

14th March 1946

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

## Official Report

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### Volume III, 1946

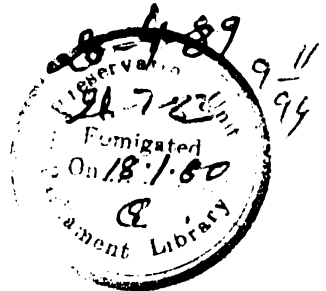
*( 28th February to 14th March, 1946 )*

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### FIRST SESSION

OF THE

## SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

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

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 14th March, 1946

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

## MEMBER SWORN:

Dr. Dharendra Mohan Sen, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### EAST INDIAN RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

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

(a) if it is a fact that the East Indian Railway Time-Table in force from January 1, 1946, includes a 15 Up and 16 Down Benares Express between Benares and Howrah, but that the same have not yet been started; and

(b) when the Railway Administration expects to start these trains, and why they have been put in the Time-Table beforehand?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes, but there is a note in the Time Table against the timings of these trains which reads: "Will be introduced from a date to be notified later".

(b) The re-introduction of these trains depends on the release of coaching stock by the military authorities, and as this is still an uncertain factor, no definite date can be indicated. These trains were included in the Time Table as at the time when it was being framed it was expected that the coaching stock position would improve sufficiently to permit of the running of these trains within a month or so of the issue of the Time Table, and their inclusion in the Time Table would be convenient for the public as it would save them the trouble of making enquiries at stations. The expectations have however not materialised.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Was it right in the opinion of the Honourable Member to give such false hopes and would it be possible for the railway administration to start these trains as early as possible?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The first question is asking for an opinion. As regards the second part of the question, we shall endeavour to start all these trains as soon as the rolling stock position improves, and as I mentioned earlier, we shall begin to get back rolling stock and coaching stock from next month.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I ask whether the Honourable Member is expecting fresh stock from Europe, or is he having it constructed in India?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Two hundred broad-gauge under-frames are being imported from Australia and 94 meter gauge under-frames. Apart from that, no other coaching stock will be imported. But we are going to put bodies on those underframes as soon as possible and also we are calling into service any under-frames that we have been able to erect together on the Indian railways for the purpose of building on them third-class bodies.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** What about engines?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The engine position is fairly satisfactory.

## PUBLICATION OF BIGGER TIME TABLES OF E. I. RAILWAY.

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

(a) if the East Indian Railway used to issue a large Time-Table priced at six annas containing much useful and necessary information, besides a smaller one priced at two annas; and

(b) if they intend to re-start the publication of these bigger Time-Tables; if so, when?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes, but the two anna edition was only introduced during the war.

(b) Yes, in April 1946 in addition to the two anna edition.

## PUBLICATION OF TIME TABLES BEFORE CHANGING THE TIMINGS

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

(a) if it is fact that new timings on the East Indian Railway came in force on January 1, 1946;

(b) if the Time-Table was not on sale till about three weeks thereafter;

(c) if avoidable inconvenience was not caused to the public; and

(d) if Government propose to impress on the Administration the extreme desirability of publishing their Time-Tables before changing the times of their trains?

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

(b) No. Copies of the Time Table were sent to the various sale depots as they came out of the press. The first supply was made on the 29th December, and by the 19th January some 13,400 copies had been placed on sale.

(c) Such inconvenience as may have been caused was unavoidable.

(d) The Railway Administration are fully alive to the necessity of issuing their Time Tables in good time, but it was clearly not in the public interest to defer introducing new services pending the production and distribution of time tables.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** I am sorry I could not catch the date the Honourable Member gave when the first publication was made of these time-tables.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The 29th December.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Would the Honourable Member give an idea as to the stations on the East Indian Railway on which these time-tables were available, because at the Benares Cantonment Station there was none available till the end of January?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I think that is quite likely. The first issue was a small one. But I have not the information at which stations they were available.

## EXAMINATION OF RAILWAY TICKETS AT THE BIDDING OF C. I. D. MEN.

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

(a) if it is a fact that Ticket Collectors and Travelling Ticket Examiner's examine particular passenger's tickets and take down notes of the numbers of these at the bidding of the C.I.D. men;

(b) if such examination takes place of higher class passengers even at times when their tickets are usually not examined;

(c) if the Railway officials are bound to obey the behests of the C.I.D. men, if so, under what law; and

(d) if the C.I.D. men have to purchase platform tickets; if not, why an exception is made in their case?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) This is not a general practice, but there have been a few occasions when the staff agreed to the requests of C. I. D. men to examine particulars of tickets held by certain passengers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) There is no uniform practice. On some Railways tickets are required to be purchased; on others free platform passes are issued on request from the District Police Authorities.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Why does the Honourable Member think that part (b) does not arise?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Out of the answer to part (a).

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** May I know, Sir, if the railway administration is compelled under any section of the law to allow its servants to examine tickets at the bidding of the C. I. D. men?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Not under any particular law: but there is close liaison between Government Departments.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Does the Honourable Member think it right that there should be this sort of liaison when the passengers whom he is taking on his railways are made to suffer like this?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I think that in the particular case that the Honourable has in mind the Staff were a little tactless.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is 'tactless' the only word the Honourable Member can use.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir, the only word!

#### MUSLIMS IN THE KARACHI PORT TRUST

**959. \*Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) the number of Muslims in the service of the Karachi Port Trust under each grade on the 1st January, 1946, (i) permanent hands, (ii) on probation, and (iii) in vacancies created due to war;

(b) the number of Hindus in the service of the Karachi Port Trust under each grade on the 1st January, 1946, (i) permanent hands, (ii) on probation, and (iii) in vacancies created due to war; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve the Muslim representation in the service of the Karachi Port Trust?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). Such information as could conveniently be collected within the time available has been obtained and a statement is laid on the table.

(c) The power to fill appointments under the Port Trust vests by law in the Port Trust Board and its Chairman except in the case of a small number of high posts. The policy followed by the Government of India in regard to direct recruitment has been more than once brought to the notice of Port Trusts with a suggestion that they should adopt a similar policy, as far as possible, in regard to their services. Government are prescribing a periodical return to watch progress in this respect but, except in the case of a few high posts, have no authority to issue binding instructions.

*Statement showing the number of Muslims and Hindus in the service of the Karachi Port Trust on the 1st January 1946.*

	Muslims.	Hindus.
(i) appointments carrying a maximum of Rs. 500 and above p. m. .	4	8
(ii) appointments carrying a maximum of less than Rs. 500 but not less than Rs. 100 p. m.	158	485
(iii) appointments carrying a maximum of less than Rs. 100 p. m. .	1304	1335

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Is it not a fact that the Karachi Port Trust Board consists of one Muslim Member only in whose hands the appointments are?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That may be so. But it does not follow that any injustice is done.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Therefore I believe that injustice is being done as there are no Muslim appointments by the Board and consequently appointments should go to the Federal Public Service Commission.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Karachi Port Trust passed the following resolution in 1942:

"At the express desire of the two Muslims Port Trustees the Board agrees that Government should be informed that, as the present Chairman is fully carrying out the policy enunciated by the Government of India in the Home Department Resolution No. 14/17-B/33, dated 4th July 1934, it is not necessary to frame rules of recruitment on a communal basis."

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** This resolution was passed when there were two Muslim members. Now there is only one.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** If the Honourable Member would look at the paper which I have placed on the table, I think he will see there is no injustice.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How long will the Government take to fully Indianise the Port Trust authorities?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That does not arise.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Now that the war is over, why is the Honourable Member still called the War Transport Member?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That question also does not arise.

#### REPORTS FROM U. N. O. DELEGATION

**960. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have been receiving periodical reports from their delegation to the U.N.O. (London session); if so, on what questions that came up for discussion at the General Body and the Security Council of the U.N.O. they have received reports;

(b) whether Government will place on the table of the House a gist of that portion of their reports which are not particularly confidential; and

(c) when the report of the delegation about their work will be published?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (a) Government have received reports from the Delegation on various subjects which came up before the General Assembly or in

Committees, such as the creation of a Capital Fund, recruitment for the Secretariat and other U. N. O. posts, the election of Judges for the International Court and so on. No reports on matters laid before the Security Council have been received from the Delegation as the proceedings have been fully reported in the Press.

(b) No Sir. There seem little purpose in doing so since Press reports have so fully covered all proceedings.

(c) The report will be completed as soon as possible and copies will be laid on the table of the House.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Has our Indian Delegation brought to the notice of the U. N. O. or the Security Council the opinion of this House as expressed in the adjournment motion on South Africa?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** That question, I submit, Sir, does not arise out of this one which relates to the receiving of periodical reports from the Indian Delegation to the U.N.O.

**Mr. President:** I think it is a consequential question.

**Mr. H. Weightman:** If I may, I should like to reply to that question in connection with the next one.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Has the head of our delegation, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, pressed for a seat for India on the Security Council?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** No, Sir.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why not, Sir?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** It was not thought opportune to do so at the time.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it wrong for India—I am not asking for an opinion—is it not the duty of the Indian delegation to press for a seat for India on the Security Council in order to enable her to pull her full weight on the Security Council as well as on the U.N.O.?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** It is arguable that India's claim to seat on the Security Council will come better at the next election, by which time we hope India will have her own Government.

**Seth Govind Das:** Were any instructions in this respect given to Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar by the Government of India?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** General instructions were given to him.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are we to understand that as a result of the informal negotiations as between the different delegations India's claim for a seat on the Security Council was not pressed in the light of an informal assurance given by other delegations that at the next election a seat would be assured to India?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** No, Sir.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** May I know if it was at the instance of the British Delegation that India's claim for a seat was not pressed?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know whether it is not a fact that in order to secure a place either for Canada or Australia India's claim was not pressed?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** No, Sir. That is not the case.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Was it not in order to avoid the semblance of the British Empire monopolising the vote of too many units in the Security Council that India's claims were not pressed for a seat?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** No, Sir.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Was there any formal or informal correspondence as between the heads of the various delegations in regard to securing for India a place on the Security Council?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** The prospects were explored in the lobbies.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Why is the Honourable Member objecting then to the placing of the report on the table of the House?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** As I have said, the proceedings of the U.N.O. have been fully reported in the press.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Part (b) of the question says: "Whether the Government will place on the table of the House the gist of that portion of their reports which are not particularly confidential not the entire reports given by your representatives to you. Why will you not place that on the table of the House?"

**Mr. H. Weightman:** You will find in my reply to part (c) of the question that I have promised that the final report will be completed as soon as possible and copies will be laid on the table of the House.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** May I know why should not the interim reports made on instructions given by the Government to their representatives be placed on the table of the House?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** There has been no formal interim report on that particular matter.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Am I to take it that no report so far has been made to the Government by their representatives?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** No, Sir. We have received reports.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Why then is the Honourable Member objecting to placing the reports on the table of the House.

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I have already replied to that question.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Is it because it would be inconvenient for the Government to place them on the table of the House?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Not in the least.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is the position in England? Are such reports placed or not on the table in the British Parliament?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I have not the faintest notion.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know if Government have anything to conceal in this matter, because India's claims were not pressed properly as against the claims of other members of the British Commonwealth? If not, why will they not make the reports available now that this House has expressed its desire?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Government have nothing to conceal. I have already replied to the rest of the question.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Am I to take it that my Honourable friend has no objection to placing on the table of the House the Government's instructions to their delegates and the delegation's report to the Government of India?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I am not prepared to place the Government of India's instructions to their delegates on the table of the House but I am prepared, as I have already stated, to place the report of the delegation when received on the table of the House.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member says that he refuses to place the instructions to their delegates on the table of the House. He must give the grounds to support it. What are the grounds? Is there anything secret about it?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** The instructions of the Government of India to their delegation are confidential.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that the Honourable Member is our prototype of the British Foreign Minister will he try to ascertain the practice that is followed in this case, especially in England, by the British Foreign Minister?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Yes, I am prepared to do that.

