

12th March 1946

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

## Official Report

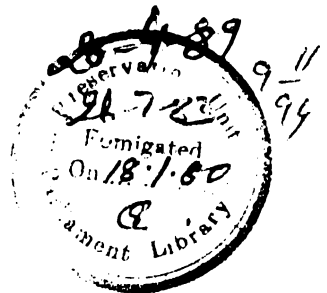
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Volume III, 1946

( 28th February to 14th March, 1946 )

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FIRST SESSION  
OF THE  
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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**MR. T. CHAPMAN-MORTIMER, M.L.A.**

**SARDAR MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12th March, 1946

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

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### MANUFACTURE OF RADIOS IN INDIA

**808. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state what progress has been recorded in the manufacture of radios in this country?

(b) Have Government received any representations from manufacturers of radios for protection or assistance in any manner?

(c) Have Government received any applications from foreign companies for the establishment of radio manufacture in this country?

(d) If the answer to (c) above is in the affirmative, from whom such applications had been received, what concessions were asked for and what concessions were given?

(e) How many radio sets were imported in the years 1943-44 and 1944-45, and how many were on Government account?

(f) How many of these have been sold, what profit have Government made thereon, and how many remain in balance?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) In 1942 the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research set up a Radio Research Committee to examine the establishment of an Indian Radio industry. The Committee found that valves and other special materials could only be obtained from abroad. Government have endeavoured to procure as much of these items as possible.

Meanwhile research has gone on in the Indian Institute of Science and the Universities of Calcutta and Allahabad. A final report on the design of medium and short wave radio sets is under preparation, while the results of research on carbon, energised types of loudspeakers, condensers, resistance will shortly be made available. 'Pilot' equipment for manufacture of valves has now been received, and research work thereon is proceeding.

The Planning and Development Department have constituted a Panel to advise on the manufacture of radio sets. The Panel is collecting information and it is hoped to have its report next month.

(b) Government have received no application for protection. Assistance has been sought, and as far as possible given in the grant of import licences for increased quantities of radio tubes or valves and other wireless parts, for wireless manufacturing equipments, for permission to raise capital for establishing radio manufacturing companies, and for passage facilities to study the technique of manufacture and to negotiate the purchase of equipment abroad. A request for the reduction of duty on component parts is under consideration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Complete wireless receivers imported into British India on private account numbered 5384 during 1943-44, and 895 during 1944-45. There were no imports on Government account during the two years in question.

(f) Does not arise.

**Mr. Mann Subedar:** May I know why an order for 25,000 radios was placed by the Hydari Mission in the United Kingdom, whether this order could not have been placed in India, whether the Radio manufacturers in India could not have been encouraged by the placing of this order here?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The order was not placed by the Hydari Mission, but it was placed by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department. The reason for that was, as the Honourable Member would have realised, that we were getting very very few radios in India and the reason why we could not place that order in India was that, so far, we lacked the essential capital equipment which we must get from abroad to complete the whole manufacture of radio sets in India.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I ask whether the balance of this order may not now be cancelled and an opportunity be given to local manufacturers to import parts and prepare radios here, as they are doing in a very satisfactory manner?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I understand that out of this order for 25,000 sets, none has so far been received, but that a few thousands are under despatch. If we can only be sure that India can complete the requirements of the country at a very early date, I shall be quite pleased to take steps to cancel the remainder of the order, which we have power to do as from 31st July next.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the fact that assembling is being done well and that some manufacturers have approached me and that the Radio journals are all writing about this, I am very happy to receive this assurance from the Honourable Member, but may I enquire in another direction why private transmission which was closed on account of war purposes is not permitted now, why scientific amateurs and experimenters are not permitted to try and catch each other and try to communicate with Mars, if they can, why is this penalty on research in the transmission of radio still held up in spite of the fact that war is over now many months ago?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I am afraid I have not got facts on this aspect of the question with me. But I would make enquiries from the Posts and Telegraph Department and let the Honourable Member know.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** I can give the Honourable Member the facts from the journal which I have just got.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are the Government giving any assistance for the import of capital goods necessary for the manufacture of radio sets?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** As I already explained, we are granting import licenses and granting passage facilities to those interested to get abroad and to study the technique and to negotiate for the purchase of equipment, if they can.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if any such machinery has already been ordered and if so, how many, and where are they going to be located?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I presume the Honourable Member refers to capital equipments for manufacture. I am afraid I have no definite information that any enquirer in this line of industry has so far been able to negotiate a definite order.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** How many persons have been given licence to proceed to America and other places for the purpose of studying the manufacture of this industry?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I have not got the figures, but as many people as applied for it have been given facilities to go abroad.

#### DISABILITIES ON INDIANS IN AFRICA

809. **\*Mr. Mann Subedar:** (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state if it is a fact that certain African Administrations and Governments have imposed disabilities on the wives of Indian nationals by insisting on a knowledge of English before they are permitted to enter those countries?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the disability imposed on Indians who wished to visit India, by certain African Governments cancelling their passports if they did not return to those countries during a given time?

(c) Are there any other disabilities on Indians, men and women wishing to visit India, and have Government received any complaint with regard to the denial of such facilities in any other country?

(d) What are the true facts, and what steps have Government taken in the direction of removing these and other disabilities imposed on Indians in foreign countries with regard to their movement to and from India?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (a) It is understood that under an Ordinance issued by the Belgian Congo Administration, the wives of Indians who were not resident in the Belgian Congo before 1940 are prohibited from entering that Colony unless they can speak English or French. The matter has been represented to His Majesty's Government and it is understood that they are awaiting a report from His Majesty's Consul-General, Leopoldville, in the matter.

(b), (c) and (d). New Immigration Laws are believed to have been introduced in the Belgian Congo in 1945 reducing the period for which persons settled there can absent themselves without having to apply for re-admission from two months to one. This matter also has been represented to His Majesty's Government and it is understood that His Majesty's Consul-General at Leopoldville has been asked to approach the Belgian authorities with a view to the period being restored to two months.

Indians coming to India from Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, are required to obtain re-entry permits from the Governments of those territories, if they desire to return there after an absence of more than two years. But the Government of India have been assured that Indians normally resident in those territories would be granted entry permits even if they have been away for more than two years. Regulations similar to those in force in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika are in force in Zanzibar and Portuguese East Africa.

Indians coming from Northern Rhodesia and holding Northern Rhodesia certificates of identity are required to return within three years, which is the period of validity of these certificates. Recently the Government of India have been informed by the Government of Northern Rhodesia, that holders of certificates of identity who could not return to Northern Rhodesia within the statutory period of three years owing to circumstances beyond their control may be granted passports for Northern Rhodesia as if the certificates were still valid.

Indians coming to India from South Africa were also required to return to South Africa within three years. The Government of the Union of South Africa have, however, agreed to extend the time limit in cases where the persons could not return in time owing to shortage of shipping.

The Government of Mauritius require mauritius-born Indians to obtain permission to enter India from the Government of India before giving them facilities for travel to India. The Government of India are in correspondence with the Government of Mauritius on this matter.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Is it a fact that these rules apply also to those students who come to India and join the Universities? Or are they exempt from these rules?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I am afraid I do not know: I have not heard of any such cases.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will he make inquiries? It is an important question, and we have a large number of students from South Africa studying at Aligarh.

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Certainly, Sir.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the fact that there is grave dissatisfaction amongst various classes of His Majesty's subjects who are dealing with Africa and residing there and that the machinery indicated by the Honourable Member is not proving very effective, will the Government of India send a superior official from the External Affairs Department to ginger up the Consuls in these places

in Africa and to secure some results in weeks instead of keeping the matter hanging on and creating bad feelings between Indians and His Majesty's Government?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I do not think it can be stated that there has been any grave delay in taking up these matters once they have been represented. It was only very recently, for instance, that the restrictions in relation to the Belgian Congo were brought to notice; and certainly it would be wrong to state that there has been inattention or undue delay shown by His Majesty's Consul-General there, who is making representations on our behalf.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** With reference to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member state if the Government of India propose to make it obligatory upon South African Europeans who desire to enter India that they must have a knowledge of Urdu, which is the *lingua franca* of this country, before they are allowed to enter India?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I think not, Sir.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is the Honourable Member aware that the Honourable Dr. Khare assured this House some time ago that the restriction imposed upon Indians who want to re-enter Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya even after two years will not be imposed in future?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I am informed that the Government of India have been told that those restrictions will be removed this year.

#### RULES <sup>RE</sup> RESERVATION OF BERTHS IN E. I. RAILWAY

**810. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the East Indian Railway have made a rule that persons can reserve berths in I and II class compartments in trains at the starting stations and in through bogies attached from intermediate stations, 10 days beforehand on purchase of tickets;

(b) if passengers, having so booked their berths and later wanting to cancel their journeys, have to show cause why they had to cancel the same before a refund is made to them on application to the Chief Commercial Manager, and that too after a ten per cent cut on the money paid;

(c) if refund is made without the asking of questions on the payment of only one anna if a ticket is purchased at the time of the arrival of a train and returned within two hours at the booking office itself; and

(d) why a difference of treatment is made in the two cases, and if Government propose to consider the desirability of suggesting to the Railway to put the two on the same basis?

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

(b) In cases of cancellation of reserved accommodation, refunds are granted under special circumstances only on application to the Chief Commercial Manager, subject to a deduction of 10 per cent.

(c) Yes.

(d) In cases covered in reply to part (b) of the question, cancellation of reserved accommodation is involved, and a deduction of 10 per cent. is made as a preventive measure for abuses such as speculative reservations, black-marketing of tickets and spurious reservations.

Cases of the type referred to in part (c) of the question, on the other hand, do not involve reservations, the passenger having bought the ticket at the time of the arrival of the train, and there is no reason for making a deduction as in the other cases where reservations are cancelled. The two types of cases cannot, therefore, be dealt with on the same basis and the reply to the latter part of the question is, therefore, in the negative.



**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that berths cannot be reserved unless tickets are purchased, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of making some arrangements so that *bona fide* passengers who have had to cancel their reservations are not put to unnecessary inconvenience and loss?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** One has to set one thing against another. This question of reservation of berths has led to a good deal of black-marketing and speculative purchase of tickets; and it was to meet that that these regulations were brought in, after very careful consideration by the Indian Railway Conference Association.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is it not a fact that the black-marketing to which the Honourable Member refers was done in the reservation certificates themselves at a time when it was not necessary that the tickets also should be purchased beforehand; but that such black-marketing was not possible when the actual tickets had been purchased and paid for?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I think it is still possible.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** With reference to part (c), is it a fact that bogus reservations were made and purchase of tickets made by the railway employees themselves and these were returned after two hours, at a cost of one anna only?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member says "were made". Is the complaint a current one?

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** I knew it about six or eight months back.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** If it is not a current one I submit that it does not require an answer.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is the Honourable Member aware that great difficulties are experienced by *bona fide* passengers who have purchased tickets and are not able to get a refund? For instance, is he aware that Mrs. Swaminadhan's son who is in the Government of India had reserved a berth, but could not go as his leave was cancelled and is still waiting to get a refund?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have no information about that case.

**Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member see that at least in cases where the journey is postponed this penalty is not imposed?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I do not think any differentiation can be made.

#### FEASIBILITY OF CHANGE OF ROUTE OF CALCUTTA-BOMBAY MAIL

**811. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if Government and the Railway Administration concerned have examined the possibility and feasibility of running the Calcutta-Bombay Mail *via* Moghalsarai-Benares-Allahabad instead of Moghalsarai-Mirzapur-Allahabad; and

(b) if there is any possibility of the change being effected in the near future, if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The suggestion has been examined in the past by the Railway Administration.

(b) No. The diversion through Benares would result in a slowing down of the train by about 45 minutes for operational reasons, such as speed restrictions over the Dufferin Bridge near Kashi, the inability of the Janghai-Allahabad section to take the heavier classes of engines, and the existence of a maximum speed restriction of 45 miles p.h. on the Janghai-Allahabad section as against 60 miles p.h. on the main line. The slowing down of the train would be prejudicial to the interests of the through passengers from Howrah to Bombay.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that this matter has been bruited for the last 23 years, within my own knowledge, and the difficulties to which the Honourable Member has referred are of recent origin, could the Honourable

Member explain why this matter has not been taken up throughout this long period?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I do not know whether it has been considered for 23 years, but it has been under consideration for a long time; and these are the reasons why it has always on consideration been found to be unsatisfactory.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is it not a fact that the actual distance between Moghalsarai and Allahabad *via* Benares and Janghai is 94 miles and the distance between them *via* Mirzapur is 95 miles, and would not the difference of one mile make a difference also in the time taken?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member knows that the Dufferin Bridge will not be ready for fast traffic for some time, and the matter therefore cannot be considered for another two years.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** May I take it that after the Dufferin Bridge is renovated, the Honourable Member will take up this matter, and will he now take steps to strengthen the line between Phaphamau and Janghai which has been the standing excuse for not taking the mail that way?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** One has to consider the convenience of the majority of passengers by that train and not only the men who would be locally served.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that the Mail stops only at one station—Mirzapur—between Moghalsarai and Allahabad; and in view further of the fact that Benares is more important than Mirzapur—not only because I live there but for other reasons also—will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of diverting this train *via* Benares and not take it *via* Mirzapur?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have no doubt the matter will get further consideration and that the Honourable Member will keep it well before us; but I cannot promise him any early satisfaction.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that I have been after it for the last 23 years and I do not expect to live for another 23 years, will the Honourable Member kindly hurry up?

(No reply was given.)

#### ISSUE OF RETURN TICKETS ON RAILWAYS

**812. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) when the Railway Administrations are likely to re-introduce the system of return tickets at concession rates;

(b) why the system of giving return tickets on the payment of even double the fares is not being followed; and

(c) if Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing at least the latter at an early date?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Question No. 698, asked by Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, on the 5th March, 1946, wherein I stated that the question of introducing return tickets and week-end return tickets by such of the railways as allowed this concession before the War will be considered by them when traffic and operating conditions return to normal.

(b) This question was reviewed by the Commercial Committee of the Indian Railway Conference Association in 1944, but it was found not desirable to re-introduce these tickets for the following reasons:

(i) The need for discouraging unnecessary travel.

(ii) The difficulties in controlling passenger booking by individual trains on a quota basis.

(iii) The liability to fraud on account of the long period of availability of return tickets.

A further reference to the I. R. C. A. will be made asking them again to review this matter in view of the possibility that Upper Class accommodation on trains may, within the year, become less congested.

(c) In view of the present congested state of passenger travel, it is not considered that the time is yet ripe for the re-introduction of the return tickets referred to, but as I have stated, the question will be reviewed.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** With reference to Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is it not a fact that booking agents like Govan Brothers are able to issue return tickets, and if that is a fact—and I know it is a fact—how is it that no difficulties arise when these booking agents issue return tickets, and difficulties arise only when the Railway Administration themselves have to issue tickets?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am not aware of that fact, but I will look into it.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** May I take it that when the Honourable Member looks into it, he will not at least prevent Govan Brothers from issuing return tickets?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I make no promises.

#### DIVERSION OF RAILWAY LINE TO CONNECT BHANDARA TOWN

**813. \*Mr. G. B. Dani:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Railway Station of Bhandara-Road on the B. N. Railway is situated at a distance of about (seven) miles from the Bhandara town? If so, are Government aware that this has acted prejudicially against the political administration and industrial progress and development of the whole district, in general, and the Bhandara town, in particular?

(b) Is it a fact that the policy of the Railway Department is to connect all big towns with Railway lines and provide better transport facilities for the development of trade and industries?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that a written memorandum has been submitted to the Central Government and the Provincial Government by the Bhandara Development Committee to divert the present Railway line from or near the Bhandara town? Has that memorandum yet been considered? If so, what is the decision thereon?

(d) Is it a fact that the B. N. Railway has established a Post-war Reconstruction Department and have decided to open new lines of Railways of the total length of 900 miles? If so, do Government propose to divert the present Railway line from or near the Bhandara town, in view of the present position of the town and its gradual growth in trade and industries? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

With regard to the second part, the Government are aware of the general advantages conferred on any area by railway communications and the drawbacks resulting from their absence.

(b) The policy in regard to the construction of new lines in the post-war period does include the provision of better transport facilities for the development of Trade and Industry as suggested in the question, but the question of a railway connection to any particular town must be considered on its merits in relation to other projects.

(c) The memorandum has been considered, but, taking all factors into consideration, it has not been possible to approve of the inclusion of the diversion of the Calcutta-Bombay main line in the present post-war plan.

(d) The B. N. Railway have been asked to survey about 1,100 miles of new lines. This programme has been evolved after full discussions with the Provincial Governments concerned and it is not proposed to include the diversion near Bhandara in the present post-war plan as it is considered that the projects already included are of greater importance.

## RETURN ON OUTLAY ON AERODROMES IN INDIA

814. \*Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the total outlay of Government funds on aerodromes and equipments connected therewith in India and what return, if any Government are getting on this outlay?

(b) How much total expenditure has been incurred in connection with civil aviation during 1945-46 (estimated) and how much is proposed to be incurred during 1946-47?

(c) What are the reasons which led Government to give guarantees to certain companies? Which are those companies, what is the nature of guarantee, and how much Government moneys will be involved in these?

(d) Will Government gain anything on the traffic passing over India (including Indian traffic picked up by them) of American, Dutch and British companies, who are arranging transport from Europe to the Far East?

(e) What are the financial results of the carriage of civil passengers by the military plans, and under which head in the Budget they have been credited?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement giving the information.

(c) With the termination of the war, the Lease/Lend aircraft loaned to Tatas and Indian National Airways were withdrawn by the U. S. authorities from the 1st January 1946, which necessitated new arrangements for the operation of civil air transport services in India until Government's post-war plans could be given effect to. The arrangements made by Government with Tata Sons and Indian National Airways provide that if traffic revenue on the services does not reach up to a certain prefixed amount (calculated on the basis of a fixed percentage of the capacity on the services being filled) the Government of India will make up to the companies the short-fall in revenue. The latest estimates of the loads carried on the services show that Government may not have to make any payment to the companies.

(d) India will be getting revenue in the shape of landing and housing fees paid by the foreign air services operating across India. Revenue will also accrue from custom duties paid by the companies on fuel and oil consumed by their aircraft in India.

(e) There are no military transport planes under the control of the Government of India for the carriage of civil passengers.

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*Statement*

(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	Capital
	Rs.	Rs.
1945-46	40,81,000	12,26,000
1946-47	1,25,65,000	1,53,25,000

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Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (a), can my Honourable friend give me the total figure, and does it include the expenditure on aerodromes and ground work incurred both by the Government of India or accountable by His Majesty's Government?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I have here the total capital outlay on aerodromes and equipment connected therewith in India up to 1945-46—it is Rs. 2,61,62,500.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it civil and military or both?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** It is entirely civil aviation estimate; it does not include the cost of aerodromes constructed for war purposes.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** My question was with regard to military aerodromes. I was told last year that 82 crores had been spent on some aerodromes, and I understand that about 200 crores of rupees has been spent on aerodromes and ground equipment. If that is so, we want to know what is all that equipment doing, and whether it could not be put to some proper use? Will the Honourable Member now endeavour to secure this information and send it to me?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I will certainly do so, Sir. The question being addressed to the Posts and Air Department, I took it that it was in connection with civil aviation. I will collect information connected with aerodromes constructed for war purposes for the Honourable Member.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The information may be laid on the table of the House.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** With regard to part (d), the Honourable Member referred to some income coming to us for traffic passing over this territory. Is it not a fact that Government have proposals for expending aerodrome facilities in order to receive those big liners which will pass through India, and that crores of rupees are proposed to be spent for this purpose merely to facilitate through traffic over India?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** In the Post-war plan, India, is to have four International aerodromes, *i.e.*, aerodromes of the size which can receive the larger planes, at Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi and Delhi.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Apart from this outlay which my Honourable friend now admits, will he tell us whether the Government of India are not contemplating some kind of subsidy to some of these liners and whether an agreement has not already been reached in London, of which we are not aware for such subsidies to foreign companies including British which will go over India?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No subsidy of any kind is going to be paid to anybody and no such agreement has been made.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if the big aerodromes which are sought to be constructed will be constructed entirely at the cost of the Government of India?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** All aerodromes in India are constructed and maintained by the Government of India. These aerodromes already exist and they are going to be used both for the larger planes as well as for the smaller planes. They will serve both internal as well as external services.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I understood the Honourable Member to say that four aerodromes—namely, at Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Delhi—will be enlarged to receive larger planes. May we know if they are built at the cost of the Government of India or they receive any portion of it from those through liners which use these aerodromes, or do they pay any rent? What is the return that the Government of India gets if the entire outlay is made by the Government of India?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The revenue of the Government of India comes in the shape of landing fees which the planes which come from foreign countries have to pay when they land, if they land in this country. We do not ask any foreign countries to pay the cost of these aerodromes. If we did, we will have to accept their control. India, I think, will be in a position to provide such

aerodromes as are necessary in the general interest of aviation both internal and international.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Arising out of the answer to part (a), may I know if the outlay includes any aerodromes that have been taken over from the American Military Authorities—I mean those that were built for American purposes in this country?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The figures which I have given do not include any aerodromes which have not been taken over from the War Department as yet. I am not aware whether the Americans have constructed any aerodromes in this country at their expense; so far as I am aware they have not, but there may be a few . . . . .

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the fact that during the war, planes of a very large size did come to this country and the facilities existed, will the Honourable Member try to see whether the big outlay which he is proposing cannot be economised? We do not want any duplication.

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No, Sir. We are not duplicating at all. During the war certain aerodromes were enlarged, as for example at Palam, near Delhi. We are taking over those aerodromes. We are not constructing new aerodromes.

**Chaudhri Sri Chand:** What about the land you took on lease at Bahadurganj? When do you propose to return that?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** That question should be addressed to the War Department. It does not concern the Posts and Air Department.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is there any difference between the amount paid by England and other foreign countries for landing on the aerodromes?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** There is no discrimination.

#### REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO START PERIODICALS

**815. \*Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the figures as to in how many cases permission to start periodicals and print publications has been refused, and the reasons for the refusals?

(b) Is it a fact that the authorities under the Paper Control Economy Order have fixed a certain period for reckoning the consumption of printing paper for certain publishers who have been refused any quota of paper as they had not published anything during that period?

(c) Is it a fact that any special instructions have been issued for the Northern Division of the Bombay Presidency which are different from those issued for the rest of British India as to the working of the Paper Control Departments? If so, what are the reasons for making such discrimination?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, are Government prepared to investigate the various cases wherein the Paper Control authorities in the said area have been using their powers far in excess of the Paper Control Order?

(e) Do the Government of India propose to repeal the Paper Control Order? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) The Honourable Member has not specified the period in respect of which information is required. The number of applications for permission to publish new periodicals and journals has been very large recently, over 200 per month on the average. On account of the shortage of both newsprint and paper only a very few of these have been granted. In the case of imported newsprint, the position has deteriorated very considerably in recent weeks and increased the pressure on Indian production of paper. Thus apart from severely restricting the starting of new periodicals and journals, Government are reluctantly considering the need of cutting down the consumption of existing journals.

(b) Under the Paper Control (Economy) Order the permissible consumption of paper by publishers of books is based on their consumption in 1939, in the case of text books; and 1943, in the case of other books. In the case, however, of the publishers of text-books who were not in business during the year 1939 the year 1943 has been taken as the basic period.

With a view to allocating more paper for the printing of text-books a pre-war year was taken as the basic period. For other books, the consumption in the year immediately preceding the promulgation of the Order had to be taken into account; and the year 1943 was therefore selected as the basic period. There has been no discrimination against any particular publisher or publishers.

(c) No, Sir. The second part of the question does not arise.

(d) Government will investigate any specific case brought to their notice.

(e) No, Sir. The supply position of paper makes such a step impracticable at present.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I ask that in view of the fact that the control price of paper is 300 per cent. higher than the pre-war price, what steps will Government take for bringing more paper in India and of bringing down the price of the existing manufactures so as to give some relief to the civil population in the matter of price?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The prices of imported paper are also very high. There has been a tremendous rise in the cost of materials and transport during the war, but I am quite willing to examine the costs of paper production as they are now.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that on account of the elections paper quotas to daily papers and weekly papers increased?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Not specially in Delhi.

**Seth Govind Das:** I said 'daily' papers.

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** A temporary increase for election purposes was sanctioned at the end of October last.

**Seth Govind Das:** After the elections are over and this quota is again down to the original level, will there be any further need of reduction of paper quota to the existing papers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I am very much afraid that this may prove to be the case, unless we are more successful in getting more paper.

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Which are the few exceptions which the Honourable Member has made in granting paper for periodicals and other newspapers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The only figures I have are that out of 460 applications in the months of December to February, only 13 were granted. I have not full details, but I know a very few exceptions were made, when some-one wished to publish a book of exclusive scientific or industrial interest.

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Is it a fact that during war time exceptions were made in the case of Communist periodicals and Roy's periodicals?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I must have noticed of that.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Do these instructions apply to Government publications?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think they do.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** May I know for which year the requirements of Government are taken as the basis for sanctioning these quotas?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I have not followed the question.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** In case of Government publications which year's requirements are taken as the basis for sanctioning the quota?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No year selected for Government publications. It was contingent upon the requirements of the war.

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** As regards part (e), has the Honourable Member any information of the number of prosecutions that have been instituted under the Paper Control Order?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir. I am afraid I have not.

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** Will he agree that this is the one Control Order that is probably broken more than any other?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir. I could not.

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** Would he be interested to have a copy of all the various publications which have been sent to the Members of the Assembly since the House commenced and having received them, would he be good enough to tell the House whether all those who published them have received licences to do so?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I shall certainly be glad to look into that.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** When the situation in newsprint continues to be precarious, is it not a fact that the situation in ordinary printing paper has eased, and if so, why does the Honourable Member not see his way to grant permission for the publication of weeklies and magazines on ordinary paper?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Because the continuing deterioration of newsprint from abroad is using up the increased production of Indian made ordinary paper.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will there be any possibility of giving permission to new monthlies after the election period is over?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** That might be possible as soon as we get an improvement in the imported newsprint.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Is it a fact that though quotas have been granted more than 100 per cent., there are still controls on the printing presses just for production of ordinary visiting cards?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes, Sir. Because of the over all position, they are still limited.

**Shri Mohan Lal Sakasena:** Will the Government consider the feasibility of removing these restrictions from handmade paper?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** There is still an overall shortage. I am not quite sure what restrictions are in force in the case of hand-made paper, but I could go into that.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government consider the difficulties of the local paper manufacturers and their inability to get coal and adequate and timely transport for their raw material and will they make a special endeavour to secure larger production in this country so as to bring down the price?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** We have secured larger production, and I might tell my Honourable friend that whereas the paper mills were getting 30,000 tons of coal a month, in recent months they have been getting 38,000 tons, and, if the coal situation improves, we will certainly try to give them more coal and transport.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** May I ask the Honourable Member whether this control order applies to invitation cards, whether it is still in force, particularly in Delhi, because I see invitation cards printed in Delhi that are bigger than the control size.

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I would be very glad to look into any instance that my Honourable friend would show me.

**Shri Mohan Lal Sakasena:** What steps are Government taking to improve handmade paper production?



**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** This is rather a comprehensive question. We are trying to give the paper mills more coal and we are trying to assist them with imports of capital machinery and with the manufacture of machinery in India.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What about handmade paper?

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Whether any subsidies have been given or any steps taken to increase handmade paper in the country?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think the production of handmade paper is mainly assisted by Provincial Governments and I think they are giving financial assistance and other assistance as well.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Has the Central Government contributed anything towards this?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir. I think this was, after full consideration, considered to be primarily a matter which Provincial Governments might develop.

#### INCREASE OF WORK IN NEW DELHI POST OFFICES

**816. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if he is aware:

(i) that with the greatly increased population of New Delhi, the existing Post Offices (both the main Office and the Imperial Secretariat North Block Post Office) have become entirely inadequate for their purposes;

(ii) that people find it very difficult to transact any kind of business and have to wait for a very long time, especially in the first half of the month, before they are able to get an article registered or a money order sent;

(iii) that the number of articles handled and the money orders despatched have greatly increased since the Post Offices were first built; if so, by what proportions; and

(iv) that even on ordinary days the staff in these Post Offices is heavily worked and customers have to wait for a long time?

(b) In view of the above, does he propose to make speedy arrangements for giving relief both to the postal staff and to the public? If not, why not?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Yes, occasionally. But this is unavoidable.

(iii) Yes. It is not possible to collect the figures from the time these Post Offices were first built but I lay on the table a statement showing the traffic handled in the New Delhi and Imperial Secretariat (North) Post Offices during December 1941 and December 1945.

(iv) Yes, occasionally.

(b) Yes, efforts are being made to give relief to the public and the staff by opening more post offices in the locality.

#### IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT NORTH BLOCK P. O.

*Opened on 3rd November 1926*

December 1941			December 1945		
M. Os. issued	Regd. letters booked	Regd. parcels booked	M. Os. issued	Regd. letters booked	Regd. parcels booked
1,743	4,783	1,729	2,701	14,935	2,136

#### NEW DELHI SUB-OFFICE

*Opened on 24th October 1926*

4,192	4,927	880	6,121	5,055	961
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**CONFUSION DUE TO NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE COTTON CLOTH AND YARN CONTROL ORDERS**

**817. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether the Government of India are aware of the varying day to day notifications under the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Orders creating a lot of confusion amongst the dealers?

(b) What steps were taken to give due publicity to all these varying notifications in the rural as well as urban areas?

(c) Is it a fact that the publicity of certain notifications was not made according to law and that certain challans for the alleged contravention of these control orders resulted in acquittals on account of lack of necessary evidence to prove their proper publicity?

(d) If the answers to (a) to (c) are in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to give an approximate, or, if possible accurate, number of such challans which failed only on account of lack of proper publicity?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) The cotton textile control is very comprehensive, and it has been necessary to issue a considerable number of notifications. But I am satisfied that there is little genuine confusion among dealers, though dealers sometimes defend anti-social actions by pleading that they did not understand the notifications.

(b) Publicity is given by publication in the *Gazette* and by the issue of Press Notes both by the Central Government and by Provincial Governments.

(c) Some notifications did not contain a specific provision regarding the manner in which notice of them was to be given. These were held not to comply fully with the requirements of law. Such notifications have been reissued in proper form. I have no information of any acquittals on this account.

(d) As prosecutions are launched by Provincial Governments or authorities subordinate to them I am unable to give any figures of prosecutions which may have failed for lack of adequate publicity.

**Seth Govind Das:** Are the Government aware that on account of their bad educational policy nine out of ten in the population of this country are illiterate and therefore it is not possible for them to read these *Gazettes* and hence some other source of publicity is necessary?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think, Sir, a great many of the class of people affected by these orders are literate.

**Seth Govind Das:** What about the villagers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The Honourable Member's question, I think, is concerned about the confusion among dealers, and I believe most of them are literate.

**Seth Govind Das:** Do Government know that in the villages there are some dealers who are not educated enough to be able to read Government *Gazettes* and Government Notifications and may I know what Government are going to do in respect of these people?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think that is a question for the Department of Education.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** In view of the fact that a large number of these dealers are illiterate, they cannot even read Hindustani and certainly not English, is it not desirable that if any changes are made some method should be devised to communicate them?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I agree with my Honourable friend. The trouble has been that a great many evasions of the control arose, and led to a great many changes to catch up with the evaders.

**HIGH COURT DECISION <sup>RE</sup> POSSESSION OF TIME-BARRED CLOTH**

**816. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware of the fact that according to the Nagpur High Court and now many other courts, the mere possession of the time-barred cloth is no offence or contravention of clause 14 of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order?

(b) Have Government issued any other notification under the cotton cloth and yarn Control Order according to which the possession of time-barred cloth has become a contravention of clause 14 of the said Order? If not, why did not Government issue instructions to all the subordinate authorities to withdraw all such prosecutions which are pending in the various courts in British India?

(c) Do they propose to do it now?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Government have seen only a judgment of the Nagpur High Court in which it was held that the accused had lawful excuse for possession of the cloth after 31st December 1944, and had not contravened Clause 14 of the Order.

(b) The reply to the first query is in the negative. As regards the second query, Government have advised Provincial Governments to review pending cases with a view to dropping prosecutions where there is evidence that the accused made honest efforts to dispose of the cloth before it became time barred.

(c) Does not arise.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Do Government propose to ask the dealers to return those stocks which are time-barred?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think steps have been taken in the majority of cases, but if my Honourable friend knows of any case where nothing has been done, I shall be very glad to have particulars and to take action thereon.

