

13th March 1946

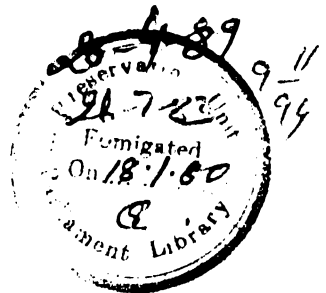
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume III, 1946

(28th February to 14th March, 1946)

FIRST SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1946



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viii
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Monday, 14th March, 1946—

	PAGES
Member Sworn	2859
Starred Questions and Answers	2359—92
Unstarred Questions and Answers	2382—2400
General Budget—List of Demands— <i>Contd.</i>	2401—50
Demand No. 11—Executive Council— <i>Contd.</i>	2401—74
Paucity of Muslims in Officers and Ministerial Grades of Departments; Non-appointment of Muslims in Key Posts and Retrenchment of Muslims where they are less than 25 per cent— <i>Contd.</i>	2401—14
Demand No. 22—Commerce Department Unsatisfactory Position of Export of Hides and Skins involving enormous loss to India	2414—36
Demand No. 1 Customs	2437
Demand No. 2. Central Excise and Salt	2437
Demand No. 3—Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax	2437
Demand No. 4—Opium	2437
Demand No. 5—Provincial Excise	2437
Demand No. 6—Stamps	2437
Demand No. 7—Forest	2437
Demand No. 8—Irrigation (including working expenses, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue)	2438
Demand No. 9—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)	2438
Demand No. 10—Interest on Debt and other obligation and Reduction or avoidance of Debt	2438
Demand No. 11—Executive Council	2438—39
Demand No. 12—Council of State	2439
Demand No. 13—Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department	2439
Demand No. 14—Home Department	2439—40
Demand No. 15—Department of Information and Broadcasting	2440
Demand No. 16—Legislative Department	2440
Demand No. 17—Department of Education	2440
Demand No. 18—Department of Agriculture	2441
Demand No. 19—Department of Health	2441
Demand No. 20—Department of Commonwealth Relations	2441
Demand No. 21—Finance Department	2441
Demand No. 22—Commerce Department	2441
Demand No. 23—Department of Labour	2441
Demand No. 24—Department of Posts and Air	2441
Demand No. 25—War Transport Department	2441
Demand No. 26—Food Department	2442
Demand No. 27—Central Board of Revenue	2442
Demand No. 28—India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment charge	2442
Demand No. 29—Payments to Governments, Departments, etc. on account of the admission of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasurer	2442
Demand No. 30—Audit	2442
Demand No. 31—Administration of Justice	2442
Demand No. 32—Jails and Convict Settlements	2442
Demand No. 33—Police	2442
Demand No. 34—Ports and Pilotage	2443
Demand No. 35—Lighthouses and Lightships	2443
Demand No. 36—Survey of India	2443
Demand No. 37—Botanical Survey	2443
Demand No. 38—Zoological Survey	2443
Demand No. 39—Geological Survey	2443
Demand No. 40—Misc	2443

Thursday, 14th March, 1946—*contd.*

	PAGES
Demand No. 41—Archaeology	2443
Demand No. 42—Metrology	2444
Demand No. 43—Other Scientific Departments	2444
Demand No. 44—Education	2444
Demand No. 45—Medical Services	2444
Demand No. 46—Public Health	2444
Demand No. 47—Agriculture	2444
Demand No. 48—Civil Veterinary Services	2444
Demand No. 49—Industries	2444
Demand No. 50—Scientific and Industrial Research	2445
Demand No. 51—Aviation	2445
Demand No. 52—Broadcasting	2445
Demand No. 53—Department of Industries and Supplies	2445
Demand No. 54—Emigration	2445
Demand No. 55—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	2445
Demand No. 56—Census	2445
Demand No. 57—Joint-Stock Companies	2445
Demand No. 58—Imperial Dairy Department	2446
Demand No. 59—Miscellaneous Departments	2446
Demand No. 60—Currency	2446
Demand No. 61—Mint	2446
Demand No. 62—Civil Works	2446
Demand No. 63—Central Road Fund	2446
Demand No. 64—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	2446
Demand No. 65—Stationery and Printing	2446
Demand No. 66—Miscellaneous	2447
Demand No. 67—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	2447
Demand No. 68—Post-war Planning and Development	2447
Demand No. 69—Civil Defence	2447
Demand No. 70—Delhi	2447
Demand No. 71—Ajmer-Merwara	2447
Demand No. 72—Panth-Piploda	2447
Demand No. 73—Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2447
Demand No. 74—Capital Outlay on Salt	2448
Demand No. 75—Capital Outlay on Forests	2448
Demand No. 76—Capital Outlay on the Security Printing Press	2448
Demand No. 77—Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)	2448
Demand No. 78—Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores suspense (Not met from Revenue)	2448
Demand No. 79—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development	2448
Demand No. 80—Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation	2448
Demand No. 81—Capital Outlay on Broadcasting	2449
Demand No. 82—Capital Outlay on Mints	2449
Demand No. 83—Delhi Capital Outlay	2449
Demand No. 84—Capital Outlay on Civil Works	2449
Demand No. 85—Commuted value of Pensions	2449
Demand No. 86—Payments to Retrenched Personnel	2449
Demand No. 87—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Training	2449
Demand No. 88—Capital Outlay on Development	2450
Demand No. 89—Interest-free and Interest-bearing Advances	2450

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 13th 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.

MEMBERS SWORN:

Mr. Harry Greenfield, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and

Mr. Madapusi Viraraghavachari Rangachari (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

JOINT COMMISSION FOR PLANNING INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT

915. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable Member for Planning and Development invited the Joint Commission from the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.A., to plan India's development as reported in the Montreal message, dated the 24th January, 1946 published in the Delhi (Local) edition of the *Statesman* of the 26th January, 1946 or is it imposed on the Government of India?

(b) When did the Government of India first hear about this proposal, and from which country did it originate?

(c) Why is such a Commission considered necessary by the Government of India?

(d) Have Government given any undertaking to give any special facilities to such a Commission?

(e) Have Government considered that this is the foundation of price rigging against India with regard to goods imported from these countries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Neither.

(b) From the Press report from Montreal referred to in (a)

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will not the Honourable Member give us some information as to whether these people are coming or not and whether it is a joint commission of the United Kingdom, United States and Canada?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have no information on the subject; it is merely a press report; we have received no notice of any such commission coming.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government made any inquiries as to whether there is any truth in this report?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Government have made no inquiries because no approach has been made to Government from the other side.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who keeps in touch, on behalf of the Government of India, with events in Canada or America? Is it not one of the duties of the Agent General in America?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Yes. If the Honourable Member wants, I will ask the Agent General whether there is any truth in this report.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered that a joint commission from these three countries may involve the fixing of prices of capital and other

goods against us, whereas India wants competition between these three countries and take it from the best market and the cheapest? Have Government given any consideration to this fact?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have already said in answer to Professor Ranga that I will find out from the Agent General whether there is any truth in this proposed commission or whether it is just a newspaper canard.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if he is trying to consult any of these foreign experts in the matter of planning, which belongs to his Department?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: It does not arise out of this.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member sure that some other Member of Government—as we found several times that one Member of Government does something which the other Honourable Member does not know—is not contriving this commission without his knowledge?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. President: Next question.

COST AND FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PLANNING.

916. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state who is paying the cost of the Joint Commission from the United Kingdom, Canada and the U. S. A., to plan India's development and who are the people expected?

(b) When are they expected, and what is their programme?

(c) What facilities will Government give them?

(d) Have Government expressed a desire for such a Commission, or is it that His Majesty's Government have given directions for the formation and functioning of this Commission?

(e) Did the Honourable Member during his tour in the United Kingdom and U. S. A., fix any details, or approve of the general idea of such a Commission? If so, where and when, and in what terms?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) The Government of India have no information. They are certainly not paying the cost.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As it has aroused the curiosity of my Honourable friend who has put the question, how is it that the Honourable Member is absolutely indifferent over the matter? He has read in the papers that this commission is coming: why has he not made any inquiries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: One reads so many things in the newspapers. If I were to make inquiries on every one of them, there will be no end.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from the joint commission of these three countries, is the Honourable Member inviting any experts from any of these countries, which may be called a commission or a group or individuals?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I certainly make use of experts from abroad whenever there is need; but I have not, nor did my predecessor, invite any joint commission.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether His Majesty's Government is sending out any commission of this kind? It may be that the United States and Canada may not come in as part of that commission. Has there been any communication with His Majesty's Government calling out or suggesting that these men should come out here and assist this Government in planning and development?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: That is a pretty wide question. There is for example one team which we have invited from the United Kingdom to help us in investigating the possibilities for the establishment of an aircraft manufacturing industry here; but it is not any kind of economic commission mentioned by my Honourable friend.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government give an assurance that if any such development takes place as was forecast in that newspaper report, they will inform this House at once and not commit themselves until that information has been given to us?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Certainly.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are there any individuals coming to India from foreign countries to assist the Honourable Member in the Department of Planning, whether they come as a commission or a group or as individuals, in a short time?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have already answered that; from time to time my predecessor did invite experts from abroad to help him in planning and I propose to follow in his footsteps.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member is not giving an answer to my question. I want to know whether any persons have been invited and if so whether they are coming.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have just said in answer to Mr. Subedar's question that I have invited a team from the United Kingdom to advise us as to the possibilities of establishing an aircraft manufacturing industry in India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from the aircraft manufacturing industry, in regard to other departments, are there any groups or teams or individuals coming?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I am informed that they are. You must address that question to other Members of the Government. I can only speak for my Department.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask if it is a fact that there are other members coming, invited by other Departments of the Government for this very specific purpose for which this question has been raised?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I do not know.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inquire whether the Planning Member is supposed to know about the plans and developments which are forecast and projected by the other Departments or whether he is not supposed to know?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: He is supposed to know; but if you have heard Mr. Chaman Lall's question, it was connected with an economic mission. I did not say that I did not know what experts were coming in regard to road construction or some other project.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask for your protection in this matter, Mr. President? Is it the position now that the Honourable Member himself does not know whether any other Member of the Government knows whether individuals or teams or joint commissions are coming for this particular purpose for which this question has been raised?

Mr. President: Is he being requested to reply with reference to the knowledge of other Members of the Government?

Diwan Chaman Lall: In connection with this particular subject, Mr. President, the subject being the commission coming out for the purpose of rigging prices against us.

Mr. President: What does the Honourable Member know about this?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As far as I know, the question was of a joint commission from the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.A to plan India's development as reported in the Montreal message. My answer to that

was that the Government of India, and I now speak for the whole of the Government of India, have no knowledge of any such commission. If we have no knowledge, we could not obviously have invited them. Another Honourable Member asked me—are you not importing or inviting experts to assist you in this or that plan of development and I said—Yes, we are. What more can I say?

Mr. President: Next question.

CURTAILMENT OF CANTEEN AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES FOR TROOPS.

197. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the War Secretary disbanded recruiting agencies, which he had set up during the war?

(b) Have Government curtailed the canteen and other welfare activities for troops in motion during the war period, which were specially created for the occasion?

(c) How many training camps were set up and how many of them are still in existence?

(d) In how many cases has the personnel of such training camps been reduced, and what is the proposal of Government in this matter to restore the position to normal peace time basis?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir, during the war, the number of Recruiting Offices increased from 16 to 193. Since the end of hostilities, the number has been reduced to 39. In addition, as I explained in my speech in the General debate on the Budget, 79 Offices continue to remain in order to deal with the resettlement of demobilized and released personnel pending the establishment by the Labour Department of Sub-Regional Employment Exchanges.

(b) No, Sir. It is more important than ever to maintain the morale of the fighting services. Where, however, welfare facility is insufficiently used, it is withdrawn.

(c) The total number of training schools in existence at the termination of hostilities was 123, of which 68 are still in existence. I would again refer the Honourable Member to my speech in the course of the general debate on the Budget.

(d) One of these is in the course of closing down and 27 have been considerably reduced up to the present. Further reductions are continuing, and more schools will be closed down in the near future. And as I have explained before, facilities set up for training are being used for demobilisation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the Finance Member in his Budget is putting forward 244 crores of rupees as the cost of defence, may we not expect the Defence Department to co-operate and to cut down those items of expenditure for whose existence there is no justification whatsoever after the war has closed and to cut them down quickly instead of the slow tortoise manner which my friend has indicated?

Mr. P. Mason: All expenditure which is totally unnecessary has been cut down.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's answer to part (b) of the question and his further reference to morale, may I know if these canteens serve out food or morale?

Mr. P. Mason: Both.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know how exactly morale is served across the table?

Mr. P. Mason: The answer I gave was that it was more necessary than ever before to maintain the morale of the fighting forces. I think the events of the past few months will bear out my statement and I think every means by which we can maintain the comfort of troops is highly desirable.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is there no value attached to the morale of the civilian population who are now anxiously waiting for considerable reduction in the

army's cost and particularly on adjuncts of the kind which are indicated in this question?

Mr. P. Mason: Well, Sir, that is asking me for an expression of opinion.

Seth Govind Das: May I know if fresh recruitment is going on?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Are discharges also going on?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these canteen facilities being provided specially for the lower paid sections of your defence forces?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. They are provided for every one.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that experienced officers are being discharged and raw recruits are being taken in?

Mr. P. Mason: I am very doubtful whether that arises. I have explained that elsewhere also.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that experienced officers are being discharging on discharging officers?

Mr. P. Mason: The reason for that is, I should have thought, obvious. We have at present a very large strength indeed and what we are trying to get is a post war army which will be considerably smaller and which has to be a balanced army as regards age and experience. Suppose we stop recruiting for two years completely and went on discharging. At the end of that two years, you would have no youngmen and no continuous flow coming forward and it is a steady flow that is required.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is not a fact that he has got the necessary nucleus already in the existing cadre of officers—in the army, Air force and Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. We have got an existing nucleus but it must be kept going by a steady flow.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does the Honourable Member mean that he is going to discharge experienced officers and get in raw recruits?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

REDUCTION OF STRAIN OF MILITARY TRAFFIC ON RAILWAYS AND OF EXPENDITURE ON PROPAGANDA, ETC.

918. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) What steps have been taken by the War Secretary to reduce the strain of military traffic on the Railways with a view to giving scope for civilian traffic which was denied during the war period?

(b) What steps are taken to reduce expenditure generally incurred and much increased during the war in such matters as propaganda, information officers Press Advisers to various Commands, liaison officers, officers on special duty in connection with various branches, Army technicians and institutions for training, technicians in connection with the War Department, and generally all such new places, which were created since the beginning of the year 1939-40?

(c) Do Government propose to give some details of the measures taken, or proposed to be taken and of the amount of saving expected in the Defence figures through such measures?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Government have constantly in view the necessity for reducing the strain of military traffic on the Railways in order to permit the restoration of normal civilian traffic. Rolling stock is progressively released as traffic decreases.

Military stores traffic has decreased very considerably since the end of hostilities and is now only a very small fraction of the total amount of goods traffic moving. Military personnel traffic has, however, only very gradually decreased since it reached its peak in the late summer of 1945. The main reasons for this are the heavy movements involved by Indian Army demobilisation and

return of Indian troops from Europe and other theatres of operations, repatriation and release of British personnel, embarkation of occupational troops for the Far East. No material decrease can be expected during the next three months.

(b) The Honourable Member has touched on only a very few of the subjects which have come under review and I propose to answer him on a wider basis.

Before the conclusion of hostilities a list was in preparation of all activities which could be closed down as soon as hostilities ended. This was completed during the 2nd week of August 1945, and instructions were issued closing down the great majority of new works and calling for an immediate review of all existing establishments, works projects and stores projects. Reports are called for under these three headings periodically and are scrutinised at HQ by the officials of the Military Finance Department. The review is continuous and its success will be seen from my reply to part (c) of the question. The remaining expenditure is on units and these are being disbanded in succession under the demobilisation scheme.

(c) As Honourable Member will see from the Honourable the Finance Member's speech on the Budget, and the statements issued in connection therewith, military expenditure in India (taking the total of expenditure on account of the Government of India and on account of His Majesty's Government together) is reduced from very approximately Rs. 900 crores to approximately 300 crores. As to details; I can give details of any special questions in which the Honourable Member is interested, but I suggest that the most appropriate place is before the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the importance of the subject, may I ask my Honourable friend to place the details of that report which, he said, was prepared in August 1945 as to what sort of saving could be effected? Is it not possible even at this stage with regard to military expenditure to set up a kind of a Committee, which I suggested at the time of the last Budget, of party leaders and others, an *ad hoc* Committee to go into this issue so as to help Government with the views of the public and to find out whether there is any justification for maintaining some expenditure to the extent Government wants it? Will not the Government consider the advisability of the appointment of an *ad hoc* Committee to go into this?

Mr. P. Mason: There are two points involved. The first is whether we can put that document, which is rather a lengthy one, before the House. I will certainly go into that matter, but I cannot tell you off-hand that I will be able to do so because there may be grounds of secrecy about certain elements. But I think I can probably put it on the table of the House.

Secondly, with regard to the appointment of an *ad hoc* Committee. We have already said that we would put all defence expenditure before the Standing Finance Committee. We have already agreed to consider policy of all kinds with the Defence Consultative Committee and I would shrink from the thought of a third Committee.

Mr. Manu Subedar: During the war period it has been the experience of the civil population that there has been an expansion of all kinds of services right and left. The natural position should be that whatever is expanded should be curtailed and that process should be expedited in order to save the burden on the people of this country. Therefore, I say that neither the Standing Finance Committee nor any of the other things mentioned by my Honourable friend would suffice, but a specific Committee should be appointed whose instructions would be to cut down all unnecessary army outlay. May I ask whether such a specific Committee could not be considered by the Government? I do not want my Honourable friend to make a statement just now, but will he put it to the Commander-in-Chief?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir.

NON-PAYMENT OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS TO INDIA BY BURMA.

919. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many annual payments due to India, as price for Burma's share of the joint assets at the time of the separation of Burma, has Burma not paid on account of the war?

(b) How much money has been spent by the Government of India on account of the Government of Burma since the fall of Burma till the return of that Government to Burma?

(c) Are any payments still being made on Burma account by the Government of India?

(d) In what manner, and when has the return of these sums been arranged for?

(e) Has the Reserve Bank of India incurred any liability in respect of Burma, or are there any Burma assets with the Reserve Bank of India?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Eight half-yearly payments of Rs. 112 lakhs each on account of the pre-separation debt of Burma have remained unpaid. Payments were suspended from 1942-43 owing to the occupation of Burma by the Japanese.

(b), (c) and (d). The sum advanced by the Government of India on account of the Burma Government since the fall of Burma amount to approximately Rs. 2½ crores to the end of the current year. This represents payments made in India on account of Burma pensioners. The amount will be recovered and the Burma Government will shortly be discussing with the Government of India the method of liquidating this unredeemed liability along with the repayment of their debt to India held in abeyance during the enemy occupation of Burma.

(e) No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps will Government take and when in order to recover this amount and in what form and whether the food issue cannot be linked with this?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir, that is one of the things that is obviously engaging our attention. If they give us food, this amount would be treated as a set-off.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the other assets which may be in Burma will not my Honourable friend consider Burma Government's inability to pay the accumulated instalments? Will not my Honourable friend consider some other method of taking some other assets in Burma and thus removing this liability?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No expediency will be left out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government bring this matter before the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Because we do not think it is an appropriate matter to be placed before them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government at least consult them before they come to a final decision?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not think so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will they place this matter before the House before they arrive at the final decision?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The House will be informed.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will they recover the money at all?

(No answer was given.)

REQUIREMENTS OF DEMONETIZATION ORDINANCE.

920. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that persons in possession of currency notes of Rs. 500 and over were required under the Demonetization Ordinance to fill up a form, and to state the reasons why they had these notes in their possession and why they had not kept their money in banks;

(b) the reasons for asking such questions;

(c) if Government regard it as their right to know why their own currency is used by their subjects; and

(d) if he is satisfied with the answers given to this question by the persons concerned?

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

(b) In pursuance of the general objects of the Ordinance as explained in my answer to Starred Question No. 417, by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 21st February 1946.

(c) Yes, in prevailing circumstances and to the extent prescribed in the relevant Ordinance.

(d) It is premature to express an opinion till all the declarations have been examined.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question and in view of the fact that it would be against the law to refuse any notes that are regarded as current legal tender, is the Honourable Member satisfied that the asking of such a question was correct and right?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member collect some of the replies which were given as to the reason why people carried these notes and will he print them in the form of a little pamphlet for the benefit of the Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think it will be a very interesting document when I am in a position to do so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask who has been placed in charge of looking into these various explanations that have been given from time to time?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: One or two cases have been brought to my notice for orders and that is all.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask what is the number of such explanations?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There are a few cases which have been referred to the Central Government by the Reserve Bank, which is examining them. Only a few cases have been referred to me personally for orders.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Who is examining the rest?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: They are being examined from three points of view. The Reserve Bank is examining them; the Income-tax authorities are examining them; and they are being examined for the possibility of the money having been acquired illicitly.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In case there is a disagreement on these matters, will the Honourable Member appoint an independent Tribunal consisting of independent and impartial men to judge these matters?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Because Government has got to do its job without the help of outsiders.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know how many thousands of rupees the Honourable Member expects to spend on this examination?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I cannot forecast that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the total figure of unreturned notes and does the Honourable Member now regard that as a clear and definite advantage to the Treasury out of these measures?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I want notice of the latest date. When I was asked to give the figure up to the approved date, I gave it as 129 crores.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether the difference is now considered by Government as a definite and final gain or whether it is still considered as a suspense account and claims may be preferred against the balance that has not yet been paid up?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The latter is certainly the case.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does the Honourable Member realise the danger of losing all his credit when he demonetises his notes at this rate?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I did not know that my credit was involved.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what is the total amount for which claims have been preferred?

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

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will the Honourable Member examine and scrutinise the declarations made by Indian States also?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir; most certainly.

PROVINCE OF PANTH PIPLODA

921. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Province of Panth Piploda consists of only an area of 25 miles and a population of less than 5,000;

(b) if the total revenue of the Province is a little above Rs. 50,000, of which nearly Rs. 12,000 are required for the administration and the rest distributed among the proprietary Thakurs;

(c) the exact position of these proprietary Thakurs, and the understanding between these Thakurs and Government;

(d) the name of the present Chief Commissioner of the Province and the amount of salary and allowances that he gets;

(e) the reasons for continuing Panth Piploda as a separate Province; and

(f) if Government propose to consider the desirability of joining it with some other British Indian Province or with the surrounding and interspersing Indian State?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The area of Panth Piploda is 25.29 square miles and its population according to the 1941 census is 5,268.

(b) The total revenue in 1944-45 was Rs. 58,628. Rs. 28,200 was distributed amongst the Thakurs and the Khandekar Pandits, the balance being allotted for administrative purposes.

(c) Panth Piploda consists of 10½ villages distributed in five blocks held by five Thakurs. Each Thakur holds one block consisting of one or more villages. The territory was ceded to the East India Company by the Peshwa in the year 1817 along with all his territories and rights in Malwa, under article 14 of the treaty of Poona of that year. Although they hold no written authority or Sanad from Government the Thakurs or their descendants have been recognised as the proprietors of their respective villages.

(d) The Resident for Central India is also the Chief Commissioner for Panth Piploda. The present Chief Commissioner is the Honourable Lt.-Col. Campbell. He gets no extra salary or allowance for holding the post of Chief Commissioner.

(e) and (f). Panth Piploda was formed as a Chief Commissioner's Province with the object of providing a sound legal basis for a system of administration for that area. The future of Panth Piploda will presumably be considered in the course of the forthcoming constitutional discussions.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c), may I know under what circumstances this territory was taken from the Peshwa? Was it voluntarily ceded to the East India Company or was it forcibly taken from the Peshwa?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not know. Probably the Honourable Member knows more about the history and origin of this than I do.