## ATTITUDE OF U. N. O. TOWARDS INDONESIAN AND LEBONESE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

**961. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have received any reports from their delegation to the U.N.O.;

(b) the attitude taken and the nature of the speeches made and notes given when the Indonesian, Greek and Lebanon questions came up for discussion in the Security Council and the General Body; and

(c) whether the Indian delegation made it clear to the other delegations either when the General Body or the Security Council was in session or privately, India's strong sympathies for Indonesians and Lebanese, in their struggle for freedom; if not, why not?

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

(b) Does not arise as these questions came up for discussion before the Security Council of which India is not a member and not before the General Assembly.

(c) No, since the question of Indonesian and Lebanese independence was not substantially in issue before either Body.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I repeat my earlier question before I take up other supplementaries, whether the Indian Delegation brought to the notice of the U.N.O. General Assembly as well as the Security Council the feelings expressed by this House in passing the adjournment motion over the South African Legislation against Indians?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I have answered that. It does not arise. The question of Indonesian and Lebanese independence was not substantially in issue before either the General Assembly or the Security Council.

**Mr. M. B. Masani:** Will the Honourable Member state whether the Indian delegation took any opportunity to express the strong sympathy of the Indian people for the Iranian people against Russian aggression?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** No, Sir.

**Mr. M. B. Masani:** Why not?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I am not sure that that question has been before the Security Council either.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it not a fact that Ukraine which was not a member of the Security Council did raise this question and if that is so, why was only the representation of India's views by the so-called representatives of India not carried out?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the fact that the Ukrainian delegate raised the question of the presence of British troops in Indonesia. Is that correct?

**Mr. President:** I believe that is so.

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I understand that is provided under the Charter of the United Nations Organisation that any member—whether a member of the Security Council or not—can address a communication to the Chairman of the Security Council pointing out the existence, in his opinion, of a state of affairs which is dangerous to the peace of the world.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** That is exactly the reason why I ask this. Since that particular method was open to us, why was India's representative—I must say 'so-called' in this case—not instructed, in view of the strong feelings in this House, to represent the views of India on the Indonesian and other questions, particularly on the Indonesian, question which the Ukrainians had already raised?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Sir, I wonder whether it would be of any value if I read parts of the letter of the Ukrainian delegate so that the House

will understand that there was no question before the U.N.O., in any of its bodies, of Indonesian independence. The letter reads:

"As is known, in that country, (i.e., in *Indonesia*), during several months military actions directed against local populations have been waged, in which regular British forces as well as Japanese enemy armed forces are taking part. In the opinion of the Ukrainian Government the situation creates a state of threat to the maintenance of international peace and security, which is covered by Article 34 of the Charter."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that this House passed an adjournment motion that I had already alluded to in regard to South Africa and in view also of the fact that the Government of India considered the matter and came recently to the conclusion as regards the advisability of imposing economic sections against South Africa why is it that the Indian delegation did not address any communication to the U.N.O. Security Council drawing their attention to the fact that this situation that is brewing in South Africa is likely to endanger the world's peace and amity?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I shall require notice of this question about South Africa which, I submit, does not arise out of the question which has been tabled.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, I take objection to this. On an earlier question (960) you were good enough to rule that it arose as a consequential supplementary. When I put that supplementary my Honourable friend said that he would prefer to answer it when we reached No. 961. Now when I have put that question he tries to evade it by saying that it does not arise out of this question.

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I am sorry; when the Honourable Member put his question before I did not hear him say 'South Africa'.

**Mr. President:** That explains it. Next question.

#### GRIEVANCES OF COMMERCIAL STAFF ON N. W. RAILWAY

**962. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the North Western Railway Line Commercial Staff?

(b) Is it a fact that they have to work for 60 hours a week, and further that they have been made to work for extra hours without any payment for overtime work?

(c) Is it also a fact that the pay of the Line Commercial Clerks (N.W.R.) starts from Rs. 30 and rises to Rs. 60 in about twelve years?

(d) Is it also a fact that the existing privileges regarding free passes and P.T.Os. are not fully and freely allowed to be availed of?

(e) What action, if any, do Government propose to take to redress their grievances?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Commercial Line staff have to work up to a limit of 60 hours a week or 84 hours a week according as they are classified as "Continuous" or "Essentially Intermittent" for the purposes of the Hours of Employment Regulations. When called upon to work beyond these limits, they are paid overtime as admissible under section 71-o(3) (b) of the Regulations.

(c) The lowest scales of pay for the Commercial Clerks were as given below:

(i) Rs. 33—3—60 (old)

(ii) Rs. 30—5—50—5/2—60 (revised)

(iii) Rs. 30—2½—50—2—60 (revised and applicable to staff appointed from 1st October 1941 onwards).

It would take eight and twelve years respectively to reach the maximum of scales (ii) and (iii), but I may remind the Honourable Member that the minimum of these scales was increased by ten in April 1944 as a temporary measure.



- (d) The reply is in the negative.  
 (e) No action is considered necessary.

#### RE-APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED SERVANTS ON RAILWAYS

**963. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state how many retired Government servants have been re-appointed in the North Western, East Indian, and Great Indian Peninsula Railways?

(b) When do Government propose to dispense with their services?

(c) Is it a fact that some retired hands who are above 60 years of age have been re-appointed in the Survey and Construction Branch of the North Western Railway? If so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The number of retired railway servants who have been re-employed on the North Western, East Indian and G.I.P. Railways is 408, 551 and 220 respectively. The G.I.P. Railway figure does not include labourers and inferior staff.

(b) Government anticipate that, except in very exceptional cases, none of the retired railway servants who have been re-employed will be retained in service after the close of the year.

(c) Yes, owing to the urgency of the work and the fact that experienced hands with the requisite technical experience were not available, three persons have been re-appointed.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Am I to understand that the close of the year means the 31st March?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir; it means the calendar year.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Does that mean the 31st December 1946?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** What is the nationality of these three men?

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

#### DEATH OF ONE R. ZAVIER IN POONA MAIL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 2nd December, 1945, at 7-30 P.M. a person named R. Zavier was found lying dead on the floor of a third class compartment when the up Poona mail from Bangalore side arrived at the Belgaum Station on the Madras and South Mahratta Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that the compartment in which he was found had no light but that a bulb was fixed only after the passengers clamoured for it;

(c) whether it is a fact that his death was due to any accident caused by there being no light in the compartment;

(d) if not, what was found to be the cause of his death; and

(e) whether immediate arrangements are proposed to be made to light all carriages of the trains in the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway?

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

(b) I have not yet received information. The Railway Administration is being asked to make further enquiries and the result will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(c) No.

(d) Heart failure.

(e) The M. and S. M., like all other railways, has experienced great difficulty in providing and maintaining adequate lighting arrangements in trains. Now that the supply of bulbs and other essentials is easier, a gradual improvement is anticipated.

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

## SCHEME FOR SETTING UP AN AIR BOARD

965. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Government are thinking of setting up an Air Board or some such authority to scrutinize applications and issue licences for pilots, private aeroplane-owners, training centres, private commercial concerns interested in civil aviation, *etc.*; if so the details of that scheme;

(b) whether Government's consideration of the matter is over;

(c) whether an opportunity will be given to the Assembly to discuss the scheme;

(d) who is to appoint and who are to form the personnel of the Board; whether the personnel will be Indian or British; and

(e) whether Government propose to wait until the new constitution is formulated and a National Government is formed?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) and (b). The rules for the licensing of air transport services published with the Posts and Air Department Notification No. 11-MA(1)/46, dated 23rd January, 1946, provide for the establishment of an Air Transport Licensing Board. A copy of the rules has been laid on the table of the House and is also available in the Library of the House. Rules 135 and 136 of these rules give details of the constitution and functions of the Board. The Government of India are taking steps to constitute this Board at an early date. The Air Transport Licensing Board is not concerned with the scrutiny of applications for or issue of Pilots' licences or similar other certificates. This work will be done, as hitherto, by the Director General of Civil Aviation in India and his officers duly authorised by him in this behalf, as laid down in the Indian Aircraft Rules.

(c) The Honourable Member is aware that the matter has been discussed in connection with the Budget Grants.

(d) The Government of India will appoint the Board in accordance with the rules already referred to. The Board has not yet been appointed.

(e) No, Sir, because Government do not desire to hold up the development of air services but it will always be open to Government in future to modify the rules if they so desire.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Has any member of this Board been appointed so far?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What about the reported appointment of the Chairman of this Board who has been imported from England?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No Chairman has been appointed or imported, and I would like to assure the Honourable Member that no Chairman will be imported from outside.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When these people are appointed are their appointments also terminable at short notice of two months or three months?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No, Sir; the members are appointed for a period of years. That is laid down in the rules. But I can assure the Honourable Member, who apparently seems to think that we are going to import these people from outside, that that is not so.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Even if they are not imported from outside but happen to be Indians, why is it that the Government of India wish to anticipate the new constitution and the new Government to come by appointing these gentlemen for a period of years?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** It would be wrong to appoint any member just for one or two months. The work of the Board is concerned with the granting of licenses which involves considerable examination of the applications involved and the rules provide that the member should be appointed for a fixed period

of years at the end of which the member will either retire or may be reappointed or some other member appointed. But I do not think we could stop the constituting of the Board unless the Honourable Member can give me a definite date by which the National Government is going to come.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Is the Licensing Board going to be subordinate to the Government of India in the discharge of its duties and will its decisions be subject to appeal to the Government of India?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The rules as they stand at present put the Licensing Board under the Department of Posts and Air, but no provision has been made for any appeal to the Government of India against the decision of the Licensing Board. It is a statutory Board and it will make its own decisions under the statutory authority. The question whether there should be an appeal tribunal or an air tribunal constituted for the purpose of providing for an appeal on specific questions is at present under consideration.

There have been suggestions made that such a tribunal may be an *ad hoc* tribunal constituted for any particular appeal or it may be a standing tribunal. That matter is under consideration but for the time being, I do not think there is any great hurry about it.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Do I take it that in constituting this licencing board and placing it on the footing of a statutory authority, the Government was guided by the example of the statutory Railway authority as provided for in the present Government of India Act?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No, Sir: I do not think we went on that particular line. We considered the problem of air transport by itself.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** The Honourable Member has referred to the statutory authority of the licencing board. Is the statutory authority going to be given to this Board under a specific legislation which is contemplated by the Government?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No, Sir. The Assembly passed an amendment of the Indian Aircraft Act which gave power to Government to frame certain rules and rules have been framed under that section and the licencing board has been constituted under those rules. It is open to Government at any time to modify those rules and notify them and follow the procedure laid down in the Indian Aircraft Act.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Do I take it that the Honourable Member's view is that under those rules it is possible to constitute a licencing board which would be wholly independent of the Government of India in regard to the discharge of its functions?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** We have prescribed the rules of the licencing board and laid down their functions and their powers and we expect the licencing board to act according to those rules. No provision has been made for an appeal from the decision of the licencing board to the Government of India. In fact no provision has been made for an appeal at all because it was felt that the board was constituted in such a manner that its decisions may be expected to be impartial and acceptable but suggestions were made to Government in the policy committee that there ought to be an appellate tribunal and Government have promised to examine this question of constituting a tribunal to which appeals could be made but as I said before, the question whether it should be a standing tribunal or an *ad hoc* tribunal will be considered.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Do I take it that the Government of India have definitely come to the decision that the function and activities of the licencing board will be discharged independently of the Government of India. I want to know whether at least on that point the Government of India have come to a definite decision. The Honourable Member was talking about an appeal to another tribunal.