**LICENCES FOR DEALING IN CLOTH**

**819. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that applications for licences for dealing in cloth were required to be sent to the various Provincial Governments through the Police Station House Officers of the places where the dealers actually resided and that this procedure was adopted according to the instructions of the various Provincial Governments and specially in the Central Provinces and Berar?

(b) Are Government also aware of the fact that this procedure greatly increased bribery and corruption amongst the intermediaries?

(c) Are Government aware that a direct allegation was made in one of the Hindi weekly papers of Jubbulpore in the Central Provinces and Berar, namely in *Shubh Chintak* that a responsible Police Officer in Damoh (C.P.) made Rs. 1,350 in one night in only forwarding these applications for licences in the month of December, 1944? If so, what action did Government take to inquire into such allegations, and was this procedure for inviting applications for licences according to the instructions and policy of the Central Government?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a), (b) and (c). The licensing of cloth dealers is done by Provincial Governments under their own powers, which are independent of the Cotton Cloth & Yarn (Control) Order. The only general directive which the Central Government has given to Provincial Governments is that in their licensing system they should avoid as far as possible disturbing normal trade channels. The Central Government has no intention of interfering with the discretion of Provincial Governments in their licensing of dealers, and I have no information as to whether the allegations made by the Honourable Member are correct.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will Government make enquiries with regard to part (c) of the question as to whether the official concerned did not even issue

a contradiction, whether it was not a fact that he took Rs. 1,350 and whether the Government of the Central Provinces, though approached several times, did not move in the matter?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I am not aware that the Central Provinces Government were approached and they refused to take action. If my Honourable friend will give me particulars, I shall take it up with the Government of the Central Provinces.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** The Honourable Member said that a direction was given to the Provincial Governments that normal trade channels should not be disturbed, but is he aware that in Delhi alone the Muslims have not been given their due quota, that representations were made to the Deputy Commissioner and to the Honourable Member as well and so far no action has been taken in the matter of un-rationed cloth?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think my Honourable friend knows that the question he has raised is under examination.

#### CORRUPTION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

**820. \*Seth Govind Das:** Does the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies propose to inquire into the alleged charges of bribery and corruption of small and subordinate officers working in his Department? If so, when will this inquiry start? If not, do Government feel sure that there are no such cases of bribery?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I am not sure what the Honourable Member means by "alleged charges". I am always prepared to order inquiry into any definite charges against a specific individual or individuals, and to do whatever is possible to prevent corruption. But I am not prepared to order inquiry into general and indiscriminate charges, in which the honest and dishonest are stigmatised alike, in the case of any class of officers. The last part of the question does not arise.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Member be prepared to make enquiries if applications are made in this respect?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes, Sir, I will undertake to make enquiries on specific charges.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Province of Madras an ordinary second grade clerk drawing only Rs. 60 was made the Licensing Officer for the whole district and one man made as much as Rs. 80,000 during the course of five or six months?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir. I have not heard of it.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** There are cases in my own district. Will the Central Government make enquiries into these cases and will they suggest to the Provincial Governments that persons not below the status of a Deputy or Sub Collector should be made licensing officers?

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** They will take more!

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I want an assurance from the Government that they will make an enquiry into the matter and I would ask the Honourable Member whether he is going to evolve a uniform policy regarding the qualifications and status of persons who will be entrusted with the work of issuing licenses.

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** On the first part of the question, I would not like to inquire into Provincial Government cases. On the second part of the question regarding the status and standing of those who are in charge of control, I am certainly ready to examine that question.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it not a fact that the Government of India maintain a central C.I.D. organisation in every province and will they see to it that this Central C.I.D. makes enquiries into cases where there is any corruption and bribery in the administration of the control orders?

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** They share with the others!

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** If there are any specific complaints I think it is the function of the Central Police to take them up.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** The Honourable Member says that if there are specific complaints then the Central C.I.D. will look into those cases but is it not their duty to see that the ordinances issued by the Government of India are duly carried out in the Provinces?

**Mr. President:** That question does not arise out of this question.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** If the Honourable Member will please make enquiries of the Members of this Assembly, who have been elected to this House on the votes of the people, and who have personal knowledge of these officers, probably none of us will be able to point to a single man who is above corruption.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** The whole Department is corrupt.

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I deny the extravagant assertion made, and as regards any knowledge that any Honourable Member of this House has about definite cases of corruption, I shall be very pleased to have it and consider it.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** In Madras an officer in charge of cloth control collected for a musical performance a sum of Rs. 80,000, whereas he would not have got even Rs. 1,000 ordinarily for the same and a case is pending against this man now.

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I have no information. It is a provincial matter.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** In view of the fact that several officers have been prosecuted here and there, will the Honourable Member appoint a special C.I.D. to watch these high paid officers and their activities?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir. One swallow does not make a summer.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it not the duty of the Government of India to see that control orders are carried out without any corruption?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** As I have already explained, that is the primary duty of the Provincial Government concerned.

**Seth Govind Das:** Does the Government deny that there is bribery and corruption in any of these departments?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No; I do not deny it for one moment. I would like to say that one of the main factors for the existence of corruption is the connivance of the public themselves. It is not the control which is at fault; it is the scarcity. If people generally refrain from offering bribes and from trying to profiteer or to hoard, I think there will be far fewer opportunities for temptation and corruption. But I do admit that there is corruption, and if specific cases come to notice I am anxious to do all I can to remedy them.

**Seth Govind Das:** Does Government deny that they are also responsible for this bribery and corruption, on account of these control orders?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** As I have already explained, we do our best to see that the rules are such as to remove opportunities for corruption.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Apart from individual cases being brought to the notice of the Government, I would like to know what steps Government are taking independently to find out where there are these corrupt practices indulged in by their officers and by others connected with this business?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think my Honourable friend is aware of the special police branch which exists for making inquiries into such cases.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** While agreeing with the Honourable Member regarding the responsibility of the public in this unhappy affair, may I ask if the Honourable Member does not realise the difficulties under which the general public labour and their pressing necessity owing to which they have to adopt questionable tactics in order to get cloth and other materials at the time of funerals and other such incidents when cloth is not otherwise available, and will not the Honourable Member himself, if he were put in an extremity of that sort, offer a bribe in order to get the necessary cloth?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I do realise these difficulties; but I refuse to do what my Honourable friend suggests to me.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact. . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order, next question.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF TEXTILE CONTROL ORDERS

**821. \*Seth Govind Das:** When does the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies propose to withdraw all the textile control measures, to restore free market and competition and normal conditions specially when the war is now over?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** As soon as circumstances permit. The Central Government enquired in December last from Provinces and States whether in their opinion it would be possible to relax Textile Control. Their unanimous opinion was that any such relaxation would be premature at present. The Government of India hold the same opinion. Control measures will be necessary so long as supplies are much below normal consumption.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that even now cloth is being exported from this country?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** A certain amount of cloth is being exported under previous agreements with His Majesty's Government.

**Seth Govind Das:** And when are these agreements coming to an end?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The position will be reviewed when the present agreements are approaching their end.

**Seth Govind Das:** I am asking when, on what date, these agreements are coming to an end.

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** For the second half of the year we propose to review the situation very soon. We are committed for the first half of 1946.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will Government see that after this present agreement ends, no fresh agreements are made without consulting this House?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No; I cannot undertake that. It is an executive action, and I think the Government will have to consider not only the cloth position but the food position which is the more serious.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the fact that the food position requires, with regard to certain territories at all events in the east, for the temptation of some cloth being given, will not Government now bring down the over-all quota for export which they have fixed and use that reduced quantity for swapping against food with eastern countries like Burma, Siam and Indo-China?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Government will consider that.

#### INTERNMENT OF MR. SYEED UDDIN SWALEH IN GERMANY

**822. \*Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Is the Foreign Secretary aware that Mr. Syeed Uddin Swaleh went to England for studies in 1932?

(b) Is he also aware that Mr. Swaleh went to Germany for studies in Agriculture in 1936 when he had completed his studies in England?

(c) Is he also aware that Mr. Swaleh could not come back to India in 1939 when he had completed his studies and obtained Ph.D. in agriculture on account of the out-break of the war?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Swaleh with many other Indians is now interned in the American Occupation Zone in Germany and not even allowed to correspond with his family in India?

(e) Why is Mr. Swaleh being interned there and not allowed to return to India?

(f) Does he propose to give an assurance that all facilities will be extended to Mr. Swaleh and other Indian students who want to return to India?

(g) What is the number of Indians interned in Germany and Italy?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India understand that Mr. Swaleh went to the United Kingdom as a student and later proceeded to Germany, where he remained during the war.

(d) and (e). According to information so far available Mr. Swaleh was detained in Germany, because he was connected with the Free India Centre in Berlin. Government have no information as to whether he was allowed to communicate with his relatives in India or not. His wife is in Germany.

(f) Government have no intention of impeding his return to India. They understand, however, that Mr. Swaleh has no desire to return immediately.

(g) 32 Indians were in detention in Europe in January 1946. Of these 22 have been released, 9 are in detention and one who would otherwise have been released is in hospital.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Can the Honourable Member give an idea as to what steps Government are taking to bring back our nationals from Germany?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I take it that the Honourable Member's question refers to civilians. We naturally wish to know in the first place whether they are anxious to return. As in the case of Mr. Swaleh, there may be cases in which they prefer to stay where they are. But I think I can say that if I am informed that any British Indian subject against whom there is no order of detention indicates a wish to return, then assistance will be given; and I shall be glad to learn from any member of this House if he knows of any case of any young man who wishes to return, so that I can help.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is it not a fact that Government have an officer in Germany who contacts Indian residents there and helps to bring them back to India?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Yes; we now have an Indian military mission in Germany and it is part of their duties to help Indians in this matter.

**Diwan Chaman Lal:** May I ask what is the position of Indian and Anglo-Indian women married to Germans, if they want to come back to India with their children, or what would be the position?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I think that is rather hypothetical: I do not know of any such case.

**Diwan Chaman Lal:** May I give my Honourable friend the case?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** If the Honourable Member would inform me of any such case, I will certainly investigate it.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** May I inform the Honourable Member of an Indian who is stuck somewhere in the Far East and for the last fifteen days I have not got any news of him or whether he intends to get him back—Mr. Saberwal—he is stuck in China and he wants to come home.

(No answer was given.)

#### ACUTE SHORTAGE OF CLOTH IN NORTH BIHAR DISTRICT

**823. \*Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware that for the last two months, there is an acute shortage of cloth in the North Bihar District?

(b) Is he aware that the acuteness has been aggravated by the non-supply of Railway wagons for bringing cloth from the mills from Ahmedabad and Bombay?

(c) If so, what do Government propose to do to remedy the situation?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) and (b). During December, January and February last there were occasional stoppages of booking over the Oudh and Tirhut Railway from Bombay and Ahmedabad, which resulted in a temporary scarcity of cloth in North Bihar. Despite these stoppages, 20,435 bales were moved to North Bihar from Bombay and Ahmedabad during these months.

(c) Instructions were issued that Bihar buyers should be given special facilities during the month of February to enable them to buy their quotas without delay. Arrangements were also made for the transport of their purchases from both these centres as soon as they offered the cloth for movement.

#### EXPORT OF CLOTH TO PUNJAB AND SIND

**824. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) how much cloth has been exported to the Punjab and Sind during the past three years;

(b) the quota per head allotted to the Punjab and Sind as compared to Madras; and

(c) whether Government are considering the question of stopping cloth exports to the Punjab, in view of their refusal (i) to part with their grain for the deficit areas and (ii) to introduce rationing within their own province?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Statistics of despatches of cloth from producing centres to consuming areas are available only as from July 1944. During the period from July 1944 to December 1945 despatches of cloth to the Punjab and Sind deficit zones were 5,85,719 bales and 89,684 bales respectively.

(b) The quota per head allotted to the Punjab and Sind is 18 yards. For Madras it is 12 yards.

(c) No Sir. There has been no refusal by the Punjab to part with grains for deficit areas or to introduce rationing.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it not a fact that there are enormous accumulations in Amritsar which have not been distributed to the people of the Punjab, and until all these accumulations are actually distributed, will Government stop further despatches to the Punjab?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I do not know the full facts of that, but I gather that there was a hold-up in Amritsar which is in course of being cleared.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What is the reason for reducing the cloth quota to 12 yards in Madras as against 18 in the Punjab and Sind? Is it because there is a food shortage in Madras that there must be a cloth shortage also there?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No. As I have explained in a recent debate, the amount of cloth allotted to a province depends on its pre-war consumption per head, related to the present population of the province.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Has he taken into account the cloth produced by handlooms in fixing the quota?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is the Government aware that the Madras Presidency comes second in the production of handloom cloth, and even if that is taken into account, the total quota comes to 13 or 14, but not to 18 yards?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I have no information on that point. I am afraid I must ask for notice.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Is it a fact that the 18 yards which is said to be available to Sind is not actually available to consumers there and the Government there has already made representations that the distribution was actually only 12 yards last year?



**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I have had no complaints from Sind.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Honourable Member look into this matter?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** If I have a definite complaint.

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

### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

#### SHORTAGE OF TRAINS AND THIRD CLASS BOGIES ON M. & S. M. RAILWAY

**825. \*Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains with the routes on which they were running, which were stopped owing to exigencies of war, on the Madras and South Marhata Railway;

(b) how many of them have been restored after the cessation of hostilities;

(c) when the remaining trains are likely to be restored;

(d) whether Government are aware of the abnormal congestion in the third class bogies both on account of shortage of trains and the shortage of third class bogies on each train on the Madras and South Marhata Railway;

(e) whether Government are prepared to consider the feasibility of temporarily converting the upper class bogies for accommodating Inter and Third Class passengers; and

(f) what measures Government propose to take to relieve congestion in the lower classes (*i.e.*, Inter and Third) on the Madras and South Marhata Railway in the immediate future?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Information in regard to the specific number of trains which were discontinued on the M. & S. M. Railway, and the routes on which they were running, is not readily available. I understand, however, that the train services reduced on that railway from the beginning of hostilities upto November 1943, involved a total reduction of 3,107 train miles per day on the B. G. Section and of 3,088 on the M. G. Section.

(b) Up to the 1st January 1946, the M. & S. M. Railway have reintroduced or extended 40 B. G. & 14 M. G. trains, representing an increase in the daily train mileage of 859 and 639 respectively.

(c) and (f). Additional services will be put on as and when more stock and power become available.

(d) A certain amount of congestion,—which is not peculiar to the M. & S. M. Railway,—is inevitable when the transport demands so greatly exceed the available resources of railways.

(e) No. All classes of stock are required to cope with the transport demands and the withdrawal of stock for conversion from one class to another would result in a reduction of actual capacity while the conversion was in progress.

#### PRIORITY FOR EXPORT OF BETEL-NUT

**826. \*Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that betel-nut growers have been put to serious losses on account of low priority being allotted to betel-nut;

(b) whether he is aware that merchants are encountering great difficulties on the Madras and South Marhata Railway in securing waggons for the export of betel-nut;

(c) whether, in view of the emergency of war having disappeared, betel-nut will now be given a priority higher than what it is now; and

(d) whether, pending a final decision in the matter, Government are prepared to temporarily recommend a high priority to betel-nut with a view to giving immediate relief to the betel-nut growers?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Government have no information regarding the amount or causes of losses incurred by betel-nut growers.

(b) Government have received a number of representations from betel-nut growers, particularly in Southern India, in which, amongst other matters, requests for better facilities in rail transport are included.

(c) Since the end of the war, railways in India are having great difficulty in meeting the largely increased demands for the movement of highly essential commodities for civil uses. Government are unable to include betel-nuts in this category, or to allot any general priority to their movement in regions where traffic in more important commodities is heavy. The only railways upon which it has been possible to allot any priority to the movement of betel-nuts are the M. & S. M. and S. I. Railways. On other railways no general priority is given, but it is open to Provincial Governments to approach Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities in the normal manner for assistance if they consider the supply of betel-nuts inadequate at any time in any particular area in the Province.

(d) Government do not consider that they would be justified in giving a high general priority to betel-nuts either temporarily or permanently.

#### SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY STAFF QUARTERS ON CERTAIN STATIONS ON N. W. RAILWAY

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

(a) whether in the matter of Railway Staff Quarters Building Programme consideration is paid to the difficulty in obtaining suitable private residential accommodation by staff and lack of private enterprise of building construction; and

(b) whether the Honourable Member is aware that there is acute shortage of private residential accommodation at Karachi, Hyderabad (Sind), Nawabshah and Sukkur Stations of the North Western Railway? If so, whether any funds have been allotted or are likely to be allotted during the financial year 1946-47 for the Staff Quarter Building Programme at these stations; if so, whether the Honourable Member proposes to give brief particulars thereof?

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

(b) Yes. The position at Karachi and Hyderabad being particularly acute, the construction of 90 units of staff quarters is in hand at Karachi and 190 units were built recently at Kotri near Hyderabad, inspite of the present high cost of construction.

In the post-war Rehabilitation & Development programme of the N. W. Railway for the quinquennium 1947-48 to 1951-52 the provision of 1,304 units of staff quarters in the Karachi Division of the North Western Railway is contemplated.

#### CORRECTION OF MISTAKES IN BIRTH DATE RECORDS OF RAILWAY STAFF

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

(a) whether any rules exist for the correction of birth date records of the Railway subordinate staff, if so, what documents are required to be produced in support of such an alteration, and the details of the procedure; and

(b) if no such rules exist, whether it is proposed to frame a suitable set of rules to enable correction of genuine mistakes in birth date records of the Railwaymen, if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). The rules framed by the Railway Board are contained in para. 144 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, as amended by Correction Slip No. N-2. The alteration of the recorded date of birth to the employee's advantage is permissible only in the case of illiterate staff where the General Manager is satisfied that a clerical error had occurred. To enable the railway administration to arrive at a

decision, it may demand the production of evidence, especially documentary evidence, relating to the employees date of birth. Government consider that the existing rules are quite satisfactory.

#### GRANT OF KARACHI COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN SIND

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

(a) whether he is aware that the Sind Government are paying with effect from the 1st November, 1944, increased rates of the Karachi Compensatory Allowances to its employees, *vide* Government Resolution No. 1353A, dated the 2nd June, 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has received representations from the Railway staff employed in the Karachi area demanding payment of the Karachi Compensatory Allowance on the Sind Government scales; if so, how the same were disposed of;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are committed to the policy of paying local compensatory allowances to its employees on the scales at which such allowances are paid by Local Governments;

(d) whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the undertaking given by the head of a sister department of the Posts and Air in 1930, *vide* the Director General's letter No. EA/146/27/2, dated the 17th December, 1930, that the extra remuneration granted to the Posts and Telegraph officials is based *mutatis mutandis* on the local Government rates where there are local Government officials of the corresponding status; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to conform to the policy referred to in parts (c) and (d) above in the matter of payment of local Compensatory Allowances to the Railway employees in the Karachi area on the Sind Government scales; if none, why?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes. Government are informed that the Sind Government have sanctioned for some classes of staff a Karachi Compensatory Allowance, in which certain local allowances, conveyance allowances and travelling allowances, sanctioned prior to 1st March, 1923, have been merged. In other cases the rate of compensatory allowance has been raised.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, the matter is under examination in consultation with the railway administration.

(c) No.

(d) I have seen the letter referred to which makes a statement in regard to Compensatory Allowance or Special pay sanctioned by the P. & T. Department at the end of 1930, but contains no undertaking of the nature referred to.

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

#### ABOLITION OF LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON RAILWAYS

**830. \*Seth Sukhdev:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is proposed to abolish the Lower Gazetted Service on the Indian Railway now?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please refer to a passage in his budget speech delivered in February, 1944, that the Lower Gazetted Service would be abolished on the Railways in due course and state when it is likely to be abolished?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Lala Sham Lal's Starred Question No. 1129, asked on 20th March 1945, which gives the present position.

## SURVEY OF RAILWAY LINES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

831. \*Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House giving particulars of the proposed Railway lines construction projects, the survey of which has been taken in hand with the approximate mileage of each of them and the gauge?

(b) Which of these projects were surveyed before also, and when? What are the particulars of the estimated cost of each of them?

(c) Has the Railway Board laid down any basis for priority of construction? If so, will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table of the House, giving particulars of projects which are to receive priority in construction?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). A list of projects approved for survey was placed before the House in answer to unstarred question No. 40, replied on the 19th of February 1946, in this House. The list is reproduced with the addition of 3 columns, showing the proposed gauge, the year of previous survey and the approximate cost of the projects as estimated in the previous survey.

(c) No priority for construction has been laid down. Unless the surveys have been completed and the reports considered, it is not possible to say which of the lines will be constructed, or to determine their order of priority for construction.

## List of approved projects—New constructions, restorations and conversions

Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)		Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
		EAST INDIAN RAILWAY		
		(a) Dismantled lines to be restored—		
		1. Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau . . . . .	78	B. G.
		2. Bijnor-Chandpur Siau . . . . .	21	B. G.
		3. Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad . . . . .	136	B. G.
		(b) New Lines—		
		1. Kicha-Chandausi . . . . .	*65	B. G.
		2. Birmitrapur-Barwadih . . . . .	*120	B. G.
		3. Chirmiri-Berwadih (Garhwa road or Untari Road). . . . .	*140	B. G.
		4. Barkaganj-Hazaribagh-Giridih-Dumka-Rampur Haut. . . . .	*225	B. G.
1912-18	†12·80	5. Gaya-Sherghati-Chatra-Ranchi. . . . .	*110	B. G.
		† Cost of 22 miles up to Sherghati only.		
		BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY		
		(a) Restoration of Dismantled lines—		
		1. Shaistaganj-Habiganj . . . . .	*8	M. G.
		2. Moranhat-Khowang . . . . .	6	M. G.
		3. Amnura-Chapai Nawabganj . . . . .	10	B. G.

\* \* The projects for which the survey estimates have been sanctioned upto 31st January 1946 have been marked with an asterisk.

Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)		Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
<b>BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY—contd.</b>				
<i>(b) New Lines—</i>				
1927-28 & 30	† 1.89 15	1. Bhadurabad-Goalpara-Pandu with a bridge at Goalpara, Jogighopa and a link from the bridge to Bongaigaon, also Gouripur Mymensingh Mahendraganj.	*283	M. G.
1934	18.9	2. Sylhet-Bazar-Chatak	*21	M. G.
		3. Khowang-Dibrugarh	*12	M. G.
1914	3.49	4. Faridpur-Madaripur-Barisal	*80	B. G.
1926-27	2 23	5. Sainthia Barhampore-Bhairamara.	*96	B. G.
		6. Rohanpur-Nithpur-Dinajpur.	*76	B. G.
1925	62.67	7. Jharia-Jhanjail-Baghmara-Siju-Jankaray.	*37	M. G.
<i>(c) Conversion—</i>				
		1. Tezpur-Balipara to be converted from N. G. to M. G.	20	M. G.
		† Represents cost of 164 miles surveyed.		
<b>BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY</b>				
<i>(a) Dismantled lines to be restored—</i>				
		1. Bobbili-Salur	10	B. G.
<i>(b) New Lines—</i>				
1916	† 2.08.93	1. Ramagundam-Bastar-Jagdalpur Jaypur-Salur (or Vizana-garam via Padwa). The portion between Ramagundam and Bastar shall be surveyed by H. E. H. the Nizam's Rly.	*290	B. G.
NOTE:—At the time of investigation it will be necessary to examine particularly the possibility of connecting Balharshah to Bastar.				
		2. Rajnandgaon (or Drug)-Bastar via Kankar and Taragaon.	*120	B. G.
		3. Sambalpur-Kondagaon via Kantabanji or Lanjigarh.	*247	B. G.
		4. Talcher (along the valley of the Brahmani river)-Koel Bank.	100	B. G.
		5. Talbandh (or Bangriposi)-Badampahar (or Sulapat or Rairangpur) including conversion of Rupsa-Talbandh to B. G.	85	(including 70 miles of conversion). B. G.
1891	2.37.00	6. Khurda Road-Bergerh	128	B. G.

\*The projects for which the survey estimates have been sanctioned upto 31st January 1946 have been marked with an asterisk.

Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)		Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
		BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY— <i>contd.</i>		
			Miles	
1913	1.81.03	7. Vishnupur-Santragachi . . . . .	68	B. G.
1929	§26.32	8. Contai Road-Contai-Tamluk-Kolaghat-Ghatal-Chandrakona . . . . .	150	B. G.
1914-15	3.09.72	9. Extension of Lohardaga to meet Barwadih-Birmitrapur. (c) Conversion— 1. Purulia to Lohardaga . . . . .	23	B. G.
		†Represents cost of 346 miles surveyed.	*116	B. G.
		§Represents cost of 34 miles surveyed.		
		SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY		
		(a) <i>New Lines</i> —		
		1. Dindigul-Gudallur . . . . .	*70	M. G.
		2. Kollengode-Cochin Port . . . . .	*41	M. G.
1932	17.67	3. Tanjore-Pattukottai . . . . .	*29	M. G.
		4. Arantangi-Karaikkudi . . . . .	*20	M. G.
		M. & S. M. RAILWAY		
		(a) <i>New Lines</i> —		
		1. Anavar-Haliyal-Yellapur-Karwar . . . . .	70	M. G.
1928	96.87	2. Ellore-Saveri Valley . . . . .	70	B. G.
		G. I. P. RAILWAY		
		(a) <i>Dismantled lines to be restored</i> —		
		1. Cawnpore-Khairada . . . . .	*81	B. G.
		(b) <i>New Lines</i> —		
1926-27	1.23.97	1. Diva-Dasgaon . . . . .	93	B. G.
1926-27	79.00	2. Manmad-Nardhana . . . . .	79	B. G.
1916	30.12	3. Belapur Road-Sheogaon . . . . .	45	B. G.
1935-36		4. Baramati-Pandharpur . . . . .	70	M. G.
		5. Kurla-Palasdhari . . . . .	*35	B. G.
1931	62.52	6. Amraoti-Narkher . . . . .	*79	B. G.
		B., B. & C. I. RAILWAY		
		(a) <i>Dismantled lines to be restored</i> —		
		1. Vasad-Kathana . . . . .	*27	B. G.
		(b) <i>New Lines</i> —		
1918	17.42	1. Bulsar-Dharampur . . . . .	*17	B. G.
		2. Khandwa Hingoli . . . . .	*169	M. G.

\* The projects for which the survey estimates have been sanctioned upto 31st January 1946 have been marked with an asterisk.

Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)		Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
		—		
		OUDH TIRHUT RAILWAY		
		(a) <i>New Lines</i> —		
1937	19·94	1. Kashipur-Kalagarh . . .	*30	M. G.
1928	28·97	2. Chakia-Alwalia-Sidhwalia . . .	27	M. G.
1906-7	† 50·30	3. Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa . . .	*20	M. G.
		4. Murliganj-Madhepura . . .	*13	M. G.
		†Represents cost of 68 miles Muzafferpur-Darbhanga-Sitamarhi.		
		JODHPUR RAILWAY		
		(a) <i>New Lines</i> —		
		1. Pithoro-Kahi Tando-Mithakhan-Sanghar-Jhol.	*62	M. G.
		NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY		
		(a) <i>Dismantled lines to be restored</i> —		
		1. Nagrota-Jogindernagar . . .	35	N. G.
		(b) <i>New Lines</i> —		
1927-29	1·58·62	1. Havelian-Garhi Habibullah . . .	*43	B. G.
1910 & } 1927 }	† 43·61	2. Charsadda-Mardan . . .	*17	B. G.
		3. Pezu-Dera Ismail Khan . . .	40	B. G.
1929	48·90	4. Tando Mohd-Khan-Moghalbin (Jati Taluka).	*72	B. G.
1933	6·13·91	5. Badin-Gujrat (Bombay-Sind) . . .	*268	B. G.
		6. Karachi-Kalat-Quetta . . .	*410	B. G.
		7. Peshawar-Kohat . . .	*40	B. G.
		8. Kohat to Bannu . . .	*80	B. G.
		9. Rupar-Talaura . . .	*37	B. G.
		10. Khushab-Nurpur-Darya Khan	70	B. G.
1929	§52·16	11. Kashmore-Dera Ghazi Khan . . .	90	N. G.
		12. Jhang-Malout . . .	100	B. G.
		13. Khewra-Chakwal . . .	40	B. G.
		(c) <i>Conversion</i> —		
		1. Mari Indus-Bannu & Manzai-Laki Marwat from N. G. to B. G.	*158	B. G.
		2. Jacobabad-Kashmore from N. G. to B. G.	*77	B. G.
		3. Kohat-Thal . . .	*64	B. G.
		†Cost of the line up to Swabi Represents cost of 138 miles surveyed		

\* The projects for which the survey estimates have been sanctioned upto 31st January 1946 have been marked with an asterisk.

## ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME ON THE G. I. P. RAILWAY

**832. \*Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if Government propose extending the electrification scheme beyond Igatpuri on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway North East Route? If so, when?

(b) What is the programme about the same?

(c) Are Government taking in hand the scheme of electrification on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Igatpuri to Manmad, Manmad to Dhond and Dhond to Poona?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (c). Proposals to extend electrification beyond Igatpuri to Bhusawal, from Poona to Dhond and Dhond to Manmad, are at present under preliminary investigation. As no decision has been taken, no date can be given.

(b) Does not arise.

## TELEPHONE CONNECTION BETWEEN NASIK CITY AND NASIK ROAD RAILWAY STATION

**833. \*Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nasik Road Railway Station is more than five miles from the holy city of Nasik;

(b) whether passengers and pilgrims have to wait for hours as the Railway trains are often late and thus great hardship is caused to them; and

(c) whether it is possible for a telephone communication from the Nasik Road Station to the Nasik City Railway Booking Office being established for intimation to the general public about the arrival timings of trains at the Nasik Road Station, especially when the trains are very late; if so, when the same will be introduced; if not, why not?

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

(b) Inconvenience to the travelling public may be caused when passenger services are running late.

(c) The Telephone Exchange at Nasik is not at present in a position to give additional connections; but when it can do so, the question of providing telephonic communication with Nasik Road Station will be considered.

## CLOSING OF RAILWAY GATE NEAR NASIK ROAD STATION

**834. \*Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar:** (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that traffic is held up and inconvenience caused at the Railway gate near the Nasik Road Station on the Nasik-Nagar Road due to Railway shunting and consequent closing of the Railway gate? If so, what do Government propose to do to remove the same?

(b) Are there any rules as to how long a Railway gate can be closed at a time in the interest of avoiding inconvenience to the general public? If so, are the same observed strictly?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Traffic is held up to the extent to which it occurs at all busy level crossings in station yards. The construction of a road overbridge is included in the Programme of Post-War Works to be carried out in 1947-48.

(b) The rules provide for a time limit of 10 minutes, if road traffic is waiting, in which case the shunting operations are suspended to allow the road traffic to pass. The rules are intended for strict observance. Any case reported regarding breach of rules is taken up.

## WAITING ROOM IN NASIK ROAD STATION

**835. \*Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that one Waiting Room on the Nasik Road Station is used as office by the staff?



(b) Are Government aware that this causes inconvenience to the travelling public?

(c) Do Government propose to make the same available to the public again?

(d) Is it the policy of Government to close down such Waiting Rooms on smaller stations and convert them into office rooms?

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

(b) No complaints have been received by the Railway Administration.

(c) No.

(d) No.

#### SPECIAL TRAINS FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

**836. \*Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether the North Western Railway, Bombay Baroda and Central India and Great Indian Peninsula Railways would be prepared to provide special trains from Lahore and Delhi to Karachi and Bombay and *vice versa* for the Haj pilgrims during the ensuing Haj season?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, would the Railways concerned be prepared to run the trains according to the schedule of the departure and arrival of ships so as to minimise the stay of the pilgrims at ports?

(c) Would the Railways concerned be prepared to grant any concessions in the fares? If so, how much in each case?

(d) If the replies to (a) and (b) be in the negative, would the Railways be prepared to reserve special compartments from the stations mentioned above for the Haj pilgrims in mail and express trains during the Haj season, *i.e.*, August to November 1946?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a), (b) and (d). As it is not possible to forecast with any degree of accuracy the conditions that are likely to prevail at the time of the next Haj season, Government regret they cannot commit themselves in advance to any specific arrangements for the transport of Haj Pilgrims to and from the ports of embarkation and landing. The Railways concerned will, however, provide all the facilities they can within the limits of their resources of coaching stock and power, and in the light of the traffic situation at the time on the sections of line to be traversed. I am bringing this question and my reply to the notice of the Railway Administrations concerned by way of advance notice.

(c) A concession in fares is, I regret out of the question.

#### UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION SECRETARIAT

**837. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state:

(a) if he has official or unofficial information that the secretariat of the U.N.O. is being constituted in America or elsewhere;

(b) if he has any details about the proposed budget of the U.N.O. secretariat and its composition at the present moment;

(c) if he has instructed India's representative on the U.N.O. to take all steps in this initial stage to ensure that India gets adequate representation, proportionate to her contribution at least, if not more;

(d) if he proposes to take all steps to recruit purely Indian personnel for all posts which it may be possible for India to obtain in this secretariat and not recruit Britishers as part of India's quota; and

(e) if he proposes to lay on the table copies of the correspondence in this connection either from the U.N.O. or the Indian representative there?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the Provisional Budget of the United Nations for 1946 is placed on the table of the House. The Provisional Budget will be replaced by the First Annual Budget which is being prepared by the Secretary-General for presentation to the Second Part of the First Session of the General Assembly in September next.

The composition of the Secretariat has also to be determined by the Secretary-General. It is believed that eventually there will be 8 Assistant Secretaries-General who will be in charge of the principal units of the Secretariat.

Below Assistant Secretaries-General there will be Directors and Assistant Directors, etc. It is not possible at present to indicate the precise classification and the number of posts, since details, I understand, have not yet been worked out. It is estimated, however, that the total strength of the United Nations Organisation will eventually be about 2,400.

(c) and (d). The Indian Delegation was instructed to strive to obtain a fair proportion of the permanent appointments in the Organisation. It is learnt that the General Assembly has decided that recruitment to permanent appointments should be on a geographical basis, and should be conducted through an International Civil Service Commission, Standards of qualification for all categories and all levels are being drawn up and when they are ready the type of tests required for filling different posts will be given wide publicity. There may be written examinations as well as interviews. The aim is to attain a high standard of selection for all posts. For these reasons the representation of the nationals of any country on the staff of the U.N.O. will bear no relation to its financial contribution to the United Nations. Nor will there be any quotas. It is generally the intention of the U.N.O. to contact would-be candidates direct and not through governmental agencies. In this connection the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the Press Note issued by External Affairs Department on 26th February, 1946. I can, however, add the assurance that any names put forward by the Government of India will be of Indians only.

(e) Government have so far received no communication on the subject from the U.N.O. The report of the Indian Delegation when available will be placed on the table of the House.

#### PROVISIONAL BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR 1946

*U. S. dollars*

##### SECTION I.—SESSIONS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF :

General Assembly	}	. . . . .	1,500,000
Security Council			
Economic and Social Council			
Trusteeship Council			

##### SECTION II.—THE SECRETARIAT :

(a) Personnel Services . . . . .	5,875,000	
(b) Provident Fund contributions by the Organization . . . . .	285,750	
(c) Allowances and hospitality expenses . . . . .	221,000	
(d) Travel expenses on official business matters . . . . .	529,000	
(e) Travel, transportation and per diem costs incidental to transfer of United Nations headquarters to interim site, and to initial movement and installation of staff . . . . .	3,610,000	
(f) Rentals, contractual services and office supplies . . . . .	3,470,000	
(g) Furniture, fixtures and equipment . . . . .	2,520,000	
<b>TOTAL FOR SECRETARIAT . . . . .</b>	<b>16,510,750</b>	<b>16,510,750</b>

SECTION III.—THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE . . . . .	...	617,250
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SECTION IV.—UNFORESEEN EXPENSES . . . . .	...	2,000,000
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SECTION V.—THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION and the FIRST PART OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY : estimated expenses up to and including 31st January 1946 . . . . .	...	872,000
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<b>GRAND TOTAL OF THE PROVISIONAL BUDGET . . . . .</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>\$21,500,000</b>
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*Restoration for the Appropriation of Monies to Finance the Provisional Budget.*

The General Assembly resolves that :

(1) An amount of \$21,500,000 is hereby appropriated for the following purposes :

SECTION I.—For expenses of the General Assembly and the Councils . . . . .	U. S.	1,500,000
SECTION II.—For expenses of the Secretariat . . . . .	U. S.	16,510,000
SECTION III.—For expenses of the International Court of Justice . . . . .	U. S.	617,250
SECTION IV.—For unforeseen expenses . . . . .	U. S.	2,000,000
SECTION V.—For the expenses of the Preparatory Commission and the First part of the First Session of the General Assembly upto and including 31st January 1946 . . . . .	U. S.	\$872,000

(2) The above amounts are to be available for the payment of obligations incurred prior to 1 January 1947. The Secretary-General may transfer by written order credits among or within the above listed classifications.

### PRODUCTION IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

**838. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number and list of articles produced in the railway workshops during the war period (i) which could not be used for civilian consumption, and (ii) which could still be used for army and defence purposes;

(b) the number of workshops and the number of workmen employed in each category;

(c) how many of these workshops will have to be closed and men turned out;

(d) what objection there is from a commercial or administrative point of view, for continuing the workshops referred to in (a) above;

(e) if Government considered switching the workshops, that had been specially allocated or expanded to undertake war work, to the production of civilian goods or railway materials, if so, how and if not, why not; and

(f) what is the number of workshops so allocated or expanded for war work and how many men were employed in the same?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a), (b) and (f). Part of the capacity of all Government Railway workshops was utilised to a greater or lesser extent to meet the requirements of the War Department. At the peak period of April 1943, 20,695 men were engaged on munition work in Railway Workshops but by February 1946 this had been reduced to 2,750. A very large number of articles of great variety were produced from complete trains downwards. A few of the important items have been mentioned by the Chief Commissioner of Railways in his last Budget Speech but the compilation and publication of a comprehensive list of articles manufactured classified into articles which could still be used for Civilian and Military consumption respectively would not produce results commensurate with the work involved.

(c) No Railway Workshops have been closed.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes. In order to overtake accumulated arrears of maintenance requirements, the present capacity of Railway Workshops has been switched over for manufacture of Railway material.

### RE-LAYING OF OLD DISMANTLED RAILWAY LINES

**839. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) out of the 4,000 miles of track and 4 million sleepers utilised for overseas or for military requirements in India, how many miles of track and thousands of sleepers have come back from overseas or dismantled for railway purposes;

- (b) the quantity of such returned articles used in relaying old lines and in laying new lines;
- (c) out of the 4,000 miles of track, how many miles of the old track are going to be relayed and what mileage is going to be permanently abandoned;
- (d) the number of the lines of which 4,000 miles were made up and a list of those which are proposed to be relaid;
- (e) the policy regulating the question of relaying the old lines; and
- (f) how many of the lines which are proposed to be abandoned, were working at a profit before 1939 and how many at a loss?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Out of the 4,000 miles of track utilised for military purposes, about 30 miles of track including sleepers have been released so far and used for railway maintenance and development works. War Department are investigating the possibility of releasing further quantities.

(b) Nil.

(c) Of the 4,000 miles of track, approximately 1,040 miles were supplied by dismantling branch lines. Of the dismantled branch lines, restoration of 81 miles has been sanctioned, about 426 miles are under investigation and the remainder are likely to be permanently abandoned.

(d) 31 branch lines aggregating about 1,040 miles of track were dismantled during the war. So far a definite decision has been taken only regarding the restoration of Cawnpore-Khairada Section of the G. I. P. Railway, and the restoration of the following 11 branch lines is under investigation:

E. I. Railway.—(1) Bijnor-Chandpur Siau, (2) Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad, (3) Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau;

B. A. Railway.—(4) Amnura-Chapai Nawabganj, (5) Moramhat-Khowang, (6) Habiganj-Shaistaganj;

B. N. Railway.—(7) Bobbili-Salur;

B., B. and C. I. Railway.—(8) Vasad-Kathana;

N. W. Railway.—(9) Nagrota-Jaginder Nagar, (10) Fort Abbas-Kut-al-Imara, (11) Mahmudkot-Ghazighat.

(e) The selection of lines for investigation with a view to restoration has been made after full discussion with the Provincial Government concerned. At these discussions due weight has been given *inter alia* to the road developments planned and whether the lines in question are likely to be remunerative.

(f) None of the lines proposed to be permanently abandoned were working at a profit before 1939.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN AGENT GENERAL IN MOSCOW

**840. \*Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state if the Government of India propose to take up the question of appointing an Indian Agent General in Moscow with the Government of the Soviet Russia who is our ally and neighbour? If not, why not?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** The Honourable Member will realise that it is not possible in reply to a question to declare intentions in diplomatic matters relating to Foreign States.

#### RENEWAL OF CATERING CONTRACT OF HINDU REFRESHMENT ROOM AT DELHI

**841. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway, has extended the Catering Contract of the Hindu Refreshment Room at Delhi up to the 31st March 1946, which had terminated on the 11th February 1945, on the 31st March 1945 and on the 30th June 1945; if so, under what circumstances the extension was given and on what consideration;

(b) if it is a fact that the said contract was terminated on the 11th February 1945, after a full discussion at a meeting of the Local Advisory Committee, if not what the fact is;

(c) the reason for retaining the services of the said contractor in spite of the unsatisfactory report given about his work by the said Local Advisory Committee; and

(d) whether Government now propose not to renew all the contracts and licences of this contractor on all the State railways, if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes, except that the date when the contract was originally due to terminate was 14th February 1945, and not 11th February 1945. These extensions were given by the General Manager to enable him to consider the various representations received from time to time.

(b) No. The contract had been renewed for one year from the 15th February, 1944, and was accordingly due to terminate on the 14th February, 1945.

(c) As indicated in reply to para. (a), I understand the Administration after reviewing the matter decided that the services rendered by the contractor were not so unsatisfactory as to warrant termination of the contract.

(d) The decision is within the competence of individual administrations acting in consonance with the general principles recommended by the Central Advisory Council and accepted by Government.

#### DEFALCATION IN GRAIN TRANSACTIONS IN E. I. RAILWAY

**842. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Special Police Establishment is investigating the case of defalcation of accounts to the extent of rupees two lakhs in grain transactions on the East Indian Railway in which the Purchasing and Distributing Contractors are involved; if not, what the fact is;

(b) whether it is the policy of Government to suspend the contracts of those persons who are involved in such cases to enable the investigating agency a free hand in the investigation; if so, the reasons why the said contractors are not suspended from the execution of their contracts on the State-managed Railways; and

(c) whether Government now propose to suspend the contracts of those contractors; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) It is a fact that the Special Police Establishment is investigating a case of a debit of over Rs. 2 lakhs raised against the purchasing and distributing contractors connected with the Grainshop organisation, but it is not a case of defalcation of accounts. This formal debit was raised because the contractors had failed to produce the customers' coupons for check. Ultimately the contractors produced the coupons and the examination thereof and subsequent investigation of the case reduced the claim to a very much smaller sum which was recovered and the case finally closed.

(b) It is the policy of Government to deal with each case on its merits. I may add that this particular contract was terminated in 1944. The second part of this portion of the question does not arise.

(c) The question does not arise.

#### DIRECTORATE OF OPEN CUT COAL MINING

**843. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies inform the House about the following facts regarding Open Cut Coal Mining under the Directorate of Open Cut Coal Mining:

(i) the total expenditure incurred so far,

(ii) the amount of coal raised and the amount of each grade of coal in detail,

(iii) the cost per ton of coal of each grade so raised,

(iv) the sale price of each such grade of coal, and

(v) the amount of money spent in purchasing coal cutting machinery for working these Open Cut Coal Mining?

(b) Is it a fact that the said coal cutting machinery was purchased from the United States of America through McLeods and Company? Who negotiated the purchase?

(c) Are Government aware that such machinery is unsuitable for Indian conditions of Open Cut Coal Mining?

(d) Are Government aware that almost half the machinery so bought is in such a condition of disrepair that it is practically unusable and has to be treated as scrap? If so, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

(e) Is it a fact that the entire undertaking of Open Cut Coal Mining under the Directorate (D.O.C.C.M.) and under the Department of Industries and Supplies has been given over to Sir Lindsay Parkinson? If so, what are the terms and conditions of contract and which Department negotiated the same and why?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) (i) The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House.

(ii) 1,189,645 tons up to January 1946. Information as to the amount of each grade of coal raised is not available.

(iii) This is under investigation and information will be laid on the table of the House.

(iv) The sale prices of different grades of coal are given in the Industries and Supplies Department Notification No. 19, dated the 9th January, 1946. These prices apply to coal raised by DOCCM also.

(v) Figures are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) No Sir; orders for this machinery were placed by the India Supply Mission Washington on behalf of the Government of India.

(c) No Sir; the machinery is in fact suitable for Indian conditions of open cut coal mining.

(d) No Sir; part of the machinery purchased was second hand; and was overhauled and retained by Messrs. Foley Brothers in America, before being shipped to India. Adequate stores were purchased along with the machinery and no item has been treated as scrap.

(e) Open cut mining operations have been entrusted to the firm of M/s. Lindsay Parkinson from the 1st December, 1945, for a period of four months on a temporary basis. The question of entering into a contract with the firm is under consideration.

Under the present arrangements Government have agreed to pay M/s. Lindsay Parkinson actual expenses incurred on technicians not available in India plus a sliding scale bonus based on the total tonnage of coal delivered into wagons.

The agreement was negotiated by the Industries and Supplies Department as the previous contract with M/s. Foley Brothers expired on the 30th November, 1945, and it was essential to continue operations to keep up coal production.

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR BLOCK MAINTAINERS ON N. W. RAILWAY

844. \*Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Block Maintainers on the North Western Railway are frequently on tour?

(b) Are they entitled to any travelling allowance? If so, what is the scale thereof? If not, why not?

(c) Which other categories of staff who are frequently on tour are not entitled to travelling allowance?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please make enquiries whether a representation claiming travelling allowance has been received from the Block Maintainers on the North Western Railway?

(e) If the reply to (d) be in the affirmative, what are the main points of the representation, and what reply has been given to each of those points?

(f) If no reply has been sent, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes, within the best of their inspectors.

(b) They are allowed daily allowance under the ordinary rule contained in paragraph 224 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, when they proceed beyond their sphere of duty. They are, however, not allowed travelling allowance while touring within their sphere of duty, as when fixing their scale of pay consideration was paid to the amount of touring they would normally be called upon to perform.

(c) I lay on the table of the House a list giving the required information.

(d) Government are informed that a representation has been received.

(e) The main points raised in the representation are (i) grant of travelling allowance, and (ii) classification as continuous workers.

The staff have been informed, in regard to the first point, that the question of extending to them the concession, allowed to certain other staff, of a consolidated travelling allowance of 10 per cent. of pay is under consideration. In regard to the second point, they have been informed that their present classification is considered appropriate and calls for no modification.

(f) Does not arise.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

ENCLOSURE TO GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER No. 776-E/466, DATED THE 5TH MARCH, 1946.

*List of Staff other than Block Maintainers who are frequently on tour within their sphere of duty and are not granted any travelling allowance.*

S. No.	Category.	S. No.	Category.
(1)	Khalasis.	(19)	Linemen Engineering.
(2)	Weighing Machine Mistries.	(20)	Driver of Road Roller.
(3)	Box Painter, Weighing Machine.	(21)	Foremen of Road Roller.
(4)	Box Porters.	(22)	Work Mistries.
(5)	Temporary Travelling Watermen.	(23)	Mate Works.
(6)	Time Keepers.	(24)	Pipe Fitters.
(7)	Ballast Inspectors.	(25)	Pump Fitters.
(8)	Store Munshies.	(26)	Hammermen Engineering.
(9)	Trollymen.	(27)	Bellowmen Engineering.
(10)	Senior Mistries (Interlocking).	(28)	Motor Trolley Mechanics Engineering.
(11)	Junior Mistries (Interlocking).	(29)	Engineering Coolies.
(12)	Blacksmiths Engineering.	(30)	Tinkers (Carriage and Wagon).
(13)	Masons Engineering.	(31)	Mali Engineering.
(14)	P. Way Mistries Engineering.	(32)	Tinsmith Engineering.
(15)	Cleaners Engineering.	(33)	Challandars.
(16)	Painters Engineering.	(34)	Challandar Coolies.
(17)	Carpenters Engineering.	(35)	Ahalmad.
(18)	Batteryman Engineering.		

LOSSES TO INDIAN MERCHANTS DUE TO ITALIAN INVASION OF AFRICA

**845. \*Mr. P. B. Gole:** (a) Will the Foreign Secretary, be pleased to state whether the losses suffered by the Indian merchants in African countries such as Eritria, Abyssinia, Somaliland etc., due to the Italian invasion of their countries will be recovered from Italy?

(b) Has any representation been made by the Government of India to His Majesty's Government regarding the losses suffered by the Indian merchants due to the Italian invasion in Africa?

(c) Will the question of recoupment of losses of Indian merchants be raised at the time of final treaty with Italy?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (a) and (c). The question of claims against Italy forms part of an examination now being given in London by the conference of Deputies of Foreign Ministers to the terms of the draft Treaty of peace with Italy, but it is not possible to forecast what provision in respect of such claims will appear in the final Instrument. In so far as losses of Indians in Abyssinia

are concerned the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the press communiques of the 4th August 1944, and 10th June 1945, regarding the Emperor of Abyssinia's Proclamation requiring claims to be filed with the Abyssinian authorities.

(b) A representation has been made to His Majesty's Government regarding losses suffered by Indians in Abyssinia. As regards other African territories the Government of India have no information that losses were suffered by Indian traders but are confident that if there were any, Indians concerned will receive the same treatment as other British subjects.

#### UNIFORMS OF INFERIOR STAFF OF THE INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

**346. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state why he ordered the uniform, etc., to be taken back from the inferior staff of his Department when they were discharged from service?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** It is the normal rule that temporary inferior servants must on discharge, return all articles of livery the life of which has not expired. Government have now relaxed this rule to allow temporary inferior staff employed during the War to retain such articles of livery as have less than one year to complete their normal life.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION

**347. \*Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the incapability of British Cartridge Factories to meet Indian civil requirements?

(b) Is it a fact that from the 1st January, 1946, British Cartridge Industry has decided upon an increase in their export prices?

(c) Are Government aware that the prices of the American firms are much cheaper and that cartridges are offered with prompt deliveries?

(d) Do Government propose to remove all restrictions on imports from all foreign countries for all kinds of arms and ammunition to meet civilian demands throughout India and to fix reduced prices according to the low cost of the American stuff? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) No Sir. This is no longer the case

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply given to part (a) of starred question 347, by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, on the 19th February, 1946.

(c) Government have no information to this effect.

(d) The question how far import trade control restrictions may be withdrawn on imports of arms and ammunition from the United Kingdom and other British Empire countries in the sterling area is under consideration. Owing to the need of conserving non-sterling resources, it is not possible at present to remove restrictions on imports of arms and ammunition from the U. S. A. and other difficult currency countries.

Reduction in the current prices will be considered when there is a fall in landed costs.

#### AERATED WATER CONTRACTOR ON E SECTION OF N. W. RAILWAY

**348. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in reply to starred question No. 349 on the 19th February 1946, he said that the present Contractor Mr. Kashi Ram Khosla was a member of the North Western Railway Local Advisory Committee, Lahore, at the time when contract for the supply of aerated water on the E Section of the North Western Railway was given to him?

(b) Is it a fact that never in the history of Indian Railways a member of a Local Advisory Committee was given any contract anywhere during the State management of Railways?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, what were the reasons and circumstances for making an exception in this case?



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

(b) The number of contracts given by all Indian Railways, managed by the State and since instructions were issued for the information of Local Advisory Committee in 1922 is so large and varied, I regret that I am unable to ask Railways to undertake the meticulous check of records necessary before the question could be answered. Further, many of the old records will by now have been destroyed.

(c) Does not arise.

#### IMPURE SUPPLY OF AERATED WATER ON N. W. RAILWAY

**849. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Did Honourable the Railway Member state in reply to question No. 349 on the 19th February 1946 that penalties were imposed on the present contractor of aerated water on the E Section of the North Western Railway as a result of inspection?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House the inspection report, the report of various biological tests and all the medical reports received by the North Western Railway Administration in connection with the supply of aerated water manufactured by the present contractors abovementioned in the year 1945?

(c) How many times "cholera germs" and other dangerous bacteria were found according to biological test and medical report held on the contents of the bottles of aerated water supplied by the contractors abovementioned during April 1945 to November 1945?

(d) How many times were the aerated water bottle contents as supplied by the abovementioned contractors biologically examined and medically tested during the year 1945, and what were the dates and what are the reports stating separately each report?

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

(b), (c) and (d). Inspections of contractors' aerated water factories are made by the Medical and Commercial Officers of the N. W. Railway concerned. The contractors stalls at station platforms and the arrangements for the sale on trains are subject to surprise inspections by railway officials such as Inspectors, Medical Officers and Commercial and Transportation Officers during their tours. Instructions to Station Masters include a daily inspection of the arrangements at their stations. The Honourable Member when referring to the "Inspection Report" apparently has in mind special medical reports.

One medical test by microscopical examination was made by the Bacteriologist, Headquarters Laboratory, Lahore, during the year 1945. The report furnished was as follows:

"The water contains deposits of vegetable and mineral dirt, particles of cork and moving bacteria as examined under the microscope, which clearly shows that the source of water from which aerated water supply is manufactured is not safe for human consumption."

The report makes no mention of the existence of cholera germs.

#### PENALTY IMPOSED ON AERATED WATER CONTRACTOR ON N. W. RAILWAY

**850. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that no other contractor for aerated water supply on the E Section of the North Western Railway was ever fined at all during the last ten years and that the present contractor on this area of the North Western Railway has been fined several times with maximum penalty prescribed under rule and agreement during April 1945 to October 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The answer to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the second portion I understand the present contractor was once fined the maximum penalty.

(b) I understand the G. M., N. W. Railway is issuing instructions for the intensification of inspection and the most stringent supervision to be exercised over the work of all Ice and Aerated Water contractors.

#### ACTION ON COMPLAINTS AGAINST AERATED WATER CONTRACTOR ON N. W. RAILWAY

**851. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table the original complaints, date by date and name by name, received by the North Western Railway Administration against the present contractors of aerated water, Messrs. Kanshi Ram Khosla and Madan Mohan Lall during their working between March 1945, and October, 1945? What action has been taken by the Administration on each of the complaints received?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** A Summary of the complaints referred to, and the action taken on them is laid on the table. The time and labour involved in the production of the original complaints will be incommensurate with the value of the results.

#### Statement

Total number of complaints received—76.

(a) Faulty supply—15.

8 under reference with the contractor.

3 contractors fined Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 100, respectively.

1 contractor warned.

3 complaints not substantiated.

(b) Miscellaneous complaints, such as Excess charges levied, balance of change not refunded, icemen refused to supply ice or aerated water, rate lists not shown or rates labelled removed.—55

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 contractors asked to have adequate supply of ice and aerated water.

3 contractors asked to refund balance of change not refunded.

1 iceman discharged.

1 contractor warned.

(c) Icemen found carrying passengers without ticket or pass or not wearing uniform, etc.—5.

1 iceman was discharged and fare recovered.

3 Fares were recovered and contractor warned.

1 under reference with the contractor.

(d) Theft on the part of Iceman (stealing a basket)—

1 Contractor asked to discharge the Iceman.

#### TRANSFER OF POST OFFICE FROM SILIDAG TO MARAWANIAN

**852. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that there has been a Post Office at Silidag in Nagar Mutari thanna of the Palam District for the past forty years, and if this Post Office has been transferred to Marawanian in recent years or months, if so, why;

(b) if it is a fact that Silidag has a population of about 4,000 people and is a business centre, whereas Marawanian is a small village of thirty houses;

(c) whether the people of Silidag and its neighbourhood have protested against this transfer to the Postal Superintendent and the Post Master General, Patna; if so, with what result; and

(d) whether he proposes to bring the said Post Office back to the original place and thereby remove the discontent among the people there?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) to (d). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Bihar and Orissa Circle, to whom a copy of the question is being sent for taking necessary action in the matter.

## POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICES IN CHHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION

**853. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

- (a) the number of new Post and Telegraph Offices in Bihar, particularly in the Chhota Nagpur Division;
- (b) the future programme of rural postal development in Chhota Nagpur;
- (c) the number of applications for the new Post Offices from the people of the Hazaribagh District; and
- (d) who is the final authority to sanction the establishment of the new Post Offices in rural areas?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) and (b). Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the postwar plan of the P. and T. Department. If so, the number of post and telegraph offices to be opened in each province has not yet been fixed. The postwar plan aims generally for the opening of post offices in or in the vicinity of all villages with a population of 2,000 and over and combined post and telegraph offices in all towns with a population of 5,000 and over, where such facilities do not exist at present. Places which do not come up to the above population standards will be considered if they are otherwise important enough to justify these facilities on the basis of the potential volume of traffic.

(c) I regret the information is not available.

(d) The Postmaster-General is the final authority to sanction the opening of new post offices in rural areas.

## "DUMPING OF EXPERTS"

**854. \*Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury:** (a) Has the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies read a letter titled "Dumping of Experts" published in the *Hindustan Times*, Delhi, dated the 14th February 1946?

(b) Is it a fact that three European rubber experts are being brought by the India Government from the U. K.?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state their qualifications and experience and the terms on which they are being imported from the U. K. by the Government of India?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government is trying to obtain three experts, namely, two chemists for moulding and plastics respectively, and one general technologist who would be a chemist as well as an engineer. It is intended to utilize them for training rubber chemists in India. The rubber manufacturing industry is sorely in need of well trained technicians in order to improve the quality of its products. Without such improvement, it may not be able to maintain the position achieved during the war.

## INDIAN RUBBER TECHNOLOGIST

**855. \*Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that two Indian Rubber Technologists were sent to the U. K. in March 1945 by the Government of India to study the developments in the Crude and Synthetic Rubber Industry there?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state whether Government propose to utilise their services? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Yes, Sir. Two Indian officers who, however, cannot be strictly described as technologists, were sent to the U. K. to study the uses of synthetic rubber.

(b) One of the officers is still in service. These two officers were sent to study the use of synthetic rubber at a time when it was essential to use synthetic in order to save natural rubber. That need no longer exists.

### PRODUCTION OF CRUDE RUBBER IN MUTTRA

**856. \*Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how much money has been spent in the Matrikund (Muttra) *Cryptostigea Grandiflora* (wild rubber) plantation scheme and how much crude rubber was produced?

(b) Is it a fact that five thousand acres of best cereal growing land was acquired for the purpose, causing thereby a net loss of about one lakh maunds of foodgrains to the country every year?

(c) Is it a fact that D.I.R. was exercised to force labourers to work in the Government Rubber Estate at Matrikund?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Approximately 16 lakhs. The amount of crude rubber that would have been produced was so small and our fortunes in the War had so improved, that it was decided to stop this expensive wartime measure, and the estate was wound up in April 1945.

(b) It is correct that five thousand acres of land were taken up for the estate, but it cannot be estimated what amount of cereals might have been grown especially as the district of Muttra suffers from a low and uncertain rainfall.

(c) No, Sir.

### EXPENDITURE ON OKHLA RUBBER PLANTATION SCHEME

**857 \*Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that before the (Muttra) Matrikund wild Rubber plantation scheme a trial scheme was worked out at Okhla near Delhi?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) how much money was spent in the Okhla Rubber Plantation Scheme;

(ii) who were the experts working there and what their qualification and experience were in the wild rubber plantation;

(iii) how much crude rubber was actually collected at Okhla; and

(iv) the findings of the experts working in the Okhla Rubber Plantation Scheme?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh** (a) No Sir, only the most suitable methods of tapping, coagulation, etc., of latex from *Cryptostegia* plants were studied at Okhla.

(b) The answer to (a) is not in the affirmative; but, for the information of the Honourable Member, the information under this part of the question is as follows:

(i) About Rs. 67,000.

(ii) Messrs. Walden, Hosken and Pillai. The first two were formerly rubber planters in Malaya and had wide knowledge and experience of rubber plantations. Mr. Pillai was a research chemist in the Dunlop Plantations, Malaya.

(iii) About 150 lbs.

(iv) The results of the experiments at Okhla showed that a satisfactory quality of rubber could be obtained from the *Cryptostegia* plant.

### WILD RUBBER PLANTATION SCHEMES

**858. \*Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that long before the Government of India took up the Wild Rubber Plantation Scheme, the U. S. A. Government carried exhaustive experiments in the *Cryptostigea Grandiflora* plantation and dropped the scheme as a commercial impossibility?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, why did the Government of India take up such an expensive unyielding scheme?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) No, Sir. In the desperate shortage of crude rubber in the War, the U. S. Government are believed to have embarked on very large plants for production from *Cryptostegia Grandiflora*.

(b) At the time when the Government of India embarked on the scheme the best information available, including the experience of the United States, indicated that the extraction of rubber from *Cryptostegia Grandiflora* was definitely a practical proposition in the War. The failure of the scheme was due entirely to an unforeseeable development. The plants came up quite well, but, due to reasons which have not yet been fully established, failed to develop the 'whips', from which the much desired latex is extracted.

(c) No Sir; the machinery is in fact suitable for India.

#### IMPORT OF RADIO SETS

**859. \*Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanjani:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether during the course of the war the Government of India made a secret deal with a British firm for the import of Radio Sets?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what is the number of sets so ordered?

(c) Did any such set or sets arrive in India? If so, what is their number?

(d) How did Government use the sets during the war?

(e) Now that the war is over, have Government cancelled the contract wholly or in part?

(f) If the answer to (e) is in the negative, how do Government intend to use or dispose of the sets as and when they arrive and which have already arrived?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Towards the end of May 1945, Government placed an order on a British firm for the supply of Radio Sets to meet acute shortage of Sets in the country. The order was placed because it was apprehended that the shortage would be accentuated during 1946 on account of production difficulties in the U. K. and U. S. A. It was by no means a secret deal.

(b) 25,000 Sets.

(c) None, but a few thousands are understood to be under despatch.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (c).

(e) No, Sir. But under the contract sets not despatched from the factory by the 31st July, 1946, may be cancelled at the option of the Government of India.

(f) The sets are being imported to meet the requirements of the general public and they will be distributed by the All-India Radio Merchants Association, Bombay, through the normal trade channels.

#### BAN ON EXPORT OF RAW HIDES

**860. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) What is the object of the Honourable the Commerce Member in prohibiting, after the cessation of hostilities, the export of raw hides and in permitting the export of tanned hides only to the United Kingdom through His Majesty's Government?

(b) Have Government received complaints from merchants and others against the continuance of this control?

(c) Is this control now continuing in the interests of India or in the interests of the United Kingdom?

(d) Will Government state the total (estimated) amount of hides available, the quantity used in India and the quantity that has been permitted to be exported?

(e) What is the volume of licences for the export of raw hides given since the 1st of January 1945?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The presumption made by the Honourable Member is not quite correct. Export of certain varieties of raw hides is allowed to all permissible destinations having regard to the supply position in India and subject to the general consideration that export of finished products should be encouraged as against raw materials. East India Kips and East India tanned buffalo calves below 6 lbs. per skin are, however, allowed mostly to U. K. as that country has always been our principal buyer of these varieties of leather, apart from a small percentage of exports which went to enemy countries before the war.

(b) Yes. There is however a conflict of interests among the different sections of trade and industry and the suggestions put forward by them to remedy the situation could not therefore be given effect to.

(c) In the interest of India.

(d) As the Honourable Member has not stated the year it is difficult to supply the information. Figures regarding production and internal consumption for the war period are not readily available. Honourable Member's attention is however invited to the report by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser in India on the marketing of hides in India and Burma and also to the Seaborne Trade Accounts which are published since November 1945.

(e) Licences to the extent of 863 tons of raw hides including raw calf skins have been issued since 1st January, 1945, up to 2nd March, 1946.

#### EXPORT AND IMPORT LICENCES FOR TRADE WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

**361. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state on what basis (i) import licences are given, and (ii) export licences given with regard to trading with the countries of the Continent of Europe?

(b) What are the reasons for adhering to the formula about individual firm's quota for a particular port, and in how many cases have Government departed from a strict adherence to this formula?

(c) What happens to the quota for which no claims are put in?

(d) Have not Government, in the matter of export quota, permitted the calculation for countries, with whom trade is now possible, of the export which used to take place before the war to certain enemy countries?

(e) Do Government propose to revise the whole policy and make a clear statement?

(f) Have Government heard of complaints of corruption and favouritism with regard to the issue of import and export licences? If so, what steps have they taken to eliminate this evil?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) (i) Applications for grant of import licences are considered on their merits, having regard to the essentiality of the goods applied for and their availability in the sterling area countries. Preference is given to such traders as were regularly carrying on import trade in the particular goods with the European countries concerned, in order that established trade contacts may be maintained; applications by other firms are also considered, according to the circumstances of each case, on the production of evidence of definite offers of supply from the exporting countries.