DEATH SENTENCE ON NINE I. N. A. PRISONERS

922. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the War Secretary please refer to his answer to starred question No. 41, on February 7, 1946, and state:

(a) the place or places where the nine prisoners sentenced to death were hanged and what was done with their remains;

(b) the place or places where the courts sat which sentenced them;

(c) the names of the defence counsel that were engaged by or for them; and

(d) if the charge of murder against them included any killing of men by them while engaged in actual warfare?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b) and (c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply on the 18th February, 1946, to Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 337.

(d) None was charged with murder.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (a) may I know once more—I am not quite sure whether this part of the question was covered by the question under reference—what was done to the remains of the persons who were hanged?

Mr. P. Mason: That was not contained in that question, nor is it contained in this question.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If the Honourable Member will cast his eyes to part (a) of this question . . .

Mr. P. Mason: I am sorry, Sir. I will supply the information after enquiry.

Shri Sri Prakasa: When the Honourable Member makes an enquiry, will he also remember the reply of the Honourable the Home Member to a similar question and make sure that those persons who according to custom should have been cremated were not actually buried?

Mr. P. Mason: I will make sure of the information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether these were all court martial cases?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether he is prepared to lay the proceedings of these court martial cases on the table of the House?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is there any secrecy about the proceedings?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. But this question does not arise out of the original question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What is the secrecy that attaches to these proceedings?

Mr. P. Mason: May I submit to you, Sir, that the rule is that supplementary questions are asked to elucidate any facts supplied in answer to a question. I

have supplied a very full reply, and I must point out, Sir, that it is already 35 minutes since the question hour commenced and we are only through six questions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am sure Honourable Members are entitled to know the reasons from the Government as to why a particular information should be withheld from this House. What is the public policy behind this particular case?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not question the right of the House to get the information. I only wish to point out that this does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: This question does arise. There is a class of information which is withheld from the Members of this House on very different grounds. I want to know whether in this case there is any such reason for withholding?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member stated "on grounds of secrecy".

Mr. P. Mason: I wish to take my stand on the ground that this question does not arise out of this question. I shall be very glad to discuss this question with my Honourable friends on some other occasion. But this does not arise out of this question. I think it is rather important in view of the fact that we have been only through six questions in 35 minutes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The question whether a supplementary question arises or not is to be decided by the Chair. It is open to the Government Member to say that this is all the information I have or it is open to him to plead "confidential" with respect to certain matters.

Mr. President: I believe just as the Opposition is entitled to make their submissions to the Chair, so also is the Government side entitled to make its submissions. Therefore, when the Honourable War Secretary said that it does not arise, it was not a reply to the question put to him, but a submission to the Chair.

I do not think this supplementary question arises directly from the question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If you decide like that, then we have no say.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If you refer to the question itself, part (b) says: "the place or places where the courts sat which sentenced them;" part (c) says "the names of the defence counsel that were engaged by or for them". Surely, the information that is asked for in these two parts relate to the proceedings of the Court martial. If the Government do not desire to give this information, we are at least entitled to know the reasons for the same.

Mr. President: The information sought for may be connected remotely but it does not arise directly from this question.

BAN ON PROCESSIONS IN DELHI

923. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if there is any order in force in Delhi prohibiting processions; if so, the terms of the order and what sort of processions are banned; and

(b) if he will consider the desirability of removing the ban?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I lay on the table a copy of the Chief Commissioner's notification No. F.5(59)/43-General, dated the 20th August, 1943, from which it will be seen that processions are prohibited unless they have been duly licensed under the Police Act or are of certain specified kinds.

(b) No, Sir, not at present.

Delhi, dated the 20th August, 1943

No. F. 5 (59)/43-General.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of rule 56 of the Defence of India Rules the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, being satisfied that this measure is necessary for the purpose of securing the public safety and for the maintenance of public order, is pleased by this general order to prohibit the holding of or taking part in any public procession of ten or more persons within the jurisdiction of the Delhi Municipal Committee and the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Delhi Civil Station, Notified Area and the Delhi Fort Notified Area :

Provided that nothing in this order shall be deemed to prohibit *bona fide* processions on the occasion of weddings or funerals or other domestic celebrations or shall apply to processions duly licensed by competent authority under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Police Act 1896 or to any other customary procession for the holding of which the District Magistrate of Delhi may by order in writing have granted permission.

A. V. ASKWITH,
Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

Seth Govind Das: Are the Government aware that all the troubles we find in the country today are on account of this banning of processions and meetings?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is a matter of opinion and my opinion is strongly adverse to my Honourable friend's.

Shri Sri Prakasa: How many persons going together would form a procession according to this notification?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Ten or more.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: If ten Honourable Members walk out of this House, would it come under procession?

Mr. President: Order, order; next question.

POLICY *RE* RETURN OF PRIVATE REQUISITIONED PROPERTY

924. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it was not the declared policy of Government that private property requisitioned for war purposes during the days of the war will be returned to the respective owners after the termination of the war?

(b) What led to the change of this policy, and what necessitated the issue of a fresh Ordinance in December, 1945, for acquisition of such property?

(c) Did Government requisition from the Ramjas College Society, Delhi, the buildings occupied by the Ramjas College and School and their hostels at Anandparbat in June 1942, and did they pay rent for some time? What led to a change in their policy, so as to decide to acquire the said buildings and the land attached thereto?

(d) Will Government be pleased to explain the special circumstances under which they want to acquire the said landed property which covers an area of about 1,700,000 sq. yards? Are they aware that some of these buildings were built with the help of public donations?

(e) Are Government aware that the Secretary of the Ramjas College Society has for some time been in correspondence with the authorities concerned protesting against the acquisition of the said property by Government? If so, what action has been taken by Government on such representation?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. It is the intention of the Government to hand back as quickly as possible private property requisitioned for war purposes. An exception will be made only in the following cases :

(i) Requisitioned property required for the needs of the post-war army will be acquired.

(ii) Where the cost of restoring property to its condition at the time of requisition would be excessive, the property will be acquired.

(iii) Where valuable assets have been created on requisitioned property these will normally be offered to the owner at a fair valuation at the time of release.

If the owner is unwilling to take them over the entire property may have to be acquired.

(b) There has been no change in policy. Ordinance No. XLV of 1945, was promulgated because the Government were advised that under the Defence of India Act and Rules as they then stood they had no power to acquire property in the circumstances referred to under points (ii) and (iv) in the reply to (a).

(c) In 1942 it was found necessary to take over the Ramjas College and School property for an urgent military requirement.

As private negotiations were not successful, the property was requisitioned in May 1945. The Army had meanwhile occupied the property and had added assets to the approximate value of Rs. 35 lakhs. Up to date a sum of Rs. 3,34,076 has been paid as compensatory interim payments to be set off against whatever compensation is ultimately paid. The nature and amount of the final compensation will depend on whether the building is handed back or acquired.

(d) The continued retention of the property is being considered. I believe that some of the College buildings have been built with the help of public donations, and I agree that this would be a strong argument for returning the property.

(e) Yes, Sir. The representations made by the Secretary of the Ramjas Society are being carefully considered along with other relevant factors.

Mr. Manu Subedar: As my Honourable friend has enunciated some very important general principles, may I know if Government will distinctly make a difference between the date of notice of acquisition and the date on which it is actually requisitioned, as during the interval the price basis has in some cases very seriously altered?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I know at what price these properties will be acquired? As the Land Acquisition Act does not apply, will it be the price on the date of requisition or the price on the date of acquisition?

Mr. P. Mason: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When Government requisitioned the properties they required them temporarily for their purposes; but they have now decided to acquire. It is a new decision and a fresh notice of acquisition will have to be given. Is not that what my Honourable friend implied in reply to my first question?

Mr. P. Mason: I shall require notice of it because that part of the question is not one that I have studied.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In the matter of all those people whose properties they have taken—farms, fields, lands and buildings—will they not consider the intermediate change of rise of prices which has come in or will they take steps which will be regarded as confiscatory?

Mr. P. Mason: I have explained that the matter will be considered.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will the final acquisition be under the Land Acquisition Act or under the D. I. Rules?

Mr. P. Mason: I take it that it will be under Ordinance 45 of 1945?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know how long Government will take to come to a decision with regard to this property?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do not Government make any distinction between educational institutions like this and ordinary properties, in disposing of all these matters?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, certainly. As I said before, I think the fact—if it is a fact—that the property was constructed largely by subscription is a very strong argument for returning it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will not all acquisitions expire with the expiry of the Act?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir; certainly not.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will Government expedite their decision with regard to this matter because it concerns an educational institution?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, we will, certainly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government come to this House for fresh powers when the old powers expire on 30th September?

Mr. P. Mason: That, Sir, is a question of hypothesis.

PAY AND QUALIFICATIONS OF MRS. KHIN ZAW OF ALL-INDIA RADIO.

925. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mrs. Khin Zaw is working in the Central News Organisation, All-India Radio, as an Officer-in-Charge of Broadcasting for Indians Overseas? If so, what are her qualifications and nationality; on what pay was she originally appointed; and what is her present pay?

(b) Is it a fact that she has been promoted in supersession of many qualified and senior Indian Officers in the News Organisation?

(c) What are the journalistic and other qualifications of Mrs. Khin Zaw for holding the present post?

(d) How was the selection of Mrs. Khin Zaw made? Was she selected by the Federal Public Service Commission or any other Selection Board?

(e) Is it also a fact that Mrs. Khin Zaw was originally appointed as a Reference Officer and towards the end of 1944 was appointed as News Editor in the English Political Warfare Section, under Lt.-Col. White House, but was removed only after a few days by Lt.-Col. White House on the ground of incompetence?

(f) Is it also a fact that instead of reverting her to her original post a new post of Private Secretary or Personal Assistant was created to provide her with a higher job?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) to (f). My information on the points raised by Honourable Member is not yet complete. I will send him a reply shortly.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what country mourns the absence of Mrs. Khin Zaw?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I think it is Burma, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that notice of this question was sent about a fortnight ago or even earlier?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: That is perfectly true but . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

DEMAND OF SECURITY FROM SARASWATI PRESS, DELHI

926. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has proscribed a book written in Hindi entitled Jai Hind, published by the Saraswati Pustak Mandir, Delhi, and printed at the Saraswati Press?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. R. C. Bharati son of Pandit Lokman Das, the Keeper of the Saraswati Press, has been asked to deposit a security of Rs. 1,000?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the said book is a compilation of several newspaper cuttings?

(d) Why were not those articles in the newspapers concerned proscribed?

(e) Why was this book proscribed and security demanded?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). I am prepared to accept the Honourable Member's assertion that the book is a compilation of newspaper articles. I do not know whether any action was taken in respect of the articles when they appeared in newspapers.

(e) The reasons are indicated in the orders of the Chief Commissioner of which a copy is placed in the Library.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: In view of the fact that more information than is contained in that book is available to the public at large, is there any justification for Government to proscribe this pamphlet?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is really a matter for the Chief Commissioner and for the court to whom an application can be made against his order. But I would point that a book is far more of a permanent record than a newspaper article.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if from time to time the Honourable Member or his Department reviews orders regarding the banning of publication or proscribing of books?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The orders are not those of the Central Government but of the Chief Commissioner.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: But the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is directly under the Central Government. Does not the Honourable Member review the orders passed by him?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir, because under the Act the order is subject to appeal to the High Court.

DISBANDMENT OF W. V. S. (I).

927. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the news item in the *Hindustan Times* of the 17th February, 1946, under the caption "WVS(I) not to be disbanded";

(b) the number of members in the WVS(I), giving the officers and others, separately, and also showing them under (i) Indians, (ii) Anglo-Indians, and (iii) Europeans;

(c) the total amount of money spent on this service during the war, and since the cessation of hostilities on the 15th August, 1945;

(d) the nature of duties performed by them, and whether such duties cannot equally efficiently be performed by male personnel, if not, why not; and

(e) whether he proposes to take early steps to repatriate all non-Indian personnel in this service out of India as soon as possible?

Mr. P. Mason: *General.*—Before answering the questions put by the Honourable Member in detail, I should like to clear up some misconceptions about the WVS(I).

The Womens' Voluntary Service (India) is, as its name implies, a voluntary organisation, and is not in the military sense a "service". Similar organisations exist in many other countries. It was originally intended to fill various needs and provide a means of contributing to the war effort for those women who by reason of family or other ties could not join a whole-time paid service.

The great majority of the members of this Body are unpaid, and work voluntarily. There are at present approximately 9,703 members, and of these 9,610 are voluntary unpaid workers. The organisation is in general on a provincial basis, but there is a small Headquarters at Delhi designed to co-ordinate the work.

The duties they perform are for the benefit of both British and Indian troops. I shall mention the more important of these in my answers to the detailed questions.

Detailed answers to questions.—(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of members in the WVS(I) is 9,703. There are no officers. The figure showing the number of workers under the three headings are: (i) Indian—1,926; (ii) Anglo-Indian—1,197; and (iii) European—6,388.

In addition there are 192 members belonging to other Allied Nations.

(c) Amounts spent on W.V.S. (I) are as under:

(1) During the War.—(i) During the greater part of the war, the W.V.S. (I) operated entirely as a Voluntary Body with no assistance financially from the Government of India.

(ii) In 1943 certain assistance was granted in kind, such as free travel when on duty, and free use of Government Road Transport. The total expense involved in this cannot be assessed.

(iii) In addition, grants were sanctioned to the W.V.S. (I) for office expenses and publicity and the like by the Government of India totalling Rs. 27,440.

The Home Department gave a grant of Rs. 1,800 for administrative expenses incurred in connection with work for evacuees from countries east of Asia.

(2) Since the end of hostilities.—The total amount spent since the cessation of hostilities is approximately Rs. 1,80,700 mainly on the allowances of whole-time workers.

The much higher expenditure after the war is due to the fact that the decision to obtain paid workers from England was taken as a result of the Munster Report but they did not actually arrive until hostilities were over. No more paid workers will be brought from England.

(d) The duties performed by members of the W.V.S. (I) during and since the War are too widespread and diverse for complete enumeration. The following are some of their activities:

(i) They serve in canteens both static and mobile, for both British and Indian troops.

(ii) They cut out and make up garments required for patients in hospitals and prepare bandages. They visit the sick, write letters for them and instruct in occupational therapy in both British and Indian hospitals.

(iii) They have worked in Military Offices as unpaid workers and have taken an active part in the collection of salvage and scrap.

(iv) They invite troops, particularly convalescent, to their houses for tea and entertainments, the cost being borne by the host.

(v) They organise garden parties for Indian and British troops.

(vi) They establish information bureaux in hill stations and leave centres and assist in the "Welcome Home" of Indian Troops from overseas.

(vii) They help with Indian forces family welfare and feed civilian destitutes.

Most of the above work could, by its very nature, not be performed as well by male people.

(e) The total of whole time workers recruited out of India at present number 84. These are under contract to serve 18 months in India, the contract being terminable at three months' notice. It is not proposed to terminate these contracts. The remainder of the W.V.S. (I), both locally enrolled paid workers who are very few and those not paid, who are not of Indian domicile are the wives and daughters of men employed in India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that the W. A. C. (I) organisation is being disbanded, may I know why the Honourable Member does not consider the advisability of disbanding this organisation also?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think that the two are very much connected. One is paid and the other is not paid.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Though they have not been paid, may I know whether honorarium and other allowances have also not been paid to these persons?

Mr. P. Mason: They were to the extent which I have enumerated in my long answer to the question.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Does the Honourable Member agree that these women have done magnificent service, and the country has cause to be very deeply indebted to them?

Mr. P. Mason: I do, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that these ten thousand persons are receiving free travel and free petrol, not to speak of some other amenities which we do not know, will not Government now try to reduce this burden created by this organisation so as to reduce the pressure on the civil population?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think that the amount of free travel accorded to ten thousand people will make a great deal of difference to the civilian population, and as my Honourable friend, Mr. Gwilt, has said, I think we ought all to be extremely grateful to the people who are prepared to work for nothing and have done magnificent work in the past.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is not a question of gratitude. It is a question of relieving pressure on the civil population which has been entrenched during the period of the war, and I again say that however small the relief may be, will not Government now try to let the civil population get back their own?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already said that we are doing all we can to relieve the traffic of civil population, but I really do not think that ten thousand is going to make much difference in a population of 400 millions.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if ever an embarrassing situation has arisen by a soldier dictating a love letter to a lady in this service meant for another lady?

Mr. P. Mason: I have no information on the subject. At any rate not as much information as my Honourable friend seems to have.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member repeat the figures in respect of travelling? I believe he said Rs. 26,000 during all the years of the war.

Mr. P. Mason: Rs. 26,000 was for office expenditure—publicity, and things of that kind. What I said about travelling was that it was impossible to assess.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What is the total quantity of petrol consumed by them?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I shall require notice of that question.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if it is a fact that officers' wives are working in this organization and they are getting free supply of petrol which they are using?

Mr. P. Mason: I could not understand the question, Sir.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS FROM SIMLA TO DELHI.

928. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if there is a proposal to bring down any of the staff relating to any of the Departments of the Government of India from Simla to Delhi;

(b) if so, which are the Departments, and how many persons are to be brought down to Delhi;

(c) when they were transferred from Delhi to Simla;

(d) whether Government have considered any complaints from the staff regarding the inconvenience of transfer on account of the education of their children and the approaching summer season; and

(e) whether Government have considered the question of their accommodation at Delhi; whether all of them will be provided with quarters?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes. It is proposed to bring down some staff in certain Departments.

(b) to (d). A statement showing the particulars is laid on the table.

(e) Yes. It is not possible for Government to provide residential accommodation for all Government servants in Delhi. But they have given certain travelling allowance and rent concessions to the staff who are required to move down from Simla.

Statement

Department	Number of persons to be brought down	Date of transfer from Delhi to Simla	Particulars regarding complaints from staff regarding inconvenience etc.
Food (Office of the Sugar Controller)	88	1942	No complaint has been received
Legislative	57	1942	The staff represented that the move may be deferred till October 1946 and this has been acceded to
Labour	152	1942	Representation has been received from ministerial staff and is under consideration
Post and Air Railway Inspectorate branch	19	1942	No complaint has been received
Director General Posts and Telegraphs	49	1942	No complaint has been received
Headquarters of the Controller of telegraph office	5	1944	No complaint has been received
Information and Arts	161	1942	Some representations have been received but further action on them has been held up pending a final decision whether the move shall take place
Railway	23	1942	No complaint has been received. The staff has shown willingness to move down to Delhi
Political	14	1942	No complaint has been received
External Affairs	20	1942	The lack of residential accommodation in Delhi is preventing the move of the staff to Delhi
War Pension Branch	367	1945	} Certain representations have been received but it was necessary to order these moves in the interests of efficiency
General Headquarters	97	1944	

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member realize that in spite of these allowances, these persons, who are returning from Simla, will not be able to build houses for themselves, and it is very difficult to get houses in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir. I am quite aware that there must be some temporary inconvenience.

Seth Govind Das: Are they going to get shelter under trees under these circumstances?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I don't think that will be necessary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What effort has been made in order to bring into use of Government servants, all this accommodation which has been vacated by Americans and other officers and which I find locked and unoccupied? Why are not Government making an effort to accommodate their own servants in some of these?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That does not directly relate to my Department, but I have no doubt that the Honourable Member in charge of the subject will require notice of that.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if it is not a fact that these offices were transferred to Simla for want of accommodation in Delhi, and if it is so has additional accommodation been provided in Delhi before bringing down these offices?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: As far as possible, these people are accommodated in Delhi, but for the period during which it may not be possible to provide them with Government accommodation, quite generous concessions of various kinds, including continuance of their families in the accommodation provided for them in Simla, have been provided.

Sri. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if priorities in regard to accommodation are allowed to these people, who were transferred to Simla, after their return to Delhi?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot answer that straightaway.

Sri. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As regards the educational facilities for their children, in as much as it is the middle of the year, has the Honourable Member considered the complaints made by many of these officers that the education of their children will be disturbed if they are transferred immediately, and is he prepared to consider the postponement of their transfer till after the educational year is over?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: If my Honourable friend will study the concessions that are being granted, I think he will see that whatever is possible has been done to meet the difficulties that would arise from the whole families immediately coming down to Delhi.

Seth Govind Das: Are these people satisfied with the concessions which have been offered?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Some of them appear to be. We have had no complaints with regard to some of the Departments.

REDUCTION OF FOODGRAIN RATIONS FOR DEFENCE FORCES.

929. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact, as stated by Mr. Sen, Secretary, Food Department, in his speech at the All India Newspaper Editor's Conference, Allahabad, that Troops in the Air Defence Forces are given foodgrains ration of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per day;

(b) whether it exceeds by 50 per cent. of the ration allowed to our urban masses;

(c) whether even in those few rural areas in which rationing is introduced, the agricultural workers who have to put in atleast as much physical exertion as the troops, are not allotted more than 1 lb. ration per day;

(d) if it is a fact that troops get supplementary rations of non-cereal food such as, roots, vegetables, fruit, mutton, *etc.*; and

(e) in view of the Governor-General's appeal to everyone to economise on food consumption and the prevailing food scarcity all over India, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of exploring all possible opportunities to reduce the foodgrain consumption by the Defence Forces?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The basic foodgrain ration of all Indian troops including Indian airmen is 24 oz. per man per day. In view, however, of the acute food shortage in the country, a cut of 2 oz. has been made with effect from 11th November 1945.

(b) No, Sir, not quite. The average civilian ration is 16.15 oz. and for troops 22 oz.

(c) Agricultural workers are not allowed more than 1 lb. of cereal ration per day.

(d) The scale of rations for troops is laid down on the advice of the military medical authorities and is intended to provide a balanced diet which includes meat, vegetables, potatoes, *etc.*, in addition to cereals.

(e) We have already done so, Sir. In addition to a cut of 2 oz. in troops rations, orders are now under issue reducing daily grain rations of all animals of Defence Services by one lb. per head.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even after this cut of 2 oz. out of the total of 24 oz. of foodgrains they would be left with 22 oz., that is 10 oz. more than the maximum that is being allowed to townsmen in our country or even to the agricultural worker. Why does the Government insist upon giving this excessive ration to the troops?

Mr. P. Mason: It may be 10 oz. more in certain parts of the country, but the figure I gave is 16.15 which is an average over the whole of India for the urban areas, I am told. With regard to the question of the reason, the numbers of troops compared to the total population of the country is small. I agree that everything that can be done to provide food should be done, but one has to balance that necessity against the importance of keeping the troops well and healthy and contented, and that is more important at present than keeping the remainder of the population contented because, Sir, they have dangerous weapons in their hands.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that there is a feeling that normally in armies all over the world there is a certain amount of waste, will not my Honourable friend take special steps in the present Session in order to see if there is any waste and to eliminate it?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir. This is always going on and I will certainly ask it to be accelerated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that that a great majority of our present troops possess the minimum degree of patriotism, will the Government consider the advisability of consulting them whether they would be willing to accept a further cut?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know who made the statement to which the Honourable Member refers. I do not think, however, there can be any question of asking them to accept such a suggestion. The machinery for obtaining such information will be far too complicated.

Mr. President: Order, order. The question hour is now over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

RADIO BROADCASTS IN KAUNADA LANGUAGE.

930. ***Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

(a) whether any time is allotted for broadcasts in the Kaunada language from the All-India Radio, New Delhi;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to make arrangements for news and talks in the Kaunada language;

(c) the time allotted for broadcasts in the Kaunada language from the Madras and Bombay stations, and what steps are proposed to be taken to increase the said time; and

(d) whether Government are considering the question of erecting a Broadcasting Station specially for the Kaunada speaking areas?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The time allotted for Kaunada broadcasts from the Madras and Bombay Station of All-India Radio is as follows:

Madras—30 minutes per month for music,

Bombay—about 20 minutes per month for music and about 30 minutes per month for talks in the broadcasts for schools.

