Intelligence Bureau does not perform the functions contemplated in this motion; it only gets returns from the provinces about arms and ammunition of a major nature—if there is any loss of such munitions as machine guns or rifles or pistols etc, then they get returns from the provinces. For arms of a minor character, if there is any serious trouble, then such returns are called for; but from the nature of the arms contemplated in this motion which were detected probably in Bombay and in some other places, coming from either the frontier or the border areas, which arms were not of the same nature but were lethal weapons. It is very difficult to say whether they are not intended for domestic use or whether the intelligence Bureau has to gather information of this nature. It does not perform this function and therefore I must resist this motion. At the same time I must say that the Arms Act would have to be amended if this kind of arms is to be included in the category of weapons which are prevented under the Arms Act. Therefore, the present motion, although worded cleverly and brought in for a different purpose altogether is not, I think, such as can be admitted. I resist it.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I should not like to give a reply to the arguments that the Honourable the Home Member has put forward. I shall content myself with saying that I do not desire to move this motion.

JUTE CONTROL

Mr. President: The next is by Mr. Sanyal about jute control—

"The situation that has arisen as a result of the Government of India and the Government of Bengal having acted differently and in opposite directions in the matter of fixation of price of jute."

The Jute control Order is cancelled, I believe. It has been published in the press.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I do not wish to move this.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA

Mr. President: Then there is another which has already been disposed of, about the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General regarding the happenings in Calcutta from the 16th August—I need not read it out to the House.

RICE SHORTAGE IN BENGAL

Mr. President: The next is from Mr. Satyapriya Banerjee about the non-availability of rice in various parts of Bengal and the consequent rise in its price, reported death from starvation as a result thereof and the failure of the Government to meet the situation. May I know about the urgency of this matter?

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee (Chittagong and Rajshahi Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The situation, Sir, has assumed serious proportions. The food problem has been engaging the attention of this House since 1943 and I think there has been very little progress, if any, in this matter of supplying rice to the poorer sections of the people of Bengal. If the Honourable the Food Member can give us an assurance that there will be a food debate in this House in this session, I will not press this motion.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Member for Food and Agriculture): I have no difficulty whatever in giving the assurance that the Honourable Member wants. I propose that a day should be set apart for discussion of the food situation.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: In view of the assurance, Sir, I withdraw my motion.

JUTE CONTROL

Mr. President: There is next the motion by Mr. Tamizuddin Khan about the jute position: that has been disposed of. It raises the same point as the other motion.

BOMBING OF TRIBAL AREAS IN WAZIRISTAN

Mr. President: There is another motion by the same member, Mr. Tamizuddin Khan. He wants to discuss—

“The recent aerial bombing of tribal areas in Waziristan and the destruction of life and property caused thereby.”

This requires the consent of the Governor General. It has not been received. As the Honourable Member has moved for his consent, we shall have to postpone this motion till the consent is received.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Governor General is prepared to grant his consent.

Mr. President: The Honourable the Leader of the House informs me that the Governor General is prepared to give his consent.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just been informed by Sir George Spence to that effect. On his authority, I stated that he had received a message from the Governor General that he was prepared to grant his consent.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Has the Honourable the Leader of the House received the consent?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not received the formal consent.

Mr. Abdur Rahaman Siddiqi: The statement of the Honourable the Leader of the House is a vicarious one. He says that so and so tells me that the permission is likely to be given.

Mr. President: In any case I may fix up the motion for 4 o'clock today and in the meanwhile we shall await the formal receipt of the consent.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I merely informed you what I was told but apart from that, how this question arises at the present stage does not appear to be very clear. I have not got this motion before me. I have just heard from you.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Until you have got the consent of the Governor General no further discussion can take place. You cannot deal with the motion until you have got the consent.

Mr. President: I am suggesting that this matter might be taken up at 4, if the consent is received in the meantime.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: You cannot do it until this motion has been admitted by you. Therefore all that you can say is this—that you can allow it to stand over.

Mr. President: I will have the matter postponed and will consider it when the consent is received. I shall then decide whether it is admissible or not. It can be taken up for consideration tomorrow.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA

Mr. President: There is another motion from Mr. Tamizuddin Khan to discuss—

“The failure of Government to arrange prompt military intervention for quelling the recent mid-August disturbances in Calcutta.”

I do not think it is admissible. May I know how this is admissible? It is a question of intervention by the Government of India in provincial affairs. Did the Provincial Government make a request for intervention?

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Oh yes. Request was made but some how or other the request was not considered.

Mr. President: May I know what the facts are about this?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not a thing that has happened at all.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We became members of the Government a little more than 2 weeks after this occurrence but no doubt some information could be supplied, if the Honourable Member wants it, of the failings and errors of the previous caretaker Government.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We cannot hear what the Honourable the Leader of the House is saying. May I suggest that a microphone be installed before we meet next tomorrow.

Mr. President: I cannot hear what the Honourable Member is saying.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): We could hear our leaders before even when they were far away—1000 yards away and we cannot hear them, now that they are so near.

Mr. President: So far as the terms of this motion are concerned, the facts have not been stated clearly. I do not think I could admit this.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1946, and which have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act, as continued by section 317 of the Government of India Act, 1935:—

STATEMENT

1. The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1946.
2. The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1946.
3. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1946.
4. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Act, 1946.
5. The Professions Tax Limitation (Amendment) Act, 1946.
6. The Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1946.
7. The Indian Finance Act, 1946.
8. The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1946.
9. The Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946.
10. The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1946.
11. The Provident Funds (Amendment) Act, 1946.
12. The Trade Marks (Amendment) Act, 1946.
13. The Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1946.
14. The Railway Companies (Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings) Act, 1946.
15. The Indian Coconut Committee (Amendment) Act, 1946.
16. The Protective Duties Continuation Act, 1946.
17. The Protective Duties Act, 1946.
18. The Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Amendment Act, 1946.
19. The Hindu Married Women's Right to Separate Residence and Maintenance Act, 1946.
20. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.
21. The Merchant Seamen (Litigation) Act, 1946.
22. The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

USE OF TEAR GAS OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL HOUSE

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): I have given notice of an adjournment motion which the Honourable President did not read.

Mr. President: I have gone through all the motions.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I have given notice about the use of tear gas outside the Chamber. I gave it to the Secretary and the Chief Whip.

Mr. President: I do not know what has happened. I am in the House I have not received any notice.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): It was delivered to the Chief Whip.

Mr. President: Was any notice given to the President?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: I have not received it. I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 50 of the manual of Business [Rule 11 (2) and Standing Order 22]. Notice of an adjournment motion shall be given before the commencement of the sitting on the day on which the motion is proposed to be made to each of the following:

- (1) the President,
- (2) the Member of the Government to whose department the motion relates, and
- (3) the Secretary.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It does not mean that I should hand it to the President in person.

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member given notice to the Member of the Government.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It has been given to the Chief Whip.

Mr. President: It seems nobody has received it.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: The practice is that the notice to the President and the Secretary is given in the Secretary's room. And the notice which was meant for the Honourable Member in charge of the Department was handed over in the Official Whip's room. All the motions which you have just now read out were handed over either to the Secretary personally or sent to his office room. When the notice of this adjournment motion was taken, the Secretary was inside your room and therefore it was left on his table and the notice for the Honourable Member was given to the official Whip. Probably, it is lying on his table and here is the copy of it.

Mr. President: I can read out this notice, but the difficulty is that we won't be able to have the correct facts on both sides just at the moment. I therefore propose to take it up tomorrow.

BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF THE THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to present the third interim report* of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements.

* Report printed as Appendix I to these Debates.

TENDERS BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA—LAID ON THE
TABLE

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies): Sir, I beg to lay on the table* three statements furnished by the High Commissioner for India showing cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India, during the half years ended 31st December 1943, 30th June 1944 and the 31st December 1944.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes, and for certain other purposes.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes, and for certain other purposes."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Health Department): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN BOILERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. B. K. Gokhale (Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Department): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Boilers Act, 1923.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Boilers Act, 1923."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

NOMINATION OF THE PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. President: I have to inform the House that under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I nominate Mr. K. C. Neogy, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and Mr. P. J. Griffiths on the Panel of Chairman for the current session.

MOTION *RE* THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly having considered the third report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Agreements do hereby approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development."

As you are aware, Sir, I took over charge of this department only about 50 hours ago. In ordinary circumstances I would have requested this House to postpone discussion of this motion; but as I had the privilege of sitting on the other side—and I am not yet quite sure which side is better—and listening to the debates that have taken place in the past on this very subject, I felt that it would be wrong of me to allow this House to waste any time and not consider this matter which is indeed of very great importance. Honourable Members of this House are aware of all the arguments that have been advanced in favour of this and against it, and it is not my intention on this occasion to traverse the same ground. I will, as briefly as possible, place before the House the case for the acceptance of the motion which I have the honour to move on this occasion.

Sir, you will remember that on a previous occasion this Assembly adopted a motion accepting the recommendation contained in the second report of the Committee which was to this effect:

"That Government should take advantage of every possible provision in the Articles to postpone payment of the subscriptions due to the Fund and the Bank till the last moment; but if after consultation with these institutions it became necessary to take a final decision before the Assembly meets again Government should summon the Committee and a decision should be taken in consultation with them, the Committee being specially summoned for this purpose."

Sir, the Committee was summoned and Government found that there was no provision in the Articles of the Bank or the Fund whereby the postponement could take place without India being disqualified. At that time the demand was for payment of 2 per cent. of the contribution on or before 24th August if India was to continue to possess the qualification which was required. The Committee recommended that that amount should be paid, and therefore this 2 per cent. of the subscription which came to 8 million less 40,000 dollars which had already been paid in U.S. dollars was paid before the 24th August, 1946. On the 19th June Government were informed by the International Bank that it would start operations on the 25th June and were asked to make the following payments:

One payment I have already referred to. The other payment which Government were asked to make was 3 per cent. of the subscription in rupees on or before the 25th November 1946 and a further 5 per cent. in rupees on or before the 25th November, 1946, formal demand for which would follow later. It will be seen from the report of the Committee that the Committee decided that they would not feel justified in sanctioning this further demand without the matter being placed before the Assembly, and the Committee recommended that a special session of the Assembly, irrespective of the political conditions that may prevail in the country, should be summoned before the 10th November. I am glad that it was possible to summon a session of this Assembly long before the time which was specified by this Committee; and now in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee Government have taken the first opportunity of coming before the House and seeking its sanction and approval to the continuation of the membership of Government in these organisations.

[Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan]

I stated in the beginning that the object of this motion is to obtain, as was suggested by the Committee, the sanction of this House; but the motion has been so worded that we are asking the approval of this House not only to the immediate requirements of 8 per cent. which we have to make, but for a declaration of its policy with regard to these international organisations. I personally feel that it is not very nice that we should keep this matter in suspense and every time when a demand is made we should come forward and say that we should pay so much, and postpone the final decision to some future date. It is really a matter which should be decided once and for all by this House, whether or not India is to continue as a member of these international organisations. And here I want Honourable Members to look at this problem only from the point of view of India's interests and of no other interests. Those of the Honourable Members who had occasion to listen to the debates in the past would recollect that it was suggested that we should not commit ourselves unless the question of sterling balances was settled. Now, Sir, this argument would imply that really speaking it was in the interest of the United Kingdom that India should join these international organisations. I want the House to divorce that idea from their minds whether it is in the interest of U.K. or whether it is not. That should not be our consideration when we are discussing this motion. Our consideration should be whether it is in the interest of India or whether it is not in the interest of India. Much as we have sympathy for U.K. and all other countries of the world, because India's hospitality is well known, yet I believe in the proverb that charity begins at home, and I must look to the interest of my own country first and to the interest of the rest of the world thereafter. Therefore, Sir, I think my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has been the greatest advocate of this proposition that we must settle this question of sterling balances with United Kingdom before we take any final decision in this respect. I think he is right to a certain extent. But at the same time as I have stated just now, we should not really adhere to this position unless it can be shown that by our not joining this Fund and the Bank we could put a lever on the United Kingdom. I am afraid from the little examination that I have been able to make of this matter, I do not see any connection between the two. I know that Honourable Members of this House feel very strongly with regard to our sterling balances. I can assure them that the Government of India today feel as strongly about these sterling balances, if not more than Honourable Members of this House.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non Muhammadan Rural):
As urgently.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: We know that these sterling balances have been accumulated through the sacrifices, through the trials, sweat and tears that the peoples of this country have gone through, and we cannot be unmindful of the interest of these millions of people who have been responsible for making the position of this country as a creditor country. With regard to this matter, I would like to tell Honourable Members of this House, and I am sure they will be glad to know that the Government of India have been pursuing this matter with great vigour and I am able to relate to day that His Majesty's Government are as anxious as we are that this matter of sterling balances should be settled, that negotiations should be started as soon as possible. I am not using this expression 'as soon as possible', as a bureaucrat, and this expression has not the same meaning as it had in the past. When I say 'as soon as possible', I mean not the meaning of the bureaucratic language, but I mean the straightforward meaning which you can place on these words. I am unable at this stage to indicate any definite date. But Honourable Members may rest assured that not a moment will be lost by the Government of India in starting negotiations with regard to this matter of sterling balances, and here, I would like to repeat once again that we are sensible, we know how these sterling balances have been accumulated and we shall see that India's interests are safeguarded and justice is done to India. I think, with your

permission, Sir, I would like to quote the points which were raised from the speeches and the note of my friend Mr. Manu Subedar because that in fact is the fear, and that in fact is the position of those who are opposed to our joining this international Fund and this Bank. Sir, the apprehensions that were expressed in the Previous debates and as I have said just now particularly by Mr. Manu Subedar who has in his Note of Dissent in the third report of the committee clarified his position are really in respect of membership of the Bank more than in respect of membership of the Fund. But even here after weighing the pros and cons, we consider that we should continue our membership. I would not like to waste the time of the House by reading out in detail the extracts from the report or the Minute of Dissent. I can briefly put the point of view of my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar. Firstly his objection is that he feels rather uncertain about the future of these organisations. His fear is based on our past experience of such organisations. He fears that the position of these organisations may be like U.N.R.R.A. or the League of Nations and we may suffer loss and these organisations may not be able to achieve all that is claimed for them. In this respect I would like to say that if we are interested and I hope we are, in the rehabilitation and the prosperity of the world at large, because I am sure no Honourable Member of this House would deny that our prosperity will depend on the prosperity of the rest of the world, if he believes that it is necessary to help in the rehabilitation of these countries which have been devastated on account of the last war, that it is necessary in the interest of economic advancement of all the countries including India that those countries which are today in a deplorable condition should be brought up, then I submit Mr. President, we should be prepared to take that risk. I am of the opinion that India cannot keep itself aloof from the economic repercussions in other parts of the world. If economically the other countries are bankrupt, we cannot hope to prosper. It is absolutely essential that our trade should be on a very large scale with other countries and we cannot hope to achieve that unless those other countries are economically in a position to carry on trade with us.

The second fear that was expressed by my Honourable friend was that this money will be spent on rehabilitation of European countries only. I hope my Honourable friend will correct me if anywhere I put a wrong interpretation on what he has said. On that point, Mr. President, the object of this Bank is two-fold: Firstly, to help in the rehabilitation of those countries which have been devastated on account of the war, and, secondly, to assist those countries which are industrially backward. So it is not a question that will concern only those countries which were affected during the war. I believe, and I think I am right, that even those countries which are economically backward will be entitled to receive help and loans from this Bank.

The third point which was raised on previous occasions was that as we have got such large sterling balances—I think the value of which today is something like 1,700 crores—as far as India is concerned we shall not need any loans. I would not agree with my Honourable friend if he thinks that it is possible for India to get this money either in lump sum or in a very short time. I think with the greatest amount of optimism it would be wrong to presume that. I feel that with the industrial expansion of India which is absolutely necessary, the settlement which may be arrived at with regard to these sterling balances, the repayment will have to be done in instalments and I feel that the instalments which may be fixed may not give us sufficient money to meet all our requirements of industrialization. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that we will be justified in assuming that India will not receive or will not require any help from the Bank for future industrialization.

Now, Sir, there is another point which was raised with regard to the Fund. It is suggested that by joining this Fund and because the Fund refers to exchanges, we shall be losing our sovereignty as far as the monetary exchanges are concerned. On that point I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, has got greater experience and knowledge than I have. He would

[Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan]

agree with me that it would be in the interest of economic development of all the countries if there was some machinery by means of which exchanges of the currencies of various countries could be stabilized. I think it would be in the interest of every country, and when you are thinking of the good of every country in this world including yourself you will have to give up some of that sovereignty. It will not in fact be a question of giving up that sovereignty because every country that comes into this Organisation will have come after giving up that certain amount of sovereignty, and therefore it will be really like independent people joining in a free partnership, and therefore, Sir, seriously speaking I do not think that that is an argument which should deter us from entering this Bank.

There is another fear which has been expressed: that this Bank may go into liquidation because of the shady transactions that may be carried on by its executive, and I think when we put forward that argument what looms large before us is the example of some of the very small banks which have gone into liquidation in this country and have not been able to meet their obligations. But, Sir, I think the Honourable Members of this House will agree that the same argument cannot apply to an organisation like the one which we are discussing today. It will be in the hands of responsible people representing responsible Governments and we are one of those who will be represented on the Board of this Bank. And, therefore, I do not think that this fear that thoughtless transactions may land this Bank into trouble should deter us from following a line if it is the right line on other grounds. And apart from that, Mr. President, the conditions for advancing loans have been laid down and they are very stringent, and I feel that on that point we should really not have unnecessary fear.

Taking everything into consideration and keeping in view the importance of the question of settlement of the sterling balances, I feel that there is a good case, a justifiable case for India remaining a member of this Organisation. On this occasion, Mr. President, I want the House to consider this question very carefully, and I want this House to give its verdict on this matter not only with regard to the immediate payments which have got to be made, but with regard to the whole policy—whether we should continue to remain a member or whether we should not; whether we should contribute and in future incur all the liabilities that are there, or whether we should not;—and, therefore, Sir, the motion which I have placed before this House has been worded in the language in which I have moved it, and I hope that the Honourable Members will feel about this matter in the same way as the Government do. In other words, that they would feel that it is in the interest of India to join these international organisations. If this Honourable House is of the opinion that it is not in the interests of India, then I would request the Honourable Members not to vote for my motion. I want the Honourable Members of this House to vote on merits not on sentiments, because after all, we have got to take into consideration the question of the millions of our countrymen. I do not

3 P. M. want that on this motion the votes should be cast because of the composition of this Government. I want that the House should really consider this question on its merits and that the House will find itself in agreement with us that it is in the best interests of India that we should join these international organizations.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

“That this Assembly having considered the Third Report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Agreements, do hereby approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.”

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I have listened with interest to the statement made by the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, the Finance Member, whom we all welcome on the Treasury Benches, and whose presence, as well as the expressions used by him—the patriotic and reassuring expressions used by him—inspire great confidence

in us that in financial matters the affairs of our country are in very strong, stout and patriotic hands.

On previous occasions when speaking on this subject, I was speaking with my back to the wall. I was speaking with the feeling that I was fighting a foreign octopus, a foreign government that was more interested in the welfare of their country than in the welfare of this country. I was feeling that the so-called mixed personnel of the Government of India was drifting and that the real direction of affairs came from London: that in these financial matters at all events London gave the instructions and London's representative in the British Finance Member in this House, followed those instructions regardless of the fact that this country's interests were wrongly involved and were sacrificed.

Now, Sir, that is not the case. Now we have every confidence with the Government which is there, which is composed of popular representatives, of men of our choice, with men of our confidence, that this and other matters will be in safe hands, and whatever we say today is not necessarily a destructive comment, is not necessary in a spirit of controversy, but it is in the spirit of friendship with a view to help in very complicated and far-reaching problems. Indeed, Sir, the statement of my honourable friend himself shows that there is much more to this than the simple motion which he has moved. I regard this motion merely as this: Does this House have full confidence in this Government with regard to India's adherence or with regard to the exercise of powers which are inherent in the constitution of those institutions for withdrawal from them if the situation so arises? This House has absolute confidence and in that sense I am not going to oppose this motion.

Let me, however, explain the position of the numerous complications which arise. First of all, we are face to face with a very large question, a question of 17 to 18 hundred crores of rupees of this country's assets which were compulsorily removed to England, which are not being returned and on which no interest is being given to us. When so much of the assets of this country is—not quite in jeopardy but rather at least—held somewhere else against our wishes, is it right for this country to involve itself in an obligation of membership to these institutions which involve no less a liability than Rs. 320 crores. If, Sir, these assets were carrying interest, we would get every year a sum that would cover almost the whole interest charges payable by the Government of India in their budget. If these sums were made available earlier, it would betimes have been useful for the industrial purposes to which the Honourable the Finance Member referred. In other words, these matters have been held up and delayed by one excuse or the other. What is the excuse for the United Kingdom to say that it will not pay, that it will not even begin to pay, that it will not even start the negotiations. It may be possible to drop the curtain over the past in a more favourable atmosphere which we are all endeavouring to bring about. But this is really a very large issue. As I mentioned once before, the Rs. 1,000 crores is equivalent to 18 years net income of the Central Government of this country before the war. It is equivalent to about 25 years' trade balance of this country. These are not small matters, and if some of us felt worried, if some of us felt that it would be proper if India settled her own internal affairs first, if India first got hold of the assets which have been removed, these assets which are the basic reserve for the currency of this country; if some of us felt not necessarily that we should not join but that we should defer, that we should delay till our own House was in order—at least it would be recognised that it was a sensible course, particularly when the decision to join was taken not by a Government responsible to this House.

Now what I wish to indicate is this: that even the foreign Government in that delegation which they sent to the Bretton Woods Conference took up a particular attitude: that until and unless the sterling balance issues were definitely discharged, India would be in no position to join or finally decide with regard to her membership of these institutions. I have quotations from Sir Jeremy Raisman and Mr. A. D. Shroff. But I shall not waste the time

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of the House by going over the whole ground again. When the Bretton Woods Committee of this House first met in February, it emphasized—and this report was signed by a British Finance Member:

"In our view the final decision whether it would be to India's advantage to remain a member of the Bretton Woods institutions may be determined to a very considerable extent by the outcome of the negotiations which His Majesty's Government are committed to undertake with the Government of India on the subject of liquidation of sterling credits. If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits."

This same sentiment expressed on the 26th February, 1946 was reiterated by the Committee on the 17th April, 1946. We have to remember that India has not been able to start these negotiations or to get a satisfactory solution and further of the fact that the assurances which were sought from February have not been received from His Majesty's Government. I will read the assurance part:

"Nevertheless, in order to allay the anxieties which have been caused by certain statements in the Parliament and in the British press, we would welcome an early and authoritative reassurance by His Majesty's Government on this point and the fixing of a date for negotiations with the least possible delay."

Not only were no negotiations fixed but the assurances sought for as early as February, 1946 were not forthcoming, until the third report which we wrote on the 29th July, and where I am sorry I had to differ from my colleagues. Under these circumstances is it very strange that the position which I was taking up then was the position of the Government of India as was then constituted. It was that the representatives of the Government of India tried at the Bretton Woods Conference to induce the Conference to permit the new institutions that were being instituted to be used for the liquidation of England's debt to India. Did they succeed in this effort? They were foiled in this effort by the combination of British as well as the U. S. A. representatives at that conference. India's case was lost. Even the then Government felt bitter about it. This conspiracy between Britain and the U. S. A. representatives against India was continued thereafter in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement. In the Anglo-American Loan Agreement there are two clauses—clauses 6 and 10(C)—which are specifically antagonistic to the interests of India. This agreement was made behind the back of this country. No reference was made to the Government of India with regard to this agreement and the then Government of India, I am sorry to say, failed to intervene when they knew and were informed that something was being done which was prejudicial to the interests of this country. Not only with regard to the Fund and the Bank specific provisions were made that these particular debts owing to India by the U. K. should not be included, not only was that done, but in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement it was specifically provided that no part of the loan which was given by the U. S. A. to England should be used for the purpose of giving back the moneys which England was owing to this country. Not only that but more specifically it was provided that the manner in which these negotiations should take place and the settlements should be made should be that the debt would be divided into three parts—part of it would be immediately converted, part would be consolidated and part would be scaled down. It was provided that if at any time England wanted relief in the matter of interest charges on the loan which she had raised in the U. S. A. that relief was to be given only when England came to the U. S. A. with her hands free, that is to say after repudiation of whatever was due to India by way of capital as well as by way of interest. In other words this issue is not as simple as it looks and with all due deference to members of the Government, who are the most prominent men and chosen leaders of the people of this country, may I humbly point out that this is a financial chess game and there is a pitfall. There is a specific pitfall in which

more powerful interests are stampeding this country into a position which it will not otherwise take and more powerful interests are conspiring in order to do harm to this country and it is my duty, more specific duty, now with the Government as now constituted to point this out to the best of my ability.