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** That is the present position. The rules provide for that for the time being.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** This is a definite decision and not liable to revision. That is what I wanted to know. Do I take it that so far as that point is concerned it is not open to revision as far as the present Government of India go?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** That is the present position but I mentioned that the question of constituting an Air Tribunal is under consideration.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Is the Honourable Member in a position to give this House an idea about the composition and functions of similar bodies in other parts of the world, particularly with reference to the control exercised by the Governments of those countries?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** In constituting the licencing board, in India, we tried to follow the Civil Aeronautics Board in the United States. In the United States, that Board consists of a certain number of members appointed by the President and they deal with all questions of what you might call permitting or licencing of air transport service both internal and external. The United Kingdom legislation provides for a licencing board but it has never been constituted and it seems no longer necessary in view of the policy of His Majesty's Government to have all air service operated by the State.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I know why the Government of India have decided that the air service in India will be done by companies and not by the State as in the case of the Indian Railways?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I tried to state the policy of the Government the other day in this House but unfortunately I did not have time. The policy of the Government of India has been stated in a Press Communique. I have not got the text of it here but briefly speaking the policy is that generally air transport is to be operated by private enterprise but there is no bar to the State either taking a part in the capital of certain services or in operating any particular service entirely by the State.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The Honourable Member is aware of the history of the Indian Railways. They started with the same idea and after 70 years' experience they found it was wrong and have taken it over as a State service. Why is the mistake of the Indian Railways being repeated?

**Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel:** Will the Honourable Member say whether the States' representatives have accepted the jurisdiction of the licencing board on behalf of the Indian States?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The matter is still under negotiation.

#### NON-SUPPLY OF BRASS SHEETS TO BRASS METAL WORKERS IN C. P.

906. **\*Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Ferrous Metals Officer received any communication from the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Central Provinces and Berar, bringing to the notice of the said officer, that Co-operative Associations of Brass Metal Workers in Nagpur, Bhandara, and Raipur Districts were not getting any quota of brass sheets, although these Societies consist of actual workers of brass vessels and pots;

(b) whether in consequence of the said communication any instructions were issued by the Department of Industries to the Metal Exchange Association, Bombay, to make any allotment to the said Co-operative Societies;

(c) whether any brass sheets were accordingly supplied to the said Societies;

(d) whether manufacturers in the Co-operative Societies at Nagpur, Bhandara and Raipur have not so far received any brass sheets, and whether all the workers in these Societies have to remain idle owing to the non-supply of brass sheets and consequentially have to starve?

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

(b) Yes. The Metal Exchange Association, Bombay who handle the imported sheets was requested to arrange for supplies to the Societies in accordance with the general instructions issued to them by Government.

(c) It does not appear that any sheets were supplied.

(d) Government have no information. The general policy of Government is that normal trade channels should not be disturbed, but where there is reason to believe that any dealer is not keeping to his normal trade practice, Government are ready to take special steps to see that reasonable quantities reach manufacturers and workers.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** May I know what are these ordinary channels of trade?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I have dealt with that in reply to the Honourable Member's next question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are not the co-operative societies also to be considered ordinary channels of trade?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Hitherto, not for the purpose of receiving brass sheets.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government consider the recognition of these co-operative societies and thus helping the workers who have to work on this important metal to receive it at the earliest possible opportunity, without having to pay for middle men?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I am considering that very seriously, and will come to a decision after a meeting to be held on the 21st March in which all the interests will be represented.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** Is the Honourable Member aware that the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, C.P. and Berar, wired that he is being handicapped on account of the non-supply of these sheets?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** But there is an overall scarcity of this metal.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** Is it a fact that no reply was sent to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in this connection?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** Was any reply sent?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I cannot give the reply straightaway but the Registrar himself will be here for this meeting on the 21st of March when it is proposed to go thoroughly into the whole question.

**Seth Govind Das:** Was any reply sent to the Registrar? That was the question?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think a reply was sent but I cannot give the exact date of it.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** The Registrar, Co-operative Societies wired again that he has not even received the condescension of a reply from the Government of India to his wire.

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I believe that is correct. Inquiries were going on. That accounts for the delay in replying.

**Seth Govind Das:** How does the Honourable Member say that a reply was sent when he now says that no reply was sent to the telegram?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The reply was probably sent after the telegram.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it not the policy of the Government of India to encourage cottage industries?

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

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is he not aware that the manufacturers and the co-operative societies have considerably suffered and the manufacturers have been thrown out of employment?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** That may be so.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government take immediate steps to see that brass sheets are supplied to these societies through the Registrar, if necessary?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I hope to do so as soon as supplies are received. The whole question will be considered at the meeting to be held on the 21st of March.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it not a fact that a Conference of these manufacturers was held in Delhi and resolutions were passed in January last and were communicated to the Honourable Member's Department?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Possibly there has been a Conference, but I have not seen the proceedings. They have not been sent to me.

**Seth Govind Das:** Has there been no distribution of these brass sheets to every province according to the condition of the industry which is prevailing there?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes, Sir. The distribution has been according to the cottage manufacturers in each area.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Has the Honourable Member's Department given a monopoly to a few firms to import brass sheets in India?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** If the Honourable Member is referring to the manufacture of brass, certainly not. If he is considering the question of the importers, we have used the established importers.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable Member satisfy himself that the copies of the resolutions of the Conference held in Delhi were sent to his Department and that somebody is sitting on them because I have received a copy of them myself?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I cannot say, but I can assure the Honourable Member that if any copy was addressed to me, I should be expected to have received it by now.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** Is it not a fact that these 30 tons of brass sheets were supplied to traders and dealers and not to manufacturers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I think that question arises out of the Honourable Member's next question and not out of this.

#### SUPPLY OF BRASS SHEETS TO DEALERS IN PREFERENCE TO CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES OF BRASS METAL WORKERS

967. \***Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable the Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the quota of ninety tons of brass sheets allotted to the Central Provinces and Berar, thirty tons of brass sheets were supplied to the Bhandara Brass Metal Works Company, which are not manufacturers of brass vessels;

(b) why any quota is not being given to the Co-operative Societies of actual manufacturers, in spite of the recommendation of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, and why any brass sheets are being supplied to dealers in brass vessels who reap enormous profits by selling brass utensils;

(c) whether Government will take immediate steps to supply these Co-operative Societies with brass sheets to enable them to earn their bread; and

(d) who were given the remaining sixty tons of brass sheets; on whose instructions any brass sheets were supplied to persons who are only dealers in brass utensils and not manufacturers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) First Part.—Yes.

Second Part.—The Bhandra Metal Works Company comprises both dealers and manufacturers.

(b) Government are considering the recommendation of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. It is necessary to settle what would be a reasonable quantity to allocate to the Co-operative Societies and through what channels the brass sheets should be distributed to them.

(c) A meeting to discuss the issues has been convened for the 21st March 1946. The Registrar and representatives of the Metal Exchange Association, the Bhandra Metal Works Company and the Co-operative Societies, will be present.

(d) The remaining quantity was allocated to the C.P. and Berar Merchants Association against their quota of 8½ per cent of the receipts of the Metal Exchange Association. The distribution of brass sheets is made by the Metal Exchange Association in accordance with a scheme approved by the Central Government by which available supplies are distributed through normal trade channels in certain fixed proportions. Some dealers in brass utensils get them made by purchasing the sheets and handing them to workmen for fabrication. Such dealers would also receive supplies in accordance with normal practice.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** May I bring to the notice of the Honourable Member the Order, dated the 6th October, 1945, in which the functions of dealers and manufacturers have been given?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I cannot recollect the terms of that at the moment.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** Does not that order indicate that all these sheets should be supplied to the actual manufacturers and not to the dealers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** This Company, as I have said, is a mixed company of dealers and manufacturers.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** May I know whether it is not a fact that so far as trade channels are concerned, merchants and middlemen are making huge profits in dealing with these brass sheets?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** If they are making huge profits, I should be glad to have detailed information, because the profit allowed by Government is limited to five per cent.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is the Honourable Member aware that the dealers organised themselves into a Society of Dealers and Manufacturers simply to get round the provisions of the Order?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** On that point my information is that this particular Metal Works Company was formed somewhere early in 1945, before the late Industries and Civil Supplies Department had formulated its policy.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** May I ask if the Honourable Member has received complaints from the manufacturers of brass utensils from Moradabad to the effect that they are not getting their proper quota of these brass sheets and that they are being handicapped on account of the policy of the Government?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I have had complaints from Moradabad. As I have already said, there is at the moment an acute shortage of brass sheets.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I ask whether Government will make a special effort to import larger quantities of brass sheets in order to supply the unsatisfied demand which exists all over the country?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes, Sir. We have already made efforts, but we were rather disappointed about the quantity which we were to get from the Middle East, but we propose to renew our efforts.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that it is a complaint not only of one province but of the whole of India that these dealers are monopolising the whole quantity which is received and the real manufacturers are not receiving any quantity from them?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I cannot say how far the complaints from other parts of India, besides the Central Provinces, are true.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** May I know if the Honourable Member has received any complaints from the Punjab?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes, I have had a complaint from the Punjab.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government make an effort to get surplus brass either in the form of scrap, ingots or sheets, which is reported to be available from Australia?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Certainly, Sir.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Government take early steps to see that these orders are not used to the disadvantage of manufacturers, particularly the village manufacturers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Certainly, Sir, and that is why I am having this meeting on the 21st March.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** May I ask whether this Control Order, dated the 6th October, 1945, was issued by the Government of India for the benefit of manufacturers and not for the benefit of dealers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** It was meant for the benefit of manufacturers.

**Mr. P. B. Gole:** Then why is it that these brass sheets are allotted to persons who are dealers and not manufacturers?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** There have been allegations and counter-allegations between the dealers and the manufacturers' societies. If I find that the dealers have not observed the rules laid down, I shall take drastic action to see that the manufacturers get what there is to give them.

**Sri T. A. Ramalingam Ochettiari:** Has the Government not received a similar complaint from Madras?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** So far as I am aware, I have had no complaint myself from Madras.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** What more evidence is required than the communication from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies that the work of these Co-operative Societies was being handicapped for want of brass sheets?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The information that I would like to have from the Registrar of the Central Provinces is what quantity is required for each of these Societies.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is the Honourable Member now satisfied because Sardar Mangal Singh, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan and another gentleman of our Party from Madras have all said that this is a universal complaint and will he now move in the matter and see that the manufacturers do receive their quota?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I entirely agree and am satisfied that the present position is unsatisfactory. I am anxious to remedy it and I wish to do all I can as soon as I have had this meeting on the 21st March.

#### DISMANTLED RAILWAY LINES IN U. P.

968. \***Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the names of Railway Lines which were dismantled during the war from United Provinces?

(b) What are the names of the Lines which are to be relaid, and when?



**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The following railway lines in the United Provinces were dismantled during the war:

- (i) Dalmau-Daryapur;
- (ii) Akbarpur-Tanda;
- (iii) Bijnor-Chandpur Siau;
- (iv) Auhadpur-Balamau;
- (v) Cawnpore-Khairada;
- (vi) Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad;
- (vii) Unao-Madhoganj;
- (viii) Barabanki-Burhwal (third rail only thus converting this mixed gauge to Metre Gauge); and
- (ix) Burhwal-Bahramghat.

(b) Of the above, it has already been decided to restore Cawnpore-Khairada and the restoration of the following lines is under investigation:

- (i) Bijnor-Chandpur Siau;
- (ii) Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau; and
- (iii) Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad.