An increase in the time is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(d) Yes.

CONTINUATION OF MILITARY TRAINING CENTRES.

331. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue their Military Training Centres, which were being run during the war at Dehra Dun, Mhow, Belgaum, Poona, Bangalore, if not, why not;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, how many students, per annum, they propose to take;

(c) whether it was a fact that a very large number of new officers, recruited since the beginning of the war, have distinguished themselves like Lt. Bhagat V.C. with not more than two years' training; and

(d) whether there are any proposals to turn out in a shorter period than had been the practice before the war, efficient officers from out of our 'new cadets'?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) It is proposed to continue the Military Training Centres (or more correctly Officers' Training Schools) at Dehra Dun and Bangalore. Those at Belgaum and Mhow have now been disbanded because of the reduced size of the army. There never was an Officers' Training School at Poona.

(b) The total number of regular officers required within a year is approximately 450. Until the setting up of the National War Academy, cadets for the regular army are being trained at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, which has now reverted to its peace-time role.

Emergency Commissions are still being granted and the requirement of such officers depends upon the progressive reduction of the size of the army. These officers are being trained at the Officers' Training School, Bangalore.

(c) Yes Sir, a large number of new officers have distinguished themselves.

(d) The courses now being instituted at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, are starting on a one year duration progressively increasing to two years. It is not intended to shorten the training period for the post-war regular officer.

PSYCHIATRISTS IN BRITISH ARMY SERVICES SELECTION BOARDS.

932. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that Psychiatrists are no longer employed in the British Army Services Selection Boards?

(b) Are Government aware that Psychiatrists are considered to be important members of the Indian Army Selection Boards?

(c) Will he please state why Psychiatrists are so necessary for Indian Army Services Selection Boards and why so much weight is attached to their opinion when the science of psychiatry is yet in experimental stage?

(d) Will he please give the number of psychiatrists attached to the Indian Army Service Selection Boards and state how many of them are fully trained and duly qualified as such; what their exact qualifications are and the place and period of training undergone?

(e) Is it a fact that Groups Testing Officers in the Indian Army Services Selection Boards are generally only Emergency Commissioned Officers?

(f) Is it a fact that a large number of Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers who proved their worth in action against the enemy and were highly reported of by their Commanding Officers have been rejected by the Indian Army Services Selection Boards. If so, why?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Psychiatrists are used on War Office Selection Boards in England. They are not employed on War Office Selection Boards in India, because sufficient Psychiatrists, of the required experience and calibre, are not available at present, and the Boards are therefore at a considerable disadvantage.

(b) Yes Sir. Psychiatrists are important members of Indian Army Selection Boards, because it is not possible to administer and interpret Personality Tests, unless there is a Psychiatrist on the Board.

(c) Psychiatrists are necessary on Services Selection Boards to make possible scientific selection. Psychiatry is not in its experimental stage but has been developed in Europe, America and Russia for over 50 years.

(d) Nine. All of these are fully qualified psychiatrists with several years of psychiatric experience both of a civil and military nature. All have Diplomas in medicine being M.B., B.S. or M.B. and nearly all possess the Diploma of D.P.M. (Diploma of Psychiatry and Medicine). They have all received the requisite training at recognised institutions either in India or abroad.

(e) Yes, Sir. But all the Groups Testing Officers employed on services selection Boards are suitable for Regular Commissions and 18 out of the 32 employed have been accepted for Regular Commissions. Of the other 14, six are debarred from applying for Regular Commissions for reasons of age or low medical category.

All Groups Testing Officers will be Regular Commissioned Officers eventually.

((f) No, Sir. The function of psychiatrists and Groups Testing Officers is to grade not to reject candidates. There are cases in which officers make gallant and efficient junior leaders, but would be quite unsuitable as senior officers, owing to age, lack of ability or instability.

AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR GRANT OF REGULAR COMMISSIONS TO EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

933. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that a large number of Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers are being barred from applying for regular commissions only because they are above a certain age limit?

(b) Is it also a fact that there is reported to be a shortage of applicants from amongst Emergency Commissioned Officers for regular commissions?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) It is correct that a considerable number of Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers are debarred from applying for regular commissions because they are above certain age limits. This applies equally to British Emergency Commissioned Officers in regard to regular commissions in the British Army.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is at present a shortage of applicants of the required standards. Applications are still being received, however, at the rate of 130 a month and the situation is improving.

REGULAR COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

934. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of applicants under 35 years of age who have been rendered ineligible to apply for regular commissions on account of the age limit, the total number of applicants for regular Commission and the total number so far accepted and rejected;

(b) if Government are aware that great dissatisfaction prevails among Indian Commissioned Officers many of whom have served for a number of years, or had received approved Military Education from Childhood, on account of extra-ordinary large rejections and age limit restrictions, and, if so, whether Government are prepared to remedy this state of affairs by reconsidering the case of rejected applicants and extending the age limit to 35; and

(c) if Government are aware that there is a strong feeling prevalent among Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers and the public at large that these large scale rejections and low age limits have been imposed so as to enable a large number of British Army personnel to be attached to the Indian Army?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Approximately 4,000 Emergency Indian Commissioned Officers under 35 years of age are barred by the age limit from applying for regular commissions in the Indian Army. Up to the 25th February 1946 (the latest date for which figures are available) 2,593 combatant EICOs had applied for regular commissions and out of these 1,790 had been interviewed by Selection Boards and 105 granted regular commissions. The grading and interviewing of the rest is progressing. Up to the present no actual rejection has taken place.

(b) The age-limits prescribed, which happen to be the same as those laid down by the War Office for the British Army, have been carefully designed to assure the individual officer a reasonable career and, at the same time, to maintain the efficiency of the Army. If the age-limits and length of service of officers were to be ignored, blocks in promotion would be created necessitating "axing" of a proportion of officers in later years to clear the blocks. A plan is, however, now under consideration by which it is hoped to utilise the services of suitable officers who are too old for regular commissions, possibly by the award of short-term commissions.

(c) If this impression exists, Sir, it is quite wrong. Officers of the British Army will only be attached to the Indian Army if suitably qualified Indian officers are not available.

SEIZURE OF FIRE ARMS IN ASSAM.

935. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many fire-arms were seized in the Province of Assam on the alleged ground that they would be kept in safe custody during the period of the war;

(b) how many of them have since been returned to the owners; and

(c) the reasons for not returning the rest?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Weapons called in for the reason given and requisitioned for arming police forces numbered 504.

(b) 244.

(c) Some of the weapons were acquired by the Government. Some required for use during operations on the Burma Frontier have not yet been returned by the military authorities but will be returned to the owners as and when they are returned and sorted out. In some cases the original owners no longer hold licences.

EXTERMENT ORDER ON SRI BAID OMKARNATH SARMA OF DELHI

936. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Sri Baid Omkarnath Sarma has been recently served with an externment order directing him to leave Delhi within twenty-four hours? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No.

ASSAM I. N. A. PRISONERS.

937. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the number of I. N. A. prisoners belonging to Assam, who have been (i) executed, (ii) sentenced to transportation, (iii) imprisoned, or (iv) awaiting trial?

(b) What are the places in which they are at present detained or imprisoned?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) None, Sir.

(b) Ten persons from Assam are at the Holding and Enquiry Centre at Baraset while their cases are being investigated. From information so far available, none of these men is likely to be tried by Court Martial.

DEGRADING OF INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT CLERKS IN SIND CIRCLE

938. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Sind Circle of the Income Tax Department certain clerks were degraded from the senior to the junior grade or reverted from higher grades during 1944-45?

(b) If so, was this ordered as a result of the test prescribed by the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay, or on account of general inefficiency of the affected staff?

(c) if the degradation was not for inefficiency, is it proposed to restore them to the higher grades to which they are entitled permanently or in officiating capacities?

(d) Is it a fact that only one chance was allowed for the test referred to in (b) above?

(e) Is it also a fact that Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of the Income Tax Department are allowed three chances for the Departmental Examination? If so, why is there discrimination in the case of clerical staff?

(f) Is it proposed to remove this discrimination?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes; certain clerks who were officiating in the Upper Division were reverted to their substantive appointments in the Lower Division.

(b) This was ordered on account of the inefficiency of the clerks concerned, as corroborated by the results of a test conducted by the Commissioner.

(c) Does not arise in view of my reply to part (b).

(d) Yes; only one test has so far held. The Commissioner is proposing to hold another test in May 1946 when the clerks concerned will get a second chance.

(e) and (f). Yes; Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors are allowed three chances. The examination for them is conducted annually by the Central Board of Revenue and there is strictly no parallel between this examination and the one held by the Commissioner of Income-tax. In the circumstances, in view of my reply to part (d) there is no question of any discrimination or its removal.

TEST PRESCRIBED FOR INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT CLERKS IN SIND CIRCLE.

939. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the test for clerical staff introduced by the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay, for the Sind Circle provided for results being announced by groups A, B, C, and D?

(b) Was any syllabus prescribed for the said test before it was actually held? If so, when, and what it was?

(c) Is it a fact that certain clerks who appeared for the test in 1944-45 were placed in the B Group (Pass Class)?

(d) Is it also a fact that after three or four months a corrigendum was issued placing them in the C Group (Failure Class)? If so, why, and how did the mistake arise?

(e) Is it a fact, that clerks on medical leave were also summoned to appear for the test? If so, why?

(f) Do Government propose to direct a review of the results referred to in (d) and (e)?

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

(b) No detailed syllabus was prescribed; but the candidates were informed in advance that there would be three papers, one each in English, office procedure and simple arithmetic.

(c) Yes. The test was actually held in February 1944.

(d) A corrigendum was issued placing one of them in the 'C' Group. The mistake was due to an error in the addition of marks.

(e) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(f) No.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS TO INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY

940. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the ministerial staff of the Income Tax Department are required to possess requisite educational qualifications for recruitment in service?

(b) Are they required to pass any Departmental Examination? If so, when, and what it is?

(c) Is it a fact that a Departmental Examination was held at Karachi in the year 1944-45 under orders of the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay? If so, under what rule of the Income Tax Office Manual?

(d) Have such Departmental Examinations been held in any other Income Tax Circle? If so, where? If not, why this discrimination for the Bombay Circle staff only?

(e) Is it a fact that the Central Board of Revenue received a representation from the employees' Union? If so, how was the same disposed of?

(f) Do Government propose to cancel the Examination and its results with retrospective effect? If not, why not?

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

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

(c) A simple written test was held by the Commissioner in February 1944 with a view to selecting clerks for promotion or for retention in the Upper Division in which they were officiating. There is no specific rule in the Income-tax Office Manual prescribing such tests.

(d) Yes; similar tests have been held in the Punjab and in Madras. The last part of the question does not arise.

(e) Yes; the Union was told that the Board saw no reason to interfere with the Commissioner's action.

(f) No; the examination serves the purpose for which it is intended.

COMMUNAL RATIO FOR RECRUITMENT TO PERMANENT COMMISSION IN R. I. N.

941. *Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that a certain number of Emergency Commissioned Officers of the R.I.N.R. and R.I.N.V.R. will be given permanent Commissions in the R.I.N.?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to observe the communal ratio of the total number of the existing vacancies between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis and Anglo-Indians? If not, why not?

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

(b) No, Sir, because no account is taken of caste or creed in the selection of officers for the Royal Indian Navy.

INTERVIEW FOR PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN R. I. N.

942. *Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a selection board at Lonavla is interviewing Officers of R.I.N.R. and R.I.N.V.R. for permanent Commissions in the R.I.N.; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, how many Officers have been recommended by that Board for permanent Commissions; and how many have been selected from them by the Naval Headquarters?

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

(b) The Selection Board grades officers in various categories; it does not make a recommendation. This grading is then compared with the officer's previous records and a selection is finally made on the basis both of the Board's grading and the previous records. The number selected upto date on the basis of these two factors is 45.

GRANT OF PERMANENT COMMISSIONS TO R. N. RATINGS

943. *Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that a large number of permanent commissioned vacancies in the R.I.N. have been filled up by R.N. Ratings and other non-commissioned Ranks?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for giving preference to Non-Indian Non-commissioned Ranks, over Indian Emergency commissioned Officers?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No, Sir. Before the recent war a few R. N. ratings were transferred to the R.I.N. as Warrant Officers and (in common with Indian Warrant Officers) have been promoted to commissioned rank. One only has been transferred since the beginning of the war and been so promoted.

(b) Does not arise.

DISCONTENT AMONG VICEEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS FOR NON-OBSERVANCE OF RULES OF PROCEDURE BY COURTS MARTIAL

944. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that the mandate contained in Rule of Procedure No. 48 has not been followed in the case of His Majesty's Indian Forces even when they are on "active service" and that the Courts Martial have failed to observe the law that "the court shall award one sentence in respect of all the offences of which the offender is found guilty" while non-judicial officers have added one or more sentences to the number of those already passed by Courts Martial?

(b) Will he please state the reasons for the facts referred to in (a) above with reference to War Department letter No. 59813/5/P.S.3(b)(ii), dated the 12th September, 1944, register No. 10436-A/W/6?

(c) Is he aware that great discontentment prevails among the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, and Indian other ranks on account of the infliction of more than one sentence?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). Rule of Procedure 48 refers to the Army Act and has no application to the Indian Forces.

The corresponding Rule under the I.A.A. is I.A.A. Rule 54 (see also I.A.A. Rule 110 as to S. Cs. M.) which provides that the court shall award one sentence in respect of all the offences of which the accused is found guilty.

The provision that only one sentence shall be awarded does not prohibit the inclusion in such sentence of more than one punishment where appropriate and permissible (*vide* I.A.A. Sec. 47 and note 1 thereto).

War Department Memo. No. 59813/5/P.S.3(b) (ii), dated the 12th September, 1944, refers to the case of Jem. Rahmat Ullah Khan, who was tried by S.G.C.M. on 1st, 2nd and 3rd April, 1943. convicted of dishonestly misappropriating military stores, the property of the Crown and was sentenced to six months R. I. and dismissal from the service.

The combination of R. I. and dismissal in one sentence was perfectly legal.

(c) No, Sir.

DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS OF COURTS MARTIAL BY OTHER BODY

945. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that the function: "forfeiture in the case of a person sentenced to dismissal from the service of all arrears of pay and allowance and other public money due to him at the time of such dismissal" assigned to Court Martial, *vide* Section 43(h)(iii), Indian Army Act, has in numerous cases been discharged by a body other than Court Martial and that the infliction of such sentences has not only been restricted to the case of a "person" but has also been extended to the case of an "officer"?

(b) Will he please state the statutory authority of the body other than Court Martial referred to in (a) with reference to Indian Army Order No. 816, dated the 26th October, 1920, and War Department letter No. 54796/A.G.14(c), dated the 7th September, 1943, register No. 11366/A-W/5?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir, frequently, by the Honourable Member, but the position is not as stated by him. The function to which he refers is not assigned exclusively to a Court Martial as is clear from Section 50(2) of the Indian Army Act.

(b) Indian Army Order 816/1920 refers to a dismissal under Indian Army Act Section 13 which is an entirely distinct function from a dismissal by sentence of Court Martial under Indian Army Act Section 43 and the forfeiture mentioned in the letter referred to resulted from such dismissal under authority of Pension Regulations Part II, Rule 195.

POWER OF DISMISSAL OF A VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICER

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

(a) whether any officer other than the Commander-in-Chief has power to dismiss, discharge or in any way remove from "active service" a Viceroy's Commissioned Officer; if so, the rule or law sanctioning the procedure;

(b) whether the officer so dismissed, discharged or in any way removed as referred to in (a) above gets any compensation or pension; and

(c) whether the Viceroy's Commissioned Officer when discharged with the remark: "Services no longer required" is allowed pension not of his Commissioned Rank but of non-Commissioned Rank.

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Only the Commander-in-Chief has power to dismiss a V.C.O. from the service [Indian Army Act Section 13(2)].

A V.C.O. may however be discharged by the authorities and in the circumstances shown in the statement placed on the table.

(b) A V.C.O. who is dismissed forfeits all claim to pension or gratuity in respect of all previous service.

A V.C.O. who is discharged from service is granted any pension or gratuity to which he may be entitled under Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II.

(c) A V.C.O. discharged on account of services no longer required is allowed the pension of a commissioned rank provided (i) the lowest substantive or war substantive rank held during the last three years of his service qualifying for pension was a commissioned rank, and (ii) his total service qualifying for pension was 15 years or more.

Statement

Cause of Discharge	Competent authority to authorise discharge
1 (i) (a) On completion of the period service or tenure specified in the Regulations for his rank or appointment or on reaching the age limit, whichever is earlier unless retained on the active list for a further specified period with the sanction of the Commander-in-Chief in India	Commanding Officer
(b) At his own request on transfer to the pension establishment	Ditto
(ii) Having been found medically unfit for further service	Commanding Officer
(iii) All other classes of discharge	(a) In the case of V. C. Os. granted direct commissions during the first 12 months service District or Divisional Commander or Major General administration army command (b) In any other case any officer not below the rank of Lieut. General appointed by the Commander-in-Chief in India in this behalf

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS FOR DEATHS AND DISABILITIES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

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

(a) whether Government in the case of deaths and disabilities sustained by the Indian forces on "active service", secure an opinion by medical experts in their pay, to the effect that the death or disability is not attributable to military service;

(b) whether compensations or pensions for deaths and disabilities have, in the first instance, been refused on the basis of the medical opinion referred to in (a) without hearing the affected party?

(c) whether the medical opinion is kept confidential; and

(d) whether appeals against this opinion have been disposed of by a non-judicial body without hearing the affected party?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). Individuals, who are disabled, are invariably examined initially by medical officers and later by medical boards, whose opinion is then considered by medical experts in the light of the accepted consensus of medical opinion with regard to the particular diseases for which the person may have been invalided. The recommendations of the medical experts are then for the decision of Government.

(c) If the claimant gives Notice of Appeal under the Pensions Appeal Tribunal Rules, 1945, he is informed of the reasons which led to the Government's decision.

(d) The decisions of Government are given under two sets of rules, namely (i) the old rules drawn up by the Government of India which were in force up to 16th August, 1943 and (ii) the new rules which primarily govern entitlement in respect of casualties arising during the war of 1939-45. In respect of the decisions given under the latter a claimant may lodge an appeal to a Pensions Appeal Tribunal and in this case he will have a full opportunity of bringing evidence and cross-examining any Government witness.

In considering an appeal submitted to the Government of India against a decision given under the old rules, Government gives the fullest weight to any points adduced by the petitioner in requesting reconsideration of Government's original decision, but there is no similar judicial procedure laid down.

WARSHIPS FOR R. I. N.

948. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if three cruisers have been ordered for the R.I.N. from the United Kingdom? If so, what is the cost of each of these cruisers?

(b) Who settled the price and selected the cruisers?

(c) How old are the cruisers, and of what type? If they do not belong to the latest type or types, why not?

(d) What is the need for purchasing these cruisers at this time, after the war is over? Is it in pursuance of any scheme or policy to expand the R.I.N.? If so, what is the proposed full capacity, and when is the target expected to be reached?

(e) Have any arrangements been made to obtain any warships belonging to Germany as part of reparations due to India? If so, how many, and of what type? If not, why not?

(f) Are Government aware that experiments are being made in America and the United Kingdom regarding the possibility of destroying war ships sailing on high seas by atomic bombs or atomic energy? If so, why is the Government of India hastening the purchase of these vessels while the course of future naval defences is still uncertain?

(g) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leading article in the *Hindu* of the 22nd February?

(h) Do Government propose to suspend or keep the proposal in abeyance pending further light from the experiments proposed to be undertaken shortly?

Mr. P. Mason: The answer to parts (a), (b) and the first part of part (c) of the question were given in my answer to parts (a) and (b) of the Honourable Member's question No. 793, on the 8th March, 1946. They are modern ships though not of the latest type. No country in the world will be prepared to part with a cruiser of the very latest type built for herself. Further, the latest types are very expensive, and there will be big problems to be overcome in training crews for this advance. Nor are the latest types suitable for tropical waters. Ships of the class proposed are expected to have a further life of 12-15 years in the Royal Navy.

(d) It is proposed to provide the R.I.N. with three cruisers of suitably modern type in order that India may have a modern and effective fleet. It is intended for the present that the fleet shall consist of those three cruisers, and in addition sloops, corvettes, frigates, trawlers, fleet minesweepers, a survey ship, and a number of motor boats, and military landing craft. The total strength should be reached during 1948/49.

(e) No, Sir. As will be seen from the press the remains of the German fleet has been divided between U.S.A., U.S.S.R., and U.K. Those vessels would be most unsuitable for Indian waters because they are none of them fitted for tropical waters or long range, nor are they provided with armament or technical equipment of allied standards, and as is well known these vessels are being largely used for research and target purposes.

(f) Yes, Sir. There is no reason to suppose that the atomic bomb will make naval forces unnecessary in the future. Cruisers are being obtained because they are the most valuable form of reasonably priced Naval vessels, and are the smallest vessels capable of long sea voyages and full sea training. The wisdom of this is obvious from the keen competitive bidding, which is being made by other nations for the limited number of available British cruisers, particularly those which were most successful in action in the late war.

(g) Yes, Sir. I have answered all the points raised in the article.

(h) Although this matter has not been finally settled, the Government of India are anxious to acquire these three cruisers being of the most suitable type, and in view of the keen competition from other nations for these vessels they will lose the chance if they delay. Delay would also make it both difficult and very much more costly to equip the R.I.N. suitably.

PRICE OF SILVER AND GOLD

949. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the causes of the present abnormal rise in the silver and gold price?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have indirectly helped speculators to push up the silver and gold prices by some secret purchase through the Reserve Bank of India?

(c) Are Government intending to take any steps to check the abnormal rise in the silver and gold price? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The prices of gold and silver at any one time depend on the result of supply and demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government have the matter under continual review, but since the bullion market is a speculative and sensitive market, it would not be in the public interest to disclose in advance what action, if any, the Government contemplate taking.

RETRENCHMENT IN WAR DEPARTMENT AND G. H. Q.

950. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that a reduction of staff is in progress in the War Department and the General Headquarters and that for the purpose of judging merits and efficiency the personnel have been classed under the following categories: "A"—Outstanding, "B"—Above average, "C"—High average, "D"—Average, and "E"—Unfit for employment?

(b) Is it a fact that there are a number of personnel on deputation from other Government offices, who though more efficient than the temporary clerks, employed in the War Department and the General Headquarters are being retrenched irrespective of their merits and efficiency?

(c) Is it a fact that under the rules a deputationist categorised "A" (i.e., Outstanding) is required to be retrenched before a temporary clerk who is categorised "E" (i.e., unfit for employment)?

(d) Are Government aware that the personnel on deputation, if reverted, will displace personnel officiating in their substantive posts, with the result that the former will suffer due to reduction in emoluments and the latter due to loss of employment?

(e) Is it a fact that the number of the personnel on deputation in the General Headquarters is slightly above hundred and that even if they are reverted outright there can be no material relief in view of the huge number to be retrenched?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the cases of the deputationists on their merits, and treat them on par with the temporary clerks?

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

(b) There are a number of personnel on deputation from other offices some of whom are more efficient than some of the temporary personnel. It is however considered to be more fair to revert temporary personnel to their parent offices than to throw out of employment temporary personnel who are efficient. There is no question of keeping on temporary personnel who are inefficient.

(c) A person on deputation reverts to his parent office where his expectations are those he had on entering the service.

(d) This may be so, Sir, in some cases, but since the reduction in War Department will be greater than in some other Department, it seems fair to spread the discharge over a wide area so that only the most inefficient go.