(ii) During the War, licences for export to the four neutral countries of Europe, Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland were sanctioned in accordance with a special procedure based on Economic Warfare considerations. The procedure to be followed in future in respect of trade with Continental Europe is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(b), (c) and (d). Licenses for import of goods from countries in the Continent of Europe are not granted on a quota basis.

As regards exports, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply under a(ii).

(e) Licensing policy is reviewed from time to time. No revision of the existing policy is at present called for.

(f) Vague allegations of the nature mentioned have sometimes been made in regard to the grant of import licenses, but the allegations have not been substantiated. No case of corruption or favouritism in the issue of export licenses has come to the notice of the Government of India, which is however, fully alive to its responsibility in the matter and is taking all possible precautions.

#### MUSLIM STUDENTS SELECTED FOR FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

**862. \*Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state the number of students selected for foreign scholarships by the Government of India? How many of these were Muslims?

(b) Why was the quota of 25 per cent not given to the Muslims?

(c) What is the total number of members of the Selection Committee for foreign scholarships and how many of them are Muslims?

**Dr. John Sargent:** (a) 356 scholars were selected by the Government of India for Overseas Scholarships in 1945 and out of these 90 are Muslims.

(b) Does not arise, as Muslims obtained more than 25 per cent of the total number of Scholarships.

(c) The Selection Board consisted of six members and a Secretary. One member and the Secretary were Muslims. I should add however that the members of the Board were not appointed with communal considerations in view.

#### MR. RAHIM'S REPORT *re* NEW *musafirkhana* FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

**863. \*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state whether the Government of India have accepted recommendation No. 46 of Mr. Rahim's Report regarding the new *musafirkhana* for Haj pilgrims at Calcutta? If not, why not? Do Government propose to expedite the matter now?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** The question is being considered in consultation with the Government of Bengal and every endeavour is being made to expedite decision.

#### CHARGING OF FULL FARE FROM CHILDREN OF HAJ PILGRIMS

**864. \*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state the reasons for making it compulsory that sixteen square feet space on steamer should be allotted to pilgrims irrespective of age whereby the shipping company can charge full passage fare even for a child who is a few months old?

(b) Are Government aware that if the shipping company were to charge full fare for children irrespective of age on account of it being compulsory under the International Sanitary Convention to give full space of 16 feet to pilgrims irrespective of age, it will serve as great discouragement to pilgrims to undertake pilgrimage having to pay full fare for their every child?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** (a) and (b). The provision of 16 square feet of space for one pilgrim irrespective of age is based on article 100 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926.

Shipping Companies do not charge any fare for children below one year of age and charge half fare for those between one and ten years of age. The fares charged for children are thus reasonable and the question of pilgrimage being discouraged does not, therefore, arise.

#### AMENDMENTS TO ANGLO-DUTCH AGREEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION

**865. \*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state if Government propose to amend the Anglo-Dutch Agreement and the International Sanitary Convention at an early date, so that space for one adult be allotted to two children between the age of three and twelve years and no space be allotted for children under the age of three years?

(b) Did the Government of India take the opinion of any Haj Committee or bodies interested in pilgrim matters before signing the Anglo-Dutch Agreement and the International Sanitary Convention? If so, whose opinions were taken, and what those opinions are? If not, why not?

(c) Do Government propose to get the Anglo-Dutch Agreement and International Sanitary Convention amended, so as not to make it compulsory for pilgrim ships to call at Kamaran when all the pilgrims are fully immunised against cholera and small pox? In case of epidemic, do Government propose to put the pilgrims in the Quarantine at Jeddah and to abolish the Kamaran Quarantine Station altogether?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** (a) The suggestion will be considered.

(b) Information is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

(c) This matter is already under the consideration of the Government of India.

#### GROWING OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS ON WASTE LANDS IN AND AROUND NEW DELHI

**866. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Agriculture Secretary please state:

(a) if he has considered the desirability of bringing under cultivation all waste land in and around New Delhi, which is in Governmental possession and which can be cultivated under vegetable or fruit cultivation at once, in view of the anticipated scarcity of food stuffs and whether any tubers and green gram and the like can be grown as quick crops in order to add to the food rations in nearby areas;

(b) if he proposes to lay on the table a statement of the action he has taken so far or proposes to take in the matter;

(c) if the answer to (a) above is in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if he proposes to consider the advisability of putting under cultivation all the area in front of the Secretariat buildings known as the Great Place right up to the India Gate?

**Sir Pheroz Kharegat:** (a), (b) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred the reply given to Question No. 760, asked by Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, on the 6th March, 1946. A statement repeating the information is laid on the table.

(c) Does not arise.

#### *Statement.*

Steps have been taken to bring under vegetable cultivation 60 acres, i.e. about half of the Central Vista; and part of it has already been dug up for the purpose and the rest will be ploughed up shortly. Tenants of Government bungalows have also been asked to grow vegetables in their compounds. Arrangements have also been made for officers of the Department to go round to the houses and advise the householders as to where vegetables, etc., should be planted, of what types and when, and for the supply of seeds, manures, etc., the limiting factor in most cases are water and lack of staff trained in the growing of vegetables.

#### HOUSING CONDITIONS OF LABOURERS EMPLOYED BY CENTRAL P.W.D. AND BUILDING CONTRACTORS IN NEW DELHI

**867. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of labourers employed directly under the Central Public Works Department and by building contractors in New Delhi for the construction of buildings in New Delhi and near about;

(b) if it is a fact that these labourers are housed in miserable ill-ventilated hovels, exposed to the vagaries of the weather all the time in sun, and rain and cold; and

(c) if the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, what steps he proposes to take in order to provide them with cheap and sanitary housing arrangements; if none, why?



**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) About 12,000 labourers are employed directly under the C.P.W.D. whereas the number of labourers employed by the building contractors varies with the magnitude of the building programme.

(b) Some of the C.P.W.D. labourers have been allotted Government quarters and others have made their own arrangements for residential accommodation.

As regards the labourers employed by the contractors, about 9,000 live in their houses in the urban area of Delhi. The remaining labourers who come from outside either come to the work daily from their villages or are accommodated by the contractors at the site of the works in thatched huts which give them a certain amount of protection against sun, rain and cold.

(c) The Government have already considered the question of providing permanent accommodation to the labourers employed by the contractors and are considering the development of model bustees in the villages near Delhi, from which labour comes. Government's scheme for subsidised housing for the poorer sections of the people should also assist in the provision of better housing for contractors' labourers.

The question of providing housing facilities to C.P.W.D. labourers who have not been provided with Government accommodation is under Government's active consideration.

#### NEED FOR PUKKA PAVEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF PANCHKUIN ROAD

**868. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) if he is aware that, while the roads to the south of the Imperial Secretariat buildings on which are situated the houses of senior high officials, have got asphalted broad pavements, the roads on both sides of Panch Kuin Road, where the inferior servants of Government are housed, have no pukka pavement at all and are dusty and muddy all the year round; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, does he propose to issue early orders to see that this part of New Delhi is kept as clean and neat as any other part?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) Some roads to the north of the Secretariat and some roads to the south have been provided with bitumen pavements. The provision of a bitumen surface on the footpaths on Panchkuin Road was sanctioned by the New Delhi Municipal Committee in 1939-40; but the work had to be postponed owing to shortage of materials. The work will be executed in 1946-47.

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee intends to keep this part of New Delhi as clean and neat as other parts.

#### REMOVAL OF SHEDS FROM COAL DEPOTS AT GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI

**869. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** With reference to his previous reply to the short notice question asked by me, on the 11th February, 1946, regarding ejection of the labourers employed in the fuel depots at Gole Market, New Delhi, will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) whether he can now say when the proposed permanent sheds for coolies will be built in the fuel depots at the Gole Market, New Delhi;

(b) whether he is aware that the coolies are experiencing great difficulty in finding accommodation for themselves;

(c) whether the galvanised iron sheets which were put over the charcoal and fuel dumps as a protection against rain have been removed by the health authorities, with the result that the charcoal becomes wet with slightest rain, thus causing loss to the Government officials who have to purchase wet charcoal there;

(d) whether he is aware that the small tin sheds in the depots used as a shelter for customers against sun and rain have also been ordered to be

removed, after being there for fifteen years or more, causing unnecessary hardship to the customers, who are mostly Government officials and others by their having to stand in the sun and rain; if so, under whose orders was this done; and

(e) whether he proposes to order the Municipality to make urgent arrangements forthwith for—

(i) the protection of charcoal and fuel against rain by roofing them with tin sheets or otherwise,

(ii) the provision of a covered platform for the use of customers who have to go there, and

(iii) the provision of a slightly raised platform for storing charcoal in order to reduce the admixture of dust and charcoal powder in these days when it sells at nearly three times its pre-war price; if not, why not?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulmam:** (a) It is not possible to give a date at present.

(b) No.

(c) No galvanised iron sheet structures were ever erected over the fuel stocks for protection from rain.

(d) There were no shelters put up for customers.

(e) The New Delhi Municipal Committee already has under consideration the whole question of the arrangements to be made in respect of municipal fuel depots, such as their location, provision of covering for fuel stored, and provision of accommodation for the labour employed therein, etc. The Municipal Committee has formed a special Sub-Committee to report on the matter by the 12th March, 1946.

#### BURMAN EVACUEES IN INDIA

**870. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) the number of Burman evacuees in India;

(b) the steps, if any, that are being taken to send them back to Burma;

(c) if the Government of India is incurring any expense on them by way of giving them allowances;

(d) if there are any representatives of the Burman Government in India to look after them; and

(e) if any office is maintained at Chunar in the Mirzapur district of the United Provinces on behalf of Burmans in India; if so, what exact duties does the officer-in-charge perform?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) On a census held in November-December 1943 the number of Burman evacuees in India was estimated to be 9,368. Many of them have, however, returned to Burma since.

(b) The Government of Burma are taking necessary steps to register all Burman evacuees with a view to affording them facilities for returning to Burma along with Indian evacuees.

(c) Financial assistance is given, in the first place, by the Government of India to eligible Burman evacuees but all expenditure incurred on such assistance is recovered from the Government of Burma.

(d) All evacuees including Burmans are looked after by the Government of India. The Government of Burma have, however, appointed four Evacuee Welfare Officers who go about inspecting the condition of Burman evacuees and maintain liaison with the Government of India for the welfare of such evacuees.

(e) The Government of Burma maintain a settlement at Chunar for accommodating Burman and Anglo-Burman evacuees. The settlement is in general charge of a commandant assisted by the necessary staff.

NECESSITY OF OBTAINING BURMA GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION FOR INDIANS TO  
RETURN TO INDIA

**371. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that an Indian, who leaves Burma for India, has to obtain the permit of the Government of Burma to do so;

(b) whether an Indian, who arrives from Burma and lands in India, has to satisfy the police authorities in India that he has obtained the necessary permits from the Government of Burma for landing in India; and

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, if it is in consonance with the constitutional position?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) During the military administration of Burma, the antecedents of any Indian desiring to leave the country used to be scrutinised and he had to obtain a permit from the military authorities. This practice survived for some months even after the return of the civil Government. It has now been discontinued.

(b) For the reasons stated in reply to part (a) of the question, an Indian arriving in India from Burma had to produce his permit from the Government of Burma. This practice has now been discontinued.

(c) What exactly is meant by "constitutional position" is not clear. These practices were enforced during the military administration in Burma when the normal constitutional position was not adhered to.

DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF INDIANS RETURNING FROM BURMA

**372. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian, who wants to return from Burma to India, has to fill in a yellow form answering several questions and has also to state the name and address of relatives or friends in India with whom the Indian, in question, wishes to reside, or who will support him when he is in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the form, in question, after it is filled up by the Indian who desires to return to his motherland, is sent by the Government of Burma for inquiry to the police;

(c) whether it is a fact that the police in Burma is called upon to make remarks with particular reference as to whether the Indian in question, can be usefully employed in Burma; and

(d) whether the Government of India consider such information as to whether the applicant can be usefully employed in Burma essential for the return of an Indian to his own country after the enforced absence of several years?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) The system of filling up application forms which was introduced by CAS(B) has now been abolished.

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

NUMBER OF INDIANS ALLOWED AND DISALLOWED TO RETURN FROM BURMA

**373. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians in Burma desiring to return to this country are divided into three classes, white, grey and black, and whether those, who are put in the list as whites, are only allowed to return to this country; and

(b) the number of Indians, who have applied for such permits to return to India, how many have been allowed to return, and the number whose applications for return have been rejected?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) No such practice exists at present.

(b) About 5,000 have applied so far, 3,267 have been repatriated. Facilities to return to India have not been refused to any.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST INDIANS IN MALAYA

**874. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the British authorities before leaving Malaya owing to the Japanese advance, distributed leaflets from aeroplanes assuring the Indians and Malayans that on their return after victory, no vengeance or reprisals would be taken against any of them who might be forced into allegiance to the conqueror—Japan; if so, why the Malayan authorities have now taken legal proceedings against the Indians; and

(b) whether the Government of India have drawn the attention of the Malayan Government to the incongruity and inconsistency in the treatment meted out to the Indians; and if they have not so far done so, whether they propose to do so now?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) No confirmation of this statement is available.

(b) Does not arise.

## GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE

**875. \*Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) When the general elections to the Council of State will be held and when the fresh electoral rolls will be prepared; and

(b) Whether it is contemplated to give direct representations to the Centrally Administered Areas in the Upper House?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Press Note issued on the 21st August, 1945, in which it was stated that the life of the existing Council would be further extended to the 1st May, 1946, with a view to the holding of a general election as soon as may be after that date. This extension was duly effected, but with a view to avoid an election in the hot weather His Excellency the Governor General has now decided to grant such further short extension as will maintain the existing Council of State in existence for any Monsoon or Autumn Session, which may be held this year and enable the general election to be completed before the commencement of the Budget Session of 1947. Electoral Rolls are now under preparation for all constituencies except the two Madras constituencies, the East Bengal (Non-Muhammadan) constituency and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce constituency, for which fresh rolls were recently prepared in connection with bye-elections.

(b) If the Honourable Member refers to representation by election, the answer is in the negative. But it is of course possible that one or more nominations will be made from the Centrally Administered Areas.

## QUANTITY OF RATION IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

**876. \*Sri A. Karunakara Menon:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of rations (in ozs.) that were being granted per adult in the District of Malabar, and other districts of the Madras Presidency where the ration system prevailed till the 15th February, 1946;

(b) whether there is a difference in the quantities, if so, why;

(c) under the recently revised scheme, whether there is any difference in the quantities of ration per adult in the two sets of areas mentioned above; if so, why;

(d) whether it is a fact that restrictions were placed on the quantity of rice that could be purchased out of the prescribed rations, in Malabar and that such restrictions did not exist in the other areas of the Presidency; and

(e) whether Government propose to remove all restrictions and distinctions and place all areas in the matter of rations on an equal basis?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** (a) The scale of ration in force in Malabar till the 15th February, 1946 was 15.8 ozs. per adult per day.

In other rationed areas of Madras Presidency the size of ration ranged from 16 ozs. to 17.6 ozs. 1.1 lb.).

(b) The small variation was due to the difference in the standard measure adopted in different areas for measuring rationed foodgrains.

(c) The present size in Malabar is 12.375 ozs. and in the rest of the Province it is 12 oz. The difference is on account of local measures.

(d) In Malabar rice could be drawn upto  $\frac{4}{5}$  ths of the total ration, but in the rest of the Province the limit was  $\frac{5}{6}$  ths.

(e) Adjustments have to be made from time to time with reference to the Supply position.

#### CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION

**877. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if the Famine Committee Report and the Foodgrains Policy Committee Report have recommended that, in order to increase the production of foodgrains, the system of land tenure should be revised; and

(b) what steps, if any, have since been taken to implement these recommendations; if none, why?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) The Famine Enquiry Commission recommended that an examination of the land tenure system should be undertaken by the Provinces on a comprehensive basis. The Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (not the Foodgrains Policy Committee) at its meeting held in June, 1944, recommended that the Provincial Governments should examine the land tenure systems prevailing in their provinces, determine what alterations were needed therein to ensure that the utilization of land resources to the maximum degree of efficiency is not hampered by the land tenure system and take steps to make the necessary modifications.

(b) The recommendations have been commended to Provincial Governments. The Government of India have also announced in their statement on Agriculture and Food policy that consultations are being undertaken with the Provincial Governments to ascertain the extent to which the existing systems of land tenure, including the rights and obligations of holders and tillers of land, impede the full productive use of land and the measures to be taken in this connection. Letters have been addressed accordingly to all provinces.

#### PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DELHI

**878. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that it is proposed to spend Rs. 7 crores on the improvement of Delhi in the near future;

(b) whether a substantial portion of this figure is proposed to be spent on the purchase of water meters and other such appliances from abroad and on staff; if so, the proposed figures for the above;

(c) whether efforts will be made to spend as little as possible on staff and other foreign imports and as much as possible on real amenities for the people; and

(d) whether he proposes to associate a committee of the Assembly before finally deciding on such schemes?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) Plans for the improvement of the Delhi Province are being prepared on the assumption that the total amount available during the next six years for all development schemes (other than self-financing schemes) of the Province will be about Rs. 5 crores.

(b) and (c). It is not a fact that a substantial portion of the amount will be spent on the purchase of water meters and other appliances from abroad. The schemes will require an increased staff but only such staff as is necessary will be entertained. It is not possible to give any figures at the present time.

(d) All important development schemes of the Delhi Province will be placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

QUANTITY OF WHEAT AND RICE MADE AVAILABLE TO DIFFERENT PROVINCES

879. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) the approximate quantity of cereals (wheat and rice) held in India in civil and military depots, on the 1st January, 1946;

(b) the quantities, if any, imported into India since that date and their allotment to the various Provinces;

(c) the quantities that have been sent from one Province to another after the 1st January, 1946, and the proposed allotments to various Provinces till the end of June 1946;

(d) if he is aware of newspaper reports to the effect that wheat in large quantities is being used as fuel in Argentine in South America, for want of coal; if so, whether he proposes to represent to His Majesty's Government to obtain wheat from Argentine by sending coal there and to send the wheat on here; if not, why not; and

(e) if he proposes to issue weekly statements about the supplies and movements of grain from Province to Province for the information of the public; if not, why not?

Mr. B. B. Sen: (a) the approximate quantities of cereals (wheat and wheat products) held by the Government of India in civil Depots on the 1st of January 1946 were as follows:

	(In round figures)	
	Wheat Tons	Rice Tons
Karachi Depot . . . . .	13,420	2,920
Calcutta Depot . . . . .	25,600	Nil
Bombay Depot . . . . .	14,780	Nil
Shamli Depot . . . . .	990	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,790</b>	<b>2,920</b>

Stocks in Military Depots on 1st January 1946 were as follows:

	Tons
Atta . . . . .	38,970
Flour . . . . .	15,430
Rice . . . . .	17,270
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,670</b>

(b) The quantities of wheat and rice imported into India since 1st January, upto 2nd March, 1946, were as follows:

	Tons
Wheat . . . . .	1,88,200
Rice . . . . .	20,370

A statement showing the allotment of these imported quantities to various provinces and states is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The quantities that have moved on civil account during the period 1st January, 1946 to 21st February, 1946 amounted to 182,000 tons wheat and wheat products and 1,44,640 tons of rice.

Basic Plan for different crops are drawn for the respective crop years. The new Rabi Plan which will be effective from May 1946, to April 1947, will be issued next month.

The Basic Plan for Kharif grains is operative for the period November to October. It is not therefore possible to give allotment for the period January to June.

(d) Government have seen press reports to that effect. Distribution of Argentine wheat is controlled by the Combined Food Board and it is not open to the Government of India to barter it with coal.

(e) The publication of weekly statements is not likely to serve any useful purpose. On the other hand it may create mischief.

	January 1946	February 1946	Total
<b>Wheat—</b>			
Bengal . . . . .	6,388	11,678	18,066
Assam . . . . .			..
Orissa . . . . .			..
Bihar . . . . .	7	..	..
Depot (Calcutta) . . . . .	10,140	5,409	15,549
Madras . . . . .	4,500	2,246	6,746
Cochin . . . . .		250	250
Depot (Coimb) . . . . .	..		..
Mysore . . . . .	6,349	..	6,349
Deccan State . . . . .	1,500	1,500	3,000
Depot (Karachi) . . . . .	13,683	51,846	65,529
Bombay . . . . .	25,738	17,414	43,152
C. P. . . . .			..
Hyderabad . . . . .	..		..
W. I. State . . . . .	1,500	..	1,500
Defence Service . . . . .	8,012	2,000	10,012
Depot (Bombay) . . . . .	3,001	8,024	11,025
U. P. . . . .	..	7,000	7,000
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>80,811</b>	<b>107,367</b>	<b>188,178</b>
<b>Rice—</b>			
Travancore . . . . .	8,756	Nil	8,756
Bombay . . . . .	12,812	Nil	12,812
Mysore . . . . .	6,000	Nil	6,000
Madras . . . . .	1,800	Nil	1,800
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>29,368</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>29,368</b>

## TOUR OF MR. R. A. PEPPERALL

**880. \*Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state whether Mr. R. A. Pepperall, Chief Executive Officer of the British Milk Marketing Board, toured India as Milk Marketing Adviser to make recommendations on the dairy industry?

(b) While touring in India, what parts of India did he visit, and did he visit the villages also? If so, how many, and in which Provinces?

(c) What report has Mr. Pepperall submitted to Government, and what action has been taken by the Government on the said report?

(d) Do Government propose to give an opportunity to the Assembly to consider the said report and examine its recommendations?

**Sir P. M. Kharegat:** (a) Mr. Pepperall was appointed for a few months:

(1) to make a rapid survey of problems involved in the supply of milk to Indian cities bearing on the procurement, transport, processing (if any), quality and price control, distribution, *etc.*, of milk and put forward recommendations for (i) immediate application to meet the present emergency and (ii) as a long term policy—the two to be in the form of separate reports; and

(2) to prepare or help in the preparation of a concrete and detailed scheme for an organized marketing (including quality control) of milk to a large town—particularly in relation to the City of Bombay and to Delhi.

(b) A list of the towns visited by him is laid on the table. When at these towns, he also visited a number of villages near by; the exact number visited is not known.

(c) and (d). The report submitted by him together with a press note thereon has been published. A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

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*Statement detailing the places visited by Mr. R. A. Pepperall in India.*

*Bengal Province.*—Calcutta.

*Bombay Province.*—Bombay, Bhusawal, Chalisgaon, Charodi, Anand and Ahmedabad.

*C. P. and Berar.*—Nagpur, Jhallar, Betul wardha.

*Delhi Province.*—Delhi and New Delhi.

*Hyderabad State.*—Secunderabad.

*Madras Province.*—Madras.

*Punjab.*—Lahore.

*Sind.*—Karachi and Malair area.

*U. P.*—Agra, Lucknow, Parbatpur, Rahmatnagar & Allahabad.

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## IMPROVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK

**881. \*Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) What steps has the Agriculture Secretary taken till now to improve the livestock which is in a state of semi-starvation?

(b) What has Government done to improve the animal management?

**Sir P. M. Kharegat:** (a) The action taken to produce more food will also produce more fodder which will help to improve the livestock. Other measures taken by Provinces are the increased cultivation of green fodder (where land can be made available for the purpose) the provision of silage, the introduction of rotations! grazing and the subsidised distribution of concentrates.

(b) The management of animals has to be improved by their owners. Governments through their animal husbandry and veterinary staff give the necessary advice and guidance and arrange for the prevention and cure of disease by means of inoculation against contagious diseases, increase of veterinary dispensaries, *etc.*



## MEASURES FOR INCREASING MILK SUPPLY

**882. \*Mr. B. P. Jhunjunwala:** (a) Is the Agriculture Secretary aware that milk production is steadily decreasing?

(b) What steps have Government taken to stop this decrease?

(c) What steps have Government taken to meet the milk requirements of the increasing population?

(d) Have Government done anything to improve the lot of the producers who are mostly illiterate, indebted and poverty-stricken?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) There is no evidence to show that the production of milk in India is decreasing.

(b), (c) and (d). The steps taken by Government to increase milk production and improve the lot of producers have been stated in reply to part (g) of starred question No. 146, by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 11th February, 1946.

## STEPS FOR REDUCING MAXIMUM PRICE OF MILK

**883. \*Mr. B. P. Jhunjunwala:** (a) Is the Agriculture Secretary aware that price of milk in India is the highest in the world? If so, why?

(b) Have Government taken steps to find out at what minimum economical cost milk can be produced in India?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to reduce the price to reasonable limits?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) Government have no information about the present price of milk throughout the world. The price in India varies from place to place; in Bombay and Calcutta it is higher than in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, but in other places it is not so. The price of milk in Delhi for instance is  $\frac{1}{3}$ / $\frac{6}{16}$  a lb. as against  $\frac{1}{3}$ / $\frac{9}{16}$  in New York. The Milk Marketing Report shows that before the war, the price received by Indian producers was the lowest in the world, while the price paid by the consumer in the larger towns was very high. The reasons for the high price at present appear to be high costs of transport and processing, and the general rise in the level of prices in India. In comparing prices in India with those elsewhere it has to be borne in mind that Indian milk is usually much richer in butter fat.

(b) Figures of cost of production vary from place to place. Enquiries made in the prewar period showed that milk was being produced at between one and 1½ annas a lb. No figures are available about costs of production under existing conditions.

(c) Steps have been taken in several towns to control the price of milk, and in some to control the price of cattle feeds as well. At the same time the production of milk has been encouraged by the supply of concentrates at concession rates, by the prevention of the slaughter of milch animals, by the salvaging of dry cows, and by arranging for quick transport.

## FIXING OF A REMUNERATIVE PRICE OF FOODGRAINS

**884. \*Mr. Madandhari Singh:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to give remunerative prices of foodgrains produced by agriculturists?

(b) Who are responsible for fixing the price of foodgrains in Provinces?

(c) What is the basis of their regulating the price from time to time?

(d) Why do they not fix a definite and specific remunerative price for foodgrains produced in each Province in order to encourage peasants to place every available acre of land under cultivation of foodgrains?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** (a) to (d). The Provincial Governments fix the prices of foodgrains in the beginning of each crop year in consultation with the Government of India, who, in turn, consult the Price Advisory Committee which includes representatives of producers. The prices are fixed at levels considered

fair to producers as well as consumers. The size of the crop, current market prices, general price level of other commodities and price levels in neighbouring regions are taken into consideration in fixing the prices.

#### DEMARICATION OF PROVINCES ON A LINGUISTIC BASIS

**885. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the British Government propose to appoint a Boundary Commission in order to demarcate the provincial borders on linguistic basis;

(b) whether there is any proposal of the British Government for setting up a North-East Frontier Province; and

(c) if such a Boundary Commission is to be appointed, whether it is likely to consider the question of demarcation of the North-East frontier?

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

(b) I am not aware of any such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

#### IMPORT OF SOYA BEANS FROM MANCHURIA

**886. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the great nutritious value and cheapness of soya beans; and

(b) whether they would consider the possibility of importing it in large quantities from Manchuria towards mitigating the threatening famine in India?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) As regards the nutritive value of soya beans, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to para. 11 of Chapter III of Part II of the Famine Inquiry Commission's Final Report (page 121) copies of which have been placed in the Council Library.

(b) No.

#### FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS AS MEANS TO REDUCE STERLING BALANCES

**887. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Education Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether it is a fact, as stated by the *Reuter's* message of February 19, that the United States War Department will retain the ban against the transporting of Indian students to the United States;

(b) whether they are aware that there is a wide spread feeling in the country that the lavish scholarships afforded for so-called studies abroad by the Government of India, is one of the methods of reducing our sterling balances in the United Kingdom; and

(c) whether, in view of the difficulties abroad, Government propose to consider the question of spending the same amount inside the country on our higher education?

**Dr. John Sargent:** (a) The American Government have not yet lifted the embargo placed on non-American personnel travelling on American flag vessels but it is understood that they propose to do so as soon as the urgent need for repatriating their troops permits it.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The importance of expanding facilities for higher education in India itself has not been overlooked, and various schemes are already under consideration with this object in view. The need for sending students abroad for higher studies will however remain partly in order to get trained as quickly as possible the high grade personnel required urgently for various plans of national development and partly with a view to obtaining quickly Indian personnel of the requisite qualifications for our own training institutions. Even when these urgent needs are satisfied it will still be necessary to send students abroad. India cannot, any more than other countries, ever expect to have the most advanced facilities for specialised training in all the branches of learning.

## INSURANCE PREMIUMS OF POLICY HOLDERS HELD PRISONERS OF WAR

**888. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly state:

(a) what measures have been suggested by the Government of India to the insurance companies concerning the Indian civilians and others, who have been prisoners of war during the war time and have been unable to pay their premiums; and

(b) whether they propose to consider the advisability of suggesting to the insurance companies concerned that they should not charge interest on arrears of *premia* or insist on re-medical examination in such cases?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) It was suggested to the insurers through their Associations that they should formulate schemes of their own showing sympathetic consideration to the plight of such policy-holders.

(b) Some suggestions made by Government were discussed at a meeting of the Insurance Advisory Committee but were not acceptable to the majority of the members present, on the ground that that would have involved several insurers in great financial loss. However, some insurers have voluntarily agreed to consider the cases of these policyholders as sympathetically as possible.

## EXPORT OF SUGAR AND ITS SUPPLY POSITION IN INDIA

**889. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the quantity of sugar produced during 1945 and during January 1946, in the sugar mills in India?

(b) What is the quantity of sugar exported out of India on Government or private account to places in the Middle East or Far East or any other place during the period mentioned above, and specially after August, 1945?

(c) Is it a fact that Khandsari sugar cannot be obtained in Delhi at the published prices but only at double the rates for ordinary mill sugar?

(b) What is the quantity of *gur* produced or allowed to be produced in United Provinces and other places, and the quantity allowed to be exported to Delhi and the neighbouring provinces?

(e) What are the reasons for continuing sugar rationing though more than six months have elapsed after cessation of hostilities?

(f) For how long is it proposed to continue sugar rationing and to keep the Sugar Controller's Office functioning?

**Mr. B. B. Sen :** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Khandsari is not issued for sale in Delhi town.

(d) 15.5 lakh tons *gur* is estimated to be produced in the U.P. and 21 lakhs in the rest of India during the current year. Delhi's quota of *gur* from the U.P. is 5,000 tons and of the neighbouring areas, *viz.*, Punjab and Punjab States, Central India and Rajputana States, the quotas are 54,000, 6,000 and 47,000 tons respectively.

(e) The sugar position continues to be as difficult as it was during the war time and it is necessary to continue sugar rationing in order to make an equitable distribution of available supplies.

(f) Sugar rationing will be continued as long as the sugar shortage lasts. The Office of the Sugar Controller will be kept on so long as problems connected with the production, distribution and prices of sugar require a whole-time Officer to deal with them.

*I.—Statement showing quantity of sugar produced in the Sugar Mills in India during the year 1945, and January, 1946*

Year	Quantity Tons
1945	1,002,200
January, 1946	290,299

## II.— Statement showing the quantity of sugar exported out of India

Year	Quantity Tons
1945	9,436
January, 1946	1,017
From 1st August 1945 to 31st January, 1946	7,491

## MAKING MICA A CENTRAL SUBJECT

**890. \*Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the British Parliament is going to amend the Government of India Act in such a way as to make Mica a Central subject?

(b) If so, will the Honourable Member kindly have it postponed till the representative Government is ushered in Bihar, which is a question of a few weeks?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) A bill has been introduced in the British Parliament to amend the Government of India Act in such a way as to give the Centre power to make laws in regard to certain matters including Mica for the transitional period from War to Peace.

(b) For the long period Government are considering the introduction of legislation in this House with reference to Item 36 of List I of the Government of India Act to bring certain aspects of Mica under Central Control.

## EXPORT OF RICE FROM BENGAL

**891. \*Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Has the attention of the Food Secretary been drawn to the report in the *Free Press Journal*, dated the 20th February, 1946, under the heading 'Mystery of missing Rice' in which Mr. Khemka, President Marwari Chamber of Commerce, in reply to Mr. B. R. Sen's speech in the Editor's Conference, at Allahabad, that all export of grains has ceased since August, 1943, is reported to have said in reply that on reference to the export list issued by the Calcutta Customs House only during the months of July, August, and September, 1945, one single non-Indian firm exported from the Port of Calcutta to foreign countries no less than 22,504 tons of rice valued at over Rs. 94 lakhs and that a closer examination of the export list of the Calcutta Port would disclose further export of rice from Bengal? If so, will he please state how far is the said statement correct?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Government have seen the statement alleging that 61,797 tons rice had been exported from Calcutta during the period May to October 1945. Enquiries have been made from the Export Trade Controller, Calcutta, which indicate that the above mentioned quantity includes shipments of 16,000 tons of rice to Mysore through Marmagoa, and 42,000 tons of rice to Ceylon. The latter quantity was sent to Ceylon on a replacement basis. The entire quantity has since been made good by H. M. G. by imports. The total quantity accounted for is thus 58,000 tons. The balance of 4,000 tons is explained by the fact that the quantity sanctioned for loan to Ceylon was 46,000 tons of which only 42,000 tons was actually shipped.