On every occasion this country has been called upon to take hurried decisions with regard to the Bretton Woods institutions. We have been jockeyed or thrust into these decisions. In the first instance we were told to join up immediately, otherwise we would not be an original member. Then we were told that we would not get a representative to attend these institutions and that they would be kept out. Now we are told that we would be defaulters if we came out. Let me put the point of view of other countries, as they are deciding on these issues.

Did the U. K. in spite of the glib talk rush into the decision to join these institutions? The objective of the U. K. was a very large loan from the U. S. A. For this Dollar Loan Agreement the late Lord Keynes and Lord Halifax had to wait with their hats in hand for more than six months. This Dollar Loan Agreement came about on the 6th December, 1945. On the 13th of December Parliament met and not only approved of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement but also approved of England's membership of these two institutions and, generally I think, of the Union Trade Organisation which was being set up. In other words England had a particular objective. As soon as that objective was achieved, she joined these institutions but not till then. We also have and have had—and on this there is no difference of opinion on either side of the House—one singular and principal objective, namely that with the creditor status which has been forced on India involuntarily, with the money which they have taken away in the course of five years from this country at very great sacrifice on the part of this country, there should be no uncertainty about these moneys. These moneys are badly wanted as currency reserve and in order to deal with the stability of internal prices they should be forthcoming and every thing should be in order before we go into these institutions. This is the point which we have always urged and which I still urge on the Government, not in the form of immediate withdrawal or in any other way. As a matter of fact the Committee themselves wrote in the first report that a situation might arise in which this country may have to withdraw from these institutions.

By way of this Anglo-American Loan the U. K. got from America no less an amount than 1,466 crores of rupees. The U. K. then contributed 2,600 million dollars, which is equivalent to about 800 crores of rupees, in other words the whole of the contribution to this Fund and Bank, so far as the U. K. is concerned, arises out of a loan which she was able to raise. It does not arise out of any basic money or reserve which the U. K. people hold. It comes from outside and it is disposed of outside. It is a singular point to note that the U. K. regarded the membership of these two institutions—which was opposed by large sections in the Parliament itself—as a sort of price to pay for the loan which she was receiving, that the international enthusiasm was not there, that it was purely a calculating financial game.

Take Russia, another large country which is also after a large dollar loan. Russia is not thinking of joining these institutions unless and until she gets the dollar loan. Take Australia and New Zealand. These two Empire countries have kept away from these institutions and are only attending them by means of a representative observer. There is nothing which finally determines India's attitude towards international affairs, towards these particular institutions. It is simply a question of judging which is the best moment. Is the best moment after we have put our sterling matter issue right or is it now? All the same I commend these ideas to this Government in order that they may consider them if and when the occasion arose.

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What has annoyed me throughout the last 12 months is the amount of persistent propaganda, persistent anti-Indian propaganda which has come from the U. K. We challenged it in this House and Sir Archibald Rowlands was not able to deny that certain semi-official propaganda was sanctioned by the Treasury officials of the U. K. These pin-pricks and propaganda have been frequently sent down and I am sorry to say that the Indian press has given them an unworthy circulation, creating a sort of feeling that Indian money was as good as gone and that Indian claims were false and exaggerated and that something should be done. I want to mention this specific propaganda because, whatever position our government takes up on this issue, it is their duty and I shall request them most earnestly to counter this propaganda, to put India's case forward, which is a robust case and a good case, but it has never been put forward—the previous financial authorities had no interest in weakening the case of their own country against India. It is now only, and in the hands of my honourable friend, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, that we can confidently hope that such case as India has got will be put forward, that such wrong propaganda which is coming out will be put right. I had to take enormous trouble to counter some of this propaganda. I recall the very bold interview which Sardar Patel gave on this issue, in which he said that any Indian who talks of scaling down these sums which were taken from the blood and tears of the population of this country was a traitor to this country. It was the only effort of this kind, but it was an isolated effort: these were not the efforts of the then government of the country; the then government of the country was more interested in doing India down than in collecting the just dues and monies which were owing to India. What was this propaganda? Mr. Churchill speaking in the parliamentary debates said that India was saved from the Nazis and from Japan. I have got the quotation here but I will not take up the time of the house reading it—in other words he said “Is there no consideration for all this? We did this for you; you gave us so many commodities worth about 1,800 crores. What does it matter? Call it off.” Mr. Churchill is a sinking sun in the world; he no longer counts; he lives in the 18th century; he is an ally of Kipling where he should go now. Nobody takes Mr. Churchill seriously in his own country now, but I am sorry that Mr. Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, did not on that occasion get up and say that this was not the official view of His Majesty's Government. On the contrary, Mr. Dalton has very recently made the declaration which I will bring to the notice of my honourable friend the Finance Minister in which he says that he knows of no misunderstanding between Britain and the United States as regards Britain's obligation under the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, particularly in regard to Britain's forthcoming negotiations in settlement of the sterling balances with India, Egypt and other countries. In other words, instead of assuring us and giving us the assurance which we sought from the government of the day at that time in February, 1946 that these debts were honourably incurred and they would be honourably repaid, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom in his recent visit—17th September—actually says that he will carry out in the negotiations which are going to take place with India the understandings and the undertakings and the obligations of the United Kingdom under the Anglo-American Loan Agreement. May I know whether our government have considered what these implications and obligations involve? I have already made reference to clauses 6 and 10 of those agreements which are highly pernicious, highly objectionable, from the point of view of India. It is true Sir Archibald Rowlands said that India is not bound by this agreement to which he was a party; but England contends that she is bound by it and England is about to negotiate with us. Let our government gather up all its strength and give a punch in the nose to the United Kingdom statesmen who want to impose India obligations which they incurred behind our back in their negotiations with

the United States. They incurred those obligations for their own interests; they wanted a big loan and they got this loan and this was part of the terms which the United States imposed on the United Kingdom, and we are going now to be saddled with the full implications of these obligations.

The other point was that India had overcharged and profiteered. This is one of the issues which the Parliamentary Committee themselves have disposed of, and I am glad that in recent months nobody has said that India had overcharged. On the contrary, what are the facts? The tea which the United Kingdom population had during the last five years of the war was purchased at controlled prices in India between five and a half annas and eight annas—it was better tea, it was big leaf which we did not get in this country. Not only tea, but hides, jute, rubber, mica, manganese, groundnuts and numerous other articles were all taken up at controlled prices, so that the Indian producer got less. Not only His Majesty's Government and the allies, but the civilian population of the eastern group countries and of the United Kingdom got benefits out of this at our expense. After that, it is certainly remarkable if any country representatives can claim that India had overcharged them and the sterling balances represent an element of profiteering.

Now, Sir, we were told that Britain could not pay because they have no ability to pay. There again this argument was made much of until some of us pointed out that Britain had considerable assets in this country. In my country, when a debtor wanted to plead that he could not pay, he brought whatever he had and put it in front of the creditor and said "I have with great difficulty collected this. Please take this, and now consider some delay, some relief with regard to the balance." Did the United Kingdom do this? Did they ever have the decency to consider that vast British assets still exist in India itself and that it was just and right that these assets should be liquidated and handed over in discharge of the debt which was foisted on this country? Some of these assets are being sold now, and I am sorry to say that the capital realised in respect of these assets is, on account of the neglect of the Government of India, being worked off against the current liability of England for goods which she buys from here.

The question of scaling down was boosted so much that some of our own men, fifth columnists of India, who were under the dominant influence of Britishers in this country, actually came out with the idea that England cannot pay and let us give away 200 or 400 crores out of this money. Some of the so-called financial press of this country, I am sorry to say, was not independent or patriotic enough to take the right line; and some of the so-called economic press of this country also came out with this weakling idea—let us give away something. To which country were we trying to give away? We are here suffering from inflation, high prices, famines, floods, strike fever, unlawful activities on a scale unprecedented—and this poor country was being asked to give away nothing less than 200 or 400 crores merely because it was British propaganda. Now, it is the duty of our government to counter this propaganda. Is the United Kingdom a pauper country? Is it not in the forefront of all the European countries today in prosperity? Has it not already built up an export drive beyond their own expectations? Are they not already flourishing in a measure in which it would be ages before we bring up our country to that level? Is it right and just that arguments of that type ought to be put forward at any time? I expect that our Government and the stout hearted man of our Government who have taken charge of the finances of the country will never stand any nonsense of this kind from any quarter.

Then, Sir, there was another ramp in connection with this which I would like to bring to the notice of this House and of the Government. That was at the hands of the industrialists of this country. Now, Sir, I wish well of the industrialists so long as they remain within their proper sphere but no industrialists

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could be allowed to interfere with the larger affairs of the country in a manner in which some of these fellows try to do. What was the driving force to them. Some of them were very anxious to bring some machinery and they wanted dollars. The British Government by a whispering campaign had created dollar scarcity artificially for this Government. I have shown in the third report, which I will not read and waste the time of the House but I will commend to all friends here to read a portion of that third report made by me in which I am showing how India's dollar position was and how we were artificially denied the use of those dollars, so much so that when men who spend here on their livelihood something like Rs. 100 a day, when they went to America they got two or three dollars a day. In other words artificial scarcity of dollars was created by a whispering campaign amongst British officials of the Government of India and the industrialists outside who were denied even little trifles like small machinery which they wanted—they came out with the ramp—let us join this bank and fund and also scale down the sterling balances if we get dollars immediately. In other words the sterling balances belonging to the masses of this country were to be scaled down in order to meet the convenience of the short sighted industrialists who merely wanted their dollars. Sir, these short sighted men did not consider,—just as the Honourable the Finance Minister himself in his opening remarks—I trust that my Honourable friend will forgive me for saying so, that there are other means of getting dollars than merely from the bank, the new institution which is being instituted. That bank has very strict conditions, as my friend mentioned. I am not sure whether India will be eligible for loans from the bank. Anyway there are other means of getting dollars from what we may call the normal banking channel of the U. S. A. I had a talk with important American bankers and I pointed out to them that we had no debt owing to anybody outside. We had considerable assets in the United Kingdom. I asked—don't you consider us a fit and proper party to borrow from America for our immediate purposes so long as we spend the money in America for equipment and he said—Not only would I consider you fit but I would be most anxious to give such advances to India. In other words the immediate dollar need could be met by other means but did the Government of the previous day, their predecessors, did they ever try to negotiate with the United States for a free loan from the normal channel. They would not. Why? Because they wanted to create an artificial scarcity of dollars in this country in order to get the industrialists worked up, in order to get them to support Britain's proposals with regard to the scaling down of the sterling balances as well as with regard to the membership of these two institutions.