The decision whether to restore these lines or not will depend on the results of the surveys now being carried out and until this decision is taken, it is not possible to say when the lines will be relaid.

**Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla:** What about the Chandpur-Bijnor line?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The restoration of that line is under investigation.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table a comprehensive statement furnishing information about all the railway lines that were dismantled during the war?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have done so on two occasions.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Government give an assurance to this House that the resources of Government will not be spent on the construction of new lines, or strategic lines, but that they will be used to restore lines which were pulled down during the war?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** They will be used for all purposes.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** I am sorry I am unable to understand the reply of the Honourable Member. May I ask whether Government will postpone construction of new lines, and in particular strategic lines, and whether Government will restore old lines which were dismantled?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know why the conveniences which were taken away during the war from the civil population should not be restored in the first instance and why should not this be given the first priority?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Because they are a financial burden on the country in most cases.

#### DISCRIMINATION IN THE GRANT OF UNIFIED SCALES OF PAY BETWEEN EMPLOYEES OF NASIK SECURITY PRESS AND NASIK ROAD POST OFFICE.

969. \***Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the employees of the Security Printing Press at Nasik Road are allowed to draw pay in the Unified Scales of pay sanctioned for Government servants at Nasik and Nasik Road; and

(b) whether it is a fact that employees of the Nasik Road Post Office are not allowed to draw pay in the above stated Unified Scales, though the Security

Printing Press and the Nasik Road Post Office are in the same locality, which is midway between Nasik and Deolali; if so, the reasons for such discriminations?

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

(b) It has recently been decided to extend the Unified Scale to employees of the Nasik Road Post Office.

#### GRIEVANCES DUE TO INTRODUCTION OF UNIFIED SCALES OF PAY

**970. \*Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar:** Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the anomalous position of the clerks who joined service in 1935-36 as a result of the introduction of the unified scale since 1944? If so, do Government propose to redress their grievances by applying 'B' grade to them?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative; the second part does not therefore arise.

#### OVER-TIME WORK IN THE POST OFFICES

**971. \*Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the time required according to the Time Test for doing a day's work in the Post Office exceeds the total number of hours of duty of all the staff; if so, what arrangements are made for the disposal of the work;

(b) whether it is a fact that an additional clerk is sanctioned for a Post office when the work hours exceed the total duty hours of the existing staff by more than four hours according to the Time Test; if so, when the work hours are less than four hours, whether it is a fact that the existing staff has to do overtime work; if not, whether any arrangements are made to complete the excess work, if so, whether the extra work is compensated by some allowance?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) The time test which has been prescribed for determining the strength of the staff justified for a post office is not to be applied as a rigid mathematical formula. It provides margins and is to be treated as a general guide. Additional staff is sanctioned when the time required according to the time test exceeds the total number of hours of duty of the staff.

(b) The principles governing the employment of additional staff in post offices are explained in paragraphs 31 and 33 and in Appendix A2 of the Report on the Revision of Time Tests in the post office a copy of which is in the Library of the House. When the increase in work in an office does not justify the employment of an additional hand according to these principles, work can generally be managed by the existing staff without involving overtime.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that there is a general complaint in this Department that the staff of post offices have to do overtime work and they are not paid for it?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I am answering that in the next question.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL STAFF IN POST OFFICES.

**972. \*Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that additional staff was justified by Time-Test at some Post Offices but the same was not immediately employed for want of provision of funds; if so, whether the delay in employment of additional staff resulted in causing the existing staff of such offices to work beyond prescribed hours;

(b) whether the work done beyond prescribed hours owing to either inadequate staff or occasional abnormal rush of work by the Postal Staff is treated as overtime work and compensated for; if not, the reasons for paying no compensation; and

(c) if the answer to the latter part of (a) is in the affirmative, the rates of remuneration for overtime work for Post Offices?

**Sir Gurnath Bewoor:** (a) The Honourable Member has not specified any particular instances. If he would do so, an enquiry will be made.

(b) Overtime is not a regular feature in the case of the postal staff. The work varies from day to day within certain limits. The question whether the staff should be compensated if they are required to work overtime on any particular occasion and if so how, is considered on the merits of each case.

(c) Does not arise.

#### SCRAPPING OF TEZPUR-BALIPARA RAILWAY

**973. \*Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Tezpur Balipara Railway was condemned about seven years ago by an Inspector deputed by the Railway Board to examine the line from Rangapara North to the Tezpur Town;

(b) if it is a fact: (i) that compartments of this Railway have no doors, (ii) that the Railway lines passing through the town and thickly populated villages are not fenced, and (iii) that as a result of these frequent accidents take place; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of scrapping this line and extending the Bengal and Assam Railway line from Rangapara North to the Tezpur Town in the near future?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) No.

(b) (i) Detailed information in regard to the types of carriages in use is not available.

(ii) according to available information the line is fenced only at stations.

(iii) Government are not aware of any accidents taking place as the result of the absence of fencing.

(c) Government have the option of acquiring the railway in 1952, and the suggestion will be fully considered before a decision is reached.

**Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** With reference to parts (a) and (b) will the Government be pleased to enquire?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have given all the available information. I have said that the line is fenced only at stations. What further information does the Honourable Member want? In reply to part (a) I have said that the railway was not condemned.

**Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** In reply to the first part of (b), the Honourable Member said that detailed information was not available about the types of carriages. I asked whether the compartments have no doors.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** In reply to part (b) (i) I said that detailed information in regard to the types of carriages in use is not available. The types of carriages are very old, some of them more than 45 years old. They have just been renovated. I do not know whether the Honourable Member really wants me to lay on the table a sketch of the carriages.

**Mr. President:** I believe the Honourable Member's point was about there being no doors.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are there any carriages which have no doors?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member says so.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil:** Open door policy.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** This is a private railway company. I am perfectly aware that the rolling stock is old and that is one of the reasons why the Government have not acquired it at the price at which it has been offered.

**Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** Is the Honourable Member aware that gunny bags are hanging in place of wooden cots?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I should not be surprised.

#### RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN RANGAPARA NOTRH AND NORTH LAKHIMPUR

**974. \*Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if, in view of the fact, that there is no satisfactory communication between Tezpur and North Lakhimpur, steps are proposed to be taken for opening a Railway line between Rangapara North and North Lakhimpur?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The construction of a railway line between Rangapara North and North Lakhimpur is not included in the post-war plan as it stands at present.

#### STOPPAGE OF TRAINS AT KAMAKHYA STATION

**975. \*Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that up to 1935 a passenger train used to stop at the Kamakhya Station?

(b) Is it a fact that Hindu pilgrims to Kamakhya from all over India have been demanding the re-opening of this Station?

(c) Is it a fact that the shuttle train which has been recently running from Pandu to Gauhati also does not stop at the Kamakhya Station? If so, do Government propose to direct the stopping of at least this train at the Kamakhya station.

(d) Is it a fact that a pucca station building and a pucca platform are already provided at this station?

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

(b) Not so far as the Railway Administration are aware. They have however received one representation from Kamakhya and another from Gauhati.

(c) The answer to the first part is yes, and to the second, no, because the normal traffic does not justify a stop at the station. At Mela times, however, when the volume of traffic warrants it, the Railway Administration propose to open the Station to passenger traffic as in pre-war years.

(d) The station building is pucca, and there is a low level platform.

**Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know what difficulty there is in stopping one of the shuttle trains at Kamakhya?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The normal traffic there does not justify the stopping of the train. The expenses incurred in stopping are heavy.

**Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** Is it a fact that recently a number of shuttle trains between Pandu and Gauhati has been introduced in order to compete with bus service? If so, can the Government not stop one of these shuttle trains at that station?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member should take up the matter with the Local Advisory Council for Railways.

#### LOSS IN THE STATE RAILWAY COAL DEPARTMENT THROUGH FAULTY SUPERVISION

**976. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that the Railway Board have commented that the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, Mr. J. R. Harrison, has a tendency to give rates to the contractors?

(b) Who is the Raising and Haulage Contractor of Hetla Pit (Serampore Colliery)?

(c) Is it a fact that originally the contract was given as a Works Contract without calling for tenders? Who gave such contract, and was he authorised to do so?

(d) Are Government aware that twice during the last five years State Railways' Coal Department had lost to the extent of about four lakhs of rupees

through fraud in supply of timber or through faulty supervision and watch and ward of stores? What action was taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Mr. A. J. Chanchani.

(c) Yes, Sir. The contract was sanctioned by the C.M.E., Railway Board, who is the competent authority, on the recommendation of the Colliery Manager and Colliery Superintendent. The rates for the work were based on approved rates for similar work.

(d) No, Sir, no such loss has been incurred during the last five years.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Why were not tenders called for?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Because I imagine the work was urgent and the rates quoted were at the sanctioned rates.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is there no higher authority to investigate into the propriety or otherwise of these rates from time to time in the Central Government over the rates that are given by the Local Governments?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** They have to be justified to the Railway Board.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** How many such cases have arisen on account of the urgency of the work, where tenders were not called for but contracts were given straightaway?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I want notice.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What was the urgency in this particular case?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I would have to enquire into it. I imagine, it was during the war when there was acute shortage of labour, contractors, and coal.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Does the Honourable Member enquire into cases where deviation is made in the matter of giving contracts where tenders are not called for?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** These cases are enquired into.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Has this particular case been enquired into?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I want notice.

PAYMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF CONTRACTORS OF STATE RAILWAY COLLIERIES

977. \***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the procedure by which payment of dearness allowance to the employees of contractors of the State Railway Collieries of Giridih and Bokaro is ensured by the Railway Board?

(b) Is it a fact that contractors working the quarries of the State Railway Collieries of Bokaro and Giridih are fully or partly misappropriating the dearness allowance which is meant for the workers under the contractors and which the Railway Board is paying out to the contractors?

(c) Is it a fact that this fact of misappropriation by contractors of dearness allowance meant for the workers has been brought to the notice of the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, a number of times including the local management but no tangible action has been taken so far?

(d) If these corrupt practices by the contractors are true do Government propose to arrange payment of the dearness allowance to the contractors' employees departmentally?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Dearness Allowance to Contractors' labour is paid through the Contractors whose books and accounts are examined periodically by Colliery Managers and Colliery Superintendents to ensure that payment is actually made. The contractors' books are also examined by the Accounts Officers.

This payment is very carefully watched and scrutinised by the colliery management.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Complaints have been received by the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board and the Colliery Superintendents but investigations by the Colliery Managements showed that the allegations were unfounded.

(d) The question does not arise.

**Sri. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** In view of the fact that allegations are made that monies sanctioned as dearness allowances are not paid by contractors straightaway to coolies, what is the objection of the Honourable Member to have these amounts paid to the coolies departmentally instead of handing over the same to the contractors and thereafter merely looking into their accounts whether correct entries are made or not? Why don't you disburse this departmentally?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Because these complaints were found to be unfounded. It does not really pay the contractor to cheat his own labour, because it will be ruinous to him in the long run. There is no reason why more work should be taken on by the Government officials.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** How did the Government come to the conclusion that these complaints were unfounded? What was the nature of the enquiry which the Government made?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** This is a matter of some years ago. I have not got details.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Is it not a fact that the workers were not consulted by those who made the enquiry?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I imagine they were consulted by the colliery management.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Does my Honourable friend merely imagine it or does he know?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No; I do not know.

**Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will my Honourable friend then make an inquiry into the matter and find out what the nature of the inquiry was?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I am not prepared to go into a matter which is quite old and which was proved to be unfounded.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is it not a fact that once these coolies, who are supplied by the contractors, expose the contractors, they will be dismissed by them and that they are at the mercy of the contractors?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** They cannot be dismissed.