Mention has also been made in the statement of exports to Colombo and coast-wise exports. The reference seems to be to small quantities of food-stuffs taken by ships sailing from Calcutta for the use of passengers and crews.

## APPROACHING UNRRA FOR HELP IN REMOVING SCARCITY

**892. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) if the UNRRA organisation has been approached in connection with the impending scarcity in this country, and, if so, with what results;

(b) if he is aware that China and the Philippines have formed organisations in their own countries known as CHINNRA and PINRRA respectively, so as to distribute effectively whatever aid and relief they may get from the UNRRA;

(c) if there is any similar organisation in this country or in his Department to keep in constant touch with the UNRRA and obtain relief in whatever directions it may be possible in food, medicines, etc.; and

(d) how the contribution by India to the UNRRA compares with the contributions made by China and the Philippines to that organisation, and to what extent relief has been afforded to these three countries?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The latter part does not arise.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The first part of the question does not arise as China and the Philippines have not made any contribution to U.N.R.R.A. for relief operations. With regard to the latter part, the position is that only token relief could be given to China up to the end of September 1945 and a sum of \$1,000,000 was set aside by U.N.R.R.A. for the Philippines under the Emergency Relief scheme. In respect of India the question does not arise as no assistance has been asked for from U.N.R.R.A.

#### STOPPING OF INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNRRA IN CASE NO HELP IS RECEIVED

**893. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) if he proposes to consider the stopping of India's contribution to the UNRRA in view of our own difficult position, in case the UNRRA decides not to grant any relief to this country;

(b) if he proposes to place all papers and literature connected with the UNRRA and India's contribution thereto and all relevant papers on the table of the House or in the Library; and

(c) whether the contribution to the UNRRA for the coming financial year is votable by the House or not; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) No. The contribution of Rs. 8 crores which was voted by the Assembly in the last Budget Session has already been placed at U.N.R.R.A.'s disposal and is fully tied up in the procurement of supplies for U.N.R.R.A.

(b) Yes. All the papers and literature received so far in connection with U.N.R.R.A. and India's contribution have been placed in the Library.

(c) If a further contribution is proposed for U.N.R.R.A., it will be votable by the Assembly.

#### EXECUTION OF BOND FOR EACH CONSIGNMENT BY SHIPPERS ON WEST COAST

**894. \*Sri M. K. Jinachandran:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that shippers on the West Coast (Malabar, etc.) are required to execute a bond for each consignment of goods? If so, when was the practice first introduced, and why?

(b) Was it introduced as a war measure? If so, now that the war is over, will Government consider the desirability of abandoning the practice?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) Shippers by country craft are required to execute separate bonds only in respect of tea, cotton piecegoods and other restricted goods which are in short supply in the Middle East. These bonds are taken after careful enquiry in each case. This procedure was introduced from December 1945 in order to prevent diversion of goods to unauthorised destinations and to stop large scale bogus jettisoning of cargo which took place in a number of cases.

(b) It was introduced to prevent violation of export control regulations, as pointed out in reply to Part (a) of the question. The latter part of the question does not arise.

## FEES FOR INDEMNITY BOND FROM SHIPPERS

**895. \*Sri M. K. Jinachandran:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that prior to 1942, the Captain (Tindel) alone was held responsible for the safe passage of goods on the ships and no indemnity bond was taken from the shippers?

(b) Is it a fact that since 1943, such an indemnity bond has come to be taken from each one of the shippers also? If so, why?

(c) Why was the fee of Rs. 7-8-0 for this indemnity bond from the ordinary shipper for each shipment and Rs. 10 from regular shippers for a period of three years raised to Rs. 20 for each shipment?

(d) What is the reason for this increase?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) No. Even prior to 1942, the Tindel and the shippers jointly signed a single letter of guarantee on Rs. 1-8-0 stamp.

(b) This does not arise.

(c) and (d). Since 1944, as the result of audit objection to the stamp fee referred to in reply to para. (a) of the question, bond for twice the value of goods is being taken. The Stamp duty on the indemnity bond varies according to the value of the goods. For a bond not exceeding Rs. 1,000 the stamp duty was Rs. 7-8-0, and in other cases it was Rs. 10. These were subsequently doubled under Section 2 of the Madras Stamp (Increase of Duties) Act 1946.

## GRIEVANCES OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT PRESS, ALIGARH

**896. \*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Government Press Aligarh, have given notice of strike, if so, what are their grievances and demands;

(b) if Government intend to give them a minimum living wage, if so, when, and how much;

(c) the amenities provided to them such as bathing facilities, out-door games, education of children, provision of quarters and medical aid;

(d) their working periods per week, and whether Government propose to reduce these hours to 40 per week;

(e) if Government propose to supply them foodgrains at concession rates similar to those enjoyed by the Delhi Press and other Government Departments; and

(f) whether Government intend to abolish the piece wage system and introduce monthly pay on the basis of the wages earned by the employees at present?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Yes. The grievances are:

(i) reduction made by the Government of U. P. in the rationing of wheat;

(ii) revision of pay and grades;

(iii) concessional rates of foodgrains on the lines of concession allowed to Government servants in Delhi;

(iv) abolition of piece rates;

(v) revision of working hours; and

(vi) provision of quarters.

The immediate cause of the notice of a strike is the reduction in wheat rationing.

(b) The question is a general one which is engaging the attention of Government.

(c) No facilities exist at present other than for outdoor games and medical attendance. The question of granting other facilities is under consideration.

(d) The weekly working hours are 48. The question whether a reduction is advisable is being considered.

(e) No. The Employees of the Aligarh Press get foodgrains at concession rates on the lines of the U. P. Government's orders.

(f) The present policy of Government is to substitute gradually time scales of pay for both piece rates as opportunities occur.

#### PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS OF CHEMICAL FERTILISERS

**897. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary please state what the main plant foods are which are imported as chemical fertilisers?

(b) Do Government propose to import any chemical fertiliser from foreign countries for the coming year? If so, in what quantity, of what quality and at what price?

(c) What is the average output of superphosphate in the factories in India, and what is the average annual consumption?

(d) Is it a fact that the factories in India are working to less than half their capacity of production?

(e) Is it a fact that large quantities of superphosphates are lying idle in all godowns for want of transport facilities to places where they are required?

(f) Do Government propose to intensify the 'Grow More Food' campaign and thus give an impetus to a greater production and consumption of superphosphates in the country?

(g) Will Government consider the advisability of restricting imports of fertilisers only to such categories as are not manufactured in India?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) Nitrogen—Phosphate—Potash.

(b) Yes. During the Fertiliser year July 1946/June 1947 arrangements are being made to import the following fertiliser:

Ammonium Sulphate—221,500 tons	
@ Rs. 245 per ton f.o.r. port	
Ammonium Phosphate—10,150 tons	
@ Rs. 255 per ton f.o.r. port	
Superphosphate—400 tons	
@ Rs. 274 per ton f.o.r. port	

(c) The total estimated output amounts to 9,000 tons. This production has commenced comparatively recently and most of it is made from bones, and the average consumption is about 10,000 tons.

(d) Due to lack of supplies of Sulphuric Acid, there would be periods when factories do not work to their full capacity.

(e) No, as far as Government are aware. If any individual cases are reported to Government, the necessary help will be given.

(f) Yes.

(g) Categories that are not manufactured in India are at present being imported, particularly for meeting the requirements of sugar refineries.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS IN PROVINCE OF AJMER-MERWARA

**898. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the present stock of wheat and other foodgrains in Ajmer-Merwara at present? How much is being released for supply every day or every week in the rural area and in the urban area?

(b) What arrangements, if any, have been made for distribution of foodgrains in rural area?

(c) Are Government prepared to advise the Chief Commissioner to release at least the same quantity of foodgrains for consumption in rural area on population basis, as he is doing in urban area? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that the Punjab Government refused to supply wheat, maize and bajra and the residue of the quota allotted from there to the Ajmer Merwara Province in October last? If so, what alternative arrangement have Government made to ensure the supply of foodgrains to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The Sub-divisional Officers have selected distribution centres in their sub-divisions to which neighbouring villages are affiliated. Supplies are sent to the centres fortnightly and distribution is effected through a committee of management on which all the villages concerned are represented.

(c) This is a matter for the local administration.

(d) The Punjab Government have expressed their inability to supply maize and the outstanding portion of the wheat and wheat products quotas only. To set off against these failures, additional allotments of wheat and barley have been made to Ajmer-Merwara.

*Statement showing Stock position in Ajmer-Merwara as it stood on 17th February, 1946.*

(i) Stock position of wheat and other foodgrains in Ajmer-Merwara as it stood on the 17th February, 1946, was :—

Wheat—35,253 maunds.

Other foodgrains—33,082½ maunds.

Expectations of arrival till the end of April, are :

(1) Wheat—112,500 maunds.

(2) Other foodgrains including rice 70,000 maunds.

(ii) Rate of release in urban areas—About 10,000 maunds, wheat and 5,000 maunds other foodgrains including rice, per week.

(iii) Rate of release in the rural areas—6,250 maunds of all foodgrains every week.

#### FOODGRAINS POSITION IN AJMER-MERWARA

**899. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) In view of the very grave food situation in Ajmer-Merwara, does the Food Secretary propose to take steps to allot a sufficient quantity of barley from Bikaner where it is available and from where it can be despatched to Ajmer in a comparatively shorter time?

(b) Is it a fact that owing to a reduction in the wheat ration about 15,000 Railway workers in Ajmer have gone on strike? If so, what steps do Government contemplate to take to relieve the situation?

(c) Are Government aware that the reduction of ration to four chattaks is very unreasonable, in view of the fact that people there do not usually eat rice?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) A quota of 500 tons barley has been allotted to Ajmer-Merwara from Bikaner and steps are being taken for its immediate despatch.

(b) About 9,000 B., B. & C. I. Railway workers at Ajmer went on strike on the morning of the 12th February as a protest against the cut in the basic ration. The situation was explained to them as a result of which they abandoned the strike and resumed work the next day.

(c) The ration has not been reduced to 4 chhataks. The reduction is from 8 chhataks to 6 chhataks of which 4 chhataks can be taken in wheat. Card holders can draw the remaining two chhataks not only in rice but also in any of the other grains, viz. barley, jowar, bajra, etc.

#### CERTAIN PROMOTIONS OF JUNIOR READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

**900. \*Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the basis on which Junior Readers in all the Government of India Presses are promoted to the post of Senior Readers?



(b) Is it a fact that certain departmental employees who passed the Readership Examination at an earlier date and entered the Junior Reader's grade earlier have been superseded, not only in the Junior Reader's grade but also in the Senior Reader's grade, by those who entered the Junior Readers's grade later, in any of the Government of India Presses?

(c) Is it also a fact that certain qualified Copyholders who have greater length of total service as Junior Readers at their credit, have been declared Junior in the Junior Reader's grade, to those who have lesser length of total service as Junior Readers and who failed to qualify in the Readership Examination in which they appeared along with the former?

(d) Is it a fact that Copyholders who have put in greater length of total service in Copyholder's posts have been treated as Senior?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the desirability of filling up Senior Reader's posts on the basis of total length of service in the Junior Reader's grade?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Except for the post of Head Reader which has been declared a "selection post", the basis for the promotion of Readers from one grade to another is seniority cum fitness.

(b) and (c). Yes, in those cases where senior Copyholders qualified in the readers' examination before the confirmation as reader of their juniors who qualified earlier. The examination being a qualifying one, it is the length of service and not the date of passing the examination that determines seniority for the purpose of appointment as readers.

(d) Yes, upto April 1943, after which seniority is determined by the length of continued service.

(e) As stated in (a) above, this is already being done except in certain selection posts of Head readers in different Presses which are filled by selection on merit.

#### CLOSING OF CENTRAL ASIAN ANTIQUITIES MUSEUM TO PUBLIC

**901. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if the Central Asian Antiquities Museum on Queensway in New Delhi is closed to the public;

(b) if so, when and why it was closed, and for what purpose it is used now; and

(c) when it is expected that the same will be opened for the public?

**Dr. John Sargent:** (a) Yes.

(b) Except for the Aurel Stein paintings from Central Asia which were housed in a separate building the main collections were exhibited in the Imperial Records Buildings on Queensway. The accommodation in this building was placed in 1942 at the disposal of the Military Geographical Section of the Survey of India as a war emergency measure and the collections were therefore, dispersed for the duration of the war. The accommodation in question is still occupied by the Geographical Section.

(c) As soon as an alternative accommodation for the Geographical Section, General Staff becomes available, the Section will be shifted and the Museum will be rehabilitated and reopened to the public. Steps are being taken to expedite this.

#### DATE OF TERMINATION OF DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT

**902. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to refer to his replies to starred questions Nos. 9 and 16, asked on the 5th February 1946, regarding the date of the official termination of the war and supplementaries thereto, and state:

(a) how long after the date fixed for the official termination of the war, the Defence of India Act and Rules thereunder will cease to be in force;

(b) if it is a fact that under the Defence of India Act itself the same has to expire six months after the termination of the war;

(c) if all the ordinances made thereunder will also cease to have effect when the Act expires; and

(d) if Government propose to consider the desirability of abolishing all ordinance rule earlier than the prescribed maximum period of six months?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) Six months.

(b) Yes.

(c) Ordinances are not made under the Defence of India Act. On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to orders made under the Defence of India Rules, the answer is in the affirmative.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to part (e) of Starred Question No. 471, of the 25th February 1946. The policy explained therein with reference to the rules applies equally to orders under the rules.

#### RURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN AJMER-MERWARA

**903. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary please state if it is a fact that peasantry in Ajmer-Merwara is very heavily indebted?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of representations have been made to Government from time to time on behalf of the Ajmer-Merwara Zamindar Sabha and other Agriculturist communities for extension in Ajmer-Merwara of certain debt relief Acts at present in force in the Punjab to relieve them from indebtedness?

(c) Have Government taken any action thereon? If not, why not?

(d) Are Government aware that debt relief measures have already been enacted in almost all the Provinces of British India except Ajmer-Merwara?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) In 1929 the Banking Enquiry Committee estimated the total rural debt at about 3 crores. No reliable later information is available about the extent of the present debt.

(b) Representations were received from the Ajmer-Merwara Zamindar Sabha during 1945.

(c) Legislation is being drafted and it is hoped to have it ready in a few months.

(d) Yes.

#### MUSLIM SECTION HOLDERS AND OVERSEERS IN GOVERNMENT PRESS, NEW DELHI.

**904. \*Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the total number of permanent and temporary posts of Overseers and Section holders in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, and how many of them are at present held by Muslims?

(b) What are the duties and functions of the various Overseers in the said Press?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) 7 Overseers, 12 Section-holders. Of the seven Overseers' posts, two are held by Muslims. One is vacant. Four out of the 12 posts of Section-holders are held by Muslims.

(b) An Overseer is entirely responsible for:

(i) maintaining quality and quantity of the outturn of the operatives working under him;

(ii) keeping the sections under him fully occupied with work;

(iii) expeditious handling and economical production of work;

(iv) careful scrutiny of all overtime requisitions and keeping overtime down to a minimum; and

(v) ensuring equitable distribution of work among the operatives.

A non-technical Overseer is responsible for strict supervision over most secret and confidential work at all stages in the Press.

ESTABLISHING OF A CENTRAL ALL-INDIA PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTAINING WORKS ON SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS

**905. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if there is any Public Library, containing works on different sections of Science ;

(b) if so where it is ;

(c) whether it is managed in such a way that the general public can reach and utilise it easily and without much official interference ;

(d) if the answers, to (a) and (c) are in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of establishing a Central All-India Public Library with effective sections to cater to the needs of students of Science also ?

**Dr. John Sargent:** (a) As far as the Government of India are ware, there is no public library in India which cater exclusively for different branches of Science.

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

(d) Students of science ordinarily belong to colleges, universities or research institutes whose libraries usually contain special sections devoted to scientific subjects. The Imperial Library at Calcutta contains books on scientific subjects of a general character which are available for public use. The question of establishing a Central Reference Library and Library for students is under consideration but it is not contemplated that this will be confined to the Sciences.

RESERVATION OF CERTAIN STATIONS IN I. M. S. TO EUROPEANS ONLY

**906. \*Sardar Sampuran Singh:** (a) Will the Health Secretary please state if it is a fact that in the matter of posting of the I.M.S. Officers in a Civil Department, a distinction is maintained in reserving certain stations for the Europeans only ?

(b) Is it a fact that, in the event of the breach of the said rule, Provincial Governments are required to submit explanation to the Secretary of State every three months to justify the breach ?

(c) Is it a fact that during the war, such stations were held efficiently by the Indian Civil Surgeons ?

(d) Are Government aware that the distinction is being felt very keenly by the Indian Members of the Service ?

(e) In view of the Government's policy of Indianisation of services, do they propose to consider the advisability of removing such distinction ?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) Certain posts have been reserved by the Secretary of State in order to provide European medical attendance for European Members of the other Secretary of State's services and their families.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of the I.M.S. (Civil) (Reserved Posts) Rules, 1939, if a non-I.M.S. officer is to be appointed to a post reserved for I.M.S. officers and if it is intended that the person so appointed shall retain his appointment for more than three months the Central or the Provincial Government has to report the appointment to the Secretary of State for India with a statement of the reasons therefor.

(c) It is a fact that during the War many of the posts were held by Indian officers of the Provincial Medical Services.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) The decision in this matter rests with the Secretary of State and not with the Government of India.

OFFICIATING PROMOTION OF RAI SAHIB C. P. MALLIK AS SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

**907. \*Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) With reference to his reply to starred question No. 599, dated the 28th February, 1946, regarding Rai Sahib C. P. Mallik carrying on the work of Superintending Engineer will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the significance of asking an Executive Engineer to carry on the work without appointment?

(b) Does the person so invited carry on the duties of his substantive appointment as Executive Engineer? If so, does he send his reports as an Executive Engineer to himself as Superintending Engineer? If not, to whom are his reports sent? If not, will the Honourable Member explain the difference between appointment and carrying on the work?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) and (b). The significance of the arrangement is that officer does not draw the pay of a Superintending Engineer but draws only a small extra allowance for holding current charge of the routine duties of the higher post in addition to his own duties as Executive Engineer. His reports as Executive Engineer are submitted to the next higher officer, *i.e.*, the Chief Engineer.

This arrangement has the full sanction of administrative Rules and usage.

EFFORTS TO FIND MUSLIMS FOR CERTAIN POSTS IN ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE OF CENTRAL P. W. D.

**908. \*Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether he has approached a person of the Scheduled Class to accept the office of Administrative Officer? If so, who is the person, and what was his reply?

(b) Did he make any attempt to find a suitable Muslim?

(c) Has the Honourable Member decided to fill up all the posts of officers in the Administrative side of the Central Public Works Department by Hindus and members of the Scheduled Caste? If not, what steps has he taken to find out suitable officer to fill up the post of Administrative Officer?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) No. Does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No decision has been reached. The question of filling the post is under consideration.

RESERVATION OF CERTAIN CIVIL SURGEONS' POSTS FOR EUROPEANS

**909. \*Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop:** Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) How many posts of Civil Surgeon are reserved exclusively for the European I.M.S. officers in each Province;

(b) if the Government are aware that the reservation of posts for the Europeans only has caused a good deal of heart-burning and agitation amongst all classes of Indians in all the Provinces specially because better qualified Indians are available both for the Provincial and Imperial Services; and

(c) in view of the fact that almost all the posts of Civil Surgeons have been occupied by Indian Doctors during the last five years, whether Government propose to request the Secretary of State for India to remove the reservation for the European Officers?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Government are aware that dissatisfaction exists.

(c) The suggestion will be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State.

Statement showing number of civil surgeoncies reserved for British I. M. S. Officers in each of the Governors' Provinces

Name of Province	Number of Civil Surgeoncies reserved for British I.M.S. Officers.
Madras . . . . .	8
Bombay . . . . .	6
Sind . . . . .	2
Bengal . . . . .	6
United Provinces . . . . .	11
Punjab . . . . .	
Bihar . . . . .	
Orissa . . . . .	2
Central Provinces and Berar . . . . .	4
Assam . . . . .	7
N. W. F. P. . . . .	2

#### SCARCITY OF FOODGRAINS IN BIHAR

**910. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bihar has within the last three years, received only one lakh tons of foodgrains as against her import quota of eight lakh tons of foodgrains to make up the deficiency in her own produce of foodgrains;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that as a result of the failure of the last paddy crop throughout the Province of Bihar, particularly in its Chhota Nagpur Division, there is a great scarcity of rice and other articles of food in Chatra, Hazaribagh, Ranchi and many other towns of Bihar; and

(c) whether he proposes to take any immediate steps to improve the situation there; if so, what?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) Bihar has been supplied about 150,000 tons of foodgrains during the last three years (1943-44, 1944-45, and 1945-46 upto date). Normally imports of rice into Bihar are about 1,87,000 tons a year of rice and 66,000 tons of wheat. Bihar, however, had a rice crop very much above the average in the years 1942-43 and 1943-44.

(b) There has not been a failure of the paddy crop throughout the province of Bihar. The crop has been below the average particularly in Chhota Nagpur, and there is a shortage of rice in many parts of Bihar.

(c) As soon as the availability of supplies makes it possible it is proposed to increase Bihar's quota of rice. In addition it is understood that the Bihar Government propose to introduce rural distribution schemes in those areas of Bihar where this is necessary.

#### STEPS TO GROW MORE FOOD

**911. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Secretary, Agriculture Department, please state the steps which are being, at present, taken by the Central Government and the several Provincial Governments of this country to grow more food in Centrally Administered Areas and in the Provinces?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The steps taken to grow more food are briefly enumerated in the reply given to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 598, by Prof. Ranga, on the 28th February, 1946.

#### TITLES AND HONOURS LIST OF JANUARY 1, 1946

**912. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to refer to his reply to starred question No. 592, asked on February 28, 1946, and supplementaries thereto, and state:

(a) if the list of titles and honours issued on January 1, 1946, was the biggest list ever issued of such titles and honours; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) the total number of officials and non-officials who have received titles and honours in accordance with this list;

(c) if any communal proportion is fixed for titles and honours, if so, the proportion, and if the same has been followed in this list;

(d) if there is any gradation in the matter of these titles and honours in accordance with higher or lower status and importance; and

(e) the exact number of British-Christians, Indian-Christians, Anglo-Indian-Christians, Indian-Hindus (if possible according to their castes), Indian-Muslims, Indian-Sikhs and Indian-Parsees, who have received titles and honours on the last occasion?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes; this was a Victory list.

(b) Officials—1,180 and non-officials—647.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The other parts do not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the New Year's Honours Gazette dated the 1st January 1946, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

#### IMPORT OF MACHINERY FROM AMERICA AND ENGLAND

**913. \*Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for priority for import of machinery have been received either for expansion of old factories or for starting new factories;

(b) how many have been sanctioned; and

(c) how much machinery has reached India, as a result thereof, from England and America, separately?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) and (b). I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to the applications received for import of machinery under the Capital Goods Registration Scheme. The number of applications received up to the 28th February 1946, for machinery required for new factories or expansion of existing factories, is 1,850 and of those accepted for registration 911.

(c) Government have no information other than that contained in the monthly accounts relating to the Seaborne Trade and Navigation of British India, copies of which are available in the Library.

#### TRADE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

**914. \*Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to open negotiations with the U.S.S.R. with a view to establishing trade relations with Russia;

(b) how the trade is now governed between U.S.S.R. and India; whether it is open to any commercial concern to establish commercial contacts and do business there; and

(c) whether there is any Russian concern carrying on business now in India, and *vice versa*; if so, their names and the nature of the business done by them?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) India already enjoys trade relations with Russia, the position being that under the Commercial Agreement of 1934 between His Majesty's Government and the Soviet Union Indian goods receive most-favoured-nation treatment in Russia on terms of reciprocity.

(b) The foreign trade of the U.S.S.R. is organized as a State monopoly, licences for exports and imports being issued by the Commissariat for Foreign Trade. Subject to the operation of war-time controls in both countries, it is open to Indian firms to seek trade contacts through the Trade Delegation of the U.S.S.R. in India.

(c) The Trade Delegation of the U.S.S.R. in India, with headquarters at Calcutta, purchases goods in India for export to Russia and provides facilities for the import of Russian goods into India.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## COMPOSITION OF INDIA'S IMPORT TRADE

110. **Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the composition of India's import trade from 1939 up to 1945 as between capital goods and consumer goods in terms of both value and quantity?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** A statement showing the composition of India's import trade from 1939-40 to 1945-46, as between capital goods and consumer goods, in terms of value is laid on the table.

As quantitative statistics in respect of certain items of import (e.g. certain kinds of instruments and apparatus, arms and ammunition, glass and glassware, and furniture and cabinet work) are not maintained, it is not possible to furnish the required information in terms of quantity.

*Statement showing the composition of the Sea-Borne import Trade of British India.*

(Rs. lakhs)

	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45/	1945-46 1st 8 months
1. Consumer Goods .	92,90	79,38	80,18	42,79	47,46	1,03,42	92,76
2. Capital Goods .	14,53	11,17	13,04	10,15	11,23	16,04	12,98
3. Other Producer Goods .	57,87	66,42	79,92	57,50	59,16	81,52	66,48
<b>Total .</b>	<b>1,65,30</b>	<b>1,56,97</b>	<b>1,73,14</b>	<b>1,10,44</b>	<b>1,17,85</b>	<b>2,00,98</b>	<b>1,62,22</b>

N. B.—1. "Consumer goods" = Food, drink and tobacco, kerosene, motor spirit, coconut oil, copra or coconut kernel, apparel, drugs and medicines, cutlery, hardware, furniture and cabinet ware, glassware and earthenware, leather manufactures typewriters, sewing machines, paper, paste-board and stationery, rubber manufactures, cycles, motor cars motor cycles, cotton, silk, woollen and other textile manufactures (excluding yarn), postal articles and baggage and miscellaneous articles wholly or mainly manufactured.

2. "Capital goods" = Machinery and mill work other than typewriters and sewing machines.

3. "Other Producer goods" = Non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like, gums, resin, and lac, hides and skins, metallic ores and scrap iron or steel, oils other than kerosene, motor spirit and animal oils, mineral grease, paper making materials, tallow, stearine and wax, raw cotton and waste, raw wool, raw silk and cocoons, other textile materials, wood and timber, miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly unmanufactured, ammunition and military stores, chemicals, implements and instruments, dyes and colours, electrical goods and apparatus, iron and steel and other metal manufactures, vehicles (excluding cycles, motor cars and motor cycles) and cotton, jute, silk, woollen and other textile yarns.

## YIELD FROM LAND CULTIVATED DUE TO "GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

**111. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** (a) Will the Secretary, Agriculture Department, be pleased to state how many extra acres of land were brought under cultivation pursuant to the "Grow More Food" campaign in each of the years 1944 and 1945 in each of the districts of Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore and Khulna?

(b) How much, and what crops were collected as a result of the said cultivation?

(c) What is the approximate total quantity of land in each of the aforesaid districts which is now available for being cultivated for the first time?

(d) What is Government's scheme, if any, for such land referred to in (c) above?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be given as soon as it becomes available.

## EXPORT TO AND IMPORT FROM MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST COUNTRIES AND EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA

**112. Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) what articles are now being exported to the middle and near East countries and East and South Africa this year with particular reference to Iran; and

(b) whether any articles are being imported from the above countries?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The following is a list of the principal articles exported during the current year, from British India to the Middle East and Near East countries and East and South Africa.

Apparel, coffee, coir mats and mattings, leather, castor oil, linseed oil, paraffin wax, provisions and oilman's stores, sesamum, soap, betelnuts, cardamoms, ginger, pepper, tea, cotton twist and yarn, cotton piecegoods, haberdashery and millinery, gunny bags, gunny cloth, woollen carpet and rugs and unmanufactured tobacco.

Exports from British India to Iran consist chiefly of linseed oil, tea, provisions and oilman's stores, cotton piecegoods and jute manufactures.

(b) The following is a list of the principal articles imported during the current year into British India from Middle and Near East countries and East and South Africa:

Asphalt, sodium carbonate, fruits and vegetables, raw skins, spirit, unwrought copper, mineral oils, precious stones and unset pearls, salt, cloves and raw cotton.

Imports into British India from Iran consist chiefly of asphalt, fruits and vegetables and mineral oils.

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

**Secretary of the Assembly:** Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State:

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 11th March, 1946, agreed without any amendment to the following Bill which was  
12 Noon passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 28th February, 1946, namely:

A Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938."

## STATEMENT RE LAND LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee** (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): In the course of the debate on the adjournment motion moved on the 4th February by my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das on the proposed land legislation in South Africa, I promised to make a further statement in the



**House.** Our High Commissioner had been instructed to carry on certain negotiations with the Union Government and I stated that our Government would be able to take a decision about any further action in the matter after the conclusion of the High Commissioner's efforts. We have now had a report from our High Commissioner on the results of his discussions with the Union Government. Our main instruction to our High Commissioner was that he should urge upon the Union Government to discuss the Indian problem at a conference with Indian representatives with a view to exploring some alternative settlement and that pending the results of such a conference the legislation should be postponed. Our High Commissioner made personal representations to the Prime Minister of the Union Government to this effect. It is with very deep regret that I have to state that the Prime Minister has rejected these proposals. There is thus little doubt that the Union Government have decided to proceed with the draft Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill. The door seems to be banged against further negotiations. The Government of India have always recorded their protest against statutory segregation of Indians and they cannot therefore, consistently with their moral responsibility for the welfare of their nationals in the Union, acquiesce in this discriminatory legislation which will gradually relegate the large and progressive Indian population in the Union to a position of permanent inferiority. In view of the attitude of the Union Government and of their decision to proceed with the legislation, the Government of India have conveyed to the Union Government a message on the 9th of this month that the Government of India now consider themselves free to take counter measures. As such counter measures are likely to affect India's trade relations with the Union, the Government of India have also informed the Union Government that they propose to give the prescribed notice for the termination of India's commercial agreement with South Africa. Formal communication of such notice is being made.

**Seth Govind Das** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): May we put a few questions on the statement just now made?

**Mr. President:** This is not in the nature of an answer to a question and supplementary questions but a few questions may be put, provided the matter is not treated as a debate.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer** (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural: May I ask one question? In view of the statement just now made, may I suggest to the Honourable Member that he should recall to India our High Commissioner who is there. I know that is the general feeling even among the delegates of the South African Delegation in Delhi.

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Government are aware of the general feeling on that point but that is a matter which the Government consider it desirable to take some time over. After all there is unanimity in this matter between the Government and the public and I do feel, Sir, that Government is entitled to some discretion in deciding the exact nature and pace of diplomatic operations in this matter.

**Seth Govind Das:** The Honourable Member said that Government is still considering whether the High Commissioner should be recalled or not. May I know whether, before the termination of this Session of the Assembly, the Government will be able to make an announcement on this subject?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** I hope, Sir, the House will appreciate that Government are anxious to await the reactions to the measure already taken by them and all I can say is that a further announcement about their decision regarding the recall of the High Commissioner will be made as soon as possible.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Is the Honourable Member aware that it was about a year ago on the floor of this House the Members of this Assembly brought to the notice of the Government that the High Commissioner should not be sent? In spite of that, the Member in charge did so, and when asked in the House whether the High Commissioner was in India or not, he showed ignorance, whereas he was actually on the high seas.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member is referring to an incident which took place a year ago.

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): In view of the failure of diplomatic negotiations and the declared intention of Government to take retaliatory measures, may I know why Government will not now respond to the unanimous feeling on this subject and do everything in their power to indicate to the South Africans that this is not an issue in which they can get a walkover and why will they not recall the High Commissioner immediately?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** That is exactly the intention of the Government.

**Shri Sri Prakasa** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In view of the fact that the wife of the High Commissioner does not know English, he can easily come back.

## THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

### SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

#### DEMAND No. 15—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING—*contd.*

*Abolition of the Organisation of Research and Reference; Information Films; Field Publicity Organisation and Arts Section—contd.*

**Mr. President:** The House will now resume discussion on the cut motion moved by Mr. Ayyangar yesterday in respect of Demand No. 15.

**Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson** (Bengal: European): When the House rose last evening, the cut motion standing in the name of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar had been formally moved from the Chair and myself and my friend Mr. Nauman were competing to be called by the Chair at that moment.

I would like to say at the outset that had this cut motion been less catholic and comprehensive, and perhaps more discriminating, in its character we in the European Group might have found ourselves in support of it; but as it stands it is altogether too sweeping and would, we think, be too damaging to the Department, without effecting any of the improvements which we would like to see. There is no disguising the fact that both in the last Assembly and in this one Members have been critical of the Information and Broadcasting Department. I say that myself with a good deal of reluctance, because of my own very pleasant personal contacts with them from time to time during the war which also make me the more reluctant to say that I think the Department has shown itself somewhat unresponsive to public opinion in coming back to this House on repeated occasions, with proposals unmodified and which they know full well the House has previously been critical of. The history of the Department was outlined yesterday very roughly by the Mover of the cut motion. It is one of the Civil Departments of Government that has grown very greatly during the war, and by reason of that it might have been supposed that it would have been one of the Departments of Government which would have come forward to the House, as a result of the admonitions of the previous year, with effective proposals for reconstruction embodying retrenchment without, if I may say so, placing one of its best friends under the painful necessity of indicating a new way of life. I would like in the few moments that I have to indicate broadly what we think the principles of administration and the conduct and growth of the department should be. I and my colleagues on these Benches would be reluctant to deprive the Broadcasting end of the Department of any ready funds of which they might reasonably be thought in want. We believe that broadcasting in India offers an immense field for expansion in both entertainment and education and we also believe, in fact, we know, that the All-India Radio is making a determined and an increasingly successful attempt to conquer this field, though there is still room for improvement. I would like to say that in my opinion All-India Radio has steadily improved its programmes,

its news services and all its other activities during the past five years. I congratulate Mr. Bukhari, the Director, and his staff upon having put us in possession of a very fine service, both technically and as to its impact upon the public. I might just, in parentheses, say that from my own observations and experience I still think that there is considerable room left for improvement in the terms of service of the personnel of All-India Radio, particularly those who serve in the provincial stations. If radio is to be made a career for youngmen of ability and promise, I think they need some assurance for their future and the terms of their service need to be made comparable with other Departments of Government.

Having offered that small bouquet to the All-India Radio or to Broadcasting side of the Department, I ask in a spirit of the greatest possible friendliness whether we can say the same thing for the Information end of the Information and Broadcasting Department and I fear that the answer is in the negative. And yet I am sorry that the Mover of this cut motion picked out for abolition certain of the activities of the Department which, in my view, have a very definite use. No publicity organisation, whether it is big or small, can, in my opinion, afford to be without a Research and Reference Branch, providing it with the raw material with which to make the finished products. I and the Members of my Group would, therefore, wish to retain the Research and Reference Division.

As regards the Field Publicity, which forms a big item in the total amount of a cut which stands at 93 lakhs (I think the Field Publicity accounts for 50 lakhs out of that) here, again, I cannot quite frankly see the logic of seeking to abolish an activity of the Department which, if properly supervised, should get down to the very people who are nearest to the land. I cannot see the sense of that, or the logic of it, during a year which we proclaim is to be a critical year on account of famine. It seems to me, as long as we take this famine seriously that we must retain this though we may object to it on some other grounds. We must retain a limb of information and publicity which does at least make an attempt to get down into the villages.

Then, again, the cut embraces the branch which deals with Information Films of India. I am not at all certain what argument the Mover had in his mind when he included Information Films of India in the compass of his cut because, I think, if I represent a growing asset, an asset which is producing desirable publicity for India and an asset which I assume, on the other side of the book, is showing to the Department some revenue in return. But perhaps when the Honourable Member comes to reply, he will make that point clear to us.

Now, Sir, all these are useful and essential adjuncts of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and, if they are removed, will, in my opinion severely truncate the whole Department. Even if it is agreed that some of the limbs are to be cut away, I would suggest that in my judgment those which the present motion seeks to abolish are the wrong ones. And that brings me to a question to which I never had an answer in this House or elsewhere in reply to the inquiries that I have made. It is this. What precisely does the Publications Division do which the Bureau of Press Information does not, or cannot, do for the Department? I find from the heads of the proposed expenditure here that the Publications Division is to spend next year 15 odd lakhs, whilst the Bureau of Public Information is to spend 14 lakhs. Now, speaking as one who himself has been for a long number of years engaged in the business of publishing, I would say that on a superficial view there is scope inside the Press Bureau itself for the absorption of a great deal, if not the whole, of the activity of the Publications Division. It is true, in my opinion, that the editor of a newspaper receives much useful material from the Press Bureau, but nonetheless it must be said that it has declined during the last two years, both as to quantity and as to quality, and that at a time when by accumulated experience and knowledge, and by reason of the enlargement of staff and resources, one might reasonably have expected the Bureau to be

[Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson]

really at the top of its form. I myself apprehend that there is a good deal of duplication of functions between the Publication Division and the Bureau of Public Information, and, as I suggested before, the proposition might be examined seriously whether the latter could not take over some of the functions of the former to the advantage of both, so that the tax-payer might feel that he was getting the fullest possible value for his money. It seems to us on these Benches that economy by means of an examination of how far duplications of that kind can be avoided would be an indication of how far the Department of Information and Broadcasting is alive to the changed times in which we are now living. One has noticed in the last year or so, very little sense of enterprise and very little evidence of that kind and restlessness of mind and body which is, I think, the hall mark of good publicity. Now, Sir, no such organisation as the Department of Information and Broadcasting can hope to go on not making mistakes from time to time and not being guilty of some wastefulness as to expenditure, particularly in time of war. But we know the war is over; and we hope, for a long period of peace and as its concomitant many of us want to see retrenchment put in hand. But subject to the fact that mistakes and some waste were inevitable, I want to say that during the War, the Information and Broadcasting Department did a very good job of work which I think when it is seen in its proper and clearer retrospect, will appear even more meritorious than it does today. But with the coming of peace, it seems to have been caught unawares between wind and water, and it seems still to be thinking out its problems and functions in terms of the past. In the Standing Finance Committee only the other day, I discovered in a budgetary item in respect of the Labour Department that a provision had been made for nine lakhs of rupees for publicity and publicity officers in connection with labour exchanges and resettlement.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In every Department of the Government of India, there is some provision for publicity.

**Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson:** I am prepared to admit what my Honourable friend says. I tried to elicit what the facts were but I could not establish whether the Information and Broadcasting Department had been consulted over this matter. But surely, if we are to have a department staffed with able, intelligent and experienced men, there is no necessity to have separate departmental publicity in respect of Labour or any other Department as my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar has mentioned. It is, Sir, that type of revelation which makes us suspicious that not only is insufficient enterprise being shown by the Department, but also that it is not sufficiently watchful and it is not covering the whole field of publicity which I suggest should be one of the chief functions of the Department of Information and Broadcasting in its new peace time guise, which will perhaps be of a more sober character, but the one in which we wish to see it proceed in the period ahead. I cannot however associate myself, or my Group, with the whole of this cut motion and I therefore oppose it.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan** (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion on the Department of Information and Broadcasting moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar with the eloquence and thoroughness characteristic of his Province and opposed by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson so ably also. I see the greatest difficulty of Mr. Tyson is that he cannot see the logic or reasonableness of this cut motion. I promise to explain our point of view to him and convert him to our view if he only would take the trouble of listening to me. Information and Broadcasting—the name stands for activities so vitally important to the life of a nation, that none but a fool would dare to condemn them or interfere with their expansion.

We have no quarrel with it, but our quarrel is with the way it functions, with the way it is made to function. We are concerned with the voice of the musician, and the song that he sings. We have nothing but appreciation for the art of singing. You all must have heard the story of the Englishman, the Frenchman and the American who were asked to write an essay on elephant. The Englishman wrote about this magnificent and noble beast trampling the rich tropical jungles of the British Empire. The Frenchman wrote about the little loves of the little elephant. The American wrote about bigger and better elephants. That is a good story and it illustrates one point beautifully, that the man is more important than the things he talks about. The message of a picture is the real thing, not the paint that goes to the making of it. All things made by man are neutral morally. They are neither good nor bad. The split atom can carry you to the devil just as readily as it can carry you to the moon. It is neither a good horse nor a bad horse, it is merely a strong horse. Broadcasting, photography and printing are slaves that man has invented for his service and pleasure like steam, electricity or the split atom. And, like perfect slaves they have no will of their own. Your will is their will, so it is no use trotting out that old argument that publicity and broadcasting are very essential. Look, how much England spends on it. Look how many stations America has. I will agree with you there. I also say that Information and Broadcasting is fine, that India should spend 100 crores a year on it. But that is not the point. The point is on broadcasting what? It is rather a large order. I would say that we may spend that much on it, provided it is constructive, provided it rebuilds and rejuvenates our nation emotionally and spiritually. But by merely talking or writing about construction, you are not being constructive, just as by drawing lines you cannot claim to be painting a picture. You can not paint a picture without drawing lines, but you may draw a million lines, yet not make even half a picture. You make a picture only when your lines have a point, a purpose and above all a conscience and a soul. Sir, if you agree with me thus far, I would ask you to examine the activities of the Information and Broadcasting Department and its numerous progeny in the light of these observations. What does this Department send forth? Music, news, talks, publications and films. Let us take music. Music is a supplementary language. In music a nation expresses those deep and subtle things that can't be brought to the surface otherwise. It is a picture in sound of the soul of a nation. You could say that the American Foxtrot is a skyscraper made hearable or the American skyscraper is the Foxtrot made visible. They are both characteristic expressions of the mind of America.

Is the music sent forth by this Department a true picture of the soul of India? True, they give us a certain amount of old classical music. I give them credit for it as much credit as I would give to the Curator of a Museum for dusting and looking after old statues. It is the modern music the picture of this living growing India that I find not only boring but sickening. In this field you find this Department crossing our rich, cultured, matured and dignified old music with the Foxtrot, the Tango, the Rumbha and the Bogiwoogi. Now, I love Waltzes and Tangos and Foxtrots. They remind me of my student days in Waltzes and Tangos and Foxtrots. They remind me of my student days in England and America when one kept high spirits and low company. But just because a dagger is golden, one should not stab oneself with it. I do not like them crossed with our *thumries* and *ghazals* and *behrawis*. They not only produce hybrid children but extremely illbred ones. I am not against change and progress. I am against cross-breeding with the lowest and most vulgar form of western music. It is possible to have a music that is a true picture of the mind and culture of India today. I am not dressed like my grandfather, but I am dressed like a Pathan. You could not mistake me for anything else. The Information and Broadcasting Department has failed to dress in this manner. It has given Indian music, a golf cap, a check shirt, a tail coat and no trousers and wants me to worship this horror in the name of progress and modernisation and looks pained when I don't.

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan]

Now we shall take all the other activities of this Department. In these activities unfortunately our rulers were directly interested and therefore this Department speaks what it is told to speak, it speaks what it pays it to speak, it speaks what a mercenary is expected to speak in front of his master. It says whatever it is allowed to say and it need never be the truth. Why? Here we must go to the fundamental problem,—the interests of England against the interests of India, the point of view of the hawk and that of the dove, the point of view of the wolf against that of the sheep, the point of view of the hunter against that of the deer. This Department printed, photographed, talked, hinted, insinuated, suggested, forgot and remembered always to the interests of the rulers and never of the ruled. I do not blame them for it; they serve their masters faithfully and efficiently. I do not agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson when he says that it is an inefficient Department; I think it is one of the most efficient and well-run Departments of the Government of India. But I object to their pretence of service to India and I object to their making me pay for it and thank them into the bargain. Let England thank them and let England pay for their grand effort of extending the bonds of slavery to the realm of the mind and the soul of India.

Now I want to leave the general issue and come to specific points. My unfortunate province gets the full brunt of the general defects of this Department, along with others peculiar to itself. It is always so. We suffer like the rest of India from a scarcity of cloth, and we suffer more intensely because of our peculiar mode of dressing and terrible climate. The Information Department is no exception. Our cup of bitterness has always an extra dose added to it to suit our peculiar circumstances. Ours is the only province in India where the local programmes are given in a foreign language. You may be surprised to hear it. Take Lucknow, for example. It gets only 50 minutes of news in English every day, and the rest of the programme for the whole day and night is in Urdu. In Peshawar we get three hours of Pushto with the news thrown in, and all the rest of the time it is in Urdu which Pathans do not understand. We are not allowed a Pathan Director; we are always favoured with a genius from this part of the world. You may have an outsider for industry or roads or planning and development, but you cannot have an outsider for music. It is so deep and subtle and such an intimate part of the history and culture and growth of a race that no outsider, however gifted and sympathetic he might be, can ever dare to understand it; and the result is that we are being smothered by the cheap, syrupy, sexy music of the dancing girls of India,—the dancing girls on whom the A.I.R. chiefly depends for the interpretation of the soul and culture of India. To depend on the lowest and most degraded of the community for the interpretation of the noblest and highest form of a nation's feelings,—is something that my Honourable friend over there can explain, I cannot.

Sir, two years ago I went to Swath, the little Kashmir of the North-West Frontier. The ranges of the Hindukush were covered with snow, I stood on the bank of a river that was fresh from the snows thundering down to my little village in the plains. And I heard a song. I looked round and saw a shepherd boy who was singing. It was one of the most filthy and vulgar songs popularised through the radio by one of the most famous prostitutes of Lahore. I had a strong desire to push that shepherd boy into the icy water of the river but I realised that it was not his fault. He was young. Youth is an intense search: youth has a burning desire to express itself; and it was my duty and the duty of my Honourable friend over there to provide him with a means of expression beautiful and noble, not loud and vulgar.

The Pathans have a great and rich store of folk songs, folk music where you will find gay little colourful pictures of their tribal wars and heroes. Laces and

elopements. It is the one place in India, Sir, where you will find musical compositions that attempt to describe things. There are no words to go with them, but pure descriptive sounds that may give you the picture of the flight of a bird or the walk of a girl. But you may listen to our Peshawar station for a year and never hear one. Firstly because we are sadly behind the rest of India in the dancing girl line, and secondly because these things are lying spread out in the hills and valleys and little villages of the Pathans, and the bright young man who directs our station does not know where to look for them. In all fairness to my young friend let me say that he is intelligent, musical and artistic and would make a good Director for any station except Peshawar. I appeal to the Honourable Member to let the Peshawar station speak Pushto. You cannot run a broadcasting station solely for the benefit of a few shopkeepers who have migrated from the Punjab and Kashmir and elsewhere to bleed us and skin us. Give us the news in English and Urdu and everything else in Pushto. It is not an unreasonable request, when every station in the other provinces is run in this way. And in Heaven's name stop murdering our music with the cheap trash of the lowest crowd of the cities of India. If you cannot do that, shut our station down; we would rather go thirsty than drink poison.

Sir, the Information and Broadcasting Department is well got up and efficiently run, but it is not Indian and patriotic. It is bold effort on the part of the slave master to extend slavery to the realms of thought and emotion and an effort to drive the knife deeper. To vote for it would be to vote for spiritual suicide,—for an Indian and not for an Englishman. Let this Department try to make a Pathan a better Pathan, a Madrassi a better Madrassi and an Indian a better and a more cultured Indian, and we shall vote half the revenues of India for it. But the Department as it has been today and as it has been for the past six years is a tool of England and not of India. It is England that should pay for it and not we.

Sir, it would be extremely unfair if I did not speak a few words of praise for a small off-shoot of this Department, the Field Publicity Organisation of the Frontier. This small Department, though still very young, has completely identified itself with the people of the province. This autumn when malaria was rampant the organisation even distributed quinine to the poor villagers who could not get it otherwise. The credit for this goes to Abdul Karim Khan, the man who makes the best of a bad job. But my Honourable friend gives them only Rs. 92,000 out of the 138 lakhs spent on it. That is what is given by this Department for services rendered. The Field Publicity Organisation of the Frontier Province deserves praise and needs expansion. With this small but very important exception, I fully support the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I need not deal with the history of the Department. The Honourable the Mover has given the history to this House and he has described the different denominations of the Department at the different stages of its existence, but at all time it has been serving the same purpose which the Government had in view. I will first deal with the Information Films; it is the worst kind of trash that could have been flashed in any country. Probably these are meant to convey to other countries an idea how backward India is. We had our suspicions when there was a debate on the liquidation of the National War Front, though the Secretary at that time Mr. Bozman gave an assurance that it was not his intention any more. I will quote what my Deputy Leader Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan said then:

"I am afraid I was giving him a little more credit anyhow.....The Honourable Member's premises were wrong, therefore his conclusion is wrong. Neither does propaganda give the right type of information nor has it got the right type of people in it. Therefore its achievements cannot be of the right type also."

That was said about the National War Front and its Publicity Department. The new shape that it took did not change materially in that part at least.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

Sir, I was just referring to the question of films. The method which was undergone in the matter of distribution of raw films and the corruption that their departmental men indulged in can hardly be disclosed in a debate here. I will not enter into those details here at all. I will only refer to the propaganda which has been carried on in the country through these films. What do they generally show through these films? Methods of agriculture, story of coal shortage news reels to impress the world or at least this country about the great pageantry of this Government by showing Victory celebrations and etc. The main purpose of flashing films in other countries is also to degrade this country in the estimation of others as much as possible. In this connection, I would like to refer to an A.P.I. message in which it was said that the film 'Ganga Din' was staged in Greece and flashed. It was resented to by the Indian soldiers as it was considered indecent and derogatory to the Indian taste. By showing these films, Government wanted to create an impression in the Western countries that India is full of elephants, Rajas, jewels, and such other things which would convey the impression that the civilization of this country was probably two thousand years behind the present standard. Such films are considered by them to be the true picture of Indian conditions, and they have no other purpose except to impress upon the world the justification of maintaining their hold on this country.

As regards the Publication Department, they have got the Far East Propaganda Department. What is the Far East?—It may be Far East to them, but it is Near East to us—and what is the nature of the propaganda which is being carried on there? Have we got any independent status to talk as a sovereign country with Persia or with any other country in the so called Far East? If we have not, what is the sense in carrying out any propaganda there? On the one hand we are not in the know of the substance of the propaganda which is being carried out on the other hand this can serve no useful purpose. They have been distributing in those countries books, and magazines written in Persian and it is again directed to the same end—maintaining British Imperialism in this country and trying to degrade the civilization of this country to the extent to which it is possible for them to do.

The books that are supplied to the United Nations Organization is another subject which requires careful consideration. I am told, Sir, that the Secretary of State passed on to this Organization Beverley Nichols book 'Verdict on India'. Probably it was considered by them to be the best book written on this country, but Government of India have not so far said that it was their publication. Government of India representatives have not got the courage to even testify a truth. I remember during the last Budget Session when this book was criticized on the floor of this House, Government tried to alienate themselves from that as much as they could, but when they had to suggest an authoritative book containing useful information with regard to this country, they could not help thinking this book contained the most valuable information, and therefore they passed it on to the United Nations Organisation. I do not wish to comment on the contents of this book. But I only wish to point out what they have been doing so far and how they have been evading their responsibility even in one good case, I mean publication of this book.

Then, Sir, I am told that about 2,000 publications of *The Times* of London, are purchased and supplied to different offices—for what purpose. I do not know what useful purpose is served by subscribing *The Times* of London. We are not as yet in the know of many other publications that are brought from England. We are not in a position to know details of all the publications that are sent out from this country. It was only a few weeks ago that we received a circular letter from the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly Department asking us whether we would like to have any books published by this Department, but the Department never cared to send any of those magazines or books



to us earlier. They were doing everything at our back; they were shy; they were afraid; as they thought that they were doing something mischievous, and therefore the representatives of the people should not receive any information in this regard. This reminds me of a Persian couplet:

*“Nehān Kai mānad ān rāze Kazoo Sāzand mahfithā*

Translation (How can you conceal things which forms the basis of your mirth and enjoyment).

You cannot keep a secret of those things which you are flashing to the world, and there you stand degraded and condemned. I want to impress upon this House that if this Department has done anything at all, it has degraded the prestige of this country in every sphere in the matter of general civilization, the methods of cultivation of this country, and so on and so forth. They have been responsible for bringing about famine in food, and famine in cloth, and they have been responsible for all the mischief that propaganda could do in this connection. One thing is very pertinent and it is this that they have been carrying on this Department in the teeth of opposition from us. The mover of the motion very clearly said that as early as March 1942, the Muslim League Party definitely opposed this programme in the Standing Finance Committee, but the Government did not take any notice of that. Again during the Budget Session of 1945, in our debate on the abolition of the National War Front we made it clear that the Publicity Department in whatever shape or form it exists under the present management was not worth having. It was against our interest and whatever propaganda they were doing was always prejudicial to this country. That being the position, I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member to think over once again on this matter and say whether he would abide by the verdict of this House by accepting a cut of Rs. 93 lakhs and doing away with this Department for good.

With regard to Films, I once again repeat that their policy has been very mischievous. About Information Section. I was told about the appointment of the Chief Publicity Officer whose educational qualification is limited to the standard of matriculation from one of the Universities of this country. He might have the ability of cajoling the officers to win their favours, but so far as his ability is concerned, it is unknown to us and it is unknown to many other people. In condemning this Department I also want to say that those who have associated with it have wronged their own genius and merit, if they have any. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari** (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I do not appear before this House in sack cloth and ashes. I am not ashamed for what has been done in the past or what is proposed to be done, if it is allowed to survive, by this Department in the future. Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan, in his very attractive literary exercise, which is worthy of some of the best productions of my Department, has really confined his speech to broadcasting which is not in question in the present cut motion. If he finds anything to complain of, and I am sure there are things which could be probably improved, I would very much like him to give me and Mr. Bokhari the benefit of his counsel.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Do they care to hear us? Give them as much advice and counsel!

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** As I have announced previously in the House, it is my intention that as soon as it may be, broadcasting would be under the direction of a semi-autonomous body consisting of Indian men and women of standing. Anyhow that should be ample evidence that I am very willing and so is Mr. Bokhari to act on advice.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it to screen it from criticism?

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** I do not propose to go into the matter of publication which forms the main theme of Mr. Tyson's remarks because that again is not in question. In view. . . .

**Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson:** May I ask the Honourable Member if he would try and address this side of the House. It is frightfully difficult to hear.

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** Sir, I will do my best. There is a very good case for Publications, but I do not want to explain it now because that again is not in question and therefore I would like to confine myself to the four activities of the Department which is the subject of this cut totalling Rs. 93 lakhs. In the first place I would like to say that it is not true that I have flouted the opinion of the House expressed in the previous debate on this subject in the time of my distinguished predecessor. I joined the Department on the 1st November 1945. Very soon after I had got the hang of it, I went through myself along with my officers the various activities of this Department. I abolished some. I pruned down others and then what did I do?

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Revive the third!

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** I submitted proposals to a Committee of the Executive Council and got the proposals vetted by them and then by Government as a whole. But I did not stop there. I appeared myself on all the proposals which are in question before the Standing Finance Committee on the 9th February and by a majority the Standing Finance Committee accepted every one of them. You cannot say, like the last Standing Finance Committee, that there was a majority of people of our way of thinking. Out of nine members three belonged to the Muslim League, four belonged to the Congress Party, and therefore if these proposals were passed by a majority, it must have been by a majority of elected members.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** By a majority which shall be defeated now!

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** My point is merely this: that at the earliest date, after I had examined the various activities of the Department and got governmental approval of their being carried out I placed them before a Committee of this House, and had the Committee not agreed with one or the other of these proposals I was prepared not to carry them out.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** On a point of information. Is it a fact that the Honourable Member, or as a matter of fact his predecessor started this Department before it was brought before the Standing Finance Committee. Their activities were started in June 1945 and they did not come up to the Standing Finance Committee till February 1946.

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** When I joined the Department, the whole Department came under review and all the principal activities of this Department were placed before the Standing Finance Committee of this House and passed, each of them by a majority. When I come to deal with each of the four items which my Honourable friend proposes to abolish, I will read out. . . .

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Will the Honourable the Finance Member make clear what we made clear on this subject and what I said?

**Mr. President:** I think it is better if the Honourable Member is given a hearing.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Since matters which transpired in the Standing Finance Committee are being read and since the position which some of us took is not properly put, I am calling upon the Finance Member, who is the Chairman, to make clear what some of us said on this subject. We do not want it to be said that in one place we took one line and today we are taking another line.

**Mr. President:** What I would suggest to the Honourable Members is to be a little patient while the other side is putting its case.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** There is no impatience.

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Instead of having running commentaries and running questions at every sentence, let us first grasp what the Honourable

Member has to say. After that is done, if there is anything which requires a personal explanation, certainly Honourable Members are entitled to put their questions and get the matter clarified. But this sort of running commentary at every sentence is not going to help the debate.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** On a point of personal explanation. I am a little sorry that you should have implied that there is impatience. As a matter of fact that Honourable Member said he was not responsible. . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The Honourable Member is trying to justify his position without hearing the other side.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I heard the other side.

**Mr. President:** I respectfully differ from the Honourable Member. I am hearing the whole debate and trying to follow it up. The Honourable Member may have his own views. I am starting on a blank slate. I have no pre-suppositions either this way or that way. Let him develop his argument. If there is any misstatement of any facts, or misrepresentation of the views of any Honourable Members, they will certainly have an opportunity. I will give them an opportunity. But the point is that there should not be running commentaries and interruptions at every sentence. It breaks the link of the person who is arguing his own case and then the House does not get all that he wants to say. Let him say all that he wants to say. The Honourable Members will make notes of the questions they want to put and then can put them. I will give them an opportunity.

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** Thank you, Sir. I will make one observation on what my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar says. I do not wish to disclose what each individual member in the Standing Finance Committee said because that is against the rules. The only reason why I mentioned the Standing Finance Committee and which I think I have every right to do is that I did at the earliest possible moment place these matters before a Committee of this House and recorded; what is stated in this publication is for anybody to see. I did not reveal any secret. Now, with the permission of the House I wish to deal with the four subjects which the Honourable the mover wants cut out.

He mentioned first field publicity and said that this was flouting the opinion of the House, that it was extravagant expenditure and in the interest of economy this particular organisation should be cut out. Of course he is perfectly right in saying that there was no difference in time between  
 1 P.M. the abolition of the National War Front and the creation of this Field Publicity Organisation. He was quite right but there was a difference in bias and I will read out a few lines from what was stated in the memorandum to the Standing Finance Committee:

"With the cessation of hostilities the need for educating the people in the restriction in daily life has to some extent decreased and Government's plans of postwar development have now become of primary importance. Any plan for the general improvement of the social and material conditions of the people as a whole must pay special attention to the villages. The measures required for such improvement are many and include improved methods of agriculture, better livestock, organised marketing, the financing of agriculture, the relief of indebtedness, anti-erosion, irrigation and reclamation measures. In addition improved communications, agricultural and health services and education are required."

Those are the present objectives of the Field Publicity Organisation and how do we propose to carry them out? At the Centre there is going to be only a very small co-ordinating organisation. Out of the 51 lakhs, five lakhs is to be spent at the Centre. That is the area of my patronage—5 lakhs and nothing more. The rest of the money is to be handed out to the Provinces not of course to be spent as they like but in accordance with an agreed programme; but the appointments in the Provinces and in the Centrally-administered areas will not be made by the Centre but will be made by the Provincial Governments concerned. In this connection I was very glad to hear the tribute paid by my friend Khan Abdul Ghani Khan to the good

[Sir Akbar Hydari]

work which the organisation is doing on the Frontier. How is this sum arrived at? This sum of 41 lakhs to the Provinces represents half the cost of their non-recurring expenditure on equipment (which becomes the property of the Provinces) and two-thirds of their recurring expenditure. The intention is that this organisation should be tried out for a year, if you agree to it, that is for the year 1946-47. If by the end of 1946-47 it is found that the organisation has been successful and the Provincial Governments then are willing to undertake a greater measure, a greater share of the recurring expenditure, we will continue it. If it is found that they are not prepared to share a far greater measure than one-third, we will discontinue it. Therefore it is purely on an experimental basis and dependent upon whether the service which we expect it to give is in fact given. Were conditions in the country likely to remain as they have been during the last five or six years, Honourable Members opposite may have said, "Oh, yes. That is all very well. But many of these Governments are Section 93 Governments. They are under your thumb and they will just carry out such policies as are dictated to them by the Centre, which in turn are dictated to by the Secretary of State for India." Already we see popular ministries being installed in the Provinces and before this organisation really begins to get under way Provincial Ministries will be installed, I hope, in all Provinces and even the Centre, as you see it now, will be by then, I hope, in the process of dissolution. Therefore if you now cut out this grant you are really not hurting anybody except the people, who will have to carry on both in the Centre and in the Provinces the responsibilities of Government.

When this proposal was made first, fortunately we were not faced with a famine. But the fact that there is likelihood of severe scarcity and famine, probably in many parts of the country, gives me an additional reason, though I would like to have gone without it, to ask you not lightly to throw away this machinery which may be of great use in educating our people and alleviating their conditions at a time of great distress. That is all that I have got to say about the Field Publicity Organisation.

A good deal of heat was engendered about the Information Films of India which account for 30 lakhs out of this 93 lakhs. The revenues are not accounted for, which are about 14 lakhs which leaves a net expenditure of 16 lakhs.

I was really amazed that an Honourable Member opposite, who moved this motion, should have made the allegations which he did without taking the trouble to verify them. One of the allegations which he made was that we have produced the film, 'Ganga Din' and that we exhibited it in Athens which led to a riot. What are the facts? . . . . .

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I intervene, Sir. I cannot wait until the end of the Honourable Member's speech. I want to correct a mis-statement. I merely said whether he did it or the Government of India did it, this is the kind of film that is going to be produced against India.

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** In this case I am the Government of India

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are you the Military Department also?

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** I am just as responsible for whatever the Government of India does as any other Member of the Government of India.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Defence Department also

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** Yes. Let me continue. Now this film 'Ganga Din' was produced before the war by an American company. It proved

offensive at that time to Indian susceptibilities and rightly so. When the war was on, it was re-hashed by the Americans and they tried to cut out things which they in their ignorance felt were offensive to Indian susceptibilities, and exhibited this film and sought to import it into India. We proscribed it; and what is more: two Provincial Governments let it pass and we asked them to proscribe it in those provinces also. How can you base your claim that we have villified our own countrymen abroad on facts like these?

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Why was it exhibited?

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** I am not going to give way. Another allegation which was made was that "Oh yes; you show extremely good films to the legislators here, but look how you blackguard the name of Indian abroad." I will give you an answer to that. Here is the latest programme to information films which was shown in America. There were six films: the first one was "Our heritage"—portrayal of ancient Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist architecture. (2) Rural Maharashtra peasant life in Bombay province. (3) Khattak—North India's favourite classical dance. (4) Handicrafts of South India—typical examples of South Indian craftsmanship. (5) Musical Instruments of India—popular musical instruments and their melody. In that connection I would just like to mention the opinion of Mr. Walt Disney—many Honourable Members must be aware of him: they must have seen his cartoons also. He said:

"I think the films on the musical instruments were excellent. I think you will find that the people of this country, that is America, are very interested in knowing about peoples of other countries. It is films like these that create a better understanding and stimulate interest in the culture and way of life of other nations."

Another film which we showed was "The 'Tree of Life'", dealing with the coconut palm in its manifold uses; here it is rather interesting if I quote to you the tributes paid to it. When this film was exhibited in America and when the press in India got notices of how this had been received, this is what 'Dawn' said:

"One of the things which can be put down to the credit side of the Government of India is the popularisation of the short film on the Indian screen."

The '*Bombay Sentinel*' said this:

"The Information Films of India may definitely pat themselves on the back on this achievement; for if we remember correctly, this is the first time that the Indian films have been reviewed by the American film press and reviewed so favourably too."

I would like you to mark these words from a paper like the '*Bombay Sentinel*':

"The Inform. Films of India blazed a pioneer trail in making the production of short films a practical possibility in this country, and are now doing further valuable pioneering work by exporting them abroad and acquainting the world about India and her many-sided problems and national life."

This is what the '*Bombay Chronicle*' said:

"The Information Films of India which made the production of short films a practical possibility in India are doing further pioneer work, etc., etc." and so on.

But my Honourable friend opposite may say "Oh, yes; but you are only reading certain chosen extracts. This is not the only films which you have produced. What about the others?" Well, Sir . . .