Now, Sir, I was told by an official whom I will not name, as he is not here to answer me, "we could join this bank. You say it is an international experiment and might fail. We will guard ourselves by taking as much loan as our subscription is." Sir, I listened to him and I laughed just as some of my friends are laughing here. This cannot safeguard India. A solvent debtor has got to pay even when the creditor institution fails. And then, Sir, Sir Chintaman Deshmukh was with us on the last occasion. I have great regard for him and I feel that he means well. He said we have got a provision for coming out of this institution any time we like and a mere intimation in writing to our representative in the U. S. A. would do the trick and any obligations which the bank may incur from that date will not be binding and we shall give instructions to our representative to see that our resignation is handed in as soon as loans were proposed which in our view would not be forthcoming and which would be risky and dangerous loans. I think this is a device which we could still use if the occasion came. My Honourable friend mentioned which other countries would borrow—the war ravaged countries whose capacity to pay is limited by the fact that the destruction caused by the war cannot be replaced by human

agency for a century and also by the fact that in their own country there is no settled government. Take China. I have great feeling for the Chinese people. I would like to help but there is some difficulty. Take Greece, the pet of Mr. Churchill, for whom he would try to get vast sums. As a matter of fact the United Kingdom, even when they had no money to pay us, gave a free gift of ten million sterling to Greece only about three months ago. Greece is in the throes of difficulties. So also is France, between communists on the one hand and the other parties on the other. The Polish people can be hardly regarded as settled down. Italy is in a horrible condition politically. It is these countries whom you would select for giving your money. I say that there is a certain amount of risk involved in these international experiments and we may take the risk fully when our own money is freed but whether we should take the risk now is a matter on which I must say, with all respect, I differ from the Honourable the Finance Member.

Now, we were told that India would default if we did not pay subscriptions now. If we remain members, naturally we pay the subscription and rather than be called defaulters we would come out of the bank for the time being without any serious harm but this defaulting idea as applied to India is again very funny. When we were owing England sterling loans, my friend K. T. Shah raised the issue and rightly too whether some of these loans were rightly chargeable to India and whether we could not refuse some of them. Immediately there was a hullabaloo and a suggestion was made that India was trying to default and to repudiate public debt but the same United Kingdom did not pay war debts incurred in the previous war to the United States. Germany took enormous sums both from America and the United Kingdom after the last war and did not pay one pie. In other words other countries could do these things and nothing happens. It is poor India who is always pointed out with the finger. India is the culprit when there is any question of defaulting. India cannot suit her own convenience or judge her own time to go and join these institutions.

Now, Sir, the motion before the House involves not only the bank but the fund. Many things would have to be done about the fund and I am not sure of what has been done. In view of what the Honourable the Finance Member said I would not ask him to give an explanation straightaway or make a statement but I do think that before the close of the session he should take a special occasion to enlighten some of us on these points either in the House or outside.

Sir, the position is that India is highly inflated country. Our prices have risen from 100, roughly speaking, to 300. The American prices have risen from 100 to 143 and the English prices have risen from 100 to 174. In this situation is this the best time to fix external parity as my Honourable friend said? He said: Is it not an advantage to have a mechanism for fixing the exchanges of the world? I admit it is an advantage, but if I have a choice between internal stability and foreign exchange, I would not hesitate for a moment that it is internal stability which I want, because it is the inflation in India which is the papa and mama of all the strikes and of all the economic distresses. I would say, in so far as economic distress could lead to lawlessness, even the lawlessness from which the country suffers is due to high inflation. The welfare of the poor wage-earner, of the man with fixed income, the welfare of your vast body of teachers and State servants and others is a matter of some importance, and I want to get internal stability of this country first. It is worth while to pay something for this.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Even sterling balances!

Mr. Manu Subedar: You speak when your turn comes.

Now, Sir, on what basis are we going to fix the par of exchange which we are required to fix some time, I think, in the middle of December? Are we going to fix it on the existing gold prices in the United States, in India and in the United Kingdom? According to the prices at present prevailing for gold in the United Kingdom and in the United States, those are not the prices of free

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gold; those are the prices on which the Government buys but it does not sell, though I do not understand how the British Government gave to Australia no less than 26 million sterling during the last 12 months in gold. Anyway, the price of gold as defined in the United States is 35 dollars an ounce and in the United Kingdom it is £8-12-6. According to these prices, the gold, apart from the cost of transport, insurance, etc., would be roughly half the price of gold ruling in this country. Are you going to assume that your prices shall be as high as they are now, namely, from 100 to 300 and still threatening to rise? Are you going to assume that price level as permanent? Are you going to bring down the value of gold in this country to half of what it is now and then fix the par of exchange or in what way are you going to fix it? What is the provision which you are making with regard to these internal prices? Government's own policy with regard to the exchange control, capital control and several other kinds of controls is not yet finally settled. It is still undetermined. Meanwhile, the price levels of different countries are different. I could not trade with the world if my prices are very high: everybody can sell to me but I cannot sell to anybody. This is the position which we have to consider.

Sir, I pointed out to the previous Finance Member and I point out to our friend, the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan now, that this Government does not even possess full information about the exchanges. While we are trying to set up and, as a member of the Monetary Fund, to have complete control over the exchange, we do not know who buys how much exchange and for what purpose except in the matter of dollars and hard currency, where the Reserve Bank is exercising a very strict control. But with regard to other purposes, as I pointed out before, the Britishers are selling off capital goods here and they are converting the money realised by them into sterling. This money is not falling into the hands of the Reserve Bank; it goes to the Chartered Bank and is set off against the trade bills which the Chartered Bank has received in connection with current transactions.

And lastly, and this is very important, there is a certain amount of speculative activity in the field now. Speculation is the bane of society. My Honourable friend who wants to abolish all speculation has got the just and correct instinct, but I think even if you cannot abolish it, you can certainly check it and there is no field in which speculation can play greater havoc than in the field of exchange. And yet this Government has not yet woken up to their full difficulties and responsibilities in this matter and I commend these ideas to them. My Honourable friend Dr. John Matthai very acutely and shrewdly sent a circular round to the Chambers of Commerce and others to give them ideas as to what should be the par of exchange. He may have as well sent round the Finance Secretary into the Connaught Circus and instructed him to ask every passerby as to what his idea was of the par of exchange. No useful information will be received by this Government, in my opinion, by this method, though, of course, technically it was befitting a democratic government that they were trying to take people into their confidence.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Was not your opinion asked for?

Mr. Manu Subedar: It was asked for but they have not yet received it; they will have it when they want it.

Now, Sir, Dr. Dalton has recently said—and this is another thing which I must put to the Honourable the Finance Member—what steps have Government of India taken to increase the gold resources of the Reserve Bank? If you are going into this Fund and if you are going to accept dollar or gold as the standard by which you will stand and through which you will defray all your obligations incurred in the course of trade or capital movements, how much gold resources should the Reserve Bank have? In my opinion what they have is very meagre. What steps have the Government of India taken in this direction? Dr. Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of no less a country than the

United Kingdom with all this dollar loan in its pocket, is still worried about this very point. He says:

"As we move into a period when sterling will once more become freely convertible in respect of current trading, we shall need large reserves of gold and dollars. We must, therefore, keep such reserves well built up now, even at the cost of continuing deliberate and sometimes severe restriction on imports."

Now, Sir, if a country of the order of the United Kingdom is worried on this point, is it not right that the Government of India should itself take some steps? Are the Government aware that all those little shopkeepers who have made money during these times on account of the scarcity of goods are ordering recklessly? They are ordering anything, anyhow and at any price because they have the money in the Bank. Now, if these chaotic conditions continue, have Government realised what the position of India would be as a member of the Fund into which we are going. I do not want to say it in any nasty or sarcastic spirit. I am sure the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan will take very prompt steps to have all these issues cleared and brought before him and I am sure he will take decisions which are in the highest interests of this country. Now, Sir, what is wanted in this country is the stabilisation of internal prices and then to bring them down a little. That, in my opinion, is of much more overwhelming importance but that cannot be done until we are through that sterling balance issue, because the bulk of the sterling balances are the basic reserve against our currency. In any case, Sir, as the Honourable the Finance Member has mentioned to us, very early steps are being taken in order to negotiate with the United Kingdom, one thing is satisfactory. It was Mr. Molotov who said at the beginning of the United Nations conference that he wanted to hear the voice of free India. It is the voice of free India which Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit and Mr. Chagla, with whom I had the privilege of long friendship, it is the voice of free India in the shape of these persons that has made itself felt in international fields. I am not opposed to India participating in international institutions, on the contrary, I am a great enthusiast for it. I feel that in due course, and in due time, India will take her place according to her size and conditions and not be tied to the apron strings of the United Kingdom as in the old days, but freely and independently. Nothing makes me more happy to feel than the fact that no more deputations from this country will be headed by Englishmen, no more deputations of the kind which we had in the last and most disastrous one, the Waugh deputation which went to America and got us a settlement which was not a settlement, even Shylock could not have got more out of us than United States had made from her deal with India over the lease-lend transaction. I will not put before the House now, but before this session is over, the House will hear more about it, anyway it is a matter of profound satisfaction that no more Englishman will lead a deputation from this country and particularly that on the sterling balances personnel. In my country, generally it is the debtor who goes to the creditor's door and I hope my Honourable friend will be able to arrange accordingly. But if it is not so, then I take it that any deputation from India will be led by the stout and patriotic man whom we have got in charge of India's finances—I mean stout hearted. Sir, as I said we want to husband our own resources and to put the economy of this country right. This issue of international institutions is irretrievably bound up with not only the question of sterling balances but the issue of price levels in this country, the issue of the price of gold and the par value of the rupee in terms of gold and many other issues, and unless our Government had a complete picture, they would not be able to come to the right and the final decision. I trust therefore, that some of the ideas which I have placed in no spirit of controversy or carping criticism but as a help, as a humble help from one who has been watching these financial chess boards for many years very closely, I hope Sir, that some of the ideas which I have placed will be used by the Government when the time comes. I commend them to their attention.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies):
Mr. President, Sir, I listened with very great interest to the speech which has just been delivered by my old friend and college fellow, Mr. Manu Subedar.

[Dr. John Matthai]

The main point that Mr. Manu Subedar made this afternoon is the point to which he has referred more than once in the speeches and the reports which he has made in this House from time to time on the Bretton Woods questions. Now, Sir, I am entirely in sympathy with him as regards all that he said about the sterling balances proper. I think our delegates at the Bretton Woods conference put up an extremely able and extremely competent case for bringing international indebtedness arising out of the war within the scope of the International Monetary Fund. But their efforts did not unfortunately succeed for no fault of theirs. For the time being, we have got to accept that as a settled fact and the question therefore that we have to consider this afternoon is, taking the position which has been arrived at as regards the relation of the operations of the International Monetary Fund to the question of liquidating the international debts which were created by the war, taking that as an accomplished fact, are we or are we not going to ratify our membership of the International Fund and the International Bank? This, I want to say, as regards the sterling balances both as a member of the present Government and also as a student interested in these problems. I have, for many years past, had opportunities of examining with some care the demands which have been put up from time to time by the financial press in the United Kingdom regarding the scaling down of the sterling balances. Since I became a member of the Government I have had certain special opportunities for examining the data bearing upon this question of the scaling down of sterling balances. I do not mind saying that it is my considered opinion on such data as I have been able to examine, that by no conceivable process of reasoning can there be a demand for the scaling down of these balances, and I think it ought to be the endeavour of whoever happens to represent this country in the forthcoming discussions to take as firm and as determined a stand as the facts warrant.

Mr. Manu Subedar referred to the question of inflation and the bearing it has on the problem of determining the par value of our currency. I certainly agree with him that the question of internal level of prices is a question of primary and first class importance. We are of course rather at a disadvantage in tackling this question of internal level of prices because as Mr. Manu Subedar pointed out, it is bound up to a very large extent with the problem of sterling balances. But apart from that, I feel and I realise deeply the enormous obligation that rests upon the Government of this country to apply whatever remedies lie in their power to cure the inflation which now prevails in the country, and unless we are in a position at any rate to check a further increase in the level of prices, unless we make up our minds to cut in and break this vicious circle, unless we do that, the social and economic problems that we shall be faced with in the near future would be almost beyond our powers to tackle.