(e) It is true that the number of personnel on deputation is not much over 100, but if these deputationists are retained, then the same number of temporary clerks would have to be retrenched.

(f) Deputationists as a class will revert before temporary clerks are retrenched but any special case will be considered on its merits.

QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR 'HINDUSTANI' NEWS EDITORSHIP, AND OTHER POSTS

951. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

(a) the qualifications required of candidates for the posts of 'Hindustani' news editors, programme assistants, announcers, and other posts in the 'Hindustani' programme section;

(b) the test applied to find out a candidate's proficiency in writing and speaking 'Hindustani';

(c) the total number of the members of the Hindustani staff, and the number possessing degrees or diplomas in Hindi and Urdu and in both separately;

(d) how many of the degree or diploma holders in the 'Hindustani' staff had Hindi as their first language and how many had Urdu as their first language;

(e) whether any knowledge of Hindi is required of the members of the Hindustani staff whose first language was Urdu and *vice versa*, if so, of what standard;

(f) how this knowledge is ascertained; and

(g) the number of (i) permanent and (ii) temporary posts in the Hindustani programme section held by Hindi and Urdu middle pass persons respectively?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

HOLIDAYS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT

952. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether it is a fact that five holidays have recently been added to the list of closed holidays sanctioned for the Central Government staff and that communal holidays have been reduced to four?

(b) Was the question of including Guru Govind Singh's birthday in the list of closed holidays considered? "

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please intimate the reasons leading to the rejection of the proposal?

(d) In view of the importance of this day to the Sikhs and a reduction in communal holidays, does the Honourable Member propose to reconsider the question and declare this day as a closed holiday?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The number of closed holidays added to the list is seven. The reply to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

(b) to (d). It is difficult to adjust holidays to suit the convenience of various communities, but I am considering how this can be done with the least dislocation of work.

STAFF IN ALL-INDIA RADIO

953. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state the number of gazetted and non-gazetted staff in the All-India Radio (including all the Radio Stations)?

(b) What is the ratio of Muslim Gazetted and non-Gazetted Staff, and what are the numbers?

(c) What is the total number of Muslim Gazetted and non-Gazetted officers in the Press Information Bureau, and what is the ratio of Muslim Officers?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Gazetted—112; Non-Gazetted—988.

(b) First Part.—Gazetted—29 per cent; Non-Gazetted 27 per cent.

Second Part.—Gazetted—32; Non-Gazetted—268.

(c) First Part.—Gazetted—7 Non-Gazetted 75.

Second Part.—Gazetted—16 per cent; Non-Gazetted—31 per cent.

PROPAGANDA FOR CONGRESS PARTY IN INFORMATION FILMS OF INDIA

954. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Information and Arts been drawn to the editorial in the *Dawn*, dated the 28th February, 1946, criticising the prominence and publicity given to the Congress by the Information Films of India?

(b) Why should a Government Department do propaganda for one political party in India?

(c) Are Government aware that in a recent News Parade featuring the visit of the British Parliamentary Delegation only Congress meetings and Congress leaders have been given publicity?

(d) Are Government aware that in the news parade featuring Simla talks, full glare of publicity has been given to the Congress Party only?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to remedy the state of affairs which allows public money to be spent on the propaganda of one political party?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) If the Honourable Member means the Indian News Parade, the answer is 'Yes'.

(b) The Indian News Parade is authorised to cover all items which may be of interest to the public. Its policy is not to single out any political party for publicity.

(c) Indian News Parade issues Nos. 152, 154 and 155 which featured the visit of the British Parliamentary Delegation contained pictures of the Delegation's meeting with a leader of the Muslim League as well as two leaders of the Congress Party.

(d) The Indian News Parade issue relating to the Simla Conference featured the leaders of all parties and not Congress only.

(e) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REWARD TO CERTAIN I. N. A. PERSONNEL REMAINING LOYAL

113. Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) In view of the fact that it has been said by Government spokesmen that I. N. A. men found guilty of brutality will be punished in the interest of those I. N. A. men who remained loyal to Government, will the War Secretary please state the number of such loyal persons, and how their services are to be rewarded?

(b) Are Government aware that even the services of some of these persons are to be dispensed with?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member means men of the Indian Army who remained loyal to Government, the reply is that the total strength of the Indian Army at its peak was 2,053,000, of whom all but about 20,000 remained true to their oaths. The gratuities and terminal benefits, etc., admissible have been published in Government orders from time to time. The question of a special reward for P. O. W. who remained true to their allegiance has been considered, but it was decided that it was very hard to distinguish between a man who remained true in captivity and for example a man who fought right through the long campaign in Burma and who risked his life almost daily. A number of special cases of outstanding conduct while P. O. W. are being considered for the award of decorations and several have been announced. A further announcement may be expected in the near future.

(b) Yes, Sir, it is inevitable.

MACHINERY FOR PROPOSED RADIO STATION AT PATNA.

114. Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) In view of the statement made by the Information and Arts Member that Radio machinery meant for the proposed Patna Station of the All India Radio is under test in the United Kingdom, does he propose to take steps to expedite the arrival of the machinery in India and arrange shifting priority?

(b) Is there any radio machinery lying idle in the All India Radio? If so, could it not be instaled in Patna, as this could cover the needs not only of Bihar but also of Orissa?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

PAYMENT OF PRICES OF CRUISERS FROM ACCUMULATED STERLING BALANCES.

115. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether his attention has been drawn to the following editorial remarks of the *Hindu* of Madras, dated the 22nd February, 1946:

"The new price of each of the cruisers is about one and a half million pounds—roughly two crores of rupees. Even if the price is substantially reduced the sum is likely to be a heavy charge on the assets of a country like India. . . . India is not anxious to acquire what may be expensive toys".?

(b) Are the payments in respect of these cruisers made to England from the accumulated sterling in London?

(c) What are the facts in the matter?

(d) Will this matter be brought before the Central Legislative Assembly? If so, when? If not, why not?

(e) What are the other purchases of like nature, which are being effected and in respect of which payments are being made from the accumulated sterling?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the War Secretary to Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's question No. 793, on the 8th March, 1946.

(b) Payment to H. M. G. will be made out of accumulated sterling in case the cruisers in question are purchased.

(d) I understand, Sir, that the matter will be laid before the Defence Consultative Committee.

(e) None at present.

CONVERSION OF INDIA'S CREDITS IN THE DOLLAR POOL BY BRITAIN
FOR HER OWN USE

116. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the following remarks in the *Hindu* of Madras, dated the 22nd February, 1946:

"Have these credits (i.e., India's credits in the Dollar Pool) been absorbed by Britain by converting them for her own use against corresponding additions to the sterling balances part of which she now seeks to get adjusted.?"

(b) What is the material, on the strength of which the Finance Secretary in the Council of State declared that dollars contributed to the Dollar Pool by India will be very small?

(c) Why is this material being withheld from the House?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraph 29 of my Budget Speech.

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RADIO TRANSMITTERS FOR BOMBAY

117. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable Member for Information and Arts seen the following extract from the *Radio Times of India*, dated February 16, 1946:

"Neglect of the legitimate claims of Bombay for more transmitters is reflected in the extremely slow rise of licences of the past few years. During 1940-45 (figures upto September, 1945 are available) Madras recorded the highest rise of 181 per cent. while Bombay could show only 66 per cent. The reasons are not far to seek. Alternative programmes were available for South India; two from Madras and Trichy, the third from ASIS, Delhi, the fourth from Mysore and the fifth from Travancore, not to mention those from Colombo and Hyderabad. Equally striking is the rise in the circles in the North-West. Both the circles, the Punjab and N.-W. F. P. and Sind with Baluchistan record a high proportion of increase 158 and 147 per cent., respectively. The presence of troops in the areas was perhaps mainly responsible for the rise. But the way in which the Peshawar station was brought into being and the wide-range or alternative programmes available Lahore, Peshawar, Delhi, and Kabul were not less important contributory factors.

Claims of Bombay for more stations or additional transmitters are therefore pressing. Bombay can no longer be neglected. It has already suffered a lot. It is paying a far greater amount in licence fees than any other circle and it is also responsible for a considerable trade in radios and accessories."

(b) Have Government any plan for the introduction of additional broadcasting stations anywhere in the Bombay Province? If so, at what places?

(c) If it is not found feasible to instal additional stations at any other place in the Bombay Province, do Government propose to discontinue the English music broadcast from Bombay and give more varied programmes?

(d) Are Government aware that there are several languages in the Bombay Province, in contrast with other Provinces where there is one language? If so, what do Government propose to do in order to give varied programmes for the Bombay public, who are making the largest contribution to the revenues?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have under consideration a plan for the development of broadcasting in India which provides for the establishment of additional stations

in the Provinces including Bombay. The exact localities have not yet been determined.

(c) No. These programmes fulfil the requirements of a large number of licence holders.

(d) As additional stations are opened programmes will become more varied.

SMALL CAUSES COURTS IN DELHI PROVINCE

118. Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the number of Courts of Small Causes, established under Section 5 of the Provincial Small Cause Court Act (IX of 1887) within the Delhi Province;

(b) the place where they are situated or where they sit;

(c) the local limit of their jurisdiction; and

(d) the value of suits cognizable by them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) One.

(b) and (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply which I gave to his starred question No. 220, on the 12th February 1946.

(d) Not exceeding Rs. 500.

FUTURE OF DEMOBED INDIAN PERSONNEL OF R. I. A. F.

119. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is it a fact that the War Secretary intends to reduce the strength of the R. I. A. F. and to increase the men and personnel in the R. A. F.?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have decided to get Canadians, who are being demobilised, into the R. I. A. F., but have no scheme for reducing the demobilisation of the R. I. A. F. and for building up an Indian Air Force in India?

(c) Is it a fact that preparations have been made for the Indian men and officers being sent away, and that officers of like qualification are being engaged from Britishers, whose expense will be borne by the Indian revenues?

(d) What attempts have Government made, when, and with what results, to see that demobilised R. I. A. F. personnel and officers find engagement in civil aviation in India?

(e) Have Government published any statement of their policy on this subject, which will reassure Indian men and officers in the R. I. A. F.?

(f) Are Government solicitous for the welfare of men, who have given them good service? If so, what efforts are Government making with regard to the future of those whom they intend to demob?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No, Sir. Government's intention is to reduce the R. I. A. F. down to the force necessary to maintain ten squadrons plus the necessary training and other ancillary units to provide a fully balanced force. Simultaneously, R. A. F. personnel in India are also being reduced, and on a much larger scale.

(b) The appointment of Canadians to the R. A. F. is a matter for His Majesty's Government. When announcing their intention to maintain a balanced force of ten R. I. A. F. squadrons post-war, Government emphasised that this was only an initial minimum strength and would be expanded as rapidly as conditions permit and as personnel particularly pilots become available. The main reduction now being undertaken is intended to reduce the R. I. A. F. element in the R. A. F. squadrons.

(c) No, Sir!

(d) and (e). Close liaison is maintained between Air Headquarters and the Director General, Civil Aviation, in respect of possible employment for R.I.A.F. personnel in civil aviation and information as to specific posts available is circularized. As already announced the policy of Government is to reserve 70 per cent. of permanent vacancies ordinarily filled by direct recruitment for candidates with War Service.

(f) Yes, Sir. Reports of the efforts being made by Government in regard to the future of the men to be demobilized have appeared in the Press on various occasions. I would also invite the Honourable Member's attention to a booklet 'Release and Resettlement' and the Progress Report for the period 18th July to 31st December, 1946, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. They give details of the Employment Exchange Organisation under the Labour Department and of a number of training schemes for settlement in peace-time jobs of demobilized soldiers. Provincial Governments also have schemes exclusively for the benefit of *ex*-servicemen.

PROPER STRENGTH OF R. I. A. F.

120. Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the strength of the R. I. A. F. in squadrons and in men and officers as compared with pre-war, and how much reduction Government contemplate?

(b) What is the proper strength of the R. I. A. F.?

(c) Have Government estimated, or have they got any recommendation from any committee as to the proper strength of the R. I. A. F. for the defence of India, which they should maintain?

(d) Is it a fact that large expenditure has been incurred by India in training up the personnel of the R. I. A. F.? If so, why is it proposed that all this should now be lost and the men sent back in search of civil jobs, which they may not find?

(e) Is it a fact that in the process of contraction, it is the Indian officers, who are made to go, and not Britishers?

(f) Is it a fact that Britishers alone hold all the high ranks? If not, what is the percentage of Indians and Englishmen in the R. I. A. F. officers?

(g) Have Government represented to His Majesty's Government that the R. A. F. may be completely withdrawn from India and that the R. I. A. F. may be built up to a suitable size for the defence of India?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). The pre-war strength of the R. I. A. F. was one squadron, 22 officers and 264 other ranks. Its present strength is ten squadrons and in addition to their own squadrons, the R.I.A.F. also provide some personnel for work with the R. A. F. The total strength is 1,419 officers and 24,981 other ranks.

Government have already publicly announced their intention to maintain the Royal Indian Air Force after the war at an initial strength of not less than ten squadrons *plus* the necessary training and other ancillary units required to provide a fully balanced force. The R. I. A. F. however will not in future provide personnel for the R. A. F.

(c) Yes, Sir. To begin with, it will be necessary to supplement the R. I. A. F. by certain R. A. F. squadrons, who will be replaced as the R. I. A. F. expand.

(d) The Royal Indian Air Force was recruited on a voluntary basis and many of them want to be released. Personnel recruited during the war can claim their release when, by age and service group, they are eligible for demobilization. Their training, however, should be of value in civil life. There is no question of losing all that has been spent which has been of great value.

(e) and (f). These questions are based on a misconception. There are no British officers in the Royal Indian Air Force. As the expansion of the service

is very recent, there are very few senior R. I. A. F. officers, and British officers have to be attached.

(g) It is, Sir, the ultimate aim that the R. I. A. E. should be built up to a suitable size for the defence of India and H. M. G. are aware of this.

WORKING HOURS IN DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS.

121. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Headquarters are observing, even after the cessation of hostilities, the same office hours as were adopted during the war;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no closed holidays are observed in the D. H. Qs.;

(c) whether Government are aware that strong resentment prevails among the staff of the D. H. Qs. and other allied Departments on account of longer office hours as compared to Civil Departments and the absence of closed holidays; and

(d) if the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, what steps are Government taking to remove this disparity between the Civil Departments and the D. H. Qs.?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b), (c) and (d). It is a fact that during the war Defence Headquarters worked longer hours than other Departments and observed no closed holidays. There were no free Saturday afternoons. For this they received no extra pay. On the termination of hostilities there was a reduction of work in some branches of the Headquarters but not by any means in all, and in fact in some Directorates work has increased. It was thought therefore preferable in the interest of the tax payer, to reduce personnel where possible and to keep the war-time office hours, except for the introduction of a free Saturday afternoon. These amount to slightly less than 40 hours a week. Although the work is still very heavy and there is much to be done, it has now been decided that with effect from 1st March Closed holidays will be observed, and with effect from 1st April office hours will be those observed by other Departments. In fact, however, if the work is to be finished, few officers will be able to work to these hours, and many clerks will also have to work outside office hours.

Mr. President: There are two small points to which I wish to invite the attention of the House. I do not want any further discussion on either of them. One is with reference to the answer, which the Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari gave to a question in which he said: "My information on the point raised by the Honourable Member is not yet complete. I shall send him a reply shortly." The proper procedure will be to place the reply on the table of the House. The House has been in possession of the question and the reply and the supply of further information should not be a private arrangement between an Honourable Member and the Government.

The other point is with reference to the vexed question of reaching all the questions during the question hour. I have had some suggestions which I shall place before the House and which I am now investigating. I am trying to come to some arrangement, with reference to what I have said previously. But I am just telling the House what is passing in my mind only to keep Members informed about the position. I am practically thinking audibly, and that is: Would it not be a better way, if not better at least one of the ways to be considered, that the question hour should be divided by the number of Members who put questions and each Member be allotted time according to his proportion?

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): We shall run into vulgar fractions!

Mr. President: I am just placing before the House what is passing through my mind, so that each Member will stand an opportunity of his question being reached. I find that there is a complaint from many quarters that questions are not reached. Well, it entirely depends on and as a matter of fact, it is more or less in the hands of Members. If less supplementaries are put, if questions are put straight without the background of preambles or reasons and all that, a lot of time could be saved. In addition to that I was just considering as to whether some such arrangement as to division of time could not be made whereby all Members will get equal opportunities of putting their questions. I do not wish to have the reaction of Members over this in the House. It is only an idea which was passing through in my mind and I thought it might be fair to put it to the House. We might discuss it outside the House.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): The office may arrange the questions according to your suggestion.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadian): Why could not the answers be printed as suggested by you?

Mr. President: I have already been considering that and trying to see what is possible. But I find that a large number of questions are tabled for a particular day. One of the ways for the Members would be to see what number of questions are tabled and then adjust the dates.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Could not only two supplementaries be permitted to the Member who puts the question and one supplementary to somebody else, except in those cases where you think the subject is of wider importance?

Mr. President: Order, order. I said I do not want a discussion and we are drifting into a discussion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadian Rural): Will you consider one point: The right of asking supplementaries should not be monopolised by a few individuals. It should be the privilege of others as well.

Mr. President: I am trying to see to that. But when I see no other persons wishing to put supplementaries I have to allow the few persons to put more questions. But the order I would prefer is that the Honourable Member who puts the question should have precedence of putting supplementary questions over all others. As I said once before, I am merely placing this before the House and instead of the control coming from the Chair, it should grow from within and that is the best way of adjustment. However, we will now proceed with the business of the day.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Let us have two hours for questions.

Mr. President: Even then the complaint will stand unless some method is devised.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

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. President: Now we will resume discussion on the cut motion of Mr. Yadilal Lallubhai. Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Yesterday when I just started my speech the knell of parting day was tolled and I had to wait till this morning. I was saying at the close of my very brief remarks yesterday that Centrally Administered Areas are several and the administration of each of them is peculiar to itself and therefore to offer any remarks about all of them impracticable within the time limit which is set to a speech by anyone who supports or opposes the motion. We know that the areas which are said to be Centrally Administered are the Provinces of Delhi, Ajmere-Merwara, the Andamans and Nicobar Islands, Baluchistan, and that tract bearing the most curious of all names, Panth Piploda of which we heard something in the course of the question hour today. The Central Government, Sir, has taken upon itself the administration of such far-flung pieces of land and naturally the administration of each has to be of a peculiar type, till we heard today that Panth Piploda is under an honorary Chief Commissioner. Anyhow, Sir, I do not propose to traverse the whole ground of the administration of the Centrally Administered Areas. I will take up one topic out of the many. That can illustrate the dissatisfaction which we all feel with the administration of Centrally Administered Areas. My Honourable friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, was good enough to tell us yesterday a good many things about the Province of Delhi and I want to just call attention to the circumstances which have prevailed for sixty years and more in Baluchistan. The subject of Baluchistan, Sir, came up for discussion in this House on several occasions even within the short time that I have been in the House. The last Assembly discussed a Resolution on the subject which I had myself the honour to move in 1939 during the Simla Session. The Resolution then moved was:

“That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps for the purpose of establishing provincial autonomy in Baluchistan on the same footing as in other provinces.”

The Resolution elicited from the Government spokesman a long apology as to why no provincial autonomy could be conferred on Baluchistan. In 1941 again I returned to the subject by moving a cut motion during the Budget Session of the last Assembly and again reiterated all the grievances of the inhabitants of Baluchistan. There was a long debate again ending in smoke. In 1944 the Deputy Leader of my Party, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, moved a Resolution which appeared to have greater chances of bearing fruit. That Resolution was:

“That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint immediately a committee with a majority of elected members of the Central Legislature on it to recommend as to what steps should be taken to associate constitutionally the people of Baluchistan with the administration of the Province on lines similar to other Provinces of British India.”

The wording of that Resolution showed that the demand for reforms to be inaugurated in Baluchistan had been very much diluted and we had come down to a demand for such reforms as might serve to associate the people of the Province with the administration. On that there was a full-dress debate which took all the non-official Resolution days. All parties participated in the debate. There was general agreement on all sides that such a step should be taken and a committee should be appointed and that at a very early date: in fact, the word in the Resolution was ‘immediately’ and the resolution was passed by the House. Of course, when I say that there was general agreement, I do not mean that the Government spokesman on that occasion very much encouraged the hope which we entertained of a committee being appointed nor do I forget the circumstance that a gentleman, who is not with us now (Nawab Major Sir Ahmed Nawaz Khan) and who used to support Government on all occasions, however unreasonable their attitude might have been, opposed the idea. All others supported the motion. There was attempt on the part of another Honourable Member, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, to move an amendment but really even that did not mean opposition to the Resolution but to make it more specific on certain points. That amendment was negatived and the Resolution was carried.

It followed, therefore, that this House gave unmistakable expression to its considered opinion that whatever else might have been done or might not have been done, the time was ripe, at least, for the appointment of a committee of this House, on which the elected members of this House were to be in a majority to consider and report as to what changes in the administration of Baluchistan were necessary, so that the inhabitants of that Province might be associated with the administration. As far as I am aware, no such committee has ever come into existence and the resolution has been consigned to the waste-paper basket of the Government (which is a very big receptacle indeed). But the point for us is that it is really a great insult to this House that when this Honourable House, after such a detailed and full dress debate in which all sections of the non-official members of the House agreed and supported the resolution and the resolution was duly carried, Government did not pay the slightest heed to the resolution and did not take any steps to carry it out and we find Baluchistan where it was more than sixty years ago, when the British first took charge of that Province, under the variegated administrative machinery which applied differently to what was called British Baluchistan, what was called the Tribal Baluchistan, and what was called the Kalat State and Las Bela State. Such a conglomeration of different kinds of tracts, which makes up the sum total called Baluchistan, is administered according to notions of administration which are neither modern nor mediaeval but which I think can be described purely as a kind of military administration which should be regarded even in the present stage of constitutional development in India (although there is so much that remains to be done in the matter of the constitutional progress of India) and judging from the lines on which it has been carried on, as a blot on the fair name of British statesmanship and a standing insult to the honour of India. Therefore merely on the ground that Government has behaved with culpable disregard of the considered opinion of this House and has insulted this House, if for no other reason (of course there are many other reasons too) I would for this reason alone support the cut motion, even without considering other parts of the motion. This reason alone will suffice for me to support the motion.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, yesterday my friend was referring to the fact that it was not possible for India to get capital goods and he attributed the responsibility to Government on the ground that steps were not taken in time to place orders for such capital goods abroad. I would only reply for the period during which I was in charge; from May 1943 till Sir Ardeshir Dalal took it over the planning was actually in charge of the respective Departments; and as the Member in charge of Industry I had the responsibility of looking to the question of planning for the industrial future of India. Let me say that I had just then come after a period of one year's stay in London, to take charge of this Department. What I could gather in London was that every country had been trying its level best to plan its future, especially those countries devastated by the enemy forces. I was therefore extremely anxious, knowing as I did at the time that steps were being taken to place orders even at that stage by some of the occupied countries, that India also should go ahead, and with a view to that I went round to all the important places of commerce and industry personally, spoke to the industry and trade organisations and thereafter about the end of the year we issued a circular to all the industries concerned that they should help us with a view to collating information that was necessary for Government in order to place some sort of order at the London end. My friend is well aware of the fact that the response to that circular, in which materials were asked from the industries, was extremely poor. It was indeed true that some of the textile industries did try to supply some information, but it was not complete; yet in those cases we tried to help them immediately. But barring that, in the bulk of industries the data and materials were not before Government. I do not say that in a spirit

of complaint. Probably they had other views in the matter; probably they thought that the war would continue much longer and it was too premature; probably they did not themselves realise or understand the fullest implications of the future post-war world order. But I am merely stating it as a fact that it would have been almost impossible for any government, placed it is here, to place orders for capital goods in other countries, without knowing from the industries as to their actual needs, both for replacement as well as for expansion and new development. I must say—and here again I am giving only my personal opinion—that in other countries the trade, commerce and industrial organisations have played and do play a very large part in formulating their schemes for development, expansion and replacement; and I appeal to the Honourable Members to find out the extent to which the trade, commerce and industrial organisations here have taken up that task, at least at the time about which I was speaking.