**Mr. President:** The question hour is over.

### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

#### MALPRACTICES IN THE SYSTEM OF GIVING CONTRACTS IN COAL FIELDS

978. **\*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that for work in the quarries of the Serampore Colliery and Jatkuti Hills heading in Kurharbaree, bills have been paid to contractors for clearing overburden for which no actual or commensurate work has been done? Do Government propose to get the whole region resurveyed and see that such malpractices are stopped?

(b) In view of the malpractices which the system of giving out contracts in coalfields entail and in view of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour on the subject, does the Honourable Member propose to see that the State Railways' Coal Department discontinue the practice of giving contracts in raising, haulage and loading of coal and do the entire work departmentally?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) No, Sir, the contractors have been paid for clearing overburden on actual measurements done by colliery Surveyors, checked by colliery Managers, and countersigned by colliery Superintendents. The question of resurvey does not, therefore, arise.

(b) I do not admit that the present system entails malpractices. The question of departmental working *versus* contract working in railway collieries has several times been examined by Government, and it has always been concluded that the contract system is the better, as it ensures an adequate labour force giving an adequate output.

#### QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTRICAL CHARGEMAN IN BOKARO

**979. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state who is the present Electrical Charginan in Bokaro? What are his qualifications and when did he enter the service and on what pay? Is it a fact that he superseded many seniors to him? Is he in any way related to the Personal Assistant to the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board?

(b) What is the number of coal tub bodies supplied to the Giridih and Bokaro State Railway Collieries and at what cost per coal tub body? If the cost of manufacturing the coal tub body in Beniadih Railway Workshop is much cheaper, why was the contract given to a firm outside? Is the Personal Assistant to the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, in any way connected with the firm? What is the name of the firm?

(c) What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take in view of the many instances of corruption and mal-practices in the Giridih and Bokaro State Railway Collieries for full-fledged enquiry, detection and punishment of those persons responsible for such mal-practices and which deprived the public revenues of crores of rupees?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Mr. S. C. Bannerji. He holds the qualifications required for an Electrical Charginan. He entered service in 1934 on a pay of Rs. 50; he did not supersede any one; he is the son of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board.

(b) The number of coal tub bodies supplied is as follows:

Giridih—400 at Rs. 212 each;

Bokaro—106 at Rs. 235 each.

The Beniadih workshop was engaged to its full capacity on repair work at the time these coal tub bodies were required.

The tubs for Giridih Collieries were supplied by M/s. S. Dass & Brothers, and the tubs for Bokaro by M/s. Hardware Trading Co.

The personal Assistant to the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, is not in any way connected with these firms.

(c) In view of the replies to parts (a) and (b) of the question, part (c) does not arise.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF OVERBRIDGE AT BACHHRAWAN STATION

**980. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether he has received any complaint from the President of the Bachhrawan Congress Committee for the construction of an overbridge at the Bachhrawan Station; and if so, what action, if any, does he propose to take thereon?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes. The request for the construction of an overbridge at Bachhrawan has been passed on to the General Manager E. I. Railway who is the authority competent to deal with this matter.

#### SUBSTITUTION OF ADULTERATED GHEE FOR PURE GHEE FOR SUPPLY TO N. W. RAILWAY SERVANTS IN KASHMIR

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

(a) whether Government are aware that only pure ghee and no other kind of ghee is allowed to be sold in the Kashmir and Jammu State;

(b) whether it is a fact that pure ghee worth Rs. 2,000 was purchased for supply to the Railwaymen at concessional rates at stations in the Kashmir and Jammu State;

(c) whether it is a fact that the pure ghee was substituted by some one by vegetable or adulterated stuff;

(d) whether it is a fact that the State authorities reported the matter to the North Western Railway Administration; and

(e) whether Government propose to make a brief statement in regard to the incident, the result of any enquiry and the action taken?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) to (d). The reply is in the affirmative.

(e) The question is already under investigation.

#### SELECTION FOR POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that selections for posts on the North Western Railway are made in accordance with statutory rules contained in the State Railway Establishment Code;

(b) whether a selection for Food Inspectors on the Karachi Division of the North Western Railway was made early this year;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain candidates were selected in the order of merit; if so, whether the Honourable Member proposes to place a list of the selected candidates in the order of merit on the table of the House;

(d) whether it is a fact that the results of the selections were **not** announced and that the same were cancelled; if so, why;

(e) the rules on the subject of cancellation of results of selections once arrived at, and where they are published; and

(f) if no powers exist for the cancellation of selection results, whether it is proposed to direct the North Western Railway Administration to conform to the result of the first selection; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) to (f). I have called for information, which I will lay on the table of the House in due course, except that asked for in the latter portion of part (c) of the question, in regard to which I regret I do not consider that any public interest would be served by complying with the Honourable Member's request.

#### LOSS OF SUGAR AND WHEAT IN RATIONING DEPARTMENT AT MUGHALPURA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that stock verification of the Workshop Sub-Division of the Rationing Department at Mughalpura was made in June-July 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact that 2,000 maunds of sugar and 5,000 maunds of wheat were found short; if so whether the debit for their cost was raised and paid up;

(c) if no debit was raised, how the amount was adjusted;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Accounts Branch of the North Western Railway was unable to get any reply in regard to the adjustment of shortages; and

(e) the total amount of debit, and who was responsible for the loss?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The stock-verification of the Workshop sub-division was carried out in May and June 1945.



(b) No.

(c) The value of quantities actually found short at the stock verification was written off except a few cases which are still under examination.

(d) Replies to queries in the stock sheets were received and action taken thereon. In certain cases, however, further objections were raised and these are still under correspondence.

(e) As the net shortage was within the permissible limit no debit has so far been raised and nobody has so far been held responsible for the loss.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF A PROPER CULVERT NEAR MAU JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION

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

(a) if it is a fact that near the distant signal on the Aurihar side of the Mau Junction Railway Station on the Oudh Tirhut Railway, there is a Railway culvert over a stream;

(b) whether this is the only method of crossing from the Railway side to the other;

(c) whether the whole topography of the place was changed because of the high embankment of the Railway, causing water logging;

(d) whether many accidents resulting even in deaths have taken place while men walked across this culvert;

(e) if the Railway Administration propose to broaden the culvert and put balustrades to enable people to go across in safety; and

(f) if they propose to put up light there at nights pending the construction of a proper culvert?

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

(b) This is the only bridge in the vicinity of the station. The bed of the stream is dry for the greater part of the year and, during the short period when water flows the stream is believed to be fordable.

(c) No. Adequate waterway exists in the railway bank for drainage.

(d) No records of such accidents are available.

(e) The culvert has been provided for passing only railway traffic over the stream. The provision of facilities for the public to cross the stream would appear to be the responsibility of the civil authorities.

(f) No.

#### RESTORATION OF HARIANA EXPRESS RAILWAY SERVICE

**985. \*Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) where the shuttle train (Engine and Compartments combined) which used to run between Hissar and Delhi and was known as Haryana Express is at present;

(b) when the running of this train was discontinued, and for what reasons;

(c) if it is a fact that the said train was sent to some foreign country and that it has now been received back;

(d) if it is a fact that it took only four to five hours to reach Delhi from Hissar, whereas double the amount of time is required to perform this journey at present; and

(e) whether Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of restoring the service of the said train as soon as possible; if not, what objections or obstacles there exist to the resumption of the said service?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (c). The Hariana Express was run with an ordinary engine and coaches, and was not,—as the Honourable Member assumes,—a rail-coach service. The stock was not sent abroad for war purposes.

(b) Between Rewari and Hissar on the 22nd August, 1941, and between Rewari and Delhi on the 1st September, 1941. The service which was introduced in competition with the road, was discontinued in pursuance of the general policy of curtailing all but the most essential passenger services, in order to conserve Railway resources for the movement of vital war-time military and civil traffic.

(d) The Hariana Express took six hours between Hissar and Delhi. As there is now no through train between these places, the journey takes 11½ hours.

(e) The service cannot be re-introduced in the very near future owing to the general shortage of coaching stock. Railway Administrations are, however, alive to the necessity of restoring, as and when more coaching stock and power become available, all passenger services for which there is a justification in the volume of traffic offering. Nevertheless, I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Administration.

#### LIGHT RAILWAYS ON N. W. RAILWAY

**966. \*Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Light Railways which are connecting wayside towns to Railway Stations of the North Western Railway at present with less than twenty miles of distance;

(b) the number of times these Light Railways failed during the last six months to convey passengers to Main Railway Stations in time to enable them to catch the connecting trains on the North Western Railway; and

(c) the reasons for such failure in general?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) I am afraid I am not clear as to what light railways the Honourable Member has in mind: the only light Railway that fits his description is the Jagadhri Light Railway.

(b) and (c). In the absence of a definite indication of which light railways are meant, I have been unable to have the required information collected. In any case I doubt if the time and labour involved in its collection would be commensurate with the value of the results to be obtained.

#### SHORT SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIAL

**967. \*Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies kindly state:

(a) if Government are aware that on account of shortage of supply of coal and iron materials many school and hospital buildings and other works of charitable and philanthropic nature as well as private houses are awaiting construction in various parts of the country;

(b) if Government are aware that in certain parts of the Punjab pucca bricks are available at no less than four or five times of their pre-war prices and that iron girders are not available at all; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to increase the supply of coal, iron girders, etc., in the mofussil areas of the Punjab with a view to enabling people to build schools, hospitals and private houses in the near future; if so, when?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Not specifically, but I am aware that building generally has been held up for lack of materials.

(b) I have no information.

(c) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by the Honourable Member for Labour, to part (b) of Mr. Manu Subedar's question No. 469, on 25th February, 1946. Government attach great importance to acceleration of building and will do their best to make building materials available.

#### REDUCTION OF SURPLUS STAFF ON RAILWAYS

**988. \*Diwan Chaman Lall:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether in reducing surplus staff on Railways, it is proposed to invite voluntary resignations and premature retirements of staff by giving them some liberal terms?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, will he please give particulars of the terms so offered?

(c) What steps have been taken by the Railway Board to action the instructions contained in the Labour Department's letter, dated the 20th July, 1945, on the principles of reduction of staff?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways have been directed to provide special facilities in regard to the grant of leave to staff by utilising surplus staff. Other measures are under constant consideration and appropriate steps will be taken when considered necessary. At present the policy is to absorb as many surplus staff as are possible in postwar reconstruction and other schemes, and to avoid as much as possible depriving railways of trained and experienced staff whose services would be indispensable in future railway operation and to the working out of the post-war development programme.

#### GRANT OF UNEARNED LEAVE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

**989. \*Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provisions of Rule 2121(c), Fundamental Rule 81(c), in regard to grant of leave to Railway employees in advance, are not usually put into operation;

(b) whether it is a fact that in cases in which leave not due has been enjoyed and wages drawn, it is subsequently cancelled and amount of wages recovered; if so, under what provision of the Payment of Wages Act, such deductions are made; and

(c) whether Government will consider the issue of instructions that in all cases in which reasonable prospects exist that the employee would earn leave enjoyed in advance it should not be refused; if not, the basis for exercise of discretion by officers to grant leave not due?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Government are not aware of any complaints from employees on this question but the number of cases in which the question of grant of leave not due arises cannot be considerable.

(b) If the Honourable Member will specify the railway or railways where this has taken place and favour me with details of such cases, the matter will be enquired into further, and instructions will be issued if found necessary.