Now, Sir, apart from these questions, I want today to tell the House the simple straightforward lines on which for myself I have come to the conclusion that in spite of all the arguments that may be urged against it, it is in our interest to ratify our membership of both these international institutions. I realise that when we go into the International Fund as a member we are facing some risk. We are going to do that with our eyes open. The risk is this that we are accepting a certain amount of restriction upon our freedom of action regarding adjustment of the external value of our currency. It is a restriction which conceivably may act to our detriment in certain circumstances. You will

4 P. M. remember, Sir, that fifteen years ago the industries of this country were up against very severe competition from abroad, and some of our leading industries were very nearly wiped out of existence. It was not merely our industries but our agriculture also was up against severe competition from abroad. You will remember that there was a time when we had to impose an import duty on wheat in order to protect the growers of wheat in the Punjab and the U. P. and a duty on rice from Siam and Indo-China in order to protect our rice growers. Suppose a time comes again when we are up against competition of this kind, when our industries are faced with severe opposition and our

agriculture is also faced with severe competition. There are two remedies that are open to us in conditions of that kind. It is open to us to suitably adjust the external value of our currency, because in many cases it does operate as a safeguard against competition from other countries. The other remedy of course is protection. As regards adjusting the external value of the rupee as a means of safeguarding our industrial and agricultural interests, it may be admitted straight-away that certain real limitations will be placed upon us if we accept membership of the Fund. There is no getting away from that. But my answer to this question is this,—and I have given a great deal of thought to it. Suppose that kind of competition arises, that it continues for a prolonged period and continues on a scale which makes it difficult for us to carry on our industries and our agriculture at a normal level, I feel pretty convinced in my own mind that there would be a strong case we could put up before the International Fund for adjusting our currency on the ground that those conditions constitute what on any reasonable basis may be described as a fundamental disequilibrium. Suppose it was not a question of prolonged competition, but sporadic competition, competition that arises now here and now there, but does not last for a long period. Then obviously we have got this remedy of protection either by tariffs or by subsidies. I want to say a thing or two on that because that is a matter which is likely to provoke misunderstanding. It is in close relation to the proposal of an international fund that the United States of America have made the proposal for an international trade organisation. The two things hang together. As far as we are concerned, the position that we are going to take up is this.

We accept as an ultimate objective for this country free-movement of trade, —multilaterism as it is called, in matters of trade. As an ultimate objective we are prepared to do that because, as my colleague the Finance Member pointed out, world prosperity is prosperity that can be achieved only by the co-operation of all the countries concerned with it.

Supposing we have to do this, that is to say, we find ourselves faced with the question of giving protection to our industries in a time of acute competition, the line that we are going to take is this. As one of the backward countries of the world we hold that whatever our ultimate objective may be, during a transitional period, which may be short or long, we propose to reserve entirely our right to take whatever measures in the way of protection we consider necessary for the safeguarding of our industrial and agricultural interests.

Whatever assurances we may give at this international trade conference which is coming off next year in America, we are not going to surrender our right to take whatever measures may be required during the transitional period for raising the status of this country in economic matters so that it may approximate in time to the status of other countries of the world.

I may be told that I profess faith in free movement of trade as the ultimate objective and at the same time I want also a fairly extensive use of the expedient of protection; there is an obvious inconsistency and I may be told, if I put that forward in an international conference, that this is oriental duplicity. I want to say this. We are beginning to realise in the internal economy of a country that it is not merely an increase in the aggregate income of a country that makes for its prosperity, but also, the way that that increased income is going to be distributed, because it is only by a wider and more equitable distribution of the national income that you can create that high level of purchasing power which is the stimulus to all economic activity. That analogy in my opinion applies equally to international economics. You are not going to raise the standard of world prosperity by simply increasing the aggregate income of the world; what you have got to do if you want to achieve world prosperity in a reasonable period of time is to see that that aggregate income is fairly distributed among the various countries of the world. It is only on that basis that we can proceed to achieve all the objectives which international institutions of this kind have before them.

As regards the question of the Bank I want to say quite frankly that there are certain aspects of it which sometimes give me quite a degree of concern.

[Dr. John Matthai]

Mr. Manu Subedar rightly points out in the dissenting minutes which he has attached to the interim report that we are going to face a risk in case of our membership of the Bank in this way that if after a period of years when loans have been given to the devastated countries of Europe a situation arises somewhat similar to the situation which arose in Europe about 10 or 15 years ago when the loans granted to the European countries got frozen, then the reserve liability which we accept in respect of the Bank which would amount to somewhere about 105 crores of rupees; the Bank would be required to meet calls made on it as and when required. If these calls could be met in our own currency the position would not be too bad. But when calls are made on our reserve liability the provision is that those calls would have to be met in gold or in dollars or in any other currency which might be required by the Bank. I admit we are undertaking here a risk, but in spite of that I am prepared to go into the Bank for this reason: We are one of the original members of the Bank. I do not want to attach too much importance to the status of an original member, but at any rate it carries the right of our having an appointed as distinct from an elected director. It gives us certain privileges as regards the currency in which our funds in these institutions are held. But our greatest safeguard, it seems to me with regard to seeing that the affairs of the Bank are carried on fairly, is that we happen to be the holder of one of the largest quotas, and since voting power is related to quota, although we might not be able to play anything like a decisive part, our representatives would have an effective voice in determining the kind of operations in which the Bank might be involved. The main point about the Bank is this: Mr. Manu Subedar raised the question why do you want to go into this Bank? Why don't you try and raise your loans in the ordinary way as businessmen would do? That is a possibility that we are entitled to consider and we ought to consider. But I was looking at the question in relation to the circumstances which prevail today in the United States of America. I do not know if my Honourable friend, knows that out of about six or seven European countries which had applied to the Export-Import Bank of America for accommodation, as soon as the Bank was organised and started operations these applications, either wholly or partially, were transferred from the Export-Import Bank to the International Bank because they considered that the International Bank was the proper financial institution for helping these countries. I am not speaking with any particular authority on that question, but I believe, as regards the Export Import Bank of America, that you cannot get a loan from the Export-Import Bank except on the basis of what they call a 'tied loan', in other words if you get a loan from the Export Import Bank in America you have got to spend that loan in America. That provision is perfectly all right as far as we concerned in the next few years, because if you want to get capital goods, for all your industries it is very likely that we shall have to go in a large measure to the United States of America. But it is conceivable that a time may come fairly soon when countries on the Continent of Europe could produce machinery of equal efficiency at lower cost than the United States of America. Supposing a situation of that kind arises, and it is extremely probable it may, then it seems to me it is much better that we go to an institution from which we can get accommodation which would be utilizable in any country of the world. I consider the positive advantage of this Bank is that it is a supplementary source of external finance of the highest importance and value to this country. We cannot afford any longer to be tied down to any particular country of the world for the capital goods that we want. We must be in a position to go to any country in the world where we can get the best equipment and the best skill on the best possible terms, and therefore unless you can get external finance of a kind which can be made available in any country of the world, you are not going to achieve the purpose that you have in view. I do not mean for a moment to say that all our requirements of external finance would be met in this way, but I do think it might provide us with a considerable supplementary source of external finance which is not to be despised.

My main reason in spite of all considerations to the contrary for finally coming to the conclusion that we should decide to join, is the provision of which Mr. Manu Subedar seems to make light, regarding the right of withdrawal. It is possible for us simply by giving notice to withdraw from the Fund. As far as the Fund is concerned, I believe we can withdraw without any sort of continuing liability. We cannot withdraw from the Bank quite with that kind of facility because when you withdraw from the Bank you have got to accept a *pro rata* liability for the obligations which the Bank undertook up to the date of your withdrawal. That of course is a risk. The way I react to it is this: If at any time our representatives on the Governing Board and the Directorate of the Bank feel that things are moving in a direction which is likely to result in serious difficulties to the Bank then we should make it our duty to withdraw from the Bank. As regards the Fund if we find that the Fund is of little use to us, or that it is placing upon us an undue amount of restriction regarding our freedom of action in these matters, then we should withdraw. As regards the Bank again if we find that it is of little use to us, or that it is placing upon us an amount of liability which may land us in difficulties then also we should withdraw. If we do that, it seems to me the risk involved could be greatly minimized. I think, Sir, I have covered most of the points that are really relevant to the subject.

On this question of sterling balances there is one thing more I want to say and with that I resume my seat. My colleague, the Finance Member, has already stated the general view of Government regarding it. We are not by any means happy that the liquidation of the sterling balances was not brought within the purview of the International Fund; we are not by any means happy at the views which we find often expressed in the financial papers of other countries regarding the extent to which these obligations should be honoured. I think on behalf of Government I can give the assurance that we would do all that lies in our power to see that the fullest justice is done to India's rights. It would be our aim to see that as large a portion of these balances as possible is released as freely convertible currency in the shortest possible period, and that whatever balance is left should be funded over for as short a period as possible at a rate of interest which could be regarded as reasonable. Sir, I have no hesitation in asking the House to accept the motion before it.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): Mr. President, this as you know is not the first time that the question of the Bretton Woods Agreements has come before this House. We devoted a considerable amount of time in the last Session to this subject and the Select Committee has held a number of meetings from the last of which emerged the third interim report. Although I had the honour to represent the European Group on the Committee, I was not able to attend the last meeting which produced this report and the minority note by my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar. But this debate does give me an opportunity of associating myself personally, and my group, with the major recommendations of the Committee. I think we all agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that it is a good thing that this Assembly should decide the issue of continuing membership of the Bank and the Fund finally once and for all, instead of the matter coming up periodically and being dealt with in instalments as has been the case up till now.

I and my colleagues in the European Group fully associate ourselves with the desire of the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan that so far as an irrevocable decision can now be made, it should be made. Furthermore, Sir, we take our stand on the principle, which I put forward on our behalf when this subject was first brought before the House some months ago, that India's membership of the Fund and the Bank should first, last and all the time be in the interests of India herself and not in the interests of India *plus* any one other country or group of countries. One has to remember, of course in that connection, as Dr. Matthai has pointed out, and as I think the Honourable the Finance Member pointed out also that membership of the Fund does imply a certain limitation of monetary sovereignty. But that limitation is no more and no less than that

[Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson]

it will be voluntarily assumed by some 29 or 30 other countries who are adhering to the agreement. When the Committee had produced its second interim report—the one before the report which is now before the House—it laid down some fairly stringent conditions which it wished should be observed if India continued to be a member of the Fund. I think anybody who has read the third interim report will agree that those conditions have been fulfilled, and that in so far as the further payments of India's subscriptions to the Bank and the Fund are contingent upon the fulfilment of those conditions, then India is entitled, and the House is entitled to recommend the Government to go ahead and make the necessary payments with a clear conscience.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan rightly stressed what we may call, one of the secondary aspects of this debate. I have already said that primarily India goes into the Fund as a measure of self-interest and self-protection. The Honourable the Finance Member emphasized quite early in his speech, that India's prosperity, that her monetary stability, that an increase in her national income and all the other various other manifestations of economic satisfaction were dependent upon a similar state of affairs generally prevailing amongst the other countries of the world. For that reason, quite apart from the reasons of self-interest, he said that constituted very good grounds for India making her adherence to the Fund and the Bank clear and unequivocal from now onwards.

I would like also by way of emphasis from the purely Indian point of view, to mention what my friend the Honourable the Finance Member probably already knows, to recall to the House that in a recent statement the Governor of the Reserve Bank predicted that India would probably have to apply for an increased quota under the Fund if her trade continued to expand and to enlarge at the rate which he envisaged. Well, there we have a cogent argument at the purely technical level which seems to me to be decisively in favour of making the decision for which the Government of India are asking us today.

It would, I suppose, have been imprudent to expect that we would get through a debate in this context without some sustained reference to the question of the sterling balances with which my friend, Mr. Manu Subedar has dealt exhaustively on this and on previous occasions. In the circumstances, I would like, if I may, on behalf of my colleagues, to make it clear to the new Government which has assumed its seats in this House today, that we of the European Group, recognise fully and clearly that the future trade atmosphere—and it is that in which we are chiefly interested as representatives of what is mainly a merchant community—between the two countries depends to a very large extent upon a settlement of the question of the sterling balances—a settlement which will be practicable, that will be honourable and fairminded from the point of view of both countries. I have said before in this House, and I say it again for all my colleagues, that if a settlement possessing those qualities can be arrived at—and to my mind there is no reason why it should not—it will do much to cement the commercial relations between the two countries in the years that lie ahead of us.