The other thing we did was this. The development of industry in any country must not only depend on the extent of the capital goods available, but also on suitably trained technical personnel and a very large amount of industrial and scientific research is necessary before a country can embark upon a big programme. That part we did take up. As is well known we had proposals for the establishment of five national laboratories and also the appointment of a committee to plan the future of industrial and scientific research in this country, with a view to training up suitable technical personnel within the country. But in the matter of capital goods it is a fact that the industries themselves, at the time when we were very anxious that some sort of rough estimate should be made as to the total capital goods requirements of India, we could not get any response from the industries themselves. I am not in a position, placed as I am today, to complain; and therefore I will not certainly murmur if in spite of their omissions they still complain today; I will leave my friend Sir Akbar Hydari to reply to as to what had been done thereafter. I am definitely of opinion that if in 1943 and even in 1944 the industries had responded to what the Government required of them in the matter of collating materials for the future expansion of industries in India, India would not have been in the present position today. What actually happened is that long before the war was finished, other countries were able to place their orders and we could not, because we had not the assistance from the industries. The post-war rehabilitation of industries of those countries wherefrom we will require our goods will take a little time, and it is not possible for a country like England to supply such capital goods as are needed for the expansion of Indian industries till the industries in the United Kingdom are placed on a normal peace time footing, and that takes a little time

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of information, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what the Government of India themselves did for the collection of such materials which they expected the industries to supply but the industries did not?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As regards that, I think my Honourable friend is new to the House but I can supply him with a detailed statement which was circulated to all the chamber organisations and all the industries throughout the country. My Honourable friend will realise that if India requires today textile development or the processing of foodstuffs, it would not be possible for any secretariat in the world to evolve a plan of that nature until either it is a Government in which industries are nationalised or in conditions of private enterprise, materials are supplied by the industries; under existing conditions, as industry is in the hands of private enterprise, it is private enterprise which must supply the necessary information before any such step can be taken

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners Association: Indian Commerce): Can I ask one question at this stage? My Honourable friend referred

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai] to occupied countries. I would ask him how the U. S. S. R. did in their first five-year plan? They were as backward as India. The other thing he referred to was about machinery lists, that the industrialists did not supply except the textile industry. What did they do about new industries that were to be started? And how much did even the textile industry get? It is starving for want of machinery.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As regards the U. S. S. R. and what has been done there, I think that question could better be answered after the constitutional reform comes and my friends are in power.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: We will be able to do it.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think that is not the reply; there are certain methods in which things can be done. I can also do it; the U. S. S. R. scrapped all private properties and they nationalised all the industries; and my friend himself will be the first person hit if I would have taken that step

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: If India benefits, the industrialists will be in it.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have yet to see. I have had many lessons; I have known industries—as to how on the one hand on public platforms they cry for nationalisation, and on the other hand they have gone on accumulating their private profit as a result of war conditions. I know how at the cost of the people of this country high prices have been charged only to create profit for themselves. That part may be left over

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: The Government allowed it. What did the Government do to check it?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As regards textile machinery we tried our best to get such machinery and replacements as were available even under war conditions. As regards future planning, all those who registered themselves before December 1945 automatically get an import license

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: But did they get the machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Whether they get the machinery or not, if they had given us those materials which they were prepared to give, by the end of 1944, the position would have been different.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: Indian Commerce): Will the Honourable Member see that applications sent before the 31st December and which are still pending are sanctioned immediately? There are some cases like that?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think there is any case like that but if there is any case and if my friend will supply me with facts, I will certainly inquire into the matter.

As regards new industries, I hope it will be remembered that this question of new industries comes up with the question of planning of expansion. Unfortunately Sir Ardeshir Dalal is not here but Sir Akbar Hydari will be able to reply on that subject. I am only concerned with that part for which I was responsible at the time when I was in charge of the Department. I do not make any complaint of it but I felt that at that time when it would have been possible for me to do something for the industrial advantage of India. I could not do anything because my friend who is complaining today was not prepared to give the materials to us.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: My Honourable friend said that the Industries did not give him information. The textile industry did give him all the information.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Amjer-Merwara: General): Mr. President, this cut motion is intended to censure and condemn this bureaucratic Government which sits on the opposite benches for their callous indifference and

culpable negligence towards the administration of what are known as the Centrally Administered Areas. Now, Sir, these Centrally Administered Areas are scattered tracts situated at a great distances from one another. One is in the extreme north, Baluchistan and another is in the extreme south, the province of Coorg. These tracts were carved out with the specific object of tightening the Imperialistic grip on the different parts of this country and my unfortunate province is the worst victim of this imperialistic policy. Historically Ajmer-Merwara is a province that has played a great part in different phases of Indian history from the time of Hindu rule up to the present day. Ajmer was the capital of the illustrious Prithvi Raj. Later it was the chief place of visit of all the great Pathan and Moghul emperors from Akbar onwards up to the eclipse of the Moghul Empire. Even in the British period, Ajmer-Merwara has been clutched by the Imperialists for the specific purpose, I assert, of maintaining their hold upon the surrounding Rajput Chiefs of Rajputana. It was in the year 1818 that Ajmer was conquered by the British and it was then attached to the then existing province of North-Western Provinces of Agra and Oudh now called the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Up till 1870 it remained attached to that province but subsequently the British Government in India who had by that time entered into various treaties with Rajput Chiefs was anxious to get a seat for maintaining its clutch on the Rajput Chiefs and then they separated and segregated this province from the North-Western Provinces of Agra and Oudh and called it a minor administration and handed it over to the Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana States who then began to act as the *ex-officio* Chief Commissioner. From 1870 up to 1943 it was the Agent to the Governor General known as the Resident of the Rajputana States, under the Constitution Act of 1935. Who held the office of the Chief Commissioner and it is only in 1943 after much hue and cry and after great protest had been raised, that these two offices were separated but this separation of office has not ameliorated the lot of six lakhs of people who inhabit this part of the country.

Now, Sir, even now Ajmer is not an insignificant place. It occupies a very important place in the religious life of this country. Every year it is visited by thousand of Muslim pilgrims from different parts of the country to pay their homage at the shrine of Khwaja Mohmuddin Chisti. Ajmer has a picturesque and beautiful lake, called the Pushkar Lake which is mentioned in books like the *Rig Veda* which is the oldest book of the world. Every year it is visited by lakhs of Hindu pilgrims from each and every part of the country. Notwithstanding this, because of the Imperialist policy of this Government and because it was necessary to maintain its hold on the Rajput Chiefs, this province of Ajmer-Merwara which is a very small tract of 2,400 square miles with a population of six lakhs of people has been consistently neglected. Now, my friend on the left side, while discussing the fate of Baluchistan said that though this Assembly resolved that a non-official committee should be appointed to make certain recommendations, still no action has been taken on it. My assertion is that as early as 1921 an official inquiry committee known as the Ashworth Committee was appointed after the Government of India Act of 1919 came into force to consider the constitutional position of Ajmer-Merwara. What were the recommendation, that this Committee made. It definitely recommended that Ajmer-Merwara should be merged both administratively and judicially with the province of the United Provinces within a period of two years and till that is done, the recommendation of the Committee was that the autocratic Chief Commissioner must be associated with an advisory council consisting of a non-official majority. 25 years have passed and no action has been taken upon any of the recommendation of that committee. What is the present position of the Chief Commissioner? He is as autocratic as any of the old rulers of the Moghul times. Occupying as he does the palatial bungalow overlooking the picturesque lake of Ana Sagar with the marble baradari built by Emperor Shah Jehan, he

[Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava]

is altogether unapproachable. He is in the same position as a great Maharaja or a Nawab and there is no public voice in the administration which is carried on at his sweet will and according to his whims and caprices. We come to the Deputy Commissioner, till 1943 designated as Commissioner. He is the virtual head of the administration and you will be pleased to find that his office is a curious muddle of portfolios. He is everything in the province. He is the Inspector General of Jails, he is the District Magistrate. He is the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. He is also the head of the Controlling and Rationing Department which has been recently set up. You can easily imagine, Sir, that a man who occupies so many offices can hardly do justice to any of them. The result is inefficiency and corruption every where. Then, Sir, my greatest misfortune is that all these key offices are held by outsiders, persons who are not acquainted with the local conditions and who have very little sympathy with the people. Their whole function is to permeate this province of Ajmer-Merwara with persons of their own choice and from their own province. Recently, in the emergency Departments of Control and Rationing, according to the official figures given to me a few days ago on the floor of the House, no less than 51 have been recruited from outside and the reason given is that local talents, are not available. I respectfully submit that it is absurd to say that. The average literacy in my province is higher than in any other province. It is 13.1 per cent. and in urban population it goes up to 25 per cent. notwithstanding the fact that nothing has been done by this Government to import rural education. This much with regard to administration.

Then, we proceed to public health. So far as the Public Health Department is concerned, it is unknown to Ajmer-Merwara. I know that in the present budget some money has been provided, but we have yet to see how it is utilised. As regards the hospitals, there is only one hospital, the Victoria Hospital, in Ajmer. The Central Government conceded years ago that it should be a first class hospital but still it is a second class hospital with inadequate medicine, inadequate appliances and doctors can have private practice. The staff is inadequate and accommodation is scarce. This is the condition of public health.

Coming to the water problem, which any sagacious administration could have tackled long ago, it is as yet unsolved. Every third year there is a famine in Ajmer-Merwara because there is an awful paucity of water and the rains are scarce. Government has never seriously tackled this problem. It could have been very well tackled if Government had the imagination and the sympathy to tackle it, because at a distance of 150 miles from Deoli, the extreme end of my province, there is a perennial source of water in the Chambal river. If the Government had invested just a few crores of rupees at one time on the scheme to irrigate this unfortunate province, its fate would have been quite different, and instead of a deficit province, it would have been a surplus province producing lots of foodgrains because the soil is very fertile and the difficulty is only that of water. I suggest and I respectfully bring it to the notice of those concerned that this problem must be confronted at an early date if you want to avoid a perpetual state of famine in my province. I have only to draw the attention of the Government to the miserable state of affairs in which the people of that unfortunate province are at present because they are confronted by these famine-times. I am surprised to find that not a single pie has been provided for famine relief in the budget for 1946-47. The condition of the tenancy is miserable. The Istimrardars who are akin to the Talukadars in U. P. are exploiting the tenants and though the official Committees Dela Fogue and Irwin have been appointed from time to time and they have made their reports, these reports are kept in cold storage. We do not know what their contents are. Whenever we have asked for their contents we have been told that they are confidential records. I ask, why their contents have not been disclosed? The reason is

clear. They were against the Istimrardars, whose vested interests Government is not inclined to ignore, and in the meanwhile the conditions of tenants, are growing more and more miserable. A man might have been cultivating the land for generations and yet he can be ejected without notice. I press upon the Government the desirability of having a tenancy legislation at as early a date as possible, which has been in contemplation for 15 years. Settlement has taken almost three years and no result is coming forth. And what is more distressing is that they are contemplating to increase the assessment by Rs. 40,000—24 per cent. in the Beawar Tahsil and 16 per cent. in the Ajmer Tahsil. This is absolutely unwarranted by the local conditions of the peasantry and tenancy legislation should be taken in hand at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. President: Sir John Thorne.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): Sir, I was not proposing to speak now. If there is any one else who wishes to speak before Lunch, I am prepared to wait until my Honourable friend has spoken.

Mr. President: I think it will be better if the Honourable Member speaks now. If he has any reply to make afterwards or if he feels that he should answer some point, I will give him another chance.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Very well, Sir. If I may say so, so far the debate on this cut motion has gone, it is being carried out with a rather blunt knife. Perhaps that is not the most suitable metaphor because the weapon seems to be more like a three-pronged fork or *trident*; (a) is about the irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration; (b) is the administration of the Centrally administered areas; and (c) is the planning and development policy. Well, Sir, that is rather omnibus and I am concerned only with parts. (a) and (b) of the motion. (a) itself is sub-divided into three subjects, another three-pronged fork. I have listened with some care—it is disadvantageous, if I may say so, that I should be speaking so early in the debate—I have listened with some care to see the grounds on which the Government are to be censured for irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption. Of those, clearly the most important charge is that of corruption. On that, a great deal might be said and a great deal in the course of a session is said in scattered references to the subject. I shall say very little on the legislative and executive measures that have been taken to check corruption, but I would remind the House of what has been done in that way.

In 1943 an Ordinance was passed, I think it was Ordinance XXII of 1943, to set up a special Police Department or rather to put on a statutory basis the Police establishment which had been working since 1941, more especially in connection with the affairs of defence, supply and railways with a view to the more speedy detection and punishment of offences which may be lumped under the general head 'corruption'. Then, in the same connection an Ordinance was passed setting up special tribunals for the same purpose, the procedure was simplified, special rules of evidence were provided, all with the object of obtaining speedier trial and heavier punishments for offences of this kind. I believe that recently an Ordinance has been published which makes some part of that Ordinance in relation to special rules of evidence, part of the law of the land applying throughout India, at any rate until there is other legislation to displace it. Then, Sir, there was another ordinance, for which I can claim some credit as a father, which had a very useful and desirable object of freezing ill gotten gains pending the hearing of the cases in order that they should not be tucked away somewhere, where at the end of the trial if it ended in conviction they would not be accessible. That is a brief summary of the steps taken by way of legislation and setting up of the establishments of police and judiciary to meet these very special needs. We are all agreed about the need. There is no doubt whatever that during the war corruption greatly increased. I believe if a survey

[Sir John Thorne]

were made of all the countries at war, and probably even of those that were not at war, it will be found that that phenomenon was general. Opportunities increased, temptations increased and I doubt whether any country has succeeded in keeping its administration as clean as it was before the war. I admit, it is public knowledge, that here in India we have had a great deal of corruption. But, Sir, none of us can feel that man can be made and kept good by legislation or even by increased police and judicial powers. There must be something else, there must be something more profound and fundamental in the community if corruption is to be stamped out. Now that the war is over, we may hope that those temptations and those opportunities will decrease and we shall not hear perhaps in the next few years of as many flagrant cases as have been brought to notice during the war. But there is, as I say, something more fundamental required. When I listened to my Honourable friends not only today, but when this matter came up on previous days, I wondered exactly who these government servants are who are regarded as a class, as so inefficient and corrupt. One would suppose, Sir, that people were born as government servants or if not born as government servants, brought up as government servants as some sort of special species or genus of the animal kingdom, something like elephants or tigers. Well, Sir, that is not so. The average government servant is some one very much like any of my Honourable friends here, he comes very much from the same level of society as many of us here, who are no doubt related to many government servants, and the government servant is just the product of the community.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: There may be a cadre of these.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: But they are not endowed either at birth or during their bringing up with any special qualities

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: They are your creatures.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: They have all the same qualities of the community from which they come. Well, Sir, that is one thing I want to say—that they are not a special class or caste or as my Honourable friend calls them, special cadre. They are in no way different from the material form which the great majority of the folk in India are made.

Then, Sir, there is another thing, and I will repeat what my Honourable colleague of the Food Department said yesterday, that corruption is a matter of give and take. If there were no bribe givers, there would be no bribe takers. That is a commonplace which had been said time and again. But here again, who are the bribe givers? Are they some special class, caste or cadre or are they the people who are thrown up by circumstances from all communities? They are not a special class. What is wanted is a much more lively and vivid sense in the community of the shamefulness, the shameful greed and the shameful dishonesty which is involved in the giving and taking of bribes. (Interruption). It is a great pity that the Honourable Member does not even get up to speak. I have not much time to deal with this subject, the first of the prongs with which I am concerned. Inefficiency—I might have said more about it, but I did not hear very much about this in the course of the debate.

I shall not keep the House long on the second subject which is the administration of centrally administered areas, those areas which are officially known as the Chief Commissioner's Provinces. My Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang enumerated them just now. I think he omitted one for which I have a special affection, Coorg. Baluchistan is not my concern, and I dare say, if there is time, my colleague of the External Affairs Department will deal with it. Panth Piplođa—we have heard those magic words this morning, and I am sorry that some of my Honourable friends opposite did not hear the debate which I think was amusing—they were on strike at the time, I think it was in 1939 at Simla.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): I heard that debate.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I very much enjoyed it. I think in these unhappy days, there is a good deal to be said for an area which gives us no trouble and which provides some of us with a little harmless amusement. Of the other areas, only two are represented here, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. I have listened with attention to what has been said, I am sorry that circumstances prevent the representative of Delhi from being here himself, but I have listened with attention to what has been said by the Pundit who deputised for him and the other Pundit who told us about Ajmer-Merwara. Well, Sir, I am rather a fraud on these occasions because I am not really officially concerned with the subjects which mostly interest my Honourable friends, that is to say, the provision for what are called the nation building activities in the Chief Commissioners provinces. Each department of the Government of India is concerned with that part of the subject which falls within its ordinary scope. That may, I think, be a defect, I cannot help feeling it is a defect, I should myself hope that some arrangement may be found of rather closer co-ordination between the activities of the various departments in the Chief Commissioners provinces than is possible under the present arrangement. However, there it is and I cannot answer for the public health facilities or irrigation facilities, subjects which have been referred to in these speeches. As regards Ajmer-Merwara I confess I do not know as I have not yet had time to visit it. But as regards Delhi I should have

I P. M. thought that the complaint that Delhi has been neglected has very little foundation. We are all aware of the great interest taken in the welfare of Delhi Province by Lord Linlithgow and we are acquainted with the zeal with which various measures were initiated by Sir Evan Jenkins, and I have no doubt they are still being carried on. But, as I say, I cannot answer for that side of the subject.

Then my Honourable friends complained of the constitutional footing of these two provinces,—here they are, ruled by autocrats, no democratic bodies, no advisory councils, even local boards dominated by if not official majorities by nominated majorities. That was certainly said of Delhi; I am not certain whether anything on the same theme was said about Ajmer-Merwara. What is the solution? I listened rather carefully for the views of my Honourable friends as to what should be done about it. The Pundit who spoke in regard to Delhi is in favour—if I understood him aright—of the formation of a large province which shall take in adjoining areas of the Punjab and the United Provinces. What the solution suggested by my other Pundit friend from Ajmer-Merwara was I did not quite gather. He referred to a Committee which reported in 1921; and so far as I could make out, the main recommendation of that Committee was that Ajmer-Merwara should be merged in the United Provinces. Sir, these are matters which I hope my Honourable friends will have an opportunity of urging before the constitution making body. It is not for me to say whether the Chief Commissioners' provinces will be represented on that body: I hope they will be, because there are problems and we are all conscious of them. The administrations of those small areas are bound to be somewhat top-heavy, they are bound to be somewhat extravagant by the ordinary principles which apply to larger areas like Governors' provinces. I do not know about Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, but certainly with regard to another Chief Commissioner's province with which I have some acquaintance, namely Coorg, there is quite a strong feeling of local patriotism, so to speak. I have recently visited Coorg and I know that opinions there are almost as much divided as they were nearly twenty years ago when I served as Commissioner of that province. But whatever the prevailing opinion is there is quite a strong sense of local individuality and tradition. If Ajmer-Merwara were merged in the United Provinces something would be lost and something might be gained. After all it would be a very small corner of the United Provinces. And I should have thought that

[Sir John Thorne]

even in material matters, and certainly in the perhaps more important spiritual feeling of the people, something would be lost by their being merged in a much larger unit.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, after hearing the Honourable Home Member I think I should support the cut motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai, which seeks to censure Government on their irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration. I should have thought that any Member of Government would have defended, if corruption exists in the department, on other grounds than those which have been put forward by the Honourable Home Member and some other Members of Government. Corruption has been admitted to exist in many of their departments. It is so glaring, so public, and such a notorious fact that they have been forced to admit it. Otherwise I am sure they would have tried all sorts of tortuous means to hide the fact and speak as if the administration is pure and straight. I do not really understand the comparison that is made between this country and other countries. It was said that there was as much corruption in this country as there was in any other country, it was war corruption and it was a consequence of the war, because several things had to be done which in well ordered times and in peace time would not be done, and so there was necessarily corruption. In the same breath the Honourable Member said that there was something fundamentally wrong with the community here to make corruption possible. I really do not understand him. The one thing that is fundamentally wrong is the existence of people like Sir John Thorne here, the existence of that kind of bureaucracy in this country, the existence of foreign domination. Here is a correct example of the proverb that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely; and because absolute power is vested in this executive it has corrupted every member absolutely. And that is what I find from their attitude and outlook.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne was several years ago in my own district of Tanjore. At that time the salt satyagraha was in progress and Mahatma Gandhi had marched to Dandi and Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar had marched to Vedaranyam in my district. Sir John Thorne did not have any touch with the people of the country; he promulgated an order saying that any man who gave food to any of these persons that came marching with Mr. Rajagopalachariar committed a great crime and would be liable to punishment under the Indian Penal Code. I happened to be in the management of the Bar Association and we looked into the legal side of it; and he got a communication from us that it was a wrong interpretation of the law. I expected that in the decades that have passed since then Sir John Thorne has gained some experience of this country, but perhaps he has receded further and further away from the people whom he is supposed to govern and to protect. I would go to the extent of saying that he is doing a disservice to his own country by irritating people with such remarks as this and losing this country and this empire and I believe several other countries which they want to dominate. Sir, corruption is there and if it is there and is not weeded out, then even the national Government would be accused of responsibility in the affair and they also may be unable to weed it out; in which case Government would be accused of inefficiency and incompetency. These things are to my mind inseparable: Inefficiency, incompetency and irresponsibility breed, in their turn, corruption. The man who is irresponsible and incompetent is bound to be corrupt, and where there is corruption there can be no efficiency. That is why we charge you with inefficiency and corruption. I find that the present Executive Council delights in being irresponsible. When I use the word 'irresponsible', I use it in all the three significances of the term: I mean irresponsibility as opposed to responsible Government, because the Executive Council, as it is constituted at present, is not responsible to the Legislature, and therefore it is not responsible to the

people of this country. Secondly, irresponsible in the way in which it is unresponsive to public opinion—it does not care for the needs of the people; it does not care for the opinions of the people; it flouts the opinions of the leaders of the people; it flouts the legislatures of the people. Because it is unresponsive to public opinion, therefore it is irresponsible. Sir, I come to the logical extreme and say it is irresponsible in this respect: reckless, regardless of duty, regardless of consequences. The present Executive Councillors think that if they are able to carry on the administration anyhow, it will fulfil their purpose. Because they know they are irremovable, they take delight in such irresponsibility. If they have any conscience, if they have any sense of responsibility, if they have any regard for their duty, they would not wallow in it and stew in their juice as they are doing now. Sir, it is not only the political orators who make such charges against this Administration. Recently Dr. R. B. Pal, the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, in his Convocation Address two days ago, referring to the incidents as a result of students' demonstration and disturbances by students, said:

"The root of such tragic incidents seemed to be in the fact that those who were here entrusted with the task of maintaining peace and order were not troubled by any wholesome fear of public opinion. No storm of public indignation, however strong and weighty could in any way affect them."