(c) The grant of leave 'not due' is, like the grant of other leave, subject to the exigencies of the service. The principles underlying the grant of leave not due are explained in rule 710(2) of the State Railway Establishment Code Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

#### VICTORY BONUSES TO RAILWAY MEN

**990. \*Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether the Railway Board recommended the grant to Railwaymen of Victory Bonus equal to three months pay? When is the Bonus likely to be paid? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The question of a victory bonus to railway employees has been considered in its relation to the general question of a similar bonus to all employees of Government, but it has been decided not to pursue the question further for reasons which are mainly economic and financial.

**POSTS ABOVE RS. 500 IN CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT.**

**991. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many places above Rs. 500 existed in the Civil Aviation Department at the time of the stoppage of hostilities with Germany? Who were the people occupying such places, and what were their qualifications?

(b) How many new places have since been created, or are proposed to be created, and in what manner are these places to be filled up?

(c) What efforts are being made to secure the services of every outstanding Indian, who has experience in the line?

(d) Is it by direct approaches or by advertisements, or do Government propose to use any other means?

(e) Why are these places being filled up with imported men without a chance being given to Indians?

(f) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take in order that in future at least these places should go to Indians?

**Sir Guranath Bewoor:** (a) The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as possible.

(b) A statement is laid on the table showing the posts, which have been or are proposed to be created during 1946-1947 in the new organisation of the Civil Aviation Department. Some of the posts are in replacement of certain existing posts. Recruitment to these posts will be made by selection, by advertisement and interview or by promotion of suitable existing officers of the Department.

(c) and (d). By advertisement and by circulation to officers in the Royal Indian Air Force and other defence services.

(e) It is not correct to say that the places are being filled up without a chance being given to Indians. Only in cases where suitable Indians with the requisite qualifications and experience are not available, have non-Indians been appointed.

(f) In view of my reply to parts (c), (d) and (e) this question does not arise.

*Statement*

*Civil Aviation organisation proposed for 1946-1947*

Designation of post	Total number of posts
Director General of Civil Aviation . . . . .	1
Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation . . . . .	2
Director . . . . .	6
Chief Administrative Officer . . . . .	1
Research and Development Officer . . . . .	1
Chief Inspector of Accidents . . . . .	1
Deputy Director . . . . .	7

Designation of post	Total number of posts
Administrative Officer . . . . .	2
Scientific Officer . . . . .	1
Assistant Director . . . . .	10
Aerodrome Planning Officer . . . . .	1
Estate Officer . . . . .	1
Aerodrome Inspector . . . . .	1
Junior Scientific Officer . . . . .	1
Accounts Officer . . . . .	1
Regional Aerodrome Officer . . . . .	5
Aerodrome Officer Grade I . . . . .	6
Aerodrome Officer Grade II . . . . .	13
Aeronautical Inspector . . . . .	3
Aircraft Inspector . . . . .	5
Assistant Aircraft Inspector . . . . .	9
Examiner of Personnel . . . . .	2
Chief Instructor of Aerodrome School . . . . .	1
Chief Test Pilot . . . . .	1
Test Pilot . . . . .	1
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**REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT HELP BY THE AIR SERVICES OF INDIA, LTD.**

**992. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether any approach has been made by the Air Services of India, Limited, to Government for help or subsidy or facilities for purchasing plans or licence to run new routes? If so, what replies have Government given to this Company?

(b) Is it a fact that between 1937 and 1940 this Company was responsible for somewhere near eighty per cent. of traffic carried by air inside India? If so, what has led Government to leave this Company out of the scheme for subsidised and aided civil aviation by private enterprise in India?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) During the war the Air Services of India, Ltd., made repeated proposals that they should be employed to operate air services on behalf of the Government and they were informed that as they had no organisation it was impracticable to accede to their request during the war. No specific request for subsidy or financial assistance to the Company to operate air services in the post-war period has been received, and while the Government are in constant communication with the Company concerning the details of their plans, the question of a licence to operate air services does not arise until the date prescribed in the rules for the licensing of air transport services which is 1st October 1946. The company asked for and were given advice about the purchase of aircraft and have now purchased them.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative.

As regards the second part, the company has not been left out. It is not yet organised for operation.

#### WANT OF WAGONS FOR CARRYING CLOTH TO BIHAR.

**993. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that for want of wagons, the Bihar quota of cloth has, for months, been lying in the Ahmedabad Mills and not taken to its proper place for distribution and if so, why?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir. The movement of the Bihar quota of cloth from Ahmedabad has been made regularly during recent months. The following are the figures of the number of bales despatched:

October 1945 . . . . .	8,895 bales
November 1945 . . . . .	6,967 "
December 1945 . . . . .	8,761 "
January 1946 . . . . .	6,784 "

In the first twelve days of February, 1946, 4,628 bales were despatched, and on the 15th February 1946, 1,298 bales were awaiting despatch.

#### NEW CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAYS IN BIHAR

**994. \*Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether in the proposed new construction of Railways in Bihar, he is prepared to consult the Congress and other non-official organisations with regard to their alignments and if so, when and how?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The present plan of new constructions has been formulated after full consultations with Provincial Governments. It has been assumed that the Provincial Governments have consulted public opinion.

If the Congress or other non-official organisations have any suggestions to make with regard to the alignments of the projects under investigations or in regard to the construction of new lines, they may be forwarded to the Railway Board where they will doubtless receive the most careful consideration.

#### IRREGULARITIES IN FOODGRAIN PURCHASES BY SENIOR FOOD CONTROL OFFICER, O. T. RAILWAY

**995. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Senior Food Control Officer of Oudh and Tirhut Railway is alleged to have indulged in all sorts of irregularities in connection with foodgrains purchase and its priority movements during the time he was in charge of the "Food Department" on Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Has the matter been entrusted to the enquiry by Police at Gorakhpur and has the report been furnished to the Oudh and Tirhut Administration or the Railway Board?

(c) Has it been found that he used to write private letters to the Regional Food Control Officer of Bihar to help individual merchants for securing permits in 1945 for *Urad Dal* from Naugachia Station (Oudh and Tirhut Railway) to Gorakhpur although this commodity was not required by the Railway Food Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(d) How many appointments in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Food Department were made by the present Senior Food Control Officer and what was the number of Muslims in these appointments?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). There is nothing to indicate that the allegation against the present senior Food Control Officer is correct. It is understood that certain vendors with whom purchase orders for *Dal Urd* were placed by the O. T. Railway Food Department brought 17,680 maunds of *Urd* and *Dal Urd*, as against 6,418 maunds required by the Railway Food Department, from certain stations in Bihar to the U. P. without the

requisite permits, thereby infringing the embargo placed by the Bihar Government on the movement of foodgrains. The irregularity was reported by the railway administration to the Bihar Government and the matter is said to be under investigation by the Bihar Government.

(c) Government are informed that in one case the senior Food Control Officer recommended a vendor for a permit for 1,750 maunds of *Dal Urd ex-Naugachia* to Gorakhpur, but as the accepted tender was for a quality of *Dal* which was not available at Naugachia, the permit was stopped. In the meantime supply had been made from another source.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

**PURCHASE OF SEVENTY THOUSAND PAIRS OF CHAPPALS BY O. T. RAILWAY SENIOR FOOD CONTROL OFFICER**

996. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that seventy thousand pairs of chappals were purchased by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway under orders of the Senior Food Control Officer?

(b) Were all these chappals required by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and were they absorbed by the staff in the same year?

(c) Was any committee of enquiry set up to verify the requirements, source of supply and method of purchase during the regime of this Officer?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member give the summary of the report and the action taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) No; only 13,375 pairs were purchased.

(b) The chappals were ordered by the officer concerned under a belief that they would be required for sale to the employees of the O. T. Railway. But the expectation did not materialise and 12,726 pairs are lying unsold.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) Government have not so far received the report with the recommendations of the General Manager, O. T. Railway, who is examining the same.

**PURCHASE OF ARHAR DAL FOR THE O. T. RAILWAY.**

997. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Senior Food Controller of Oudh and Tirhut Railway secured permit from Regional Food Control Officer Gorakhpur for nearly forty thousand maunds of *Arhar Dal* and that this quantity was despatched from Gorakhpur to Samastipur?

(b) Is it a fact that only five thousand maunds of *Arhar Dal* was required by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Food Department at Samastipur and balance of thirty five thousand maunds was made over to merchants at Samastipur for selling the same in open market?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the merchants earned a profit of over two and a half lakh of rupees as the difference in prices of the United Provinces and Bihar *Arhar Dal* was nearly six rupees per maund?

(d) Is it a fact that Accounts Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has furnished full report to the Oudh and Tirhut Administration and to the Railway Board in these matters of irregularities?

(e) If reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what action has been taken in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes, except that the total quantity exported in the name of the Food Department during the period covered by the permits from different stations in the U. P. for certain stations in Bihar was 43,237 maunds.

(b) No, the quantity taken over by the O. T. Railway Food Department was 38,524 maunds.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The Accounts Department of the Railway did not submit any report in this connection, as it was not at that time considered to be an Accounts matter and as it was understood that the Regional Food Control Officer, Gorakhpur, was making certain enquiries about the supplies made against the permits issued by him. The Railway Administration has however recently ordered a further enquiry.

(e) Does not arise.

#### RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE STORE DEPARTMENT OF O. T. RAILWAY.

998. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Store Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has been the subject of "Reorganisation" since about a year and that a new officer has been given the charge as "Controller of Stores"?

(b) What is the qualification of this newly appointed officer and what experience of "Store Department" he has?

(c) How many new appointments were made in the new "Re-organisation of the Store Department" and what is the number of Muslims?

(d) What improvements have been made in the Store Department since the "Re-organisation scheme" has been under the present Controller of Stores and what difference in the expenditure incurred on the department has been found?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). Yes, except that the officer concerned has not been newly appointed, but has been transferred from the Bengal Assam Railway in view of his 30 years' continuous experience of Stores Department work on Railways.

(c) Of the 150 new subordinate employees engaged in this connection, 30 are Muslims.

(d) The re-organization of the ex-Company's Stores administration with a view to introducing essential State Railway procedure and forms as required by the State Railway Stores Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, is progressing satisfactorily. As regards the latter portion, it is too early yet to assess the financial results of the re-organization.

#### CATERING ON O. T. RAILWAY

999. \*Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state who are the contractors for catering and vending on the entire Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that Hindu and Muslim refreshment room catering is given to a Hindu caterer and that no Muslim has been given the contract?

(c) When are these contracts due for renewal?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) I lay on the table a list of contractors for all types of catering and vending on the entire O. T. Railway.

(b) No. Out of the five contractors for Indian refreshment rooms, two are Muslims.

(c) The contracts, with the exception of that held by Messrs. Razzak Md. Jan & Sons which is renewable every year are not limited to any specific period and are, therefore, not due for renewal on any particular dates.

#### Statement

There are first and second class refreshment rooms at the following stations on this Railway. In the B. N. W. zone Messrs. G. F. Kellner & Co., hold the contract for these Refreshment Rooms and in the R. K. zone, Messrs. Razzak Md. Jan & Sons run them:

*B. N. W. Zone—*

(1) Thanabihpur.

(2) Barauni Jn.



- (3) Sonopora.
- (4) Chupra.
- (5) Savan.
- (6) Bhatni.
- (7) Gorakhpur.
- (8) Basti.
- (9) Gonda.
- (10) Muzaffarpur
- (11) Samastipur.
- (12) Motihari.
- (13) Narkatiaganj.
- (14) Mau Jn.
- (15) Baxaul.
- (16) On Mokamehghat, and  
Palezaghath Steamers.

**R. & K. Zone—**

- (1) Kathgodam.
- (2) Mailani.

Messrs. Razzak M.I. Jan and Sons have also the contract for running a dining car on day trains between Bareilly and Kathgodam.