**Mr. President:** Is the Honourable Member at a convenient point to stop? He can resume at 2-30.

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** Very well, Sir.

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.

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** Sir, I was saying that after I had read out the programme of films shown in America perhaps my Honourable friends opposite may say 'Oh, well, that is all very well but what about the other films that you produced'. My answer to that is that I have here a list of the 153 films which since the constitution of the Indian film unit have been produced by it. They are available to any Member of the House to see what the subjects are and if it is any one's wish I shall have any of them exhibited, so that they may be able to judge whether any of these are derogatory to the dignity or against the self-respect of our people. I do not think I will take up the time of the House by reading even some of the selected film titles but my challenge stands. I challenge any Member of this House to come and see any of these films and say whether any of them are derogatory to the self-respect of India. Now, we did show the other day to Members of the Legislature a small collection of these films and this is what one of my friends from the Congress Benches wrote to me about it. I will not mention his name. He is a very eminent man, a worthy son of a worthy father. This is what it say:

"I was greatly struck by what I saw. Allow me to say that the performance was both informing and instructive. . . ."

**Shri Sri Prakasa** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The letter is from myself. I stand by what I said.

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** Thank you.

"The photographs were exceedingly fine and I learnt much about our own ancient and medieval art. I also think that your idea is very good, that you should give a knowledge of how things are done by various departments of Government so that the public may appreciate the difficulties of the workers and co-operate with them."

We may have fallen down at times in regard to the quality but it is gradually improving. I do not say that the quality has always been excellent but to use the language which my friend Mr. Nauman used—that they depicted the great pageantry of the Government of India, that they are trash and that they are degrading is really to use words without knowing their meaning.

Then, Sir, it is a matter of considerable pride to me and I hope it will be to the House that this excellent technical unit is very largely run by Indians, our own people who have by a process of trial and error brought these films to the perfection they have so far attained. There are 164 Indians as against 6 Europeans and the head of the organisation is an India, Mr. Ezra Mir.

I have said sufficiently about the information films. I next go on to the other item, which is the Research and Reference Division of the Publications Division. The Publications Grant is not to be cut. Therefore I will not say anything about Publications at this stage. I will only confine myself to the Research and Reference Division the grant of which is about 4 lakhs. It is perfectly true that this formed part of the old Counter Propaganda Directorate but it has now been brought under the umbrella of this Department and for a very good reason. You cannot have publicity in this country about outside countries. For example our people want to know what is happening in Russia, in the Middle East, in the Far East and elsewhere, what movements are taking place and what measures of development are taking place and they cannot know, unless you have a body of information on which to write. Now, a magazine (Perspective) which I think received general approval in this House and certainly that of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is directed towards America. He was good enough to tell me how extremely well got up it was and what good material it contained. Now, to produce the matter contained in that magazine requires a good deal of research and a good library on which to base these articles. I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Ghani that your instrument may be good but it all depends on who lays down the policy. That is one of the arguments in asking you not to break down this machinery at the present moment. This is a very useful bit of machinery.

Even if you do not trust me, I hope you will trust my successors. It is a very good bit of machinery on which they would base their own publicity because India will need both inside and outside publicity of the kind we are endeavouring to carry out. Now, the whole of this division is run by three officers. Two of them are Indians. One is a Muslim and the other is a Hindu. Not that I believe in these communal proportions or racial divisions. I don't but it so happens that one is a Muslim and the other is a Hindu. The chief gentleman is an Englishman. I am very sorry he is going away. He is leaving us not because I want him to go but he is going for his own purposes next month, so that the whole of this research and reference division, which has done extremely good work and which submits quarterly reports which I am prepared to lay on the table of the House and which show what it does—the whole of this is run by Indians and, I say, in the interest of India. If you like to cut it down, you can do so, but you will be doing a very wrong thing.

Then, Sir, the last item included in the cut is that of arts. I have, as my Honourable friend has said, inherited the other activities, such as, the field publicity, research and reference and the films, but arts is something which I in my simplicity did. I thought that our own people would like the Government, when they were thinking of spending crores and crores of rupees on industry, on health, on agriculture and hundred and one very desirable objectives of national improvement, to spend a little money on encouraging our culture and in helping our artists and also in preserving memorials of our past, so that they may be an example to our younger generation. My Honourable friend opposite has spoken quite truthfully, I am sure, of what he feels for the common man and woman in India. So do I, and it is just because I feel for them and for the new generation which is growing up that I had this modest provision included in the Central budget. If you go along the cities of India, where can the poor boy or girl, whose parents cannot afford to buy a good picture or who cannot afford to send them on their travels, who are going to be the future generation of India can refresh their mind, unless we now begin to have proper museums, preserve our manuscripts and preserve our records and make them available to the public at large? Take them away from the custody of the rich and make them a national inheritance. That is what my aim has been in trying to get a small initial grant which is 4 lakhs for this purpose. I have already received several letters from Indian Arts Associations, Indian Artists and so on, asking for Government assistance. They have all welcomed that at this late stage the Government are trying to do something for the cultural advancement of this country. I do not say that we will direct these activities. All that I say is that here is a small organism sought to be created in the Centre to which an appeal could be made by people, artists and sculptors, etc. for help. It is purely that. Here is an organism which will try, if it is allowed to survive, to see whether we could not create academies of art and literature, so that our artists and our men of letters might get a status in our own community. In the India of the past, writers, painters and sculptors were respected and they were looked up to. But look at their position now. It is due to the fact that they have got no status that I was hoping to try in a small way to provide them with the means to be able to reacquire that status.

There is one other incorrect statement in this connection which I would like to correct. The Honourable the Mover said that this was only another name for the dancing parties and so on, which were sent abroad for entertaining our troops. Now, that is absolutely and entirely untrue. The Indian equivalent of the European ENSA was not in charge of this Department but of the War Department, of the Directorate of Public Relations of the War Department. It has nothing to do with the Information and Arts Department. I am not saying that that was an activity which was wrong, because why should we object to our soldiers in foreign land seeing something and hearing something of the music to which they were accustomed and seeing the faces of our own people in the midst of their difficulties. But that is a different matter. It had nothing to do with the question of arts.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is not dancing an art?

**The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari:** In developing your theme what you said was that I was appearing only under different colours and you implied that the Arts side of the Department was just another name for the dancing parties and so on sent for our troops. That is wrong.

Sir, I have traversed all the four items which make up the total cut of 93 lakhs. I have shown that in regard to field publicity, the bulk of the money is for the provinces. They are subject to our general directive and co-ordination but they are entirely free to manage it as they like. If you cut that out, then you knock out this particular help from being given to them and, mind you, at a time when they are faced with many grave problems. Every member of the staff of Field Publicity is an Indian. In regard to films also, I think I have given sufficient evidence that they are not what they have been alleged to be and that for the most part they are directed by Indians. In regard to Research and Reference, I have again shown you what the position is and I have mentioned to you the reasons for starting the section of Arts. Very unfortunately, all these four activities have been clubbed together in one enormous cut motion of 93 lakhs. If you pass this motion, you truncate the Information and Arts Department and I very much doubt whether it will continue to have a separate existence. I have tried, as far as I could, to run this Department in accordance with what I consider to be the national interest. If you, as representatives of the nation, duly elected, say that you do not want this activity by passing this cut motion for 93 lakhs, do not do it on the assumption that it will be restored. I, therefore, appeal to you, before you take this step, to think whether you are wise in depriving the new government, on the eve of its coming into existence, of a useful machine and of technical and competent people without hope of re-call. Sir, I have done.

3 P.M.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 93,34,000."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—61

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.  
 Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.  
 Adityan, Sri S. T.  
 Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.  
 Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.  
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.  
 Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.  
 Choudhuri, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.  
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.  
 Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.  
 Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.  
 Gangaraju, Sri V.  
 Gale, Mr. P. B.  
 Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.  
 Govind Das, Seth.  
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.  
 Hans Raj, Raizada.  
 Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.  
 Jagannathdas, Sri.  
 Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.  
 Jinachandran, Sri M. K.  
 Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.  
 Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.  
 Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dharendra Kanta.  
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.  
 Madandhari Singh, Mr.  
 Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.  
 Malaviya, Pandt Govind.  
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.  
 Manu Subedar, Mr.  
 Manon, Sri A. Karunakara.

Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.  
 Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.  
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.  
 Narayanamurthi, Sri N.  
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
 Paliwal, Pandit, Sri Krishna Dutt.  
 Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.  
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr.  
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.  
 Reddiar, Sri E. Venkatasubba.  
 Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.  
 Salve, Mr. P. K.  
 Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.  
 Satakopachari, Sri T. V.  
 Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.  
 Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.  
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.  
 Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.  
 Sri Prakasa, Shri.  
 Sukhdev, Seth.  
 Surjit, Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader  
 Sardar.  
 Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.  
 Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit.  
 Vadilal Lalubhai, Mr.  
 Varma, Mr. B. B.  
 Vijaya Ananda, Maharsjkumar, Dr. Sir.  
 Yamin Khan, Sir Mohammad.  
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.  
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.



## NOES—40

Ahmad Alawee Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.	Mason, Mr. P.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.	Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Mohan.	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Sargent, Dr. Sir John.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Sen, Mr. B. R.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.	Spence, Sir George.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Sri Chand, Chaudhuri.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.	Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.	Weightman, Mr. H.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroza.	Zaman, Mr. S. R.
Lawson, Mr. G. P.	

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands** (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Food Department'."

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Food Department'."

*Negligence, Inefficiency and Failure of the Food Department to satisfactorily tackle the Food Problem*

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I move this with very great and very strong feelings about the way in which the whole of the food situation has been mismanaged and is being mismanaged in an unconscionable manner by the Central Government specially and the provincial Advisers also. If I were to try to give vent to my feelings and also to give expression to the facts that I have at my disposal in order to show how unconscionably this Government have been behaving in regard to this matter, my twenty minutes will not at all be enough. Moreover, we have had a discussion for three days on this matter and grievances from all parts of the country in regard to the food administration have been ventilated. Therefore I will try to be as brief as possible so far as the grievance portion is concerned, and concern myself more with what people like to be done by the Department.

Sir, Government want to show people that it is more an act of God than of man that we are faced today with this terrible situation. Out of our 400 million people more than 300 million live in villages. These people so far have not been cared for in regard to their food needs by the Government, except in a very few places where there is supposed to be an informal rationing. And what is happening in our countryside is indeed a very dangerous thing. Government is hard put to it to find enough food for its towns; I call them "its towns" because it seems to have a special affection towards the towns; and therefore it sends its officers who behave like hooligans in our villages and try to over-estimate what we produce and underestimate what we need for our own consumption. take away much more than we could possibly spare from our villages

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

and place it at the disposal of the towns in order to assure those people at least of one pound of cereals per day per adult. The result is that famine is spreading slowly but surely in rural areas, in those rural areas which in our normal circumstances could have been expected to be self-sufficing. I am not thinking in terms of provinces at all; I am thinking in terms of taluks, groups of villages and even districts. Even in those districts or areas which are supposed to be surplus we find today a cry for more and more food from non-peasant classes who themselves do not possess any land and who yet have to work in the production of food. There are agricultural workers, there are also the artisans, and they are suffering now for want of food in these very same villages from which large quantities of foodgrains are being taken away to towns. Who is to look after them? Are Government thinking about them? By their neglect of these people—and they number no less than a hundred million people all over our villages—Government are simply condemning them to slow death. I have already communicated two small pieces of information that I have received from various people to the Department concerned as well as the Agriculture Department. I do not wish to weary the House by quoting from them now. I only wish to say this as only one of the examples that in South Canara itself, to go on producing foodgrains has become such a terrible thing—not only non-paying but also a dangerous thing—that peasants have given up cultivating more than a thousand acres, and they prefer to go to the plantations and work there as agricultural workers. Sir, these officers go there, demand much more than what the peasants themselves have produced or are able to produce. These poor peasants are obliged to sell whatever other things they have got in order to purchase grain at black-market rates in very many places and place it at the disposal of these officers, as otherwise these officers will send them to jail. Sir, I have in my possession a notice given in advance, without any name either of the village or of the peasant but signed by the Tahsildar and sent to the village headman, saying that such and such a man (no name is given) is required to place at the disposal of Government such and such quantities of grain (not knowing how much land that man actually possesses), and all this grain is supposed to be put there, and with a clear warning that if that grain is not delivered that man is likely to be sent to prison. And certainly he is sure to be sent to jail. Yesterday we had a news from Bihar saying that the Governor in his new consciousness of the food famine has given notice to all the peasants that there will be informal trials in order to try all these peasants—what he means by informal trials I do not know—who are not able or supposed to be not willing to place all the grain that is demanded of them at the disposal of these procurement officers. This is the sort of thing that is going on. I know of a case also which I brought to the notice of the Department some months ago where peasants are allowed a ration of only one seer per month per head. And how do they live? They have to go stealthily at night to the nearest town and purchase grain in the black market and bring it back after paying tips to policemen all the way. The ration comes only to one ounce a day.

Then I come to the other point. There is one gentleman from my Madras Province, who is supposed to be an adviser there, and he is treated as a great authority on food. He was a member of the Food Commission also. As it has become a sort of habit with the Government Members, I dare say my Honourable friend will get up, and pay very many compliments to him against my accusations. Sir, I hold him as much responsible for the conditions which obtain in my Province as any other individual.

**An Honourable Member:** Who is he?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I hold the Government of India responsible for this food crisis, and why do I say so? Because the most important thing is the price of foodgrains—remunerative price—which they are not prepared to pay. Last year—nearly fourteen months ago—I suggested to Government that it

should be willing to pay a remunerative price to the peasant. I told them again and again that the price which the peasants were able to get in the market was not at all remunerative. They said they were going to think about it. What have they done so far? They have done nothing. We passed a Resolution in this House, and this Honourable Member goes to a Press Conference and asks 'For God's sake don't ask for a rise in prices; it is dangerous to increase the prices'. I have a lot of respect for him because he has got a lot of experience of the Bengal famine. I do not know what contribution he made, but I hope he did something good. 'If you are going to raise the price of foodgrains', he said, 'you will not be able to control the situation'. I have taken every possible effort in order to approach this gentleman as well as his Department, not only on my own behalf but several other Honourable Members in this House have gone there and told him that both the Muslim League Party and the Congress Party will join hands with the Government in assuring the peasants that such and such is going to be a definite price and nothing more is going to be offered to them till the end of this year, and therefore they should be satisfied with this because it is considered to be the most remunerative price for them. If this is done, there would be no danger at all of foodgrains going into hoards. I made another offer also to the Madras Government as well as to this Government that we are prepared through our own Kisan Congress Organizations and various other organisations and societies in different provinces to open registers and ask the peasants to come forward and say how much they can spare, and this can only be done if we are prepared to pay them a remunerative price.

The other day the Honourable the Food Member—I do not know where he is now was making a very very generous offer of co-operation in his very, very steady, stammering manner. We are prepared to offer our co-operation provided you are prepared to pay the peasant a remunerative price. And I am here to tell you that the price that we are paying is not at all remunerative. My Honourable friend the other day asked me to think about the non-producing people also. He was good enough to say that 58 per cent. are producers, but the other 42 per cent. are not producers. He thinks about the minority, but that minority also in the towns. He thinks of this 42 per cent. of the villages in order to deny the 58 per cent. the price that they should get. I am not concerned about this price at all. You placed consumers' goods at our disposal; place agricultural implements at our disposal. I asked them to place more and more iron at our disposal, but the Honourable Member was not prepared to give a satisfactory answer. My Honourable friend, Sir Pheroze Kharegat will get up and say that our 'Grow More Food' campaign has succeeded, we have given so many subsidies, and so on. What are the wonderful subsidies that this gentleman has given? I am not going to weary the House with facts and figures; all of them are there in the Bengal Famine Commission Report. Only 25 per cent. of all the money that the Government of India has been spending in connection with this 'Grow More Food' campaign has been given as a grant; the remaining 75 per cent. was being given to them only as loans. Wherefrom are they to pay you these loans later on? You deny them even a remunerative price today, and at the same time you load them with all these loans, and afterwards they are to pay you?

Then you say there are irrigation facilities and so on. The other day, my Honourable friend, Sir Pheroze Kharegat, stated that the Bombay Government has offered 15 rupees per acre as a subsidy; Madras Government have also done the same. I can tell the Government that in order to irrigate a land afresh, it costs them not less than Rs. 45 for baling out water alone. We wanted to start a canal and we formed a co-operative society. We offered to irrigate 1,000 acres of land, and it would cost one lakh and odd rupees. Instead of giving us any subsidy, the Madras Government is collecting subsidy from us, by way of an inclusion fee of Rs. 35 per acre, and not being satisfied with

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that, they are asking for subsidy from the Government of India. So I say that Government do not care at all for the peasants and their welfare.

So many other things have appeared this morning in the '*Hindustan Times*' with regard to the representation made by U. K. to U. S. A. not to import tractors into this country. I need not go into details. Here is the condemnation by my revered leader:

"Instead of doing the right thing, they had in their arrogance cast to the winds the warnings and protests of the people's representatives." (*Harijan*, dated 3rd March, 1946).

The Bengal famine came and went, but like Bourbons they did not learn anything. They deny a remunerative price to the peasant. They tell us that since 1939 prices have gone up. Why take 1939 prices. Here are the pre-depression prices as given by the Famine Commission themselves—Rs. 7/4 per maund. Latest price in my province is Rs. 9-10-0. The difference is two rupees and a few annas, that is to say 30 per cent. increase since the last economic depression. Since that depression the agriculturist has suffered more than any other class of people, and yet all these years have passed and what is it that we are given? 30 per cent. more. Whereas the prices of industrial goods have gone up by leaps and bounds, the price of agricultural produce has increased by only 30 per cent. Here is another pamphlet—'Run-away prices'—which deals with this question. In fixing the prices for various commodities, the dealer is allowed to add 20 per cent. on the landed cost if it is imported into this country. In regard to what is manufactured in India, the price is fixed on a system of basic price *plus* profit. We do not want any profit; we want a remunerative price and that is not being given to us. That is why I say that this Government is responsible for this food famine.

Then, Sir, this Government has introduced cash transactions. Before this we had barter system, and then the agriculturist never suffered. We are asked to believe in the efficiency of world market and modern means of communication and so on. Therefore, like all other people we also were taken in by this capitalist propaganda and we began to depend on prices with the result that the agricultural labour wishes to be paid in cash. And agricultural costs have gone up tremendously. I may tell you that in our own villages it has gone up from four annas to two rupees. I do not grudge it; we are paying willingly, but at the same time we must be paid also. You may ask, 'How are you able to finance yourself?' If you come and see us in our villages, you will realize how we are managing. I sent a report recently to Mahatma Gandhi in which I stated that women are covering themselves with inverted umbrellas made of palmyra leaves. They cannot afford to get enough cloth to cover themselves. There is no food for our villagers. They are suffering like that. And then they say that the debts to Land Mortgage Banks are being repaid. But that is not due to our profits. Prices of our land have gone up. Merchants come obligingly and pay for our land, and we sell a portion of our land, and repay the debts. Yet they want us to believe in all this wrong propaganda about our so-called prosperity.

The other day I made a speech as the President of the Federation of Rural Peoples' Organizations. In it I made a number of suggestions. I discussed them with the Honourable Member for Food also, and Mahatma Gandhi has been giving series of suggestions in his '*Harijan*'. We are in need of a national campaign against this food famine. It is not the Viceroy who can possibly inaugurate that campaign; he does not carry enough weight—it may be *infra dig* to say so about such a dignitary, but it is a fact. People who carry weight in this country are the representatives of the people and you must take them into confidence. Not only the Members of the Legislative Assembly in a dignified manner, but our villagers form the Joint Councils of producers and consumers. Ask the consumers and the producers to think about their own

food needs; and those of their villages; tell them to keep their requirements and give away the surplus. Take the surplus through their co-operatives and then plan for the disposal of their surpluses. You are going to import. I hope you will succeed. I do not know whether you will succeed. There is a friend who is making a very eloquent appeal with a begging bowl. We are ashamed of it. We do not want to go to the rest of the world with a begging bowl. And yet the Food Member accuses us because we refuse to accept it. So some-one else is doing it. How long is it going to take to get the imports? Three months! In the meantime we must produce good crops, vegetables and so on. What about the rest of New Delhi—as Sri Prakasa was saying what about all the other grounds all over India? You have to pay the peasant enough to induce him to plough every bit of land. Come with me for ploughing the land and growing more vegetables and crops. You cannot do these things without paying for it. We are being paid for carrying on our work here and yet you do not want to pay those people? If you do not, then you are in for your own suicide and you will be conspiring for our funeral in this country!

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We will kill them before we die!

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Mahatma Gandhi will not allow it. They have already been subsidising food production. That is not enough. If remunerative prices are paid then the prices may be quite high for the industrial proletariat and for our rural workers also. How are you going to solve the issue? I say subsidize consumption, open communal kitchens, eliminate wastage of food, stop all ceremonials, yours and mine. Let me assure you that everyone in this country is willing today to carry on this national campaign against this food famine but only one party non-co-operates and is obstructive, although by word of mouth it says we are prepared to co-operate. Yet in actual practice, it non-co-operates. That is this Government. Therefore, I want to condemn this Government. One friend was accusing me yesterday that I was living in a perpetual state of indignation. If they are in touch as I am with the starving masses, they would resort to some other measures that are applied in the west but which are not allowed by Mahatma Gandhi. This Government should try to explore every possible means of obtaining the co-operation of the ordinary man, not only the M.L.A.'s, not only the Collectors and the rich people, but the ordinary toiling masses. All these Government people are afraid because their administrative machinery is not enough. It is also corrupt to the core. If you allow us to run your administrative machinery as only an appendix to the great voluntary organisation that we can bring into existence and martial all our public-spirited people here, we will do it. There were more than one million people ready to go to jail. There were another one million prepared to accept your lathi charges. All these people would be ready to help. I can then tell you that without having to depend on these imports, we would be able to support the people. That is the message of Mahatma Gandhi and of every one of us here. Therefore, I move this demand and I hope the House will pass it.

**Mr. President:** Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Sardar Sampuran Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): I cannot but associate myself with the feelings expressed by my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga. The peasantry according to that great poet of England, Mr. Gladstone, was said to be the backbone of a nation. But I am afraid it will soon disappear. People are getting disgusted with agriculture because it does not pay them. We see it written on every wall in the rural areas "Grow More Foodgrains". But the question is what facilities and encouragement is Government giving to the people to grow more foodgrains. I almost sometimes think that perhaps they only say it but they do not mean that we should grow more foodgrains because all their actions are such as to really discourage people from engaging in agriculture. I shall give you a few instances.

[Sardar Sampuran Singh]

The Central Government is now giving subsidies for tube well and other means of irrigation. But the real fact is that when you put up a tube well and irrigate a portion of your land by that the canal people remove that piece of land from their *chakabandi* and reduce the canal water to that extent. Now, what is the use of people investing so much money on tube wells and on drivers for running their crude oil engines and for repairs and other things. I have tried several times before this to tackle the officials and get some kind of guarantee that if people make investments in such methods of irrigation the Government would not reduce their canal supply. But so far no guarantee has come from the official side.

The other thing is that Government have not, so far, even calculated the cost of production of foodgrains. The result is that they go on increasing the land revenue while actually agriculture does not pay the peasant people who have nothing else to do. They go on cultivating their fields, but after some time they become so poor that they cannot carry on their profession efficiently and effectively. The result is that all over the country the crops are poor because the people who cultivate them have no means to cultivate their lands properly. The revenue authorities, when assessing revenue, do not allow any cost for labour which is 90 per cent. of the cost of production. Well if such a big item is not even brought into the calculation and about 33 per cent. of the whole produce is taken in the form of land revenue, I am afraid there is not much left for the poor agriculturist who labours on his few acres of land. Government must fix some remunerative prices for the foodgrains. I think it is only on account of their ignorance that people go on still cultivating their lands. When they start themselves calculating the cost of production and compare it with the low prices of agricultural produce, I think this profession will as a matter of course die out.

Another matter which I want to touch upon this afternoon is that Government bought a certain number of tractors from America. We saw it only this morning in the papers. But afterwards that order was cancelled, though the manufacturers in Great Britain have been definitely told that they will not be able to give any tractors before September next. If the delivery of these tractors is taken in September next from Great Britain, just at the time when the *rabi* harvest is sown and the field has to be prepared long before that, I think that means another year will be gone and we will not be able to take advantage of those tractors, which were specifically meant for these hard times.

With one more word I will finish my say. To make agriculture efficient Government should organise societies for co-operative agriculture and consolidation of holdings is absolutely necessary. Unless these two things by law—even compulsorily if necessary—are done, I do not think there is much hope of developing agriculture nor of removing the squalor and food shortage which we are so much suffering from at the present moment. With these few words I give my full support to Prof. Ranga's cut motion.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Sir, I think this is an issue where the feelings of the Government and the representatives of the people are probably one and the same. All of us are anxious to increase the production in this country and make our country self-sufficient as soon as possible. I agree with the Honourable the Mover, Prof. Ranga, that the peasants must get a remunerative price. Unless this is done there would be no initiative in the peasants to grow more food and it would not be taken as a profession with any advantage to them. Prof. Ranga very ably advocated that when traders and dealers are allowed 20 per cent. of the middleman's profit, there is no reason why the agriculturists should be denied as much profit. As a matter of course he has a better right and can claim a larger profit than these merchants and traders. If we can give encouragement to manufacturers by allowing them a higher rate of profit in certain circumstances, it is certainly necessary that remunerative prices should

be fixed with regard to the produce of the land. I would only say that as the conditions in the different Provinces are not the same, it is impossible for me to give a uniform suggestion for every part of the country. Mr. Ranga said that it costs nearly Rs. 45 to irrigate one acre of land in Madras, which is his part of the province. In my province of Bihar it is not the same. So naturally I am not in a position to say what should be the rate. I can only enunciate a certain principle, which is this: If the price of a particular class of grain, for instance, wheat, is to be fixed, Government should find out the ten years' average before the war in 1939 and then fix the price at 300 per cent. over that average rate. If in the Punjab between 1929 and 1939 the average price of wheat was Rs. 3 per maund, it should be at least Rs. 9 today, because the prices of other essential commodities have gone up by 300 per cent., in spite of the controls and other methods adopted by Government. Though the index figure stands at 238 the fact remains that the average is not less than 300 per cent. increase.

Another fact which I want to bring to the notice of the House is this. Government has miserably failed in trying to increase production in the country. Government should have taken up long ago a survey of the waste lands which can be used for cultivation. Practically in every province there are thousands and thousands of acres of land lying waste. Probably Government thought that farming would not be remunerative. By subsidies and other methods Government could have induced agriculturists and traders to take up cultivation of these lands. I should particularly mention the lands which I saw in Ajmer. I was told that many people with ten thousand and twenty thousand acres of land were not able to earn more than Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000, which comes to Re. 1 or Rs. 2 per acre. Then, again, there are vast tracts of land lying waste in the province of Assam and no attention has been paid for settling these lands for cultivation, although there are number of men anxious to take the settlement there and do the best that they can to improve production. If there is an effort by the Government to provide them with the necessary facilities, I am sure Assam also can feed one-fourth of India.

I would further say that in the particular condition in which we are and the growth of the population that we have in this country, unless this problem is tackled very carefully and planned in a manner so that we might become self-sufficient soon, we will have to go with the beggar's bowl to Australia and other countries for all times to come. I do not know what would be the compensation that we would be compelled to pay for the food that we will have to import into this country. Government has said that we have got to give other countries a quota of cloth, because we want to import food from some of them. There may be other goods in which these countries may be interested and if we have to import a certain amount of food from them, we may have to part with other commodities as well and face double famine. I do not claim—none of us can—an expert knowledge of the conditions of land in India. But the Government with its paraphernalia of staff is certainly in a position to see how best those lands can be used. Just to put a small patch of vegetable garden or a bit of fruit growing is not of much use at all. It may be good propaganda but would not be of much material use to us.

With these words I support the motion and I hope the Government would take serious note of the position which we have brought to their notice on this cut motion.

**Sukadev Seth** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, during the three years of its existence, the Food Department have not only, not been able to plan for the production and conservation of foodgrains, sufficient to feed the country but has awfully bungled in several respects. It has actually created a situation in several parts of India which is as dangerously critical as ever. There are harrowing reports of famine conditions from South India, where some

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people are actually starving. Newspaper reports go to show that there is acute scarcity of even coarse grains in Ajmere, Rajputana and Kathiawar States. Sir, Sind which is a huge surplus province in wheat, rice, millets and gram, within six months of the crop had to send an S. O. S. to the Central Government for supply of foreign wheat and had to import Punjab rice. Will the Honourable Member explain this strange phenomenon in the Province of Sind which is normally exporting nearly 2 lakhs tons of wheat and as much quantity of rice, as to why it has suddenly turned into a deficit province so far as wheat and rice are concerned? Does he know that these foodgrains are not available in the maffasil, except at very high prices? How then does he justify the controls when people in surplus provinces like Sind cannot get their minimum requirements at anything near statutory prices? So far as Sind is concerned, I can say without fear of contradiction that the food administration is notoriously corrupt. I trust that the Government of India cannot plead ignorance. This corruption exists in more or less degree in other provinces and states as well. Unless official corruption is rooted out ruthlessly, no amount of control is going to succeed.

Sir, government administration has been woefully wasteful of precious foodgrains. The Food Department introduced a scheme of direct procurement in 1943, but it foundered on account of the inefficiency of officers responsible for its administration, involving heavy losses. Not only that, but huge quantities amounting to several thousands of tons of rice procured in Nepal in 1943 suffered irreparable damage, and the precious foodgrains which would have been garnered and protected with life by the trade and which would have saved the lives of starving persons had to be destroyed owing to the inexperience, criminal negligence and utter lack of responsibility of Government officers. Thousands of bags of wheat were soaked in rain water in my own city Karachi in 1944, due to Government mismanagement. This damaged stuff was partly destroyed and partly distributed in rations in the form of *atta* at the peril of civilian health. In 1944 huge surpluses of gram and pulses were locked up in my Province of Sind and several other surplus areas, such as Central India and U. P. by silly ukases. In spite of the representations of merchants and growers, thousands of tons of this valuable stuff which could have been consumed in other areas or equitably distributed for conservation for use in time of need, were allowed to deteriorate or rot. Owing to heavy accumulation of surpluses, the prices of these commodities in the growing areas dropped to such uneconomic levels that it was not worth while for cultivators to grow them, with the result that there is shortage of gram this year. With all the best intentions and professions to grow more food all efforts at it are bound to meet with inevitable failure, if such is the policy of our Food Department.

Then, Sir, this Government control which is intended to ensure supplies to consumers at reasonable prices by eliminating middleman's profits, has actually led to governmental profiteering and official corruption. At one time the Sind Government used to make a profit of over 3 rupees per maund on procurement and the Bengal Government several rupees per maund on distribution to its dying population. Even at present, approved charges for handling, storage and administration are several time more than any merchant will normally even think of. When procurement, transport and distribution are all under Government auspices and control, it is difficult to account for such wide disparity as four or five rupees per maund between procurement prices in the surplus areas and prices charged from the consumer in deficit areas . . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** More than five.

**Sukhdev Seth:** Yes; I gave the minimum figure. Official corruption in appointment of agents, issuing licenses and export permits is an open secret and yet it goes on merrily on the strength of British jurisprudence. Normal trade channels have been closed, and combines, comprising of a few



racketeers, have been set up to work in collusion with officials to collect and divide the loot. Ministers in provinces manipulate prices by means of issuing a notification one day and withdrawing it the next day under the shelter of the Defence of India Act. Do the authorities at the Centre realise that these innumerable controls and restrictions they have imposed on procurement and free movement of goods have provided officials, high and low, with a handle to exploit both the producer and the consumer? Whatever be the justification for these controls during war time, it is time that all undue interference in the realm of trade and commerce be withdrawn as early as possible, to bring in normal conditions in the country.

Sir, the Government accuse merchants of having created black-market. Do the Honourable Members here know that in 1942, when the Government fixed the ceiling rate for wheat at Rs. 5 per maund in Hapur, their own agents were buying it at a premium of 8 annas? When a responsible officer of the Commerce Department was confronted with copies of written contracts at such high price, he promised to make an inquiry, but the result of this inquiry came to nothing so far as I am aware.

The Food Department lives upon creating false slogans and cries for experts. In order to justify their existence or to obey the behests of their master in Whitehall, they import superannuated nincompoops, who know nothing about the subjects in which they claim to be experts. May I know, Sir, from the Honourable Member here, how many such foreign experts are working in his Department and on what salary; what is the nature of their duties and what expert knowledge do they possess? Could not suitable Indians be found to take their places or cannot they be replaced at this stage?