↳ their indifference and in their complacency they think that nothing would touch them. That is the root cause of the evil; that is the cause of inefficiency in the administration; and that is the cause of corruption which cannot be eradicated. During the war there was corruption in other countries too, but they have adopted measures to eradicate this evil. It persists in this country because of the British administration and the British way of administration where people who are most rotten are employed in the various departments to run the Government. Here alone we can see this strange phenomenon of an executive, against whom daily the elected legislature passes motions of adjournment and censure, continuing to govern the country. We pass motions against them from day to day—motions of adjournment, Resolutions, and so on—but nothing is done. Their conscience does not seem to be troubled at all; we find them loolling about, yawning and discussing things with one another. What have they done in regard to the food and cloth situation? We have asked time and again that remunerative prices should be given to the cultivators. Have they done that? On the contrary, Mr. Sen would rise and say that it is the policy of Government not to encourage any high prices, etc. etc. And then, again, what is the situation in regard to political prisoners. They have bungled all through; I find the Executive Council is completely muddled up. In regard to the Indian National Army, the Victory celebrations, on-Indianization of administration branches of the Army, non-consultation and flouting of the opinion of this House in regard to the Bretton Woods affair, all these things show that irresponsibility even in the constitutional sense is rampant, and that is why inefficiency is given rise to. They become inefficient because they are not responsible to anyone; they are the stooges of the British Empire.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member may resume his speech at 2-30. The House is adjourned now.

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.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: How much more time have I got Sir?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time is five minutes more. He has spoken for ten minutes.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: I feel, I wish, I had more minutes in which I could pack all the things I want to say and I wish I had the tongue of

[Sri T. V. Satakopachari]

a Burke or a Sheridan to put the case clearly against corruption and how the present administration is responsible for it. The accusation against the public which one or the other Member of Government always brings forward when we talk of the inefficiency of this Government or the corruption in their ranks, is absolutely unfounded and wrong. These people do not know our country. I may just take the House back to history. When quite recently in the time of the Empire of Vijayanagar, Hiouen-Tsang from China and Pais and Nunez from the West, all foreigners, visited it, they spoke of our open market places with heaps of jewels, pearls and precious stones, with only boys to take care of them and to sell them to the people, the administration being so immensely pure, the people being so very honest and all that. That was the status of the Indian people in those years gone by. What is the present state now? You can callously sit back and accuse the people of being instruments accessible to bribery, jobbery and corruption. Who has produced that state of things? Isn't it these two centuries of British rule? I would remind the House that sometime ago when the English came here, and found a very rich empire, there was an enormous system of bribery and corruption introduced by them. The East India Company is responsible for all this here. Clive himself one of the expert technicians in this job was astonished and surprised at the amount of corruption that reigned supreme here when he came back to this country. Such is the state of things and this is the tradition that is being handed down. The arm of the law is long enough to put me into detention for being patriotic and trying to fight for my country's cause. The arm is strong enough to muzzle the press. It is strong enough to do so many wrong things. But if it pretends that it is not strong to put down corruption we can really put it down as a lie. (*An Honourable Member: A white lie!*) Yes, it is a white lie of the blackest thing that ever exists. So it is the lie of lies.

Sir Azizul Huque sometime ago spoke of the public being partly blamable for this state of affairs. What could a citizen do with all these Defence of India Rules, with all the officials armed with extraordinary powers. They can do what they like. An accusation is no easy job. You know how difficult it is to charge a man of bribery. But bribery and corruption exist. The Honourable the Home Member said that they have taken steps by passing some Ordinance in 1943 and in establishing an anti-corruption tribunal. I find in the demand for grants that instead of 16 officers they are increasing it to 21 officers and they are asking for nine months extra money. That is the state of the situation. Sometime ago Sir Archibald (I do not find him here) was Chairman of a Committee on the administration of Bengal. He found that corruption was rampant there. He suggested certain steps. Did this Government take those steps? He said that the penal laws should be stronger and the penalties should be heavier. Did they do these things? I would suggest that they take the people into confidence, that they take the non-officials into confidence, that they should establish tribunals consisting of them also and that they are encouraged to say the right things at the proper moment so that they can trace the cases.

Lastly, the Food Department was probably congratulating itself that its administration here at the Centre was pure and correct. I will first draw the attention of the House to an editorial in the "*Hindustan Times*" of last evening with the heading "Just a minute". Five hundred crawling American tractors had been ordered for our country in order to plough the waste lands in South India and the Deccan. There are millions of acres of waste lands which can be brought under the plough. You have to bring water and you have to tear up the soil. That is all. All the tractors from America would have done the job. Five hundred tractors were ordered: only two hundred have arrived. But you cannot use them. Do you know why? Because even if we had ordered the tractors from America, it appears that the accessories had to be supplied by Britain who would not let America supply the accessories,

and our Government bowed low and said we will take accessories from you and not from America. And so these two hundred tractors are lying idle. Three hundred are still to come and we are nowhere. And the British people say they cannot supply accessories till September or so, and God alone knows when they can. I find this is what it states:

"It is not only the loss of the large quantity of foodgrains which the waste lands could have produced which is grievous. What is perhaps more galling is the prevailing shortsightedness and utter incompetence in high official quarters."

I charge this Government this Executive Council with incompetence, inefficiency amounting to imbecility. I charge the subordinates with corruption. Mr. Gwilt felt that he could not say anything in the Standing Finance Committee. Yes, we could not say many things in the Finance Committee. I want to take the privilege in this House and say this truth, that you are responsible for the corruption in your Department. You cannot shift the moral responsibility on them and escape Scot free.

Sir Azizul Huque also said that the capitalists did not want capital goods in this country because they were not sure when the war would end and whether they would be losing profits. I ask him, Sir, Why did you go to the capitalists. If you are really as you boast of yourself a strong Government maintaining law and order, if you want these industries to prosper, why did you not take the matter in your hands and get the capital goods into this country. I find in the memorandum and in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member that it will not be possible to get capital goods, because the countries which have to supply the capital goods have to fulfil the requirements of their own country first. The home country has to be satisfied first. That was the argument advanced by the Honourable the Finance Member. The Honourable the Commerce Member said that other countries had placed their orders first and hence they got priority. We did not place our orders early and so we did not get the machinery. I do not know which is the truth. This is the state of things, Sir, and therefore I support the cut motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai and request that it be adopted by the House.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai. The scope of the motion is so wide that it covers the entire field of administration. The first item is the irresponsibility of this Government. This Government is constituted under the Act of 1919 and more than 25 years have passed. The world has changed and two wars have intervened between these two points of time but this Government has not changed. Thrones have been thrown out and Dukes have become cooks but Col. Blimps and Benthalls remain for ever! Sir, I know that when we charge them with irresponsibility it is not the constitutional aspect of irresponsibility that we mean, because if we were to emphasise that I know they will point out the Act under which they are in existence: nor do I charge them with a legal irresponsibility. What I submit is that they are morally irresponsible. It is not the Act so much but it is the spirit with it is worked that really counts. It is no mere platitude to say that whatever may be the letter of the law it is the spirit that ultimately determines the course that the people have to follow when they are under a particular regime. The main characteristic of this Government is that primarily it is a Police Government. It is a police state which is merely concerned with law and order and when it tries to be modern in the sense of doing some public service, every step that it takes is bound up with inefficiency corruption and incompetence.

As I said, the field that this cut motion covers is so wide that it is impossible to do it full justice. But a few departments may be selected for criticism.

The first duty of a modern state is protection. In this matter this country has suffered more than any other country for two reasons. One reason is that this country is not the master of its own foreign policy. Its foreign policy is dictated by England and England has no friend and India has no enemy. And yet it is this country that has suffered more in point of men, money and

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil]

material than England herself. Some people may take exception to this. If you remember the stakes involved in this war, the stakes of England and the stakes of this country, I am sure you will agree that what I have said is absolutely correct. In the field of education, in the field of commerce, in the field of industry, whatever department one may take and if we apply the test of good government no man, howsoever partial he may be, will pronounce this Government as being up to standard. The Chinese philosopher, Confucius, was once asked by the King to define what was a good government and the philosopher replied. "If there is sufficiency of food and clothing, if there is sufficiency of protection and, if there is faith that justice will be done, then that is a good government." Take the first thing. Is there sufficiency of food? This is called the richest land, where rivers are everlastingly flowing, forests are ever green, the bowels of the earth are full of rich minerals. An English economist described this country as a rich country with a poor people and, I only add, a perverse Government.

Sir, in so far as food is concerned, whether in the matter of production, procurement or distribution, I cannot accuse this Government of efficiency at all. Even today when the country is faced with a terrible famine, cultivators are sowing money crops and no steps are being taken to prevent them from doing that either by offering a remunerative price for foodcrops or in other ways. In the matter of procurement, if one were to visit villages, where the levy system is in vogue, you hear of nothing but police *zoolum*. Every petty village officer enters the house of the villager under the pretext of collecting the levy and leaves nothing to the poor agriculturist. It is all right for one of my friends from Bombay to say that the policy has worked very well in Bombay. I had no opportunity to contradict him then. His experience is confined only to Bombay. In the cities where labour predominates, where labour is organised, where you have half a dozen morning papers and half a dozen evening papers, they get the ear of the Government. People in the cities are more or less organised but in the countryside there is no organisation. Only last week I was touring in Nagar district which is a famine district. For three years out of five years there is famine in Nagar. The poverty there is absolute. One of the high English officials once stated to me that all that we talk about Indian poverty is not correct: it is only relative. I asked him to visit certain tracts in Nagar, in Sholapur and Poona districts and when he returned he agreed that, at any rate, in these tracts the poverty was absolute. A month and a half ago famine was declared in these areas but famine works have not begun. Prices of controlled articles have risen and people are migrating. I regret to say that parents are leaving their children behind because they cannot feed them. I was present in a gathering of thousands of peasants. I could see the indignation in their eyes. This is true everywhere. The atmosphere is tense and one word from any one of us would result in a situation which no government, howsoever strong, will be able to cope with. What is the policy with regard to distribution? A new department is created;—people who know nothing about the food have become rationing officers. They sit in their rooms and decide. They do not know the normal diet of the people: those who eat rice are asked to eat wheat and schools have been opened to teach them how to prepare cakes. That is with respect to food.

Take every other department, particularly where the control system obtains. A man who had nothing to do with a particular business is given a monopoly of that business. A man who cannot distinguish between a pillar and a post suddenly becomes a building contractor. A man who does not know how to deal with cotton—whether to weigh it or measure it—becomes 'A' license holder. A man who does not know about the trade suddenly gets a license, although the policy of the Government is not to disturb normal trade channels. Why is this done? Is it efficiency or corruption? The Honourable Home Member said that the government servants are not a special or privileged caste. He thereby hinted that the whole of the community was

responsible for it. It hurt me. I want to say in all humility that the corruption that we are witnessing today and in the course of the last six years, is so great that an old man of 80 told me at Nagar that in the course of his long life he had not seen a situation like this. How does it occur? A needy citizen and a greedy merchant are the two persons who are responsible for it. A man who wants to attend the funeral of his father or the marriage of his daughter or the sick bed of his friend must have a ticket, and he must pay. I have paid four annas more for a Bombay ticket. (*An Honourable Member*: You got off cheap!) and the greedy merchant in order to pocket his profit—I have no soft corner in my heart for him—but who is responsible for this? It is this very system of government. You cannot, like Viswamitra, disown this child and say “No, no; it is not mine; it is yours”; because you are inefficient, because you have created conditions in which one cannot get anything except through corruption, you cannot fasten the blame on the community.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Viswamitra was caught: they are not!

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I ask the Honourable the Home Member, has he no control over the government servants under him? Has he no standard of conduct for him? I will quote the words of an eminent English high official who said “the marks of an ideal public servant are integrity, industry and anonymity.” So far as anonymity is concerned, they have opened the Public Information Department, the Publicity Department; and it was only through a mistake that a part of that department escaped yesterday: in fact that was the greatest culprit. However, so far as anonymity is concerned, I cannot accuse them of it. Every official is now calling a press conference, whether he is a Talati—Honourable the Finance Member says ‘no’ I will make an exception in his case—that only proves the rule—even from the Talati every official is becoming press conference-minded. As regards integrity less said the better. As regards industry there has been great increase in the number of officials and subordinates; and if an inquiry is instituted, I am sure you will find that the average official today works less than he used to do before the war started.

I go further. As regards the second test, sufficiency of protection, how many riots have taken place in the course of the last six months? It is no good telling us that the hooligans are responsible and you are not. Mahatma Gandhi has accused us and has stated that we cannot plead moral alibi. But at the same time the Government cannot plead moral alibi. If they are responsible for peace and order, then if one life is lost, if one citizen suffers, the blame primarily is on the head of the Government.

Then the third test which the Chinese philosopher laid down—whether there is sufficient justice done. As between man and man I may confess that some justice is done; but between the individual and the state, there is no justice. What would in other countries be termed as a high patriotic act would be high treason here. Imagine that Indians fighting for freedom, whether violently or non-violently, are rebels. It is like this: if a thief takes away my watch and I try to get it back, if I have the strength, by violence, and if not by persuasion, is that theft on my part? If my freedom is taken away by fraud or force and if I try to get it back, am I to be considered a rebel? This is a novel thing.

The Honourable Home Member said that the whole community is to be blamed. Am I to blame the whole of England for the misdeeds of you few? It would be wrong. I would have read history to no purpose if I were to say that. No community as such can be condemned. You cannot indict a whole nation. But that does not mean that I should not point out the moral responsibility of the individual; and that is exactly the purpose which has prompted me to participate in this debate. The British connection here has been a great tragedy. It has been bad while you ruled and lived. Now, when you are about to go, let it be said that your last act was good and noble. Sir, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Arts and Planning and Development): Sir, I rise to answer that part of the cut motion which relates to planning and development policy. In his remarks the Mover confined himself to the alleged failure of the Government to procure for Indian industrialists the capital goods they wanted; and coming as he does from Ahmedabad, I imagine that his reference was more specially to the lack of capital equipment in the cotton textile industry. Sir, I would like to explain that in October 1943, before the establishment of the Planning and Development Department—a point to which my friend Sir Azizul Huque has referred, but I will give you a few further facts—a letter was addressed to all the appropriate chambers of commerce and industry, asking them as follows:

“I am therefore to request you in the interests of the industry to communicate to the Government of India without delay the industry's or your requirements of capital goods for delivery during a period of say two years after the end of the war for (a) replacement of worn out machinery and (b) normal development of the industry.”

As Sir Azizul Huque, pointed out, the reply to this communication was not at all satisfactory except in the case of the textile industry. I am not blaming the various industries at that time for not having sent more extensive replies. We were then in a rather critical period of the war and the industries were fully engaged in churning out war orders and I do not blame them, for

3 P. M. they could not sit down with their depleted staffs to work out plans of post-war reconstruction; but while I do not blame the industry, the blame should also not rest on Government. We gave them such a picture as we then could and asked them to provide the information. I am glad to say that so far as the cotton textile industry was concerned we had by that time constituted the Cotton Textile Control Board and through their help we were able to give the United Kingdom a rough idea of the capital goods which the industry might require. We gave fairly full details and the total bill came to 37 crores. I do not think therefore that Government could be blamed for not having taken as early action as they could in letting known the wants of our industrialists to the United Kingdom.

Then we come to the period of the starting of the Planning and Development Department under Sir Ardeshir Dalal. This was the picture he found—very little response from the industrialists as to what were their capital requirements—the only industry about which he was able to say anything was the textile industry. In order to get a move on, he did two things. He constituted about 26 panels. Under each panel various industries were grouped. These panels were composed of experts businessmen and so on. They were given definite targets as to what was necessary to be done. For example, in the case of Cotton textiles, the target was that the production had to be increased from 5 thousand million yards to seven thousand two hundred million yards. At the same time with the encouragement of His Excellency the present Viceroy we approached the great Indian industrialists and said to them—if you want to go to Europe and America to survey conditions there and look for possibilities for obtaining capital goods or machinery required for starting new industries we will give you the necessary facilities. That was in 1944. The industrialists did not go till some time in the middle of 1945. We also sent a delegation of Indian industrialists to Australia and the reason was that we felt that Australia was a country which in its industrial development had to overcome some of the difficulties which face our own country. So, we sent a different team of industrialists there. Though the war was still on and it was difficult to obtain passages, we also gave facilities for travel to the United Kingdom and to the United States to any serious minded industrialist who wanted to go and negotiate either for the purchase of machinery or for getting technical expert advice in respect of any new schemes which he had. Therefore I do not think that you can blame Government for not having taken as early steps as we possibly could to help Indian industry in the matter of the procurement of

capital goods to the greatest extent. My Honourable friend has quoted the example of Russia but Russia in 1928, and India in the middle of a war in 1943-46, are two quite different propositions. Russia had no lack of experienced man power and they were at peace. We were at war and we did not have sufficient man power. Another important consideration is that Russia, when it started on its five year plans had a strong dictatorship which was able to make its will felt over all sections of the people. I do not think it is a correct analogy to compare Russia of 1928 and India during the last three years of war. I think, Sir, I have said enough on this point.

Now, on the general question of the policy of the Planning and Development Department, Sir Ardeshir Dalal soon after he left issued a statement which was widely published in the Press surveying what had been done under his leadership during the 18 months when he was in office. I think anybody who knew, as I know, the difficulties under which he worked will realise that he, assisted by the Departments of the Government of India and, if I may say so the Finance Department, did an extremely good piece of work. I am not going to take up the time of the House on it, because the whole thing is in print and I can let Honourable Members have a copy of Sir Ardeshir Dalal's statement as to what had been done during the 18 months that he was in office. (*An Honourable Member*: Why did he go out?) That point does not arise. I think, when you have read it, you will consider it a very creditable achievement.

I now take up the story after the time Sir Ardeshir Dalal left a few weeks ago and my own responsibility began. I found that a great number of the panels had reported or were on the point of reporting their conclusions. And the action we have taken is to hurry up the work, present the reports to Government and get the Government decisions on them. I hope that it may be possible to finish this work by the end of next month. I would remind the House that in answer to a question the other day or in answer to a speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths, I revealed that we were now taking action in the matter of fixing priorities as between the various schemes of development; so that the Central Departments as well as Provincial Governments would know how much money would be available from the Central for the various schemes under the different headings: Health, Agriculture and so on. I hope that this work will soon be concluded, so that when our successors come into office they will find, I hope, the plans going forward with the money earmarked for them. Of course, these will be five-year plans and all the money will not be given in the first year, so that our successors will, in consultation with the then Provincial Governments, be able to alter the decisions in this or that respect either from experience or because of changes in policy.

I do not think I need say much more. Please remember that the planning and development policy of this Government has been fashioned in concert with industrialists and public men. They are serving on most of our panels. It is not a policy evolved in purlieu of the Secretariat, but it is something which has been fashioned by a man who is a great industrialist himself and in consultation with those available and best suited to advise in this connection. Sir, I have nothing more to say.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: May I, Sir, ask a question or two from the Honourable Member? I quite realise that Sir Akbar is in charge of this Department only for the last two months. In the second part of their report, the Re-Construction Committee have said that they have no data about their own Ordnance factories.

Mr. President: What is the question which the Honourable Member wants to ask?

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: The Honourable Member said that the industrialists did not give him the data and I was saying that he has not got the data of his own factories.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I can explain that in a minute, Sir. In the first place, I do not complain about the textile industry; I rather praised them. It is one of the three industries which really did give us the data. But on the point about ordnance factories, the reference in the report is to this. At the time the report was written, it was not known what would be the strength of the army in peace time. How much of the production of the ordnance factories would be necessary to continue making munitions of war? What ordnance factories, if any, could be set free for turning over to civil production and so on? That was the reference and not anything else. We had the technical data, but at the time when that report was written, we had no knowledge or at least we had no decisions as to what the strength of the army in peace time would be and therefore what would be the load from the army side on these ordnance factories.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How is it that no adequate care was taken to consult either the agricultural interests or the artisans, that is, cottage industry of the people? You suggested at the time of the Standing Finance Committee that a special panel should be constituted for cottage industries, but nothing has been done. I would like to have some information on that.

Mr. President: If it is within the province of the Honourable Member, he may give the information.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is this within the rules of debate that after the speaker has uttered his utterance of the day, we can go on cross-examining him?

Mr. President: We do not cross-examine at all. If there is any cross-examination, it will be done outside this House. But if questions are asked to elicit information for the benefit of the House, I do not think there should be any serious objection to them.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Sir, data are being collected for the following cottage industries: paper making, calico printing, Gur marking, basket making, coir manufacture, metal industries, pottery, sericulture and silk-weaving, gold-thread industry, carpet making, cotton ginning, tobacco and tanning industries. It is very difficult these days to get together bodies of people for constituting all sorts of panels. As I said before, there are 26 panels already and the data for many of these cottage industries are being collected. Once the data are collected, the Government of the time can constitute a panel or a Committee to take steps to see how that particular cottage industry can be encouraged.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Mr. President, Sir, I will request you to extend to me your generosity because this cut motion is a bit of a jumble, where many problems have been mixed up together and it is difficult to concentrate on any single point connected with them. The word "irresponsibility" naturally leads one to imagine that the Honourable Mover had perhaps forgotten that the Government of the day is not a responsible government. Every action that comes from that quarter must have in it, if not full irresponsibility, at least a tinge of it, and, therefore, until we have changed it or until they have decided to change it themselves, we have got to be prepared to receive it with an element of irresponsibility attached to it. 'Inefficiency and corruption' are the other two aspects of the problem on which the Honourable Mover wishes to condemn the Government. We are all labouring under a terrible difficulty today. After six years of war in which things had to be done—never mind, whether the law permitted it or not—and the mentality which insisted that the war had to be won—law or no law—, we cannot yet sit down in judgment and we cannot yet say, "You are wrong here and you are wrong there". The turn over from the war to a normal peace administration would be a difficult process and I think I will have to wait a bit longer to give that judgment until, if the prophecies that I hear are correct, we occupy those benches. We shall then try and enforce our own ideals of administration and of public affairs and then see

whether we can improve things to our advantage. We should not forget that the sole objective of the successors of the East India Company in this country is profit. The methods of collecting the profits may have changed, but England is not here for our advantage. We are different and our interests are different from the interests of our rulers. It, therefore, appears to me to be a cry in the wilderness to expect the leopard to change its spots. The best thing the leopard can do, I hope it will be soon, is to go back home and leave things here alone. The third aspect is corruption. I have heard of it for many years past, but I entirely agree with the Honourable the Home Member when he says that there should be two parties to corruption. The word for corruption in the Bengali language, and particularly in Calcutta, is *ghoos*, and in one of my speeches, I had said that like mercy, the quality of *ghoos* is not strained; it blesseth him that takes and it blesseth him that gives. I entirely agree with him and as an Indian I feel ashamed to state that we the public have not established any higher standards, as regards the methods of corruption. By that I do not mean that the Indian habit is any different from any other in the world, but then there must be two sides to it. War has killed humanity, but war has killed morality also. The liaison between officials and the commercial world was something that made one's heart bleed. The money that passed from one side to the other was to be counted not in lakhs but sometimes in crores and the wastage which helped them to find new supplies added to the cost. Had the officials at the Centre not been obsessed with the idea of defeating Japan, they would perhaps have looked at this aspect of the matter also, but they did not care. They allowed things to go from bad to worse, and the result is that we shall have to suffer this burden whether in the shape of increased expenditure in India or Sterling Balances outside India, for generations to come. I feel that if the men in Delhi had been a bit more careful, corruption in their own services and corruption to which we as members of the public were party, could have been crushed.