There are Indian Refreshment Rooms at the following stations and the names of contractors appointed to run them are shown against each. In these Refreshment Rooms meals for all classes of passengers are served:

<i>Stations.</i>	<i>Contractors.</i>
(2) Aunrihar Jn.	} Messrs. Singh & Sons.
(1) Thanabihpur.	
(1) Ballia.	} Messrs. Ganesh Lall & Co.
(2) Muzaffarpur.	
(3) Darbhanga.	
(4) Samastipur.	
(5) Gorakhpur.	
(1) Sonopore.	} Rai Saheb H. P. Verma & Sons.
(2) Barauni Jn.	
(1) Gonda.	Messrs. Quadir Bux & Sons.
(1) Kathgodam.	Messrs. Razzak Md. Jan & Sons.

**DISPOSAL OF STOCKS OF ARMY VEHICLES AND STORES.**

**1000. \*Mr. E. O. Morris:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) when lists will be available from the Director General of Disposals, detailing the army vehicles and stores (U.S. and British), by types, in stock for disposal; and

(b) when the prices of the above will be known; also their condition and delivery points?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Catalogues of all surpluses will be issued monthly by the Director General of Disposals. It is expected that the first catalogue will be ready in April 1946.

(b) The price policy is under consideration but this will be settled before surpluses are available for disposal. The location of stores and their condition will be indicated in the catalogues.

**INCREASED TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND OTHER RELIEF TO BLOCK MAINTAINERS ON N. W. RAILWAY.**

**1001. \*Seth Sukhdev:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that travelling allowance admissible to the Railway employees has been increased on the North Western Railway; if so, the percentage of increase;

(b) whether any travelling allowance is paid to the Block Maintainers;

(c) if reply to (b) above be in the negative, what relief has been given to the Block Maintainers to compensate them for increased expenses during their tour on duty;

(d) if it is a fact that certain categories of staff not entitled to travelling allowance have been given some compensation towards travelling allowance; and

(d) Yes.

(e) if it is proposed to give a similar relief to the Block Maintainers; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the second portion, the increase in the travelling allowance admissible to non-gazetted employees is about 50 per cent.

(b), (c) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to parts (b) and (e) of his Starred Question No. 844, asked on 12th March 1946.

(d) Yes.

#### PUBLICATION OF REPORTS OF ROGER AND GRADY MISSIONS

**1002. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether and if so, when the Government of India propose to publish the reports of the Roger Mission and the Grady Mission; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the question of publishing the same as early as possible, in view of the fact that the statistical and factual details would be of great assistance on the industrialists of the country?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) and (b). With regard to the Grady Mission, I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given on 27th February, 1946, to question 541.

Government will examine the question in relation to the Reports of the Roger Mission.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### TRANSFER OF CERTAIN TIMBER TRANSPORT PRIORITIES AND PERMITS

**122. Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Timber Transport Advisory Committee at Nagpur issued timber transport priorities and permits in favour of a Forest Contractor of Seoni, District Chhindwara, Central Provinces and that the District Traffic Superintendent, Bengal and Nagpur Railway, Nainpur, transferred three of these in favour of a dealer of Delhi without any authority to do so and in spite of the instructions of the Chairman of the Timber Transport Advisory Committee, Nagpur?

(b) Is it not a fact that this matter was brought to the notice of the Chairman, Timber Transport Advisory Committee, the District Traffic Superintendent, Bengal and Nagpur Railway, Nainpur, and the anti-corruption department of the Government of India? Has any inquiry been made in the matter? If so, with what results?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in the matter now?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The Honourable Member has not indicated the date of the occurrence, but it is assumed that he is referring to a transaction of May or June 1943, relating to the allotment of ten wagons for the transport of sawn timber from Seoni to New Delhi. The inquiry I have had made into the matter reveals that the District Traffic Superintendent, Nainpur, did not act in contravention of the instructions he had received from the Chairman of the Timber Transport Advisory Committee.

(b) As it was suspected that there was some irregularity somewhere, the matter was investigated by the Special Police Staff, War Department. The inquiry showed that no irregularity had been committed by the District Traffic Superintendent or his office.

(c) In view of the reply to (a) and (b) this does not arise.

PURCHASES OF TIMBER BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

**123. Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether the Central Government made purchases of timber through the Forest Department of the Government of Central Provinces and Berar?

(b) If so, is it a fact that the Supply Department instructed the said Government to charge a certain fixed percentage on rates fixed by the Supply Department and in spite of these instructions the purchasing authorities charged more than the scheduled percentage thereby making a profit of more than 20 per cent. permitted under the Defence of India Rules?

(c) Is it a fact that the purchasing authority at the same place and at the same time has made purchase at different rates for similar material and thus no uniform policy has been followed, resulting in favouritism? What steps do Government propose to take to remedy the injustice and inequality thus perpetrated and the financial loss suffered by the dealers who were unable to sell the material in open market due to complete control of transport of timber by Government?

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

(b) No, Sir. The Supply Department purchased timber from the Government of C. P. and Berar at scheduled rates negotiated between the two Governments from time to time. No instructions were issued from the Supply Department to the C. P. and Berar Government laying down the prices at which the latter were to purchase timber from their contractors. The Supply Department were, however, aware that the C. P. and Berar Government were making purchases at prices below the scheduled rates paid by the Central Government. This difference was intended to cover the overhead charges of the C. P. Forest Department in connection with the purchase, production and handling of the timber, and not with the object of making profit.

(c) The rates paid by the Provincial authorities for timber bought by them were fixed under agreements drawn up between them and the suppliers. As conditions differed widely from division to division, the overhead charges were different in different localities, and the suppliers too offered varying terms, with the result that the margin of difference between the scheduled rates at which the Supply Department brought timber from the C. P. and Berar Government, and the rates agreed between the Provincial authorities and their suppliers, also varied.

As far as is known, no compulsion was brought to bear upon forest contractors, timber merchants and private forest owners to sell their timber at rates unacceptable to them, and in the case of those persons who did not wish to sell their timber, the rates to be paid to them were fixed under the agreements drawn up between the supplier and the territorial officer concerned.

The quantities of timber purchased by the C. P. and Berar Government from forest contractors, timber merchants and private owners in 1943-44 and 1944-45 represented only about 15 per cent. of the total quantities supplied by the C. P. and Berar Forest Department to the late Supply Department in each of these years, the remainder being produced by departmental agency from the Government Reserved Forests.

In view of the position as explained above, the latter part of question does not arise.

## TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO G. I. P. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that no travelling allowance is allowed to employees on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for work for a distance of more than five miles from their Headquarters Station;

(b) whether such a travelling allowance is refused on the plea that the distance by rail-cum-road is short of five miles;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to rule 203 of the Establishment Code, distance is to be calculated on an open line of a Railway; if not, what other instructions have been issued by the Railway Board on the subject; and

(d) if no instructions have so far been issued, whether it is proposed to clarify that the distance is to be on the open line of a Railway?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) to (d). I regret I am not quite clear what the Honourable Member means. In accordance with Rules 203 and 208 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, daily allowance is admissible to a railway servant, who is not in receipt of a permanent travelling allowance, for a journey on an open line of a railway, if he proceeds on tour beyond a radius of 5 miles from his headquarters, the distance being calculated from the railway station, provided the duration of his absence from headquarters is not less than 8 consecutive hours. These rules apply on the G. I. P. Railway.

## SANCTIONED POSTS IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF RAILWAY STAFF

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

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts in various grades of the following categories of staff on the North Western Railway, separately, for each Division on the 1st January, 1946—

(i) Station and Assistant Station Masters,

(ii) Signallers,

(iii) Goods Clerks,

(iv) Parcel Clerks,

(v) Booking Clerks,

(vi) Train Clerks,

(vii) Electric and Carriage Clerks,

(viii) Ticket Collectors,

(ix) Guards, and

(x) Train Examiners;

(b) the percentage of leave reserve sanctioned and actual percentage for each Division; and

(c) if the actual percentage is below the sanctioned percentage, what steps are being taken to fill up the posts; if none, why?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have called for the information and will lay it on the table of the House in due course.

## SELECTION OF RAILWAY FOOD INSPECTORS AT KARACHI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a selection for Food Inspectors was held at Karachi on the North Western Railway in January last;

(b) whether the results of the first selection were cancelled and a further selection held in February;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the first selection the first two places were secured by Hindus;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the second selection, the first place was secured by a Muslim;

(e) whether it is a fact that the first selection was cancelled by the Divisional Personnel Officer, North Western Railway with the approval of the Senior Assistant Personnel, North Western Railway Headquarters, Lahore;

(f) whether both these officers are Muslims; and

(g) what steps Government propose to take to ensure fairness and observance of rules of procedure in selections?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have called for the information and will lay the same on the table of the House in due course.

DEPOSITS FROM CASH MEMO CLERKS AND MANAGERS OF RAILWAY GRAIN SHOPS  
AT MOGHALPURA

**127. Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed as Cash Memo Clerks and grain shop Managers, community-wise, in each Division of the North Western Railway including the Moghalpura Workshops;

(b) whether they are required to keep any deposit with the Railway;

(c) whether the condition of deposit applies to permanent employees also;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the Moghalpura Workshops, communal discrimination is observed in demanding and taking deposits; if so, why; and

(e) if the reply to the first portion of (d) above be in the negative, whether the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of employees, community-wise, who have not yet given any deposit?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Information regarding all the Divisions is not readily available and its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results expected. The number of staff of the two categories employed in the Moghalpura Workshops' Grain shops is, however, given below, community-wise:

	Grainshop Managers	Cash Memo Clerks
Muslims . . . . .	5	28
Sikhs . . . . .	1	2
Hindus . . . . .	1	18

Government are informed that in addition to the above staff, 9 Registration Clerks, comprising 4 Muslims, 4 Hindus and 1 Sikh, are also utilised as Cash Memo Clerks when the pressure of work necessitates it.

(b) Yes, all Grainshop Managers, Cash Memo Clerks and Registration Clerks are required to deposit security with the railway.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) No. The reply to the second portion does not arise.

(e) Government are informed that of such staff of the Moghalpura Workshops' Grain shops who are required to deposit security, there is no employee who is not complying with this rule.

PROVISION OF DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRY AND CHARGE SHEET ON NORTH WESTERN  
RAILWAY

**128. Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules provide for a departmental enquiry and charge sheet, in case it was proposed to remove an employee having continuous service of seven years or more;

(b) whether it is a fact that on the North Western Railway, the benefits referred to in part (a) above are denied to employees with seven years continuous service on the ground of their not having been confirmed; if so, why; and

(c) what general instructions the Railway Board have issued for the interpretation of the word 'continuous service'; if none, whether it is proposed to clarify that the use of the term continuous service in the Discipline and Appeal Rules for Railwaymen indicates total service put in continuously?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to Rule 1709 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. This rule gives the correct position in this respect.

(b) No. The reply to the latter portion does not arise.

(c) No instructions have been issued as none are considered necessary.

#### REDUCTION IN WORKING HOURS OF NON-FACTORY RAILWAYMEN

**129. Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many Railwaymen will be benefitted by the reduction in the working hours to 48 per week in the proposed amendment of the Indian Factories Act;

(b) whether it is proposed to reduce working hours of non-factory Railwaymen also; if so, when the necessary amending Bill will be brought forward; and

(c) if the reply to the first part of (b) above be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to remove discrimination between Factory and non-factory workers in the matter of hours of work; if none, why?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) As the hours of work in workshops on railways normally do not exceed 48 hours per week, there will be no change in respect of working hours after the proposed amendment passes into law.