Colossal waste of money has been incurred on storage construction without planning or purpose. Sheds have been put up at many railway stations. I have seen them at a number of stations in my Province and in the Punjab, which will have to be scrapped after a few years. Bins have been constructed at wrong places, where there is no grain to go into them. In other countries like Canada and the United States of America, bins are intended for long term storage, as there is continuous surplus which has to be and can be stored over a number of years. Here there is acute shortage and yet our experts of the Food Department have thought bins necessary at a huge cost. They have no idea of the difference in climatic and other conditions obtaining in India and in those countries. It is all a criminal waste of public money. I am sure the storages put up by the Government will not be useful under normal trade conditions.

After five years of intensive war, when Germany was defeated, it was found by the Allies that in German-occupied countries, where they expected famine and distressful conditions, the distribution of food stuffs and other necessities of life was so efficient and equitable that nobody was experiencing any particular difficulty. In England and Germany the cost of living during the years of war had risen by only 30 to 40 per cent. as compared to the base year 1939. But here in India where there was no war on the soil and we were large scale producers, the cost of living has risen at least three times. In spite of planning and employment of foreign experts and talks of 'Grow More Food' campaign ever since the commencement of war six years back, we are facing the presence of another famine.

Sir, it is reported that the Food Department have arranged for the import of ten thousand tons of milk powder and the Health Department for the import of vitamin tablets. May I know, Sir, whether the milk powder is whole milk powder or only skimmed milk powder? If the latter, I doubt if it will have much food value and I am afraid we are paying a huge price for an article which has doubtful food value. It is imperatively necessary that all such food-stuffs and drugs must be thoroughly examined by a national board of doctors and nutrition experts and certified as wholesome. There is a tendency among

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Government officials to accept everything from foreign countries as pure and wholesome. It is also necessary that such articles and drugs of supplementary food value should be distributed with the advice and co-operation of responsible public leaders. Otherwise I am afraid these will percolate to the black-market.

Before concluding, Sir, I would like to submit a few suggestions to improve the existing situation. To my mind, the main reasons for the present shortage are the recruitment of villagers for the army and the migration of able bodied agricultural labourers from villages to cities on account of high wages. Therefore demobilise the military personnel as expeditiously as possible and settle them on the lands with necessary financial and other assistance. The country has been denuded of cattle by the military. The draught animals should be procured and supplied to cultivators at concession rates and animal slaughter should be severely restricted for years to come. Agricultural implements and pure seed should be supplied to the cultivators at low rates. All undue vexatious restrictions on the procurement and movement of indigenous foodgrains should be removed. Transport should be facilitated and made abundant. There should be complete embargo on the export of foodgrains out of India and all leakage through steamers and other vessels and also the land frontiers should be completely stopped. In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in the '*Indian Nation*' of the 1st March, 1946, there was a small news that two thousand bags of paddy from Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga district near Nepal were being smuggled to Nepal and when police pickets were informed no action was taken by them. Then in the '*Amrita Bazar Patrika*' of the 1st March, 1946, "it is reported from Barisal, the rice growing district of Bengal, that large exports of rice and paddy amounting to lakhs of maunds are being made from mufasil areas of the district to unknown destinations in big boats and steamers. It is being apprehended that rice is being despatched to far off places beyond the borders of Bengal." I think such things, if true, should not be allowed to occur. Overall, deficit should be carefully calculated and as far as possible made up by imports. All wastage of foodgrains and other foodstuffs should be stopped. Parties and entertainments should be totally banned. The ration of cereals may be reduced still further in the case of rich classes if necessary, ensuring however one pound cereal per day for labour. I am quite sure that the present high rate of wastage cannot be reduced until those responsible for holding the grain feel that is their personal property and is to be guarded as a trust. Either private trade should be allowed to handle the grain or the officials who handle it at present should work honestly and with a missionary spirit.

There are some other points. Sufficient grains should be left with the producers for cultivation purposes and especially where wages are given in kind and not in cash. There should be a committee of non-officials consisting of producers and other villagers also to see that the collection of foodgrains is properly done and distributed. There should be no harassment and unsympathetic treatment to producers, if grow more food campaign is to be encouraged. Sir, these, however, we cannot expect under the present Government. For this, a national government is essential. With these words, I support the motion:

**Several Honourable Members:** The question be now put.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. B. R. Sen** (Government of India: Nominated Official): Mr. President, the debate on the Cut motion has turned out to be another food debate. The ground covered is wide. I propose only to take up one or two points which have been made today.

The main point raised in this debate is that remunerative prices are not being paid. Now, this question has been brought up from time to time and I have also given a clear reply. Today I expected that Professor Ranga would support his demand for remunerative prices with some arguments. I am sorry to say that I found nothing in his speech which gives anything more than a mere repetition of previous remarks.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

Whether prices are remunerative or not should, in my opinion, be judged according to three standards. One is—how the prices of foodgrains compare with the prices of commercial crops, the second is—how the prices of foodgrains compare with the prices of manufactured articles which enter into the cost of living of the producers and the third is whether intrinsically the prices of foodgrains are low. I have gone through the index figures of commercial crops as well as of manufactured articles and I find . . .

**Sardar Sampuran Singh:** May I ask whether you have calculated the cost of price of foodgrains so far?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Nobody has been able to do it, not even the producers themselves.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** That is how you evade the question.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Comparing the prices of foodgrains with those of commercial crops I find that for the whole of 1942-1943 and the first half of 1944, the improvement in the position of the producer of foodgrains since the outbreak of the war was greater than the improvement in the position of the producer of commercial crops, in the latter half of 1944.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What about tobacco?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Under commercial crops, we had a premium but in recent months, this disparity has been removed. As regards manufactured goods, the index figures again show that, on the whole, the rise in prices of foodgrains and the manufactured goods has been more or less of the same order.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Is the Honourable Member aware that in the matter of silk cloth, its price even today is nearly six times that which was in 1939?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** I was talking of prices of things which enter into the cost of living of producers, and silk is not one of those articles.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** But these things are not available in the market.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** So, judged by these standards, *viz.* the prices of commercial crops and the prices of manufactured goods which enter into the cost of living of the producers, you cannot say the prices of foodgrains are unremunerative.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** They are unremunerative and we can prove it to the hilt.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** As regards intrinsic prices, I think I can do no better than quote the Famine Enquiry Commission, who went into the whole question dispassionately. The House will bear with me if I read a few sentences from this report. This is the report which was submitted last year and the Commission had several members who had much of the economic and agricultural position of the country as my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga. They observe as follows:

"The general level of prices of foodgrains in India is high compared with the world level; for instance, the price of wheat in North America is considerably lower than that prevailing in India. We are of opinion that Indian prices must fall when consumer goods become more plentiful and cheaper and imports of rice are once again available. But we are also of opinion that so long as the supply position of cereals remains as at present, that is, so long as the demands of the defence services continue at the present high level and imports of rice are not available in adequate quantities, prices, generally speaking, will have to remain at about their present levels. High prices have undoubtedly encouraged the production of cereals and if prices should fall substantially before imports of rice become available, production might suffer a setback. The present policy is to hold prices at about their present levels till the supply position is easier. We consider that this is the correct course to follow."

[Mr. B. R. Sen]

Then, again, they say:

"We think it clear that it should be the common aim of all Governments concerned to clear as early as supply conditions in the transition period (*and by transition period they mean three years after the war*) permit, that the prices both of rice and wheat in different parts of the country should be brought down to normal parity with the level of rice prices at present prevailing in Madras and Sind."

The price in Madras is about 240 per cent. above the pre-war price. (Interruption by Prof. Ranga) May I, Sir, go on with my speech? Prof. Ranga had his chance and he had better let me speak.

I have shown that intrinsically also the food prices cannot be said to be unremunerative. These prices compare very favourably with the prices elsewhere in the world. It seems to me, Sir, that in this particular matter there is a definite lack of lead from the other side of the House. My friend Prof. Ranga himself in the food debate before the last one, that is, in 1944, was a party to the passing of two resolutions which were quite contradictory to each other.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** They were not; you try to understand them again.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** One was that the prices were too high and the other was that the prices were too low and he supported both the motions.

May I also refer to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition which he made in the course of the food debate and in which he said:

"The concrete proposals I would put forward are:

\* \* \* (2) that the Government must bring the prices of staple foodstuffs within the means of the poorest of the poor; \* \* \*"

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Therefore subsidize it and do not ruin the peasants.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** I think in this particular matter there seems to be some confusion.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** There is no confusion at all.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Order, order.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Sir, it is very difficult to argue with Prof. Ranga. I can only produce my arguments.

Then, he twitted me for saying that the Government are not in favour of raising prices. I have made the statement deliberately on more than one occasion that Government do not consider it sound policy to raise the prices of foodgrains at the present moment. In doing this, we are acting on our experience of the last two or three years. Again, if the House will permit me, I will quote a passage from the Bengal report. It runs thus:

"It is necessary at this stage to emphasize the sharply contradictory character of the reaction of the markets to rising prices in different conditions. A rise of prices which is believed to be likely to continue influences the minds of producers, traders, and consumers very differently from a rise of price which is generally expected to be temporary. In the latter case, sellers—both producers and traders—are anxious to sell before prices fall; and buyers—both traders and consumers—reduce, so far as possible, the quantities they buy. Such a reaction automatically corrects the temporary mal-adjustment between the available market supply and the demand which caused the upward movement in prices. If the mal-adjustment is corrected by an increase in supply in the market and a reduction in demand, prices fall again. This does not, however, happen when the rise in prices is sharp and unusual, and is also expected to continue. In these circumstances, it produces an exactly opposite reaction in the minds of buyers and sellers. Buyers are anxious to buy before a further rise occurs and therefore increase their purchases, while sellers are reluctant to sell because they wait for still better prices. This further decreases the supply available in the markets and increases the demand on the diminishing supply. Prices move up still further in consequence. This reinforces the fears of buyers and the greed of sellers and intensifies the market disturbances. Given sufficient time for the psychology of greed and fear generated in this manner to penetrate on the one hand, to the primary markets and the producers—the ultimate source of supply—and, on the other hand, to the retail shops and the consumers, the ultimate source of demand—prices may rise to such an extent that large sections of the population find themselves unable to buy."

Then they say:

"The rise of prices which we hold to be the second basic cause of the (Bengal) famine, was something more than the natural result of the shortage of supply which had occurred."

With this analysis of the Bengal famine situation, I am sorry I cannot oblige Prof. Ranga or his supporters by giving a rise in prices. I only hope that when the new Government come they will have other advisers than Prof. Ranga in the matter of prices.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** You will not be there.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** The second subject raised by Prof. Ranga was that the rural people were being neglected. I can assure Prof. Ranga that it is farthest from our mind that the rural people may be neglected. We first took up rationing in urban areas because people in urban areas are all non-producers and the needs of non-producers have to be looked after first. So far as rural areas are concerned, whenever we have found them in difficulties, we have strongly pressed the Provincial Governments to extend rationing there also. I can recite the instance of Malabar. In Malabar there is rationing throughout the district since the present emergency. We have issued fresh instructions to all the Provincial Governments that they should not confine their rationing to urban areas only. Apart from the statutory rural rationing that we have in one or two districts we have also what is called informal rationing covering large rural areas in Madras. Informal rationing is based on a card system, but it has no statutory backing. Cards are issued to non-producers or inadequate producers; procurement is so regulated that the producers are left with a prescribed quantity taking into account their other needs such as payment to labourers, their dependents etc. So, it is not correct, to say that the Government are neglectful of the rural population.

Then, Sir, the question of corruption has been raised. I can assure the House that no one deplores this corruption among Government officials of certain classes than we do. From the very beginning of the war, we have been conscious of this problem. In 1941, a special policing staff was set up to check corruption. In 1945, an ordinance was passed placing it on a legal basis.

**An Honourable Member:** With what results?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Government have taken certain administrative steps to check corruption. Unfortunately in the matter of corruption, there are very often two parties, one, the Government Officers and the other the public. By mere administrative measures, it is not possible for Government to make the public honest. I only hope that where this Government have failed the new Government will succeed.

Sir, various useful suggestions have been made in the course of the debate, and we have taken note of these suggestions. We will give effect to them as far as possible. I do not think I need detain the House any longer by commenting on further details. The entire subject was covered in the course of the food debate and there is very little that I can add now.

**Mr. Deputy President:** The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—contd.

- (a) *Irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration;* (b) *administration of the centrally administered areas;* (c) *planning and Development Policy.*

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai** (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I rise to move this Motion because I feel at this juncture that the economic development of the country has been very poorly attended to and India is quite unprepared at a time when gigantic efforts are necessary for the development of this land. I would here only deal with the Planning Department and the other subjects referred to in the Motion will be dealt with by my other Honourable friends. I am speaking here today with a heavy heart because I find that the Government of the day has totally failed in doing anything

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

to plan successfully regarding both agriculture and industry. They began this planning in June 1941. At that time various committees were brought into existence and I find that nothing was being done by those committees, because after three years in March, 1944, they issued the first report of the Reconstructions Committee. In that report they clearly stated that, "now is the time when we should try to form various committees and plan ahead in right earnest". This is what they said in March, 1944, three years after these committees were formed. They established nearly 20 committees, a Central committee, several Policy Committees, and on the Secretarial sphere they also appointed a committee of several Economists, they also appointed a Co-ordinating Policy Committee, and they also planned to have several development officers. The work of these development officers was to tour the Provinces co-ordinating the work of the provinces, the States and the Central Government. That is what they planned. The Development Officers were also to have several panels of experts. So, it is clear that for three years, they did nothing, although they had several committees in 1941. Now, we read again a second report of this Reconstruction Committee which was issued at the end of 1944. The same story is repeated again. They say, "we must take up the work in right earnest". They say in the second report issued at the end of 1944, eight months after the first report that they must appoint Development Officers. They were talking of Development Officers in March, 1944. They again say the same thing towards the end of 1944. Here is what they say in their second report. "It is not feasible at this early stage of planning to lay down the objectives in a more definite and concrete form". They further say, "in the case of industries, it has not yet been possible to formulate even a preliminary plan". This is what they say after 3½ years when they first started the first planning committee in 1941. I will come again to what they have been doing till today. The same story is told in reports after reports. They do not seem to have appointed Development Officers, because again in the second report they talk about the same. Now let us see, what was their policy adumbrated on 21st April 1945? In the statement by the Government of India, let us see what they say. There again they are talking in the same spirit of evasion.

"The Government of India consider that the continuance of their existing policy in the conditions in which India will find herself after this war will not meet the objectives of a sound post-war development."

So, late as April, 1945, they assume that their present policy will not meet the objectives of a sound post-war development. They have had more than 20 committees and several Development Officers but nothing tangible was done till April, 1945. It was not that they did not know what ought to be done. In that report they clearly state as to what should be done, what machinery should have priority and what machinery India should have. Here is a huge list of heavy machinery that they say ought to be obtained. This is what they say in the statement:

"For the purpose of Government policy basic industries can be defined as including aircraft, automobiles and tractors, chemicals and dyes, iron and steel, prime mover, transport vehicles, electrical machinery, machine tools, electro-chemical and non-ferrous metal industries."

They know what India should have. But up till now none of these things has been procured. They appointed 29 panels and some of the reports they must have received but the work is getting on at a snail's pace. The War ended six months ago and still planning is being carried on and nothing substantial has come out as yet. Sir Ardeshir Dalal went to England and U.S.A. trying to get machinery, to get capital equipment. A delegation of industrialists was sent round. This delegation as well as Sir Ardeshir had the same story to tell. They said capital goods are not available. I will ask Government if they clearly specified what quantities of machinery they wanted to have. Did they plan what they would like to have within one year, within two years and within five years? Did they confront those countries,—the U.K., the U.S.A., Canada

and so on,—with their definite demands as to what should be obtained and what is necessary, and what is the reply that those countries gave them? If they had confronted them with these definite details and their reply was in the negative, what did they do afterwards? Did they plan according to what we possess just to get our industries going, as much as we can, from our own resources and our own large-scale industries, small-scale industries and village industries? What is happening today is that instead of getting any capital goods we have been told that we will be getting crores of rupees worth of consumer goods. India is the dumping ground for all these consumer goods. The Reconstruction Policy Report of the Government of India says that we will agree to have foreign capital although it should not be in major proportion. This has just the effect of informing foreigners that we will tolerate foreign capital. Why will foreigners give us capital machinery without bargaining for a share in our industries in these circumstances? Would it be worth while creating more and more vested interests? Would it be worth while creating complications, even political complications, because the more the vested interests are created, more the complications are bound to arise? I will refer here to the warning that Mahatma Gandhi gave to the industrialists and to Government that they must beware against creating any vested interests. We do not want foreigners to have any share in the capital; but they say in their report that they would tolerate foreign capital. Reading history we find that in 1928, the U.S.S.R. was in a difficult position. They wanted to start their industries and their five-year plans. Nobody dared ask them for a share in their industries before parting with machinery. It was rather a different story. Germany, U.S.A. and U.K. were practically their enemies and still they vied with each other in supplying her machinery to establish her industries. And thus the U.S.S.R. could go from one plan to another and succeeded in establishing her industries within a period of 15 or 20 years. If it is definite that we are not going to have capital machinery as we want because it is difficult to get, it is high time that we planned from our own resources and not just go about with a begging bowl to these countries for supplying us the machinery. No country in the world will accede to our request unless it feels that India is to be appeased and India's good-will is necessary; and I feel that in these times of world conflagration India will have to be appeased. Anyway that is not our concern: but we should have planned from our own resources, we should have cut down our requirements as we did in the last war and just as Russia did in the years 1928-32. They tightened their belt, they arranged their economy in such a way that thought they were near the breaking point, they recovered and started their industries and got all kinds of capital goods. They demanded loans which were given. We should have confronted those countries with our demand and told them that India is a poor country; she has enough sterling balances which she can pawn and we would like to have loans. We could have told them *i.e.* U.S.A. that they had given loans to the U.K. and France and the U.S.S.R. but those countries are in a much better position because their standard of living is high, and it is we who ought to be given the loan and it is for them to give us loans. It would be wrong for them to give loans to countries whose standard of living is much higher. They must consider the well-being of backward countries if they want the good-will of these backward countries and sympathies of the whole world. All this we should have told them but we did nothing of the sort and those countries never came out to offer us goods. That is our sorry plight today. Then what happened is this. We were talking about planning till the 21st April 1945. Then Sir Ardeshir Dalal had to resign and the Economist to Planning Dept. Mr. Vakeel had also to leave. And this is what Mr. Vakeel said this very month after his resignation:

"The atmosphere for economic planning of the right type does not exist because the outlook of the bureaucracy has not yet changed. Unfortunately that comprehensive grasp of things which is essential for the success of planning, and above all the necessary vision and determination to accomplish the task on national lines were lacking among those who were in charge of the work."

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

This was said only about a fortnight ago. So it comes to this, that they began to plan in June 1941, and today we are in March, 1946, which means about five years; and only fifteen days ago we learnt from the Economist to this Department that there is nothing doing in this Department. The only thing which they do is to establish a huge staff in every Department with several Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries on high salaries who go on playing with their paper files from one Department to another. In our language there is a proverb—

*Kagalna Ghoda Dadavechhe.*

“They run with paper horses, and they play with paper horses.”

This is what they have done; their papers run from one department to another and nothing follows.

Now I will deal with the other side of it, as to what other countries had been doing during the war and what kind of planning the U.K., the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. are doing. From the speech delivered by the British Prime Minister Mr. Attlee in the House of Commons on 27th April last, we learn that up till now their exports have gone up by 45 per cent. over the pre-war level. Their export is 300 per cent. of 1944 figures. They are expecting to go 60 per cent. higher this year in exports than 1938 figures. Their plans state that by 1951, they want to raise their exports to a limit of 75 per cent. more than their 1938 figure. From the speed with which they are planning, it seems that in a few years, much earlier than 1951, they will be accomplishing that target of 75 per cent. export on the pre-war prices and on the pre-war level. That is what England is doing. Regarding their labour, they have clearly stated that their social insurance rates will be changed. About their labour problem, they have clearly said that they will vary their social insurance rates according to the rise or fall in unemployment in England. U.S.A. is doing the same. They have planned to have already 142 per cent. of their 1940 production. U.S.S.R. is also going up. Its production in steel and in other manufactured goods is going up every year by 20 to 30 per cent.

In the end, Sir, I would like to say that we are told that a National Government is in the offing. If the National Government comes in it will not waste five years as the present Government have done. In a short time we will have to plan—and we will plan—in a way that we approach the foreign governments for loans, for getting our sterling balances settled, for capital goods, and so on. If capital goods are not given, we will plan keeping in view the resources that we have. We will see what consumers goods we would like to have—and we will have only those which are absolutely necessary; we will brush aside others—and we will see that we have a good export business. With those exports we will be able to barter and see that enough capital goods are made available to us. Further we will tell foreign countries that these are the things that are necessary; if you want to give us, you may; if you don't, a time will come when you will have to come to us just as you went to U.S.S.R. in the year 1928. That time is bound to come in all industrial countries. Depression will be weighing heavily on their heads, and then a time will come when they will be prepared to come to us and accept our terms. We don't beg of them. We will wait till our time comes and our time is bound to come very shortly. At that time we are sure to get what we want. I hope this Government will soon end. They have been bungling in all spheres of life, and I only wish that this bungling Government may end very soon.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava** (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai. I would like to stress part (b) and to say something about Delhi which



is a centrally administered area. Part (a), which seeks to censure the Government on their irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption, will also, to a certain extent, be covered by the remarks which I propose to make.

It so happens that Delhi was before the year 1858 part of the United Provinces. After 1858 it was made a part of the Punjab by way of punishment for the mutinous behaviour of those persons who belonged to Delhi and the adjoining tracts. Delhi had nothing in common with the Punjab so far as the question of language and culture was concerned, but all the same Delhiwalas and other people who were with them from times immemorial, on account of historical and other reasons, were all punished and sent to the Punjab. In 1911 when the Government sought to de-provincialize the Government of India, and they wanted that the influence of Bengal may not be more than its due share in the Government of India, they changed the capital from Calcutta to Delhi. On the 12th of December 1911, Delhi was inaugurated into a new Province. At that time Delhi used to send its representatives in the Punjab Provincial Council. Uptil 1919 the position was that Delhi stood disfranchized—Delhi had no representative in the Assembly, it had no legislative council of its own, it had no advisory council, and it was in 1920 that a representation was made to the Joint Parliamentary Committee and they agreed to give one representative to Delhi in the Central Assembly.

The present position is this: In Delhi there is the Chief Commissioner's rule; there is no advisory board; there is no legislative council; and the Chief Commissioner though exalted as such only belongs to the rank of a Commissioner. Previous to 1911 Delhi was under the Punjab and it was a Commissioner's Division. It had six districts including Hissar, Rohtak, Karnal, Gurgaon, Ambala, Simla, and Delhi itself. Delhi was bigger in size. Sonapat and Ballabgarh were taken away in 1911 from Delhi District and now Delhi is smaller in size. Yet it has got a Chief Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner, an Additional District Magistrate and many other officials. The area is smaller but the number of high officials is much bigger. Therefore it suffers both ways. There is a top-heavy administration. It has got too many officials who have no work to do and at the same time its problems are not so well looked after as they were before.

Now, Sir, when we were told that democracy was coming, when in 1919 the preamble of the Government of India Act ran that there would be progressive realization of self-government, it would seem strange that Delhi the Capital of India was disfranchised. Other provinces got provincial autonomy in 1935 and there was progress so far as the apparent forms of self-government were concerned, but in Delhi the process was reversed and instead of having democracy, Delhi had full autocracy, unredeemed autocracy I should say. For the last 35 years, it so happens that Delhi has not progressed at all and Delhi at present, with the exception of one representative in this House, is as it was before any reforms were introduced into this country.

Now, Sir, it appears on page 1039 of the yearly book on India of 1944-45 that there is a tradition that Delhi will lose its empirical character after the ninth empire is destroyed. It appears that about one mile from here the ruins of eight empires are already lying and now it is quite clear that very soon we shall see the end of the British Empire also.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh** (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Hear hear.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** And if for nothing else, I would submit for one offence, and that offence being that Delhi has been capitalized for Imperial purposes the Executive Council should be decapitated.

**Shri Sri Prakasa** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): And to justify the prophecy!

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Not only to justify my prophecy but also for the reason that the Executive Council is responsible for depriving Delhi of all kind of democratic government. Because Delhi has no Provincial Government of its own, nobody takes the trouble of looking after Delhi. I wanted to see the reports of the Delhi Administration in the Library and I was told that since the year 1940, no report of Delhi Province has been published. I also wanted to see whether there was any debate in the House about the constitutional position of Delhi or other aspects of the Delhi administration and I found there was no discussion in the House so far. Every time that a motion was tabled it was crowded out and there was no discussion about Delhi. It appears that, as a matter of fact, if you will look to other aspects of the administration, leaving aside the existence of Provincial Council etc., you will find that Delhi is really a benighted province. If you look to the rural area you will find that there are only seven hospitals for a population of more than three lakhs of persons, which means there is one hospital for over 40,000 people. There are fifty-six District Board schools. I am quoting the figures from the administration report of 1939-40. That is the last report I could get. It appears that for every ten square miles there is one school. It means that the young boys have to travel good distances before they reach schools. If you look towards the self-governing institutions, you will be pleased to find, Sir, that there are two municipalities in the Delhi Province—the Delhi Municipality and the New Delhi Municipality and there are about six or seven Notified Area Committees. As regards this Delhi Municipality, it so appears that it has got an official President. There are very many nominated members on the Delhi Municipality and their number has been increasing of late years. We have been reading in the papers about the proceedings of the Delhi Municipality and it appears that the President is addicted to high-handedness. Whenever popular representatives bring popular motions before the House, they are all rejected. I think it appeared sometime ago in the press that he himself even refused to take the oath of office. The House knows what happened on the 7th March, 1946. I understand on the 5th March last, popular representatives wanted to discuss the question of Victory Celebrations and the motion was ruled out by the President. I think that if we were to find out the number of walk-outs of popular members from the Delhi Municipality, it would appear that there must have been about a dozen walk-outs in the last year.

My humble submission is that the Delhi Municipality which should have been a specimen of a democratic institution is run on lines which must bring shame to every person in this country. I was speaking of the Delhi Municipality.

Let us look at the New Delhi Municipality, where in New Delhi the Viceroy lives, all the M.L.A.'s live, the Members of the Executive Council live, and yet the constitution of the New Delhi Municipality is that all the members are nominated. Then again there is an official President. I do not know in what words to describe to our shame that in New Delhi Municipality where so many persons live who every day swear for democracy, they do not even care to get the system of election introduced. If you look at the Notified Area Committees, the less said the better.

Let us look at the District Boards. There too the Secretary is an official and the President is an official. They have many nominated members and as a matter of fact it so appears that whereas in many matters Delhi follows the Punjab, in this matter it has got a constitution which is not akin to the Punjab. In the Punjab they have a non-official President on the District Board but in Delhi the President of a District Board is also an official.

I have to say much about matters relating to Delhi but I am extremely sorry that time is running against me. All the same I hope to avail of an opportunity when the Finance Bill is being discussed to tell the House all the other things about Delhi. But with your permission I want to say a word about the solution which I wish to propose.

**Mr. Deputy President:** The bell rings two minutes before the time.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** My friend has reminded me of the old adage: "Hinos Delhi dur ast". (Delhi is still far away).

I am again reminded of the old slogan of the I.N.A. "Delhi chalo". Sir, unless and until this Delhi is emancipated and unless it comes into its own there will be no swaraj in this country. Sir, we claim Delhi both figuratively and literally. I have more than one claim on Delhi. Delhi is the Capital of India and Delhi belongs to the Ambala Division. Our affinities with Delhi are vey old. In these last 3,000 years eight empires have been founded in Delhi.

**Nawabzad Liaquat Ali Khan** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): And destroyed!

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Since time immemorial Delhi and Agra have been one, and parts of the same province. The constitutional anomaly of Delhi will disappear if you make the Delhi-Ambala Division, the Meerut Division, as also Agra Division and some parts of Rohilkund into a separate province. This is not a new solution. The late Pirzada Mohd. Hussain, who was the President of the Reception Committee of the Muslim League proposed it in 1909 and the matter was taken up at the All Parties Conference and then the Round Table Conference by Sir Geoffrey Corbett. Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah both approved of the scheme. The Muslim League is wedded to this scheme as also the Jat Mahasabha. Whether you have New Delhi as the Federal City or not, so far as the rural area is concerned and so far as old Delhi is concerned the rest of India has no claim to it. It belongs to the people round about. I was examined in matriculation in Delhi, which was then the centre for Hissar. When I joined the bar in 1909 I came to Delhi and got myself enrolled in the Commissioner's Court. Delhi, Ambala Division, Meerut Division and Agra Division are akin in culture, in race and language. The political problems which are awaiting solution in this country will be more easily solved if you adopt this scheme. I would submit therefore for the consideration of the House that there is no reason why Delhi should be penalised in this manner when the whole country will enjoy democracy. There is no reason why the people of Delhi alone should be deprived of their due right. If you want to give them their due right this is the only solution which is possible and there is no other solution. Sir, I have done.

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt** (Bombay: European): Sir, I wish to confine my remarks to part (a) of this cut motion, that is to say "the Government on their irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration," and particularly on the subject of corruption. Unfortunately I have not been able to find the full text of the reference I have sought but I would remind the House that when the late Finance Member was speaking on the motion for the election of the Standing Finance Committee on the 17th March, 1944, he said that he had been distressed at the number of charges of corruption that had been made in this House and to use his words;

"I would very much like to consult a committee of this House on the question of corruption and I would like to have their suggestions, practical suggestions, in order to deal with the situation. I would also like to do this without laying additional burdens on the already over-worked departments. Similarly I would like to discuss with members of this House round the table their suggestions for dealing with waste and so on. I am anxious to have the assistance of members of the House who come into contact with people all over the country and who hear their complaints regularly."

and he finished by saying:

"If it is not able to perform a function of that kind, then for Heaven's sake let us dispense with it altogether."

Now, Sir, the Standing Finance Committee with those additional responsibilities duly met sometime later and, if I remember correctly, this subject was the first on the agenda for discussion. When it was raised, one of the members immediately asked whether the place was privileged. The place was the Finance Member's room in the Secretariat. That question put every one in a quandary and though there was a barrister present and the question was put to

[Mr. Leslie Gwilt]

him, he said he would like to have notice of it but, if he were asked to give an opinion straightaway, he would say that the place was not privileged. Obviously in the reference I have made the Finance Member appreciated what I think on some occasions are real difficulties of members who wish to bring to the attention of Government cases of bribery and corruption. To say that it does not exist I think is merely pulling wool over our eyes.

At the last meeting of the Standing Finance Committee, as I had mentioned this particular point to Sir Archibald Rowlands, he kindly inquired into it and found that the Finance Member's room is indeed not a privileged place, so that if any member makes a *bona fide* charge (and I am enjoining myself only to *bona fide* charges and not to malicious charges) he may be in jeopardy of the law.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** He would come under the exceptions to the defamation section of the law.

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** I would like to suggest therefore that such steps, and I do not know what those steps are, shall be taken to extend the privilege of this House (and I understand that it has to be the House in session) to a properly constituted Committee of the House and within the four walls of a committee room.

Now, Sir, if I remember rightly, the Finance Member at the time he made the statement, also asked that each party should select with care or, at any rate, take cognisance, of the added responsibilities of the Standing Finance Committee, at the time that they chose their members and I feel sure that it is a matter which parties will not overlook, and that if the privilege of the House can be extended to committee rooms only charges of a *bona fide* nature will be made.

**Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang** (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, it is a pity indeed that when at long last I made up my mind to stand up and have my say on this many-sided cut motion, I find myself face to face with a very discouraging time limit. The cut motion is so worded as to require really a lot of time on the part of those who participate in the discussion and I think my Honourable friend who suggested that the question be now put was really doing injustice to the extensive nature of the discussion that is required, to deal adequately with the many points raised by this cut motion. For instance, if one were to talk on part (a) to censure the Government on their irresponsibility, it is a vast subject. Next comes inefficiency, that is vaster still and then on top of all comes corruption in the administration which is . . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Vastest.

**Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Yes, vastest. This is only part (a).

Part (b) relates to the administration of the centrally administered areas. There are so many centrally administered areas and each has an administration of its own.

**Mr. Deputy President:** I suppose the Honourable Member would like to continue his speech tomorrow.

**Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Yes, Sir.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 13th February, 1946.