As regards planning and development, we heard the Honourable Member in charge tell us many things and he gave us lists of things for which panels had been appointed. Sir, here I think we can take the Government of India to task in a firmer manner. You will remember, Sir, that the predecessor of our present Governor General changed three Honourable Members for the Food Department at a time when Bengal was suffering. I do not know why the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal came into the Governor General's Council, and if he had come, he had no business to go away at a time when we needed his experience and his great knowledge of industries most. To change horse in midstream is dangerous and I am surprised that the Governor General allowed Sir Ardeshir Dalal to go away, and what is more surprising is that Sir Ardeshir Dalal thought it fit and wise to go away at a time when we needed his expert knowledge. I do not know how long the present Honourable Member will remain as Member in charge of this Department. If he goes away, then we shall have number 3, and when No. 3 goes away, we shall have perhaps, a change in the constitution. Very valuable time will have been lost and we shall be left behind. That, Sir, may explain the conspiracy between the capitalists of India and the capitalists of England and may I add that the remover of the Excess Profits Tax in this House has joined hands to allow the Indian capitalists to import English manufactured goods by giving them more money. The whole thing, as I look at it, and if I am wrong I should like to be corrected, is to let India remain where it is. These people can afford to die like flies. Let us see how much of our heavy goods and manufactured things can be sold, and let them buy what they can. We are here to manipulate Indian finances, and we shall see to it that we do not suffer.

Another thing of which he read in the list was cottage industries. We need not follow the lines of progress in post-war period as they have laid them down in America or Great Britain. Our conditions are different, and we have got

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

to evolve a system of industries large or small or medium and to arrange things in such a way that we get the utmost advantage out of it. You will agree with me, Sir, that the English mind cannot go beyond a few miles of the sea coast, and the result is, Bombay and Ahmedabad on the one side, and Calcutta and the territory round about it are supposed to be the only industrialised areas. Agriculturists who cannot find enough to eat have to be given industries and in the map of distribution of industries they have left out large tracts and millions of people untouched by the industrial regeneration which they are thinking of. That, Sir, is not going to bring any good to the country. Industries have to be distributed in such a way that every section of the people and every area, wherever raw products are available, gets equal benefit.

Sir, I shall have finished in a minute more. The Honourable the Home Member said he had nothing to do with Baluchistan, if I understood him aright. He restricted his remarks to Delhi, Cōorg and Ajmer-Merwara. But, Sir similar difficulties arose in connection with the Frontier Province, non-regulation areas as they were called, previously. I do not see why the people in Baluchistan should be relegated to the uncivilised sections of India. They are as educated, they are economically as good as any other sections of India. The Government of India should now consider whether Baluchistan should be raised to the status, say of Sind or the Frontier Province. Why should the people there suffer? He said to us that this matter may be taken up by the Constitution-Making Body. Yes, I admit that, but I am not one of those hopeful ones who think that by the pressing of an electric button by Lord Pethwick Lawrence or his two companions we are going to become an independent republic or a dominion overnight. A friend of mine was saying that the liquidation of commercial houses takes four and five years and in one case it took almost forty years; the liquidation of the British Empire in India may take longer. We may be able to control the destinies of some of the Departments here but whoever comes and sits there by May or June next or whoever sits there in May or June 1947, to him my request is that plans should be started immediately, and where injustices prevail they should be removed, whether by the present Government or those who succeed it. And therefore in spite of the jumble that I find in this motion I feel that there is room for considerable improvement even before we come into our own and Lord Pethwick Lawrence like a fairy godmother waves his wand and the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition becomes the Honourable Leader of the House.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, within the short space of a few minutes allowed to me it is quite impossible to deal with all the grounds on which this censure motion is based, and I shall not attempt to do so. I shall only take up the first ground and that is the irresponsibility of the Executive Council, their inefficiency and corruption in their administration. Sir, it is unnecessary to dilate at length on the inefficiency of the Executive Council or the corruption in their administration. What we find all over the country today—and we have been finding almost the same state of affairs since the year 1942—are scarcity of cloth, scarcity of food, deprivation of the ordinary necessities of life, inflation to an extent almost undreamt of, accumulation of sterling balances still further accumulating day after day, want of a proper planning and development policy, and in consequence of all these, untold misery throughout the length and breadth of the land; all these are sufficient to convict the Executive Council of inefficiency and their administration of corruption. The Honourable the Home Member earlier this afternoon practically admitted that there was corruption in the administration. He could not very well deny it, because the whole administration reeks of it; but he put forward some sort of excuse or justification by laying the responsibility on the communities inhabiting this country of ours.

Sir, the Honourable the Home Member has tossed the ball across the net to this side of the House, and I am confident I shall be able to return it with redoubled vigour. In reply to him I shall say, that the communities inhabiting this vast country of ours have a higher sense of honour, a better standard of honesty and rectitude, a nobler standard of public and private morality than what has been imported into this country by members of the ruling race.

I shall now come to the question of the irresponsibility of the Executive Council. I do not mean, and this side of the House does not mean, irresponsibility in the sense in which it was used by my Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi. In using the word 'irresponsibility' we were not thinking of legal or constitutional irresponsibility; we were thinking of the irresponsibility of the Executive Council which has brought into being an even more irresponsible police *raj* in this country. We were thinking of the irresponsible police *raj* in this country which has established itself under the patronage and with the blessings of the Executive Council of the Government of India,—established itself by terror and is maintaining itself by terror. You walk along the highways and you find the myrmidons of the police and C. I. D. round the corner or following your footsteps; you sit in the privacy of your home and you find their eyes peeping through keyholes or through doors and windows. You sit confined in jails and detention camps and you find them eavesdropping in order to catch every word that is falling from your lips or from the lips of your companions. And it is this irresponsible police *raj* which exists and flourishes under the patronage of Honourable Members opposite which has set up in many places—more numerous than I can mention—dark dungeons and torture chambers, the worst of which are in the Delhi and Lahore forts, dark dungeons and torture chambers where men like Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, Jai Prakash Narain, Ram Manohar Lohia, Lala Shankar Lal of Delhi, Dwijendra Nath Bose, Sisir Kumar Bose, Satya Ranjan Bakshi, Niranjan Singh Talib and hundreds of others were subjected to third degree methods day after day, week after week, month after month. That is what we mean when we use the words 'irresponsibility of the Executive Council'.

Sir, I have heard many Members sitting on Benches opposite talk during the last few weeks of the coming change of power. I am disposed at the moment to treat all that as loose, irresponsible talk. While they talk of the coming change of power, the recruitment to the I.C.S. and the I.P.S. goes on. Verily, verily, it is a coming change of power of a kind unknown in the history of any other country.

Now, Sir, this irresponsible police *raj* which, I repeat, has been flourishing under the patronage of Members on the Benches opposite,—has been spreading its tentacles over every Department of the administration. And to illustrate what I mean, I shall read to the House a recent letter written by one Major-General B. P. T. O'Brien, who signs himself as Director of Intelligence. The terms of the letter will satisfy you and the House that, whether it is the Naval Services, or the Army Services, or the Air Services or the Civil Services, the irresponsible and the irrepressible Police is there and must be there. This is what Major-General O'Brien says in a letter, the date of which is, I believe, the 13th of February 1946, if my copy is correct. Says the Gallant Major-General:

"It has been decided to introduce a common policy regarding verification and (when necessary) disciplinary procedure in the case of service personnel in the Naval, Army and Air Services in the India Command and for civilian employment therein, on whom the Police report that they have previously participated in subversive or anti-Government activities.

"An Indian known to have taken part in subversive or illegal anti-Government activities will normally be recommended for rejection provided that in the interval he has not given positive evidence of change of attitude. . . ."

[Shri Sarat Chandra Bose]

That means, evidence of a slave mentality. Now comes the Neo-Mosaic Law, if I may so describe it:

"If a report indicates that there is nothing known against the applicant himself, but he is closely related or connected with persons who have taken part in subversive or anti-Government activities, the case will be examined on merits. A recommendation for rejection would normally be made if there is reason to believe that the applicant has himself become tainted with the views of his relatives or close friends."

So the Police is omniscient; the Police is omnipresent; and the Police reports are sacrosanct. Now comes the next paragraph:

"Should an adverse report on a sailor or airman, (which terms include officers) be received after enlistment owing to faulty Police verification or other causes, the case will be judged on its merits. If his services are satisfactory, he is to be placed under special observation in accordance with the Security instructions in force in the Service concerned."

That, I hope satisfies the House that, apart from the normal rules of the Services, there are some Security instructions in force which are to be followed or, shall I say to be operated upon by the Police section of it. The paragraph proceeds:

"Should the man, while under observation, be found to be attempting to convert his comrades, form a cell or to be otherwise attempting activity to assist his party, disciplinary action is to be taken in the normal way and full details reported to the Security Staff of the man's Service immediately."

Now comes the fifth paragraph:

"When a person in Service employed is dismissed as the result of an adverse Police report or of subsequent political activities" not because of incompetency or inefficiency, or irresponsibility for the matter of that, but because of an adverse police report—

"or of subsequent political activities, the following are to be informed by the man's Commanding Officer, as early as possible and at the latest on the day that the man is discharged or dismissed:

- (i) The Superintendent of Police of the individual's home district.
- (ii) The Superintendent of Police in whose district the individual's unit is located.
- (iii) In the case of Naval and Air Force personnel the Security Staffs at N. H. Q. and A. H. Q. respectively; in the case of Army personnel, H. Q. Command through such channels as they may direct. This conforms with the normal procedure on discharge of undesirables already laid down in G. H. Q. letter to H. Qs. Commands Number so and so dated so and so."

Sir, I started by saying that this irresponsible and irrepressible Police *raj* is one of the gifts to this country by Members of the Executive Council who sit opposite. That is not all. We have been told recently many a time by some Members on the Treasury Benches and also by one or two of their Secretaries sitting behind them that everything is being done for the release of I.N.A. officers and men and for the repatriation of I.N.A. officers and men, or I.N.A. civilian personnel in Burma. May I read to the House two letters in this connection copies of which have reached my hands? They are quite recent too: one is dated the 5th of February 1946, and the other is dated 12th February 1946. They will show that the irresponsibility of Members opposite and of their statements in this House have no limits whatever. The letter of the 5th of February 1946, which purports to be written by a gentleman who signs himself as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, and is written from Calcutta on the 5th of February last to the Chief of the General Staff, G.H.Q., New Delhi, is as follows:

"Subject:—I.N.A.—Lieut.-Col. A. C. Chatterjee, I.M.S.,

This H. Q. is concerned at the probable return to Bengal in the near future of Lt.-Col. A. C. Chatterjee, I.M.S. This officer had very considerable influence in this province, and apart from his official status as Director of Public Health in Bengal before the war and his personal contacts with leaders of political strife, was appointed by Subhas Bose as the Governor-Designate of the Liberated Countries. Had Bengal been invaded and captured, he would have been Governor of Bengal. This alone would give him popular support second only to Subhas Chandra himself.

2. His return at this juncture would revive the excitement and enthusiasm in the I.N.A., which at present is showing a tendency to switch to other forms of political propaganda such as cloth shortage, famine, release of political prisoners and detenus and even defence of the Maharaja of Rewa.

3. It is understood that the Intelligence Branch (C.I.D.) Bengal.”—
of course, Intelligence Branches are supposed to have a monopoly of all intelligence—

“It is understood that the Intelligence Branch (C.I.D.) Bengal may petition the Government of Bengal to pass orders for the detention under Regulation III of Lt.-Col. Chatterjee on his release.”

As the House is aware, Regulation III of 1918 has come in handy in the past and will also come in handy in the future inspite of the statements and utterances of Members opposite. They will say one thing here, and, of course, their Police and C.I.D., who thrive under their patronage, will do quite a different thing elsewhere.

“As it is not known what the reaction of the Government of Bengal will be to such a request the holding of this officer for two, or three months in military custody would tide over a difficult period, at the end of which it is hoped, the popularity of the I. N. A. will have been further reduced.”

The fourth paragraph reads:

“It is suggested therefore that Lt.-Col. Chatterjee should be kept in military custody outside India or failing that in custody in India outside this Command for as long as possible and at any rate till at least one month after the provincial elections in Bengal. In Bengal these are being held at the end of March.”

What becomes of the statement which has been made time and again on the floor of this House by Members opposite that in the case of those officers against whom no charge of atrocity or brutality is made or can be made, steps are being taken for their early release? This letter shows, Sir, quite clearly that the ground put forward is not that of fighting the British in another place, but because he is considered to be popular in this country and therefore Regulation III of 1818 must be applied to him.

Now, Sir, the last letter which I desire to place before the House is dated the 12th February, 1946. It is addressed by a gentleman who signs for Chief of the General Staff, from General Headquarters, India, New Delhi, to Headquarters, Allied Land Forces, SEA:

“Subject :—Screening of Indian Immigrants.

2. The Government of India's views on the principles governing the repatriation of Indian civilians were communicated to H.Q. SACSEA, last October. You have presumably received instructions accordingly from the latter.

3. Briefly, these views are that individuals reasonably suspected or confirmed to have collaborated with the enemy during the occupation would be better outside India for the present and should be given no official assistance to return; but their eventual return under their own arrangements will not be resisted except in the case of a few individuals.”

Sir, we had responsible statements made on the floor of the House not very long ago that persons, against whom the only charge was of having collaborated with the enemy, would find no difficulty in obtaining their release within a short time. But this solemn document says that individuals reasonably suspected or confirmed to have collaborated with the enemy during the occupation would be better outside India.

“The latter's names are contained.”

that is, the names of the few individuals whose return must be resisted by the Government of India.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India: Nominated Official): Whom is this letter from?

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: From Chief of the General Staff, General Headquarters, India, General Staff Branch, New Delhi, dated the 12th February 1946.

"The latter's names are contained in a 'short list' which is about to be sent to SACSEA by the Government of India. . . ."

I suppose that means Members opposite:

"in the Home Department with the request that their return should be impeded until further notice on grounds of internal security in India."

Not that their repatriation and release was to be accelerated but their repatriation was to be impeded under the instructions of the Home Department of the Government of India. (*Honourable Members on Congress Benches: "Shame, shame"!*)

"Non-suspects may return at any time, and there is no objection to their being repatriated under Government auspices.

4. Prior warning of the arrival of suspects, with all available information about their cases should be sent to the Provincial Governments concerned in India and to the Central Government.

5. It is presumed that the problem of Indian civilians wishing to return to India is being handled in accordance with these principles. . . .—

and not in accordance with the principles laid down so honourably either by the Honourable the Home Member or by the War Secretary—

". . . . and if so this answers para. 6(a) of No. 4 F. I. U.'s letter. Presumably, India will be informed of all persons on the 'short list' to whom facilities to retain to India are refused. . . ."

(At this stage Mr. P. Mason made attempts to interrupt).

I am not giving way as my time will be up.

"Presumably, India will be informed of all persons on the 'short list' to whom facilities to return to India are refused. Please note that all information and references on the subject of Indian civilian repatriation should be addressed to the Government of India in the Home Department. . . .—

and Sir, the words that follow are important:

"(and also, if considered, desirable, to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Home Department, Government of India), and *not* to G.H.Q."

That, I believe, is the officer who is responsible for the treatment of Government of India prisoners in the dark dungeons and torture cells in the Delhi Fort and in the Lahore Fort.

My time is almost up and I shall not allow myself to detain the House unnecessarily. I have placed before the House three documents which convict the Government, which is represented in this House by Members of the Executive Council, of irresponsibility—I shall not, Sir, use the word dishonesty. I believe I have satisfied the House that the record of Members opposite is dark. It cannot be darker. In those circumstances I submit, on behalf of the Opposition, that I am right in saying that we do not owe Members of the Executive Council one farthing out of our revenues. We do not owe them our confidence. I am not sure that we owe them even the common courtesies of life.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (*Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan*): I move that the question be now put.

Mr. P. Mason: May I ask Sir, when am I supposed to have said anything on the subject of repatriation of civilians from Malaya with which he has charged me?

Mr. President: I think when he said the War Secretary he meant the Commonwealth Relations Secretary.

Diwan Chaman Lall (*West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan*): The army Secretary mentioned about the release of members of the I.N.A.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That the question be now put”

subject of course to any remarks that the Leader of the House may wish to make.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The Leader of the House must remember that the time will be up.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That the question be now put.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): If he so wishes is he not entitled to talk the motion cut?

Mr. President: I think he is entitled to do so but I will point out a technical difficulty. The motion is by the Honourable the Finance Member and the only person who has the right of reply will be the Finance Member.

Some Honourable Members (on Treasury Benches): It is a cut motion.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Any Member in possession of the House is entitled to take his full fifteen minutes.

Mr. President: The only point is when there is a closure then the right of reply from the Member, if he has any, should be allowed. That is how I understand the rule. But as time is short, I will not argue or discuss the matter further. I will keep it open. But I believe that as the original motion, that is the demand, is by the Honourable the Finance Member, and a cut motion is treated as an amendment to that, the only Member who has a right of reply will technically be, to my mind, the Honourable the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Then I will have to answer for every Department of Government.

Mr. President: Therefore the House will take into consideration another factor. Three Members of Government were given time, and the name of the fourth Member never came to me. Had it come to me earlier, I would have given him time. But under the circumstances, it would be unfair to the Party which wants that the question be put that further time should be given.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, I understood that your ruling at the beginning of the debate was that the Honourable the Mover of the motion should have 20 minutes, other Members 15 minutes and that the final and principal speaker of the Government should have 20 minutes or more. But it may help matters if I say that I have no desire to thwart my friends opposite of a vote and that I do not propose
4. P. M. to take more than a few minutes of the time.

In the earlier part of this debate I mentally congratulated Government, and indeed the House, on the temperate nature of the debate and I almost felt that the House was beginning at last to appreciate the Treasury Benches, if only for the fact that instead of being a total cut it was only a cut this year of Rs. 100.

Sir, we have been accused throughout the debate, not with any conviction I think, of various things—of incompetence, of inefficiency, of imbecility and of having a corrupt administration. Sir, we are well used to debating terms of that nature from the Benches opposite but I should like to take this opportunity of referring to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, who finished up his remarks by drawing attention to the record of the Government. Sir, I maintain that over the most critical years that India has ever faced the record of the Government is something to be proud of

Prof. N. G. Ranga: A very shameful thing.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: . . . and I am glad to have this opportunity, the last opportunity I shall have on a debate of this sort in this House, to pay tribute to my colleagues and particularly to my Indian colleagues on the front Bench. My friend opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, has accused this Government of creating a scarcity of cloth and of food. If he keeps his eyes open the Honourable Member would have known that the scarcity of cloth, of food and all such things is a worldwide scarcity, for which this Government can be no more blamed than the Government of any other country. He accuses this Government of accumulating sterling balances, but he ought to give credit to this Government for accumulating the balances, when most other governments have accumulated deficits. I should like to ask my friends Opposite what is the record of this Government and how does it compare with the record of others? Who won the war? Was it the Congress or the Treasury Benches?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You lost the war.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Who has carried the burden?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We carried the burden.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Who has carried the burden all throughout these most difficult years. (Interruptions). The Honourable Members opposite, Sir, are petulant . . . I had better not say more. I maintain, Sir, that this Government during the last four or five years have carried the burden of the most difficult times that India has ever faced. This Government, my Honourable Indian colleagues especially, have kept their courage throughout the darkest days and in 1942, and thereabouts they were extremely dark, with the Japanese threatening the country on one side and the Germans from the other. They stood firm and did the country well at a time when other people were stabbing the soldiers in the back and were prepared that the Hindustan of the future should be a Japanistan.

Then, Sir, it is this Government and its predecessors, and particularly my Indian colleagues who have made self-government possible, the self-government of India and but for what they have done and stood up to in the last few years, the future that we are all looking forward to would not have been possible.

It has been said, at times very frequently, that this Government lacks support. Throughout the war the men have come forward in all the hundreds of thousands that have been necessary to win this war. The simple soldiers have come from their villages trusting in the Government and its cause. The simple industrialist or the merchant has put up the funds necessary to win the war and has rushed forward to take the contracts which have been offered. This Government has throughout the war carried the confidence of the country sufficiently to enable it to take a prominent part in defeating the two most powerful enemies that have ever faced this world.

In the dark days I have been a tremendous admirer of my colleagues' stout heartedness. They have had to face criticism and insults of every kind from their own people and I know from personal experience how difficult it is to stand up against one's own people, when one believes a thing to be for the good of the country. But I am glad to take this opportunity to say that I consider that my colleagues on the front Benches—not only those who are here now but also some of those who have fallen by the wayside during the course of the war—have shown a very great degree of moral courage in the face not only of the enemy but also of criticism from parties in this country. At the present moment the Government is in a particularly difficult position trying to maintain an active administration, at a time when we are also doing our best to prepare the ground for handing over to another administration and I have never admired my colleagues more than in the difficult times which they are facing

now. The Leader of the House, whose position I am occupying temporarily, is abroad, where he is building up an international reputation not only for himself but also for the country from which he has gone. He has placed India on the map, high in the comity of nations, and has given whosoever succeeds him an opportunity to follow in his shoes. All my colleagues here are laying the foundations of a government by others who will step into their shoes—a government which (if we are to believe my friends opposite) will be free from *zoolum*, free from incompetence, free from inefficiency and where, I gather, there will be no police!

An Honourable Member: What about corruption?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, free from corruption too. No Government that has been in power as long as this Government has, exactly expects appreciation but

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We expect some courtesy.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As my Honourable colleague suggests, we do expect some courtesy. We can take courage. The Right Honourable Winston Churchill saw the country, the Commonwealth and India through the war and saved it for civilisation and democracy. This front Bench has done its smaller share in seeing this country through the war and making it possible for self-government or independence to come to this country. But as, my Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi said, if I understood him right, this is not the time to judge the record of the present Government; we should look at it in the future in a cooler light. I maintain that when the record of this Government is looked at in a cooler light in the light of history, it will be recorded—I am not speaking for myself and my British colleagues but of my Indian friends—that they served their country well in her hour of danger. No man can wish for a verdict better than that. I am confident that that will be the verdict and I would remind my Honourable friends opposite that they have yet to earn anything of that nature.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: There are only four minutes left. I wonder if the Congress Party cares to move their next cut motion. The demand has been moved already. Mr. Jaffer.

Paucity of Muslims in Officers and Ministerial Grades of Departments, Non-appointment of Muslims in Key Posts and Retrenchment of Muslims where they are less than 25 per cent.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

We are well aware of the fact that we have the G.R. of 1934, of the Home Department, fixing 25 per cent. quota as the minimum share of the Muslims in the central services. The idea of reservation was that the minimum percentage should be reserved for under-represented minority communities. Over and above this reservation, they were allowed to compete for non-reserved vacancies. But the actual position is that Muslims have not even got their minimum share in the central services in this quota. The other day, the Home Member replying to my question admitted on the floor of the House that the quota of representation of Muslims in the central services was 20.6 per cent. which is about 5 per cent. less than that fixed by the G.R.

[Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer.]

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

In spite of the fact that we are below the required quota of 25 per cent. in the matter of retrenchment Muslims are being retrenched where retrenchment is not called for. I maintain and I insist that the quota of Muslims wherever they are short of the required percentage of 25 per cent, should be maintained and Muslims who have been employed during the course of this war whether in temporary or permanent appointments should not be retrenched, unless and until their quota of 25 per cent is reached. The causes of this trouble are very obvious. All the key posts in various Departments are held by non-Muslims, with the result that Muslims do not get fair play and justice. I should like to ask the Honourable the Home Member and the Honourable Indian Members to whom the Leader of the House has just paid a tribute, to tell us how many Muslims today are occupying posts of Secretaries to the Government of India. I would also like to know how many of them are additional Secretaries. I am sure the Honourable the Home Member will enlighten us on that subject in his reply. Can it also be denied that Muslims of equal standing and capacity to those who are holding these posts are not available? I should also like to know what is the proportion of Muslim Joint Secretaries to others. As far as I know there is only one Muslim as Joint Secretary in the Government of India at present.

Let me now take the lower rungs of service. What is the proportion of Muslim Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents in the Central Government services? I hope I shall get a reply on this point also. I suggest and I feel very strongly that it is very necessary that a detailed statement showing the representation of various communities in various grades of service in each Department should be supplied to Members of this House at the beginning of every budget session, as is done in some of the Provinces in India. We shall then watch the progress or deterioration of representation of Muslims and the minorities in the Central Services. I should also like that clear instructions should be issued that in filling vacancies reserved for war service candidates and in new posts that are being created as a result of expansion, the deficiencies in Muslim representation should be made up. My contention is that in every grade of Government service Muslims must get their due representation in the filling up of reserved vacancies and in new posts the deficiencies in the past must be made up by giving them higher representation till such time as they have got their due share in all grades of the Central Services. I have some suggestions to make.