A great deal of apprehension, and not unnaturally, has been expressed about the implications of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement and their bearing upon the question of India's sterling assets. My honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, quoted today, as he has quoted before, clauses 6 and 10 of that Agreement. I would like to point out to him because he sees in clause 10 (a), (b) and (c) what I must assume he regards as a very real danger to India, that that paragraph of the Loan Agreement really only makes suggestions and recommendations for the general pattern of the settlement of accumulated war sterling balances. There is so far as I understand the position, nothing obligatory at all in that particular clause. What is obligatory is that His Majesty's Government undertakes to commence negotiations, within a certain specified time and in each case from the date of the signature on the Agreement, and Section 10 (a), (b) and (c) is merely a suggested pattern of the method by which the sterling accumulate war debts can be settled; and I think my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, and my Honourable friends Dr. Matthai and Mr. Manu Subedar will regard it as significant that

in the admittedly much smaller case of Argentine there has been no question of scaling down the debt. So far as I know, no pressure was ever applied to the Argentine Government to scale down any part of the debt and certainly in the final draft of the Anglo-Argentine Agreement, as it has emerged, there is no provision for any scaling down. Quite apart from any moral or sentimental considerations India may take heart from that fact. Now, Sir, only a very brief reference in the course of debate has been made to some of the other ancillary aspects of the decision, if this House takes it, finally to adhere to the Fund and the Bank. Sir, certain important departures in policy are likely to take place in the future. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar drew attention to the fact that India will have to communicate to the Fund the external parity of the rupee by some date in December—I think the 12th or the 16th. He also drew attention to the fact that commercial sections of opinion had been invited to express their views to the Finance Department, and for once I find myself in entire agreement with him when he says that the method employed will not produce results of which the Finance Department could make any more than proximate use. Actually the invitation to individuals and associations, irrespective of their ability or qualifications, for the purpose of expressing opinions on the future of rupee parity has led, as my Honourable friend has pointed out, to a country-wide debate from which, he will agree with me, the honest merchant or the honest trader will not benefit at all. The man who has benefitted by this debate is the man who is building up a speculative position in rupees and sterling. I think there are two or three days left for the Finance Department to receive opinions, but I do entirely endorse Mr. Manu Subedar's request that sometime during this session this House should be given an opportunity to consider important matters such as the external parity of the rupee. There will also be the amendment of the Reserve Bank Act, Sections 40 and 41, or its abolition arising out of the agreement and various other matters which up to now have only been the subject of loose and somewhat informal debate. If we are later on to be given an opportunity of expressing our views on those aspects of the agreement which I have mentioned, which are only incidentally before the House today, I will not now attempt to state our case on matters which are largely technical in character but I will merely reiterate what I have already said, namely that we on these benches entirely support the decision of Government, if a decision it has to be, to adhere finally and once for all to the Fund and the Bank. We endorse the line of policy which has been indicated, namely that India's membership shall be operated in India's interests primarily and on behalf of my colleagues I commend this resolution to the House.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, there is a difference in the atmosphere in which this question was substantially debated last January and April and the atmosphere in which we are discussing it now but the merits of the case have not changed at all and I agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that the issue should be considered from one supreme but simple point of view and that is, is it in the best interests of this country to continue our membership of the Brettonwoods institutions? Mr. Deputy President, that was exactly the test that, speaking for myself, I put up before me to judge the merits of the case both in the month of January as well as in the month of April. I am glad that the point of view that I then pressed has now become unanimously acceptable. At that time the question of sterling balances was given much more importance than it deserved. The same thing is done today. Although I do not agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that this question has no relevance to the main motion that is under discussion, I will not say that it is so important, relatively speaking, as to affect our judgment on the merits of the proposition that is before us. In fact I was led to consider that I should support the membership of India both with respect to the International Bank and the International Fund for the simple reason that it would help us in clearing our

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil]

sterling balances. The position then was this. India had accumulated, as has been stated by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar, huge sterling balances. It had two aspects then and it has two aspects now—financial as well as trade. Our representatives at the Brettonwoods institutions knew India's need, especially in the matter of expanding Indian industries. They wanted multilateral convertibility of a portion of the sterling balances. If England then was not willing for one reason or the other, there must be some agency or some mechanism by the use of which this could be secured. I submit, Mr. Deputy President, that from that point of view these two institutions are the agencies with the help of which we could and we can secure what we want. India's need today is capital goods. India wants industrial expansion. India wants to import machinery. Now it is possible that India may not get machinery of the requisite quality in sufficient quantity from England. Are we to wait if we cannot get it from England, because England is not prepared? If that is the only way of getting a solution of our sterling balances, then there must be a complete stop to our industrial expansion. But the Articles of the Bank lay down that in the case of countries which are industrially less developed the Bank will come and help them in order to develop industrially. The Bank will help these and also countries which have suffered on account of war. In the Minute of Dissent which has been written by my friend Mr. Manu Subedar he seems to be under the misapprehension that special regard is to be paid only to the reconstruction of the countries overrun by the war, whereas I find from the Articles, that it is clearly one of the objects or purposes of the Bank to help "in the encouragement and the development of productive facilities and resources in less developed countries." And as regards the actual allotment of resources, in article 3 (1), it is laid down—

"The resources and facilities of the Bank shall be used exclusively for the benefit of members with equitable consideration—a phrase that has now become very popular—for projects of new development and projects of reconstruction alike."

My submission is that if we fail to get any satisfactory solution of our sterling balances from England, we cannot wait indefinitely for the industrial expansion of this country. We must find out credit elsewhere. That private credit is not available or cannot be made available in the way in which credits from this bank are available has been made amply clear by the Honourable Dr. John Mathai. If India wants to take her proper place in the international sphere, it is not enough that she should have it only in the political sphere. Trade is the source of all prosperity. More trade, more industry, more production and more employment; and the result is less poverty. Today our country is faced with poverty, ignorance, squalor, the three enemies as they were described by the Finance Member who was in charge of this country's finance in last January. Although that Finance Member has gone, the enemies are still there. The only way in which we can fight them is to increase the prosperity of the country, by increasing the trade, both internal and external; and we can only do that if we can increase production; and if we increase production we do increase employment. One of the objects of the fund and one of the objects of the bank also is full employment. That is not possible unless there is more industrialisation and more industrialisation is not possible unless India is equipped with necessary capital goods. In the course of the last six years, industrial plant in this country has not been kept up to date because it had probably no opportunity or could not possibly replace and repair some of its parts, owing to shortage of supply. That leeway has got to be made up, *plus* we want to advance further. If that is to be done, it can only be done as things stand today—by building heavy industries and if we want to have heavy industries we must import necessary material and necessary machinery from other countries. Why should we depend upon one country in this matter? We should take advantage of such machinery through the agency of which we can buy, where we can get the best and at a fair cost. Therefore from this point of view our membership is absolutely necessary. I agree that there is some risk, but in what banking is there no risk? In every banking enterprise

the risk is there, but at the same time if we go carefully through the provisions of the banks constitution as they are embodied in the final Act, I respectfully submit the risks are considerably lessened.

As regards the membership of the fund, I find my friend Mr. Subedar has not now the same intensity of objection which he had in last January and in April. You cannot have foreign trade unless there is exchange stability and we know what want of exchange stability means. The history of Indian currency is enough proof how the masses have been ruined because there has been no stability of exchange. If we are to profit by experience, if we are not to discard experience as the wisdom of the unlettered, let us go to any place which secures stability of exchange and let us not be swayed by sentimental considerations. Let us consider this subject calmly and coolly and as was suggested by the Finance Member in the best interests of this country.

As regards the sterling balances the Honourable Finance Member I am sure may be knowing that during the Bretton Woods Conferences the British representative Lord Keynes stated that "when the end is reached and we can see our way into the daylight, we shall take it up without any delay to settle honourably what was honourably and generously given." The point has been raised today as was raised in April and January last, and in all the meetings of the *ad hoc* committee, that clauses 6 and 10 of the Anglo-American agreement have prejudiced the Indian case. The position is very simple. If two men settle between themselves, that agreement is binding only on them. How can it bind me, a third party? Therefore I do not attach any importance to whether the agreement was negotiated in my presence or behind my back. So long as I am not a party to it, I am not bound by it; and as was stated by the Finance Member in January very clearly, that there was no intention of scaling down whatsoever. Difficulties will arise, I know, in settling this question of sterling balances. The Honourable Finance Member may well remember that there are British owned assets in this country. When he goes there with his stout body and stouter heart, he may remember that there are British assets in this country. As regards an exact estimate of these assets, there is a difference of opinion. Mr. Birla calculates them at £1,000 millions. The Statist of London calculated them at £1,100 millions roughly. The Associated Chambers of Commerce in their evidence before the Simon Commission gave an estimate approximately the same that has been given by Mr. Birla. To take the most modest estimate which has been given by Professor Shenoï in his latest book, 'The Sterling Assets of the Reserve Bank of India', it comes to £829 millions. The sterling balances, whatever they are today and whatever they may be when negotiations actually start, the Honourable Member for Finance will, I am sure, have a scheme of priority as to how these balances should be cleared, whether he would put the taking over of the British assets as the first item or whether he would put the purchase of capital goods from England of such quality and in such quantity as the requirements of this country justify, or whether, if he agrees with—I cannot say Sir but Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, who is always enamoured of gold—would like to have it in gold—whether it is in goods or gold or in the form of assets; but both from the economic point of view and also from the political point of view if you ask my personal opinion, I would give the first priority to taking over the assets of those who are now opposing us both in appearances and in reality. It does not mean that we have any enmity against them. We have given them enough during 150 years, and if we sit down for really making up accounts, I do not know what huge sums will be found against them when a complete balance sheet is drawn up. But I do not want to refer to the past. But whatever assets they have now must be taken over because to allow foreign capital in one's country without any limitation and when there is no need for it is to invite political trouble if not further ills. Mr. Deputy President, at the time of the third interim report when it was drafted we were assured by His Majesty's Government that they were very anxious to open negotiations. I am glad that the Finance Member today said that they would start as early as possible and he was good enough, lest he should be misunderstood, to explain that the phrase 'as early' meant as

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil]

early. There are pressing problems which will not stand delay. In this country we have the famine commission and the agricultural commission recommended certain schemes and every time those schemes have been shelved. It is not that we do not know how to frame schemes. The real difficulty is how to put it into action, how to translate it in deeds. In other words it really means how to get the material to implement the schemes. No scheme for the removal of Indian poverty can be conceived unless this main question of the sterling balances is solved. I therefore submit that as the Finance Member is conscious of the urgency of this problem he will tackle it and I am glad that he said that in spite of the composition of the Government he will solve it as befits this country. He said that poverty spreads, if one country is poor, the other countries of the world are bound to be poor. I would add simply that prosperity has no limits. If poverty is a crime prosperity is a virtue and I ask the Finance Member to enable us, poor masses to conquer poverty and secure for us an opportunity to be virtuous—prosperous. So far as he and I are concerned, I am learner. Help us to put on a little more fat. The other day in the press interview he said that his policy would be not to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. I entirely agree with him but that policy cannot be implemented by merely giving expression to it on occasions both relevant and irrelevant and as he said it is time for action, let him take any action which will remove poverty of this country. Let him take any action which will drive out the illiteracy of this country. Let him take any action which will remove the squalor. He will find that whatever may be the difference of opinion, whatever may be happening outside this House, at least in this House he will have the unanimous support of every one of us. I hope that the way in which he has moved his proposition and the line which he has adopted in moving that proposition is bound to meet with general approval of this House and I am glad that the way in which this proposition has been framed finally disposes of this question. For the last nine months we have been agitating for it. At one stage we were almost inclined to move for withdrawal from the institutions and I almost fell a prey to the eloquence of my friend Mr. Manu Subedar but somehow or other my native commonsense got the better of my sentiment and ultimately I was able to persuade the gentleman from the South and also Dr. Zia Uddin who was always with me and our Chairman of that particular meeting, Mr. Neogy and we made this report and we saved membership and avoided default. I hope now, after, having secured approval the Finance Member, in fact, whole Government will act and go ahead and do what we expect of it.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I was very delighted to hear from one of the members of the Treasury Benches that the stabilisation of prices should be one of the foremost aims of the financial policy of the Government of India. On the 16th February, 1932 I pressed that the stabilisation of prices should be the foremost aim of the monetary policy of the Government. At that time the Finance Member paid no attention to my request and I must acknowledge that I did not have a single supporter in the Assembly. My friend who is a trained economist will remember that before the war the prosperity of every country was judged by the favourable balance of trade. India had a very favourable balance of trade amounting to about 50 crores per annum before the war. After the last war Germany had a very favourable balance of trade but its currency broke down, it was on the verge of ruin. The condition of Germany and other countries in Central Europe forced the economists to think that the stability of exchange should be the foremost object of the financial policy of every country. This theory had cost us 213 crores in our efforts to stabilise the exchange at unnatural ratio. After a great deal of useless struggle about the stabilisation of exchange, it was set at rest in 1926 when the exchange was fixed at 1s. 6d. but a section was not satisfied and the struggle continued. In 1932 particularly after the publication of Macmillan's report, opinion was crystallised and they thought that the stabilisation of prices rather than stabilisation of exchange should be the foremost object of the financial policy of the