(b) The question of reducing the hours of work of staff not falling within the scope of the Indian Factories Act is being examined in consultation with railway administrations. As regards the latter portion of this part of the question necessary action to amend the Hours of Employment Regulations will be taken if, as a result of the examination referred to, it is decided to reduce the existing limits of hours of work of staff governed by these Regulations.

(c) Does not arise.

#### COMPENSATION TO BLOCK MAINTAINERS DUE TO INCREASED EXPENSES ON TOURING DUTY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an increase in allowances to running staff on a percentage basis has been made on the North Western Railway;

(b) whether any travelling allowance or some such compensation is allowed to the Block Maintainers on the North Western Railway, in view of increased expenses on touring duty; and

(c) if the reply to (b) above be in the negative, whether it is proposed to consider their case for some allowance?

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

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to parts (b) and (c) of his Starred Question No. 844 asked in the House on 12th March 1946.

## TRANSFER OF E. I. RAILWAY CLAIMS OFFICE FROM BENARES TO CALCUTTA

**131. Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that statistics of claims dealt with by class I Railways are maintained by the Railway Board? If so, how does the E. I. Railway stand in this regard?

(b) Is it a fact that the E. I. Railway Claims Office Section "D" was transferred to Calcutta from Benares some time in the year 1944 under the direct supervision of the Chief Commercial Manager? Will the Honourable Member lay a comparative statement of claims dealt with by this section and the average time taken during two years with the Claims statistics of the Benares Office?

(c) Is it a fact that the efficiency at the Benares Office (Claims) is greater than the sections working directly under the Chief Commercial Manager, E. I. Railway, Calcutta? If not, what is the fact?

(d) Will not the Honourable Member look into the advisability of allowing the Claims Sections of the E. I. Railway which deal with the claims pertaining to the Allahabad, Lucknow, Moradabad and Dinapore Divisions to remain at Benares in the best interest of the public and business circles of the United Provinces and Bihar? If not, why not?

(e) Will the Honourable Member postpone the transfer of the Claims Office from Benares to Calcutta for the present till food situation and housing conditions become easy in Bengal, and not force the transfer under the pretext of direct control by the Chief Commercial Manager?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 52, pages 33 and 34. Chapter IV of Vol. I of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1944-45 which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Yes. One Section of the main Claims Office dealing with compensation claims regarding parcel consignments booked to Howrah and Calcutta stations and goods and parcel traffic booked to other stations on the Howrah Division was retransferred from Benares to Calcutta in August 1944 as this was found necessary in the interests of efficiency. The information asked for in the latter part of the question is not readily available. Figures are being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The answer is in the negative. It will be incorrect to draw any comparison between the standard of work of the main Office and any of its branches. Results can only be judged as a whole.

(d) No, Sir. The Claims Office is an integral part of the Headquarters Commercial organisation and was temporarily shifted from Calcutta to Benares only as a measure of war emergency. It is not possible to give prior consideration to the interests of particular localities. The question of administrative efficiency must be considered from the point of view of the whole E. I. Railway, which involves correspondence in connection with claims matters over the whole of India.

(e) It is the intention to bring the claims office back to Calcutta as soon as accommodation is easily available. The food situation will also be taken into account, but it is believed that the position in this respect at Calcutta is not more acute than at Benares.

## DISCONTINUING GRANTING OF CERTIFICATES BY GUARDS TO PERSONS UNABLE TO BUY TICKETS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

**132. Mr. B. B. Varma:** Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the Administration of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway have prohibited the issue of certificates by Guards of trains to those passengers who happen to be unable to purchase their tickets before the arrival of trains? If so, does he propose to consider this demand, and restore the pre-war system?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes. As a result of the abnormal conditions created by the War the privilege has been withdrawn with a view to discouraging passengers travelling without tickets when trains are running overcrowded. The question of re-introducing this privilege will be considered as soon as conditions return to normality.

TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS' FLYING SQUAD ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

**133. Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the number of Travelling Ticket Examiners, with their scales of pay, who were taken in service in 1936 and in 1941 as Travelling Ticket Examiners' Flying Squad on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway; and

(b) if it is a fact that in making promotions and confirmations and granting increments in time-scales of pay, seniority in service was not taken into consideration while giving preference to juniors?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I regret I cannot undertake to examine whether the promotions and confirmation effected when the railway was under the Company management were made on the basis of seniority or otherwise.

WARNING TO RAILWAY STAFF AGAINST APPROACHING M. L. A.'S FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES

**134. Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that recently the Railway Board have directed Railway Administrations to warn the staff under them from approaching the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature for the redress of their grievances; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, whether he proposes to place those directions on the table of the House; if not, why not; and

(c) the procedure prescribed by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Administration under which their employees could have the redress of their grievances; if no procedure is prescribed, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The Honourable Member is probably referring to the circular issued in September, 1945, asking railway administrations to remind the staff of (i) the undesirability from the point of view of discipline of approaching the Members of the Central Legislature with a view to having their individual grievances, which are rarely of public importance, made the subject matter of interpellations and (ii) the fact that disclosure to non-officials of information which has been obtained from official sources entails a breach of Rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

(b) I lay on the table of the House a copy of the circular in question, together with a copy of the Home Department Office Memoranda referred to therein.

(c) Railway servants have the right of appeal to the competent authority through the proper channel and the rules on the subject are contained in Rules 1717 to 1727 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAY DEPARTMENT (RAILWAY BOARD).

No. E-45-G.S.-13 (2).

*Dated New Delhi, the 21st September, 1945.*

The undermentioned papers are forwarded to the General Managers, State-managed Railways, Director Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Secretary, R. R. A. C., General Secretary, I. R. C. A., and the President, N. W. Railway Service Commission for information and necessary action. This is in continuation of Railway Board's letter No. 876E-22, dated 20th June, 1922.

M. E. BARTLEY,

*Deputy Director, Railway Board.*



*Papers forwarded.*

COPY OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT MEMO. No. 50/10/45-PUBLIC, DATED 15TH JUNE 1945 (WITH ENCLOSURE).

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

SUBJECT:—*Practice of the Secretariat establishment approaching members of the Legislature with a view to airing their grievances.*

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Home Department Office Memorandum No. F.-369, dated the 8th June, 1922 (copy enclosed) on the subject noted above, and to say that several cases have recently been brought to notice in which Government servants employed in the Secretariat must have approached Members of the Central Legislature with a view to having their individual grievances made the subject matter of interpellations in the Chambers. Apart from the fact that such a conduct is highly undesirable from the point of view of office discipline, the procedure adopted usually entails, as stated in the Home Department Office Memorandum referred to above, a breach of rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

2. It has been suggested that the recurrence of cases of this kind is to a large extent due to the fact that most of the new members of the Secretariat establishments are not made fully aware of the provision of rule 17 of and of the consequences which may follow a breach of the rule. It is therefore requested that the Finance Department/etc., may again bring to the notice of their staff the provisions of this rule and the warning conveyed in the Home Department Office Memo. No. F.-369, dated the 8th June, 1922. The substance of the present Office Memorandum may also be communicated to the offices subordinate to the Finance Department/etc. for information and necessary action.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. F.-369, DATED THE 8TH JUNE 1922, FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI, TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

Cases have come to the notice of the Government of India in which members of the Secretariat establishments have approached Members of the Legislatures with a view to having their individual grievances made the subject of interpellations in the Chambers. Apart from the fact that the questions involved are rarely, if ever, of public importance, the practice usually entails the disclosure to non-official persons of information which has been obtained from official sources or has come into the possession of the members of the Secretariat in the course of his official duties; and any such disclosure is a breach of rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. The undersigned is therefore directed to request that the attention of the office establishment in the Foreign and Political/etc. Department may be drawn to the provisions of this rule and that they may be warned that any communication to a Member of the Legislature which involves an infringement thereof will be severely dealt with. It is further requested that the substance of this Memorandum may be communicated to the offices subordinate to the Foreign and Political/etc. Department if any, for information and necessary action.

COPY OF LETTER No. 876 E-22, DATED THE 20TH JUNE 1922, FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, RAILWAY BOARD, TO THE AGENT, N. W., E. B. AND O. & R. RAILWAYS, ETC.

*Disclosure to non-official persons of information which has been obtained from official sources.*

I am directed to state that cases have come to the notice of the Government of India in which Government servants have approached members of the Legislatures with a view to having their individual grievances made the subject of interpellations in the Chambers. Apart from the fact that the questions involved are rarely, if ever, of public importance, the practice usually entails the disclosure to non-official persons of information which has been obtained from official sources or has come into the possession of the Government Servant in the course of his official duties and any such disclosure is a breach of Rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. I am therefore to request that the attention of the staff generally under your control may be drawn to the provision of this rule and that they may be warned that any communication to a Member of the Legislatures which involves an infringement thereof will be severely dealt with.

INCONVENIENCE TO PUBLIC DUE TO SHORTAGE OF STAFF AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON  
 OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

**135. Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if he is aware that due to shortage of staff at the Markatiganj, Bettiah, Motihari, Muzaffarpur, Chapra, Mahendrugat and Dighaghat Stations on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway the Travelling public are put to great inconvenience during booking hours and purchasing of tickets?

(b) Does he propose to remove the inconvenience? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The O. T. Railway Administration reports that it is not a fact that there is shortage of staff at the stations mentioned or that the travelling public are put to inconvenience during booking hours and purchasing of tickets. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) This does not arise.

HEARING APPEALS BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

**136. Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the General Manager and other Heads of Departments on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are the authorities to hear appeals against the orders of their subordinate officers, i.e., District Traffic Superintendent, etc., if not, what the fact is; and

(b) if it is a fact that on appointment of a subordinate officer to the post of the Head of a Department or General Manager he has to hear an appeal against his own orders, passed as a subordinate officers; if so, how far it is permissible and admissible in administering justice?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Detailed rules on the subject are contained in rule 1717, as amended by Correction Slip No. 11, of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Yes, though cases of this nature are not frequent and Government have no reason to believe that officers referred to would hesitate to alter their own decision if fresh arguments brought forward in an appeal demand that course.

GROSS MISUSE OF TIMBER TRANSPORT PRIORITIES BY M. E. S. CONTRACTORS

**137. Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that gross misuse of timber transport priorities, issued to the Military Engineering Service contractors has taken place during the war;

(b) whether he is aware that one such act was brought to the notice of high ranking officers of the Central Province T. T. A. C., Nagpur when in the month of March 1943, timber under transport for military works at Pullgaon by a M. E. S. was publicly sold at Nagpur by an M. E. S. contractor, at the railway timber siding, and that at the instance of the then Divisional Traffic Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the Personal Assistant of the C. C. F., Central Province and Berar, material belonging to an M. E. S. contractor of wagons 64867, 00862 and 00608 from Pandhurna to Nagpur and from Ramakona to Nagpur was purchased by a test purchaser; and

(c) if it is a fact that an inquiry was made in the matter, and, if so, what the result of the inquiry was and why the matter was hushed up?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected from the Government of C. P. and Berar and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—*contd.*

*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.—concl'd.*

**Mr. President:** Discussion will now be resumed on the cut motion of Mr. Jaffer.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am very thankful to my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa for the very nice speech he made yesterday. If people like Mr. Sri Prakasa come forward to help in solving this very complicated problem in this country, I think matters can be easily solved. Men with broad views like Mr. Sri Prakasa are needed to handle this complicated problem which has been facing this House since 1922.

I remember in 1922 for the first time this matter came before this House, and after that it has been brought in year after year. 'Twenty-four years have passed since then. If Government had been serious in solving this problem, I think there would not have been a single member on the Muslim League Benches to get up and ask about the number of Muslims in service