I suggest that in each Department of the Government of India an officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary should be made personally responsible to ensure that each community gets its due share in all grades of posts, as laid down in the G.R. of 1934. I also suggest that one senior Muslim I.C.S. officer should be appointed in the Home Department to collect information from various Departments with a view to ensuring that Government orders regarding communal representation are carried out faithfully both in letter and in spirit. The other day I had a question tabled asking the Honourable the Home Member, in which I suggested that a Muslim officer should be appointed to look into the working of this G.R. in the Government of India. I am very sorry to say that the Home Member in his reply expressed his regret in not accepting my proposal.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: You said 'no'.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I said it was under my consideration.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I stand corrected. I am glad to see that the matter was then under consideration. I hope today the Honourable the Home Member in his reply will tell us that he has acceded to our wishes and that he will see his way to appoint a Muslim officer to see whether the G.R. of 1934 was properly worked or not.

I should like to deal now briefly with the various Departments of the Government of India where we have some complaints to make. First, I should like to deal with the Department of Commonwealth Relations, in charge of which is Dr. Khare. I see my Honourable friend Mr. Banerjee smiling. The other day I had a question on this issue and my Honourable friend Mr. Banerjee informed us that the present Honourable Member in charge, Dr. Khare, during his period of office had appointed seven Indians as Agents-General overseas. We know very well that today we have not got one Muslim as an Agent-General. In supplementary questions I asked how many were appointed by the Honourable Dr. Khare himself during the time he has been member, and the reply was seven; the further reply was that not one was a Muslim. May I ask why no Muslim was appointed to such an appointment? Did the Honourable Member not find any suitable Muslim to go overseas and occupy a diplomatic position of this kind? In filling up important foreign posts which have a direct bearing on the prestige of India in foreign countries, Dr. Khare has filled all the appointments by Hindus, nay by his personal friends. I hope that the broadminded and patriotic Hindus, my friends on the right, will join us in censuring this unpatriotic act of nepotism committed by the Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department. Surely he cannot claim that his province of C.P. alone has the monopoly of intellect and qualities of diplomacy which are essential qualifications for these posts. I want to ask the Members of the Executive Council who belong to the minority communities—I do not say that they do represent the minorities in this House—what they did, at any time, to protect the minority interests and whether they did anything to stop the highhanded and unpatriotic action of their colleague. It was with this very idea that I put a question the other day whether the Muslim Members protested against these appointments and my Honourable friend very conveniently evaded the issue by saying that the appointments were made by the Governor-General in Council. Even today I want to know whether the Muslim Members of the Council protested to Dr. Khare when he was going ahead with his full programme of having Hindus for all these appointments.

Now, I take the Commerce Department. We want our proper share in appointments of Trade Commissioners overseas. At the moment I do know that we have some Muslims who have been sent as Trade Commissioners to Muslim countries. Not as a matter of favour, I say, because I do know that those Muslim countries would never have cared to have any non-Muslim in those countries. My contention is that Muslims should be sent to those countries in Europe and America where trade is in full swing. Some petty jobs in Afghanistan and other places are no doubt given to Muslims but I want that they should be sent to America and European countries. Secondly, I want that the proper share of Muslims should be given in trade conferences that are taking place from time to time and that will soon follow and also in the trade delegations which are being sent by the Commerce Department. I know that Sir Azizul Huque as Commerce Member is doing his best but whatever has been done is not enough and a lot remains yet to be done and I hope he will do the needful in that Department.

Now, I come to the Disposals Department. We are aware that this department is going to be a very important Department and will play an important part in the post-war period. It is a matter of great regret that of the four

[Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer]

appointments of Regional Commissioners that have been made by Government, not one Muslim occupies a place. I hope that Government will reconsider the decision and see that at least we have our share in these appointments as well. In the posts of Director General, Deputy Directors General and Directors, I am sorry to say that we do not find any Muslim. There may be one or two, I am not sure but I hope that the Honourable Member in charge will enlighten us on that issue.

Now, I come to the Planning and Development Department. The key posts in this Department have all gone to Non-Muslims and the representation of Muslims is far below the required quota. The result is that Muslim interests are overlooked. In the new planning schemes of Government, Muslims are not getting their due share. In the matter of import of machinery and in the matter of the new industrial concerns that are being set up, the textile mills and the cement factories, I am sorry to say that the claims of Muslims have been overlooked. I know that Muslims are refused permit for starting cement factories. There have been applications from Muslim industrialists . . .

An Honourable Member: The applications of Muslims were turned down.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: They were not even looked at.

I now come to the Labour Department. Muslims in this Department and particularly in the Central P.W.D. are much below the 25 per cent. quota fixed by Government. The just claims of Muslims have been overlooked and instead non-Muslims have been appointed. My Honourable friend who will follow me will deal with this question at length and I maintain that the Central P.W.D. should be separated from the Labour Department and the portfolio should be given to another member. Leaving aside the question of Muslims in this Department who are below the quota laid down, the question greatly affects Muslim trade. In one instance I know of the Lodhi Road Colony, out of 5½ crores worth contract, only six lakhs worth of contracts were given to Muslims. I am open to correction. I hope my Honourable friend will tell us what the true facts are if I am wrong. The trouble is that we have not got Muslims in most of the engineering posts and I maintain that not only in service but also in the contracts of the P.W.D. Muslims must get their due share.

Now, I come to the Supply Department. During the six years of existence of this department, up to the end of December 1945, about a dozen men have been appointed as Directors General, about three dozen men have been appointed as Deputy Directors General or Additional Directors General and hardly any Muslim worth his name is there. Similarly about a couple of hundred men have been appointed to the posts of Directors but we find very few are Muslims and we have not got our share. When we ask for figures as to how many are Muslims in particular departments, we are told that the quota of 25 per cent. is there but we are not told as to how many of them are chaprasis and chaukidars and in this, their figure is also included. We must have our share not only of the lower appointments but also of the top appointments. You must also consider the salaries drawn. If there are 12 jobs of one thousand rupees each, 3 of them must go to Muslims. Not that low paid jobs should go to Muslims and the higher paid posts to non-Muslims. Sir Homi Mody and Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar had issued orders to this effect and after that some improvement was made but I am sorry to say that when the Department was reorganised in the early part of this year, the position has reversed and it is going from bad to worse.

Now, I come to the Education Department. The Education Department is very much expanding and it is a matter of great regret that the claims of the Aligarh Muslim University which is directly under the Government of India are being overlooked and no attention has been paid to this University. Then there is Ajmer-Merwara which is a very important Muslim province on

account of the shrines but attempts are being made not to have any Muslim officers in the officers' grade of the Education Department.

It has been brought to my notice by my Honourable friend Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, that the Muslims working in the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore and in the Ordnance Factories at Khamari and Katni are very shabbily treated. The quota before the war was much below 25 per cent. Today it is 6.7 per cent. and in the recent retrenchment they are the worst sufferers. Those who brought the great war to a successful termination are today wandering in the streets uncared of. The welfare officer who was very popular amongst all sections of the people was transferred to Calcutta in spite of requests from the people. Similarly is the case in the Central Ordnance Depot at Cawnpore and Delhi. I have figures in my possession which clearly show that the number of Muslims is very meagre. I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to this glaring instance.

I have dealt with the question of retrenchment. I feel very strongly and my Party feels very strongly on this issue, that the retrenchment that is going to take place in the Supply Department particularly, should be in a way that the quota of Muslims 25 per cent. is maintained. Of those who are employed in a temporary measure in the course of this war, most of the non-Muslims have been retained for no rhyme or reason. As our quota is already low, no retrenchment axe should be applied to the Muslims who were appointed as a temporary measure.

Sir, now I would like to deal with the condition of the Muslim staff in the Civil and Personal Inspectorate and General Stores Laboratory, Cawnpore, under the parent organisation of Controller General of Inspection, M.G.O. Branch, General Headquarters, India, where the position is pitiable. I have got figures from which I can show that they form a very negligible ratio and I trust that the Member in charge will look into this.

Then, I have something to say in regard to the question of the Central Excise Administration in the Central Excise Directorate, Allahabad. There the Muslims are being oppressed and their quota is much lower than fixed. Under some excuse or other, Muslims are being asked to get out and those who were even junior to them have been retained. I submit that here is a case which requires careful consideration and I hope the matter will be looked into.

With these words I move this cut motion and I hope I shall be supported, in view of our difficulties and in view of the way in which we have been treated, by my Honourable friends to my right.

Mr. Deputy President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri Sri Prakasa: Mr. Deputy President, constituted as I am, I must confess that I feel very unhappy whenever discussions of a communal or racial character take place in this House or anywhere outside. Still, I feel that I should add my voice to the voice of my Honourable friend who had just spoken and express my heart-felt sympathy with the point of view that my Honourable friend has taken. I feel that I am perhaps one of the few persons who can speak on a question like this without being misunderstood, and, therefore, I have taken my courage in my both hands to stand up and speak out my mind.

I have never made any calculation about the ratio of services held by my own community. I do not exactly know what my community is, but I know that the large conglomeration of peoples called Hindus, are divided into about 4,000 castes and each is more or less confined to itself in matters of food and marriage. If I gave the name of my particular community, perhaps most Members will say they never heard about it. So, I think it had better remain unnamed; but I shall be glad of the day when no member of that community gets any service in this Government. I am one

[Shri Sri Prakasa.]

of those who think that no countrymen of ours should want to serve this Government. I always feel sorry when a particular countryman of mine wants to serve this Government; for Sir, we want to be rulers and not servants in our own country. We want to see the colour of the ruler and not the colour of the servants.

I am looking forward to the day when we shall have a democratic government, a government consisting of persons who enjoy the confidence of the electorate in general, and I also think that that democratic government, when it comes into existence, will have to seek the services of men from many countries outside India. We will have to man our services with men from many lands in order that we may improve our country in the various facets of its existence. But as things now stand, I feel that the great Muslim people should have a proportionate share in the administration of the land from top to bottom, and if they have any grievance, it should be redressed. I do not like a man with a grievance. Personally, I have no grievance against anyone. So, whenever I meet a man with a grievance, I feel that I should do my best to redress that grievance and make him as happy as myself. The Muslim people, so far as I can judge from the speeches they make in the House and from the questions they put to the Government, suffer from many disabilities. In any case, they labour under many disadvantages and they have a great grievance regarding their proportion in the services. Why not see that that grievance is removed and that what they want is given to them? I do not think any harm will be done to anyone if what they want is acceded to them.

Sir, since I heard my Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi say the other day that most of the difficulties of the country will be solved if the services are properly divided among the various peoples that live in this country, I have from that they made up my mind that we must do all that we can in order that all the difficulties that we are faced with should be met and all the grievances removed. I am sure Mr. Siddiqi knew the mind of the people he represents in the country. And when he openly said in the House what no other person, I think, had said before, that the chief trouble was the improper distribution of the services among the various communities of the land, I think it is time that we sat down round a table and distributed the services in such a manner that there should be peace and plenty in the country. When I have heard that from my Honourable friend and when I have heard it mentioned in so many speeches and in so many questions in the House, I think it is time that we faced that problem boldly and squarely. And if our Muslim friends want a certain portion of the services, the same should be granted to them.

I think their demand is very moderate. Judging from the words in the brackets, I find that they want only 25 per cent. Why not more? Give them more services. If mere services would satisfy our friends, why not give them? Where is the harm in it? I cannot see any harm in giving services. What the Government is objecting to, I believe, is not that our people should be their servants but that our people should be the masters in their own country. In fact, the Government is being carried on with the help of our people. I have always been advocating in this House just the opposite of what my other friends have been advocating. I have always advocated the Europeanisation of all the services from top to bottom because, I think, it is up to the English people who rule this country to bring all their servants from their own country, which will enable us to see in our country that even Englishmen can be sweepers, scavengers, boot-polishers, etc. We, in India, have an idea that nobody does these menial services in other countries and that Indians go abroad to do such services there also. Why should they have our service? Why should they get us to do anything for them? Why cannot they get their own people to do their work?

So long as the Government of India is British, so long the British people themselves should be in all the services. When we get Swaraj, we may have our own people in all the services; but as long as the services are in the hands of the British, all their servants should be British. What is the difference, I ask in all seriousness, between the English people and my own countrymen who sit on the other side of the House except that above their collars and beyond their sleeves heads and fingers come out with same pigment on the skin on some and none on others. Otherwise from neck to foot they seem alike to me. They are dressed alike. The answers they give to the questions we put and the speeches they make are also alike. Their attitude is also alike. I see no difference. I really wonder why any person wants to be a servant of this Government. The idea never struck me, I am always surprised when I find any of my countrymen wanting to serve this government; but if any of my countrymen wants to serve them, well, I have no objection, let them serve them. Why should I object to it.

While I fully sympathise with my Muslim friends and brothers in their desire for service, I should also like them to think of the danger that underlies their demand, lest they should be satisfied with service only and not demand the mastership of the country. We must not be merely satisfied with serving, we must also desire to rule. That is what I stand for, and that is what I would like the Muslims also to do. But I do not want to break any hearts. I know that in India people are divided into communities and I know that tradition also imposes on various communities the necessity for seeking service as an avenue for economic betterment. Our society itself is so constituted. There are many communities among the Hindus also who live by service, and if you deprive them of their service, they do not know what else to do. I only want that persons like myself, for instance, who have other avenues of employment—I am a sort of exploiter myself, who lives on unearned income, who is a landlord—that persons who are landlords and trader or have other means, should not want to be Government servants as well. Why should I have everything myself? Why should not other also have it? I know many Muslims in my Province, especially among the urban population who have to seek service. They have no other means of livelihood except service. I am always ashamed to see any person who has other means of livelihood going to compete with them and deprive them of their sources of income which is their only means of livelihood. This is the attitude that we should take, and we should see this problem from that angle. Those persons who have no other means of livelihood except service must not be deprived of their services, whether they are Hindus or Muslims. It does not matter what their community is. There are many communities among Hindus who live entirely by service, they should also get services. Those communities who have other means of employment need not be anxious to have services. I know most Muslims have to depend on service. We must not deprive them of this. Otherwise, we are in for trouble. After the clear and unequivocal statement made by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, regarding the solution of our difficulties, it is up to not only the Government but also us of the Congress and all parties in the Assembly and outside, to see to it that their difficulties are properly tackled; that their grievances are properly redressed and that those who deserve service are not deprived of it. Sir, I support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, a worth son of a worthy father. He has ably dealt with all the Departments. I am glad my Honourable friend to my Right has given us encouragement as regards his Party's assistance in helping us to get our share. He was telling us to ask for a formal share. We have been asking them to give us a share, but it is my friend's Party that is not co-operating with us. It is a well known fact that according to the Home Department Resolution of 1934, 25 per cent. was the minimum fixed for Muslims in the

[Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman.]

appointments under Government. This minimum was interpreted as the maximum. Even this minimum was not obtained and various methods were adopted in keeping the Muslims back. It was maintained that this rule of 25 per cent. will not apply to promotions, which is not correct. This principle of percentage in promotion has been adopted in several provinces. They also say that places were not filled up, they were kept in abeyance and arrangements were made to carry on the work by giving chance to others. These arguments may have some force in the case of old Departments, but in the case of new Departments, which have recently been established, such as the Planning and Development Department, the Disposal Directorate, Information and Arts Department, there can be no justification for not recruiting 25 per cent. Muslims in all grades. Every attempt is made to avoid this order. In these four Departments, the Muslims are recruited in the lowest grade while the posts carrying higher emoluments have always been given to non-Muslims. Therefore, we press and I would ask the Honourable the Home Member to modify the Resolution that 25 per cent. should be fixed in every grade not only in recruitment but in promotions as well. Every grade is rather a vague expression, and I suggest that the salary bill of Muslims should be 25 per cent. in each Department.

The question of retrenchment is now engaging the attention of the Members of the Legislature and particularly of Muslims. We apprehend that this retrenchment will seriously affect the proportion of Muslims. We therefore propose that retrenchment should be made in a manner that 25 per cent. proportion of Muslims after retrenchment may be maintained but not only in number but in every grade. I suggest that the following methods be adopted for retrenchment. The persons who have been drawn from business commercial concerns may be sent back to their own work. The retired persons who were re-employed should also be retrenched in preference to younger men. It is remarkable that the persons who have been brought from other Departments on higher salaries in the Supply Department are now being reverted on lower salaries to their own departments, but this principle applies to Muslims only and non-Muslims were retained. Such differentiation is not desirable. Mr. Agarwal has been promoted and given charge of a Directorate. I wonder if the Honourable Member ever read the entries in his character roll. Complaints have been made repeatedly that the applications of Muslims are destroyed and competent Muslims are not called for interview by the ministerial staff of the Federal Public Service Commission under the influence of non-Muslims. This is a serious matter and the efficiency of the Federal Public Service Commission is being questioned, and it is a blot on their impartiality. I will give the names of these persons to the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission and to the Honourable the Home Member.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Names of whom?

Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman: I will give in writing. I now come to the Mining Section. No Muslim has ever been appointed or placed in charge of coal mines either as Coal Manager or as Superintendent. Out of fifteen Coal Managers and Superintendents not a single Muslim has been taken in the past or at present. In the School of Mines at Dhanbad, as pointed out by Mr. Nauman last year, the Muslims are not admitted. Out of 45 students admitted last year only one was a Muslim. The Honourable Member said that the admission was in the hands of the Governing Body. The Governing Body reply that the fixation of seats is a question which concerns the Government of India.

Then I take the case of the Central P.W.D. a circular letter has already been issued to some Members of the Assembly showing cases of corruption. My Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar may say that he has appointed a Muslim Chief Engineer but he has cut off his hands and feet. In the whole Secretariat of the Labour Department there is not a single Muslim officer. The

Central P.W.D. is expanding every day; the budget like the army budget is daily increasing. I do not know why this should be tacked on to the Labour Department; it should be separated forthwith. We have been pressing for the last two months that the post of Administrative Officer should be filled up by a Muslim according to our convention and a Muslim should be appointed to the vacant post of Superintending Engineer. But my Honourable friend the Honourable Member has been keeping one post vacant and asking the Chief Engineer to carry on, with a view that this appointment may be made after the adjournment of the Assembly. The number of officers is very small and the few Muslim officers here do not find their life worth living on account of the manner in which their work is cornered.

When we come to the lower officers, not a single Executive Engineer has been appointed. It is remarkable, and I would point out to the Honourable Member that he raised subordinates belonging to the scheduled caste to the post of Executive Engineers and ignored the claims of the Muslims. It has been pointed out that in the administrative side after the transfer of the Administrative Officer there is not a single Muslim in the administrative side as well. I warn the Honourable Member that there exists grave discontent among Muslim officers in the Central P.W.D., among the Muslim Members of the Legislature and among Muslims in general except in the Labour Department where there is no Muslim and this question of discontent does not arise.

The other day Sir Gurnath Bewoor assured the House that the personnel of the Civil Aviation Department is being Indianised. In this connection I may point out that the position of the Muslims is very deplorable. Out of a total strength of 66 officers only two are Muslims and they are Assistant Aerodrome Officers carrying a salary of Rs. 300 per month. Since the opening of the Civil Aviation Department in India no Muslim Administrative Officer has ever been appointed. As for the air services Muslims have no share whatsoever. Sir Frederick Tymms has a record in his character roll that he never gave any scholarship to a Muslim. The Honourable Member should give an assurance that the deficiency in the officers' cadre as well as in the ministerial establishment of Muslims in the Civil Aviation Directorate will be made up in the post-war schemes from the personnel shortly to be demobilised from the army. It is understood that a large number of Muslim Ground Engineers and pilots who have got enough technical knowledge and experience are or will be available for employment as aircraft inspectors and aerodrome officers.

As regards the Commonwealth Relations Department, the Honourable Member always believes in the old proverb that charity should begin at home; Mahrattas are the only Indians who are suitable for appointment in his Department. There is not only the question of Muslims but also of the depressed classes and caste Hindus.

From the very inception of the Supply Department Muslims were treated like untouchables and received step-motherly treatment. Let us come to facts. For a short period they had a Muslim Additional Secretary and after he left the Department this post was abolished, and early in 1945, a Muslim Joint Secretary was appointed and it is understood that at present they have no Muslim senior officers in headquarters and there is no intention of appointing a Muslim in key posts. The Supply Department has recently set up a new organisation, namely, disposals. Here too Muslim representation is very poor and key posts are mostly occupied by Europeans. It is understood that the Director General is shortly retiring and this post is being filled up by an I.C.S. who has no experience of stores or engineering. In the Provinces the post of Regional Deputy Commissioners who are responsible for disposal of stores are all held by non-Muslims, and it is understood that in a vacancy which is likely to occur in the near future it is proposed to appoint a non-Muslim. Early this year a new Director General of Supply was set up and since the appointment of the new officer the proportion of Muslims is going down in all ranks and Muslims are being demoted, reverted and dispensed with on some plea or other.

[Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman.]

While their non-Muslim compeers are being retained under some pretence or another. There are many instances where Muslim officers with good records of service have been reduced to lower ranks and their pay has been cut down indiscriminately, while in the case of non-Muslims there are officers whose pay has been increased in spite of drastic retrenchment. I have got the names with me but I do not like to mention them here; I shall communicate them to the Honourable Member. In spite of promises made by the previous three Supply Members and in spite of the fact that there were vacancies no Muslims have ever been appointed as Deputy Director General. It will be interesting to mention that a Muslim officer who was recently very fit for such a post has now been condemned by the new Director General. In spite of such a drastic retrenchment in the Supply Department outsiders have been imported, people who had left were recalled and pensioners are still continuing in service. Officers and other ranks were asked for by their permanent Departments but only the Muslims were spared and Hindus were retained.

I have already dealt with the question and the Supply Department is guilty. At this critical juncture when the future and life of loyal and trusted Government servants is at stake the Supply Department has handed over the administration of work in most of their organisations to non-Muslims and officers with little experience of administration. It is very unfortunate that the representatives of the Finance Department have more say in administrative matters than the regular Supply Department Secretariat, and the senior posts in the Supply Finance are occupied by non-Muslims and in many instances the uncalled for interference by Finance Department is used not on financial grounds, but on communal considerations. I specially invite the attention of the Finance Member and request him to instruct his representatives to confine themselves to their legitimate duties and do not give effect to their communal tendencies.

My woeful story is a long one and time does not permit me to give all the details. But before I finish my speech I would like to make some reference

about the Agriculture Department. In this Department there is not a single Muslim in the Main Secretariat in the officer's grade. Out of 12 Advisers, 3 first class officers, 2 Directors, 6 heads of Divisions, not a single one is Muslim. In the second-class Officers' grade out of 17, there are only 4 Muslims. In the Scientific and Technical side with a salary of Rs. 100 and upwards, out of 39 there are only 2 Muslims. In the lower Scientific Staff, out of 37 there are 9 Muslims. In the upper ministerial staff out of 10 there is only one officiating Muslim and the number is made up by lower ministerial staff where out of 35, 10 are Muslims.

In the Veterinary Section, the officers are all non-Muslims. Even in subordinate posts like Personal Assistants the Mussalmans have been replaced by non-Muslims, one of whom is not even a Matriculate. The Administration is also thoroughly bad and its officers have either left or are about to leave. I request the Government to look into the administration of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.

Nationalisation means equal advantages to all and these advantages should also be of equivalent value and if our just claims are not attended to, then my Honourable friend may tell me what is the other solution except that we demand Pakistan.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 14th March, 1946.