Government. I had been pressing ever since 1932 that the Finance Members were proceeding in the wrong direction. Sir George Schuster concentrated on 1s. 6d. ratio, and Sir J. Raisman and others thought that the stabilisation of the bank rate of interest is a question of foremost importance for the prosperity of the country and he really sacrificed all the resources of the country in his efforts to stabilise the bank rate of interest. This policy brought on inflation, prices rose very high and brought the country to the position in which it finds itself today. I am glad that the Government of India now think that the stabilisation of prices is an important issue. The prices are three times of what they were before the war and the price index is much higher than in America or the United Kingdom or any other country. Therefore we ought to make every effort to lower the price level. It cannot be done all at once. You must gradually bring it down to 150 and it must eventually be brought to a figure between 125 and 140.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech on the next occasion.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 29th October, 1946.

APPENDIX I

[Vide page 107 ante.]

THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

We were given an account by the Honourable the Finance Member Sir Eric Coates, of the developments which had taken place since we presented our second interim report on the 17th April 1946. In accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 4 of that report, which was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 18th April 1946, the Government of India, having been informed that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development was likely to start making calls on the share capital towards the end of June, instructed its Executive Director to ask the Bank for the longest possible postponement of the date of payment in order that the final decision to continue membership of the Bank might be taken by the new Government in consultation with the Legislative Assembly. The Executive Director, after informal consultations, reported that no postponement was permissible under the Articles, and that non-payment by the due date would inevitably be interpreted by the Bank as a default on the Government of India's obligations. On the 19th June 1946, the Bank informed the Government of India that it would start operations on the 25th June 1946 and asked for the payment of the following sums:—

- (i) 2 per cent. of the subscription (*i.e.*, 8 million less \$40,000 already paid) in gold or U. S. dollars on or before August 24, 1946.
- (ii) 3 per cent. of the subscription in rupees on or before November 25, 1946, and
- (iii) a further 5 per cent. in rupees on or before November 25, 1946, a formal demand for which would, however, follow later.

2. We were assured by the Finance Member that the dollars required for this purpose would be made available from the Empire Dollar Pool, the effect of which would be a corresponding reduction in the sterling balances. He also informed us that His Majesty's Government had indicated that they believed that in the interests of a satisfactory and lasting settlement of the problem the negotiations on the sterling balances should be carried on with as representative an Indian Government as possible and that they would be ready to issue an invitation as soon as a representative Government was formed.

3. The alternatives before this Committee now are either

- (a) to authorise the payment of that portion of the subscription for which demand has been made, or
- (b) to instruct Government to withdraw from the membership of the Bank, or
- (c) to continue membership but default in payment, thereby making India liable to suspension under Art. VI, Section 2 of the Articles of Agreement.

In the consideration of these alternatives we have the benefit of the advice of Sir Chintaman Deshmukh, India's Governor of the International Bank. The last named course we unhesitatingly reject for the reason that we are not prepared to recommend any course of action which is not in conformity with the dignity of India and might well affect her credit. As for the second alternative, we are not sure that we would be correctly interpreting the wishes of the Assembly in recommending withdrawal. In any case, we do not think it proper to take so important a decision ourselves.

4. The only decision we can, therefore, possibly take is to recommend to Government to pay that portion of the subscription without the payment of which India would be committing a default, namely, the \$7,960,000 which have to be paid on or before August 24, 1946 and this we accordingly do. We do not wish, however, to take upon ourselves the responsibility of authorising payment of the remaining 8 per cent. of the subscription which has to be paid by the 25th of November. We strongly recommend, therefore, that, irrespective of the political situation at the time, a session of the Legislative Assembly should be called on or about the 10th November 1946 at the latest, in order to allow the Assembly to make up its mind finally whether it wishes to continue India's membership of the Bank or whether it wishes India to withdraw from that institution.

5. As the Assembly is not in session and it is necessary for the advice of this Committee to be made available to Government in terms of paragraph 4 of the Second Interim Report as adopted by the Assembly in time enough for them to take action on it before the due date of payment of the subscription, we suggest that a copy of the Report should be sent to Government by the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly even before it is presented to the House.

6. Our colleague, Mr. Manu Subedar, does not agree with us and is submitting a separate Report.

K. C. NEOGY.
N. V. GADGIL.
ZIA UDDIN AHMAD.
M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR.

NEW DELHI;
The 29th July 1946.

* A copy of the Third Interim Report together with a copy of the Minority Report attached thereto was accordingly forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Finance Department on the 30th July 1946.

SEPARATE MINORITY REPORT TO THE THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

The question put for the consideration of the Committee was :—

- (1) whether India should pay the subscription as demanded, or
- (2) whether India should withdraw from the membership of the Bank.

I have no hesitation in saying that India should withdraw from the membership of the Bank at this stage. I support this conclusion on the following grounds :—

(1) His Majesty's Government were not willing to negotiate the repayment of sterling balances earlier, because they were awaiting the outcome of the Anglo-American loan. In a message three days ago, they have expressed their unwillingness to open negotiations until a representative Government is installed at New Delhi. In the second interim report the whole Committee had agreed that :

"If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the Agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits."

I think that the moment has come for India to withdraw because of the delay in these negotiations, as India will be called upon to undertake commitments, which she would be unable to shoulder in the absence of a "satisfactory solution of sterling credits."

(2) The creditor status has been forced on India. In five years Rs. 1,800 crores worth of commodities were taken at controlled prices for Allied purposes without consent. Even after the war Rs. 300 crores have been added to the sterling balances, and even during the current period Government balances are being converted into sterling. With her own needs unsatisfied and with famines and privations and want, India is being invited to join an institution for lending out to various countries by a process in which "special consideration" is to be "given to the needs of countries which have suffered from enemy occupation and hostilities". This international experiment might fail, as other experiments like the League of Nations (to which India contributed heavily) have failed. Having regard to her own needs, India is in no position to assume further creditor obligations towards any part of the world until her position with regard to the repayment of sterling balances has been definitely and finally made clear.

(3) India's own need to borrow dollars for capital equipment from U. S. A. was mentioned more than once as an argument for continued adherence to the Bank at any cost. The normal channels for loans to India are open, but no negotiation on behalf of India has been started. India, not having any foreign debt and having considerable assets in sterling, is more eligible for such loans than the countries, who have succeeded in getting money from U. S. A. But it would be very strange to suggest that, if India wishes to borrow, she should start with being a lender on a scale, which involves an ultimate liability of Rs. 132 crores! Besides, the dollar requirement, in so far as it is merely an exchange conversion problem, is only temporary accommodation, for which the Fund and not the Bank is the proper channel. It will be noticed from the figures below that full use has not yet been made of dollars, which have accrued to India. Further, during recent months India's balance with U. S. A. has been favourable.

The payment of two per cent. of 400 million dollars, i.e., 8 million dollars (about two and a half crores of rupees), was to be made out of the Dollar Pool. The following particulars were elicited by me with regard to India's position in connection with the Dollar Pool and hard currencies :—

(Figures in Rs. crores)

	U. S. A. \$	Canadian \$	Swiss currency	Swedish currency	Portuguese currency	Grand total
Accrued to India	405	40	1½	2	4½	459
Used by India	237	83	13½	2½	2½	359
Balance	+168	-43	-12	-½	+2	+114

The contention that Rs. 57 crores worth of gold at London price that was sold at a profit in India by U. K., should be deducted from the balance of Rs. 114 crores, is untenable, as goods were taken away from India of the full Indian value of this gold.

The following rough particulars were elicited by me with regard to the 20 million dollars per year for capital goods from U. S. A. agreed to be given to India by H. M. G. from the Dollar Pool (*vide* para. 35 of the Budget Speech for 1945-46 at page 873 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 28th February 1945).

Accrued to India for calendar years 1944, 1945 and 1946	60 million dollars :		
Licenses issued upto May 1946	15.00	...	,,
Further release offered for purchase of ships	6.00	21.00	,,
	Balance	39.00	,,

The credits used against the licences issued upto April 1946 were only 2.5 million dollars!

The advantage of recovering 8 million dollars from the Pool, being two *per cent.* of the subscription of the Bank, is more than outweighed by the ultimate liability, which India incurs, *viz.*, Rs. 132 crores. Eighty per cent. of this liability, which will not be collected at present, would be payable in dollars or in gold. About Rs. 100 crores worth of gold for this purpose would be wanted at the world price, *i.e.*, at between Rs. 42 and 45 *per tola*. The Reserve Banks own gold, even if revalued, would not be less than Rs. 90 crores. The balance would have to be acquired from the market at double the value and surrendered at half the value. India would be giving back to the international field gold, for which she has paid Rs. 73, 84 and 90 at roughly half the price paid. This is a position, which I cannot contemplate without grave anxiety, for the costly membership of an institution which has no direct bearing on India's life, however high and laudable the object may be. The Bank is for giving long period loans, mostly to war-torn countries, including late enemy countries, for reconstruction. India is in no position to assume this responsibility. The fact, that the financing of these loans through guarantees or debentures or otherwise will not involve all this liability at once, and that India would be in a position to withdraw if loans are given on a basis, which is regarded as risky, was mentioned in the Committee. It is much better for India not to participate in this institution with any mental reservation. I therefore advocate the withdrawal now on purely financial and economic grounds.

(4) On political grounds, the Interim Government, when they are installed, may take a decision to join, making their own terms with the Board. India's status in the international field will not be enhanced by any action under the Caretaker Government and it is my firm belief that a Committee of the Assembly ought not to take the responsibility for eventual losses of big magnitude beyond India's capacity to bear. Such a decision must be taken by a responsible Government after they make proper enquiry and it should be left for them.

(5) India has been dragged into international organizations and tied up to the chariot wheels of U. K. After the position taken up by India's representatives at the Bretton Woods Conference was definitely turned down in July, 1944, it would have been to India's interests to stay away from these institutions until her own affairs at home and with her debtor, the United Kingdom were properly settled. In order to gain original membership, Government joined these institutions without the Assembly's consent, and ever since then each successive step has been taken on the plea of urgency with reference to other people and not with reference to India's own convenience or interest. Both the conditions laid down by the Committee itself in their previous reports and accepted by the Assembly have remained unfulfilled, *viz.*, that the repayment of sterling balances has not taken place and also that a representative Government has not been installed.

Under these circumstances it is better for India to come out of the Bank now, leaving no commitments behind and making it possible for the future representative Government to take a decision, which they consider proper.

(6) My colleagues were impressed with American reaction to any action, which India took. It is important to keep good relations with the U. S. A. after India is free to act on her own. In the meanwhile some of us notice, that America drove a particularly hard bargain in the matter of Lease-Lend with India, in comparison with her treatment of other countries, and that, behind India's back, provisions were put in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, *viz.*, clauses 6 and 10, which are definitely prejudicial to the interests of this country. The conditions, under which the proposal for India to withdraw from the International Bank is mooted, will not be misunderstood in U. S. A. The refusal to incur finally obligations of a very large magnitude until her own position is a little more clear, is a straight-forward course, dictated by financial considerations, and does not betoken any hostility to U. S. A. What the U. S. A. ought to resent and what we in India are resenting, is the exercise of import control so as to hold up hundreds of transactions fully negotiated and finalised between American and Indians, for which the import licence (and therefore the dollars) are refused. The canalising of trade between India and the sterling area, to the exclusion of U. S. A., is something for which U. S. A. public opinion will not hold Indians responsible.

(7) The position of the Fund is different, and some of these considerations do not apply to the Fund. The political breach with England must necessarily involve an independent currency arrangement with U. K. and the rest of the world. The Fund is, however, not functioning till the first of January, though there are very important steps to be taken in the interval. such

as the determination of the gold par of exchange, the suspension of the operations of sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, and a definite provision for the transition period between now and when the Fund operates fully. These are important issues, on which decisions cannot be left to the Caretaker Executive, and it is necessary that either the Interim Government should be installed, or the Legislature should be called to take decisions on these subjects.

I regret that I should be obliged to write a separate report through holding a different opinion from my colleagues on the Committee, but the compelling necessity of the interests of the country has induced me to take this step.

MANU SUBEDAR.

NEW DELHI;

The 29th July, 1946.

APPEN

(Vide page 108

HIGH COMMISSIONER

INDIA STORE

Abstract of cases in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm

HALF YEAR ENDING

Cases in which the discrimination

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Screws 1/2" x 4"	700	C. 2086/1726/31-8-43	The Steel Nut & Joseph Hampton Ltd.
Studs 1/4" x 1-7/8"	28500		
Motor Generator Set etc.	...	C. 2125/2631/2-9-43	The Electric Construction Co., Ltd.
Steel Wire, Piano, for Springs, various sizes.	5322 lbs.	C. 2133/1461/4-9-43	Letch & Batchelor Ltd.
Electric lamps (various) for Railway Signalling purposes.	4,566 Nos.	C. 2134/1787/4-9-43	Metropolitan-Vickers Grs. Ltd.
Steel Spring Ribbon	30 cwts.	C. 2191/1295/10-9-43	Sanderson, Brothers & Co. Ltd.
Cystoscopes	20 Nos.	C. 2777/2832/29-10-43	The British Cystoscope Co. (10 Cystoscopes).
		C. 2778/2832/29-10-43	The Ganito-Urinary Co. Ltd. (10 Cystoscopes).
Wagon, Engineers, Double-ended steel, various sizes	634 Nos.	C. 3276/3834/13-12-43	Thames Smith & Sons of Saltley Ltd.
Watt-hour Meter	Nos. 1	C. 3453/4534/30-12-43	Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Export Co. Ltd.
Time Switch	1		
Transformers	2		

DIX II

(ante.)

FOR INDIA

DEPARTMENT

other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

~~BASE TENDER REPORT 1943~~

is between British firms only

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons of Acceptance
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
69 2 6	64 8 8	The lower tenderer offered to commence delivery in 3 months and to complete in 10-11 months. As the stores were very urgently required the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 3 months.
160 0 0	132 16 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 40 weeks. As the stores were urgently required the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 24 weeks.
708 3 7	551 8 6	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 6-8 months. The indenter required the stores in India by June 1943 or earlier and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 12-16 weeks.
488 12 6	476 8 2	The lowest tenderer offered to deliver part in 4 weeks and the balance in 10-12 months. The indenter required the stores in India by 1-9-43 and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered to deliver part in 3 weeks, and the balance in 12 weeks, except one small item which is to follow in 6-9 months.
106 10 0	95 1 8	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 42 weeks. The indenter required the stores in India by 1-10-43 to 31-3-44 and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in the first quarter of 1944.
174 1 7		The lower tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 3 per month commencing December 1943 and completing in July 1944.
184 10 0		The higher tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 10 per month, commencing in January and completing in March 1944. In order to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers so as to complete the supply by April 1944.
358 11 7	348 3 2	
39 18 3	31 0 6	The lowest tenderer was for tools of unsuitable quality. The next lowest tenderer offered delivery in 50 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 26 weeks. The tools were required in India between April and September 1944.
26 16 4	30 2 6	The lower tenderer offered delivery in approximately 26 weeks. The stores were required at site by May 1944 or earlier if possible, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 9-11 weeks.

HIGH COMMISSIONER

INDIA STORE

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the

HALF YEAR ENDING

Cases in which the discrimination is between

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Wire, Steel, Piano . . .	660 lbs.	C.3619/30804/13-1-44 .	Bruntons (Musselburgh) Ltd.
Syringes etc.		C.4180/5525/24-2-44 .	General Surgical Co. Ltd.
Ergota Praeparata, B.P. .		C.4192/5474/25-2-44 .	Stafford Allen & Sons Ltd.
		C.4193/5474/25-2-44 .	William Ransom & Son Ltd.
Slip Gauges to Workshop Grade A. Accuracy.	6 sets	C.4613/6097/20-3-44 .	Coventry Gauge & Tool Co. Ltd.
0.4" Screw Diameter Measuring Machines.	2 Nos.	D. 15/6167/1-4-44 .	The Precision Tool & Instru- ment Co. Ltd.
Wheatstone Bridge Set etc.	1 No.	D. 263/6763/18-4-44 .	Muirhead & Co. Ltd.
Knives, guillotine, Paper, Cutting etc.	21 Nos.	D.302/6165/20-4-44 .	F. Mountford & Sons Ltd.
Knives, Woodworking . . .		D. 353/5977/24-4-44 .	F. Mountford & Sons Ltd.
Pump, Centrifugal etc. . .	1 No.	D.392/6968/26-4-44 .	Gwynnes Pumps Ltd.
Scales, Dispensing, . . .	73 sets	D. 493/7197/2-5-44 .	Mr. L. H. M. Stanley.
Thermometers, Bath, 10" Brewer Type, etc.	377 Nos.	D. 535/6431/4-5-44 .	T.A. Reynolds, Son & Ward- ale Ltd.

FOR INDIA DEPARTMENT

other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods
firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

30th JUNE 1944

British firms only

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons of Acceptance
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
44 0 0	28 17 6	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10-12 weeks. The stores were very urgently required in India, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 3-4 weeks.
238 4 5	216 1 3	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 16 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 8 weeks.
98 14 2	...	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in late March 1944, and the next lowest offered immediate delivery.
638 5 0	...	The order was divided between the two tenderers in order to secure a portion for immediate shipment, as required.
736 19 2	690 19 2	
293 6 0	291 0 0	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 5-6 weeks. As the stores were required immediately in replacement of loss at sea by enemy action, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.
124 0 0	114 0 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-16 weeks. As the indenter required the machines in India by January 1944, the order was placed at the higher price for delivery in 8 weeks.
34 19 8	26 9 8	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 9-11 months. As the stores were required in India at site by July 1944, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 26 weeks.
57 15 0	55 2 6	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-15 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 8 weeks.
422 8 0	416 1 8	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-14 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery of part in 6-8 weeks and to complete in 12-14 weeks.
363 12 8	306 10 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 24-36 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 16 weeks.
58 14 5	53 16 9	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 26 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8-12 weeks.
56 11 0	50 5 4	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 15-16 weeks. As the stores were required immediately in replacement of loss at sea, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8 weeks.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Needles, blood transfusion, etc.	17,160 Nos.	D.704/7102/16-5-44	General Surgical Co. Ltd.
Parchment, Animal, 20" x 24"	1,000 pieces	D.907/198/5-6-44	H. Band & Co.
Axles, Driving	3 Nos.	D.1146/7461/14-6-44	The Vulcan Foundry Ltd.
Slip Gauges	1 Set	D.1174/817/15-6-44	Coventry Gauge & Tool Co. Ltd.
Slip Gauge Accessories	1 Set		
Saws, Band, for Hard Wood, etc.		D.1244/7904/19-6-44	Sanderson Brothers & Newbould Ltd.

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons of Acceptance
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
513 5 5	426 0 5	The lower tenderer offered to commence delivery in 10-12 months. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 21 weeks.
525 0 0	481 5 0	The lower tenderer required 20 months for delivery. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in July and completion in December 1944.
330 0 0	280 10 0	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 56 weeks. As this was much too long, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 26 weeks.
88 7 0	86 6 0	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 6/8 weeks and completion in 12/14 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6 weeks.
42 1 6	38 8 2	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10/12 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4/5 weeks.

INDIA STORE

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness o

HALF YEAR ENDING

Cases in which the discrimination is

Stores Ordered ¹	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Photostat paper, etc.	...	D.1478/HN130/3-7-44.	Photostat Ltd.
Gun metal water gauges	10 Nos.	D.2228/185/16-8-44 .	Dewrance & Co. Ltd.
Brushes, Foundry, steel wire :—	Nos.	D. 2222/2211/16-8-44 .	W. Canning & Co. Ltd.
Flat 7-1/2" × 2 3/4" .	192		
Round 1 3/4" .	12		
Spinal local anaesthetic outfit, complete.	513 Nos.	D.2210/1286/16-8-44 .	General Surgical Co. Ltd.
-Chain slings, 10' 0" long .	30 Nos.	D.2439/2227/28-8-44 .	Mr. Thomas Perrins.
Splint, knee (Thomas') flexion piece (Pearson's) for	174 Nos.	D.2285/1864/19-8-44 .	The Scholl Mfg. Co. Ltd.
Hacksaw blades		D.2842/2281/21-9-44 .	Arthur Balfour & Co. Ltd.
Cylinders, measuring 500 ml.	2,860 Nos.	D.3196/2733/9-10-44 .	Eureka Scientific Co. Ltd.
Bench centres 30" long and 4" centres.	2 Nos.	D.3232/2417/11-10-44	Buck & Hickman Ltd.

FOR INDIA

DEPARTMENT

other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

31st DECEMBER 1944

b between British firms only

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for Acceptance
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
122 14 3	115 13 11	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 8 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered a better quality paper with delivery in 3/4 weeks.
56 0 4	45 0 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 20/26 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India the order was placed with the highest tenderer, who offered part from stock and complete delivery in 6 weeks.
22 14 0	20 10 6	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in approx. 12/16 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in about 6 weeks.
2,117 0 2	1,938 3 7	The lowest tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 50 per month beginning in 1 month, but the firm are not reliable in their delivery promises and were far behind in their deliveries under earlier contracts. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery to commence in four months at the rate of 50 per week.
341 5 0	292 0 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 52 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery by the end of December 1944.
47 17 0	45 13 6	The lowest tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 50 per month after 10 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery at the rate of 50 per week commencing in 4/6 weeks.
268 7 0	244 11 1	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 16/24 weeks. As the stores were required in India by October 1944 the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery ex-stock.
522 16 11	487 19 9	The lowest tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 250 per month beginning from March 1945. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery of the whole quantity in 16 weeks.
101 0 0	57 14 0	This item was part of a very urgent indent which requested despatch by air where practicable. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8 weeks. In view of the great urgency the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery from stock.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Sleeves, drill . . .		D. 3402/2636/20-10-44	Frank Guylee & Sons Ltd.
Spanners, double ended (various sizes).	...	D.3447/3617/23-10-44	Thomas Smith & Sons of Saltley Ltd.
Stamps, steel marking . . .	Sets. 195	D.3609/3575/1-11-44 . . .	John Meerloo & Sons.
Floating carriage diameter measuring machine.	1	D.3663/3522/6-11-44 . . .	Coventry Gauge & Tool Co. Ltd.
Braces, ratchet . . .	100	D.3916/3688/22-11-44	Easterbrook Allcard & Co. Ltd.
Saws, circular, etc. . . .		D.4460/3692/19-12-44	John Elsworth & Sons Ltd.

NOTE.—In the present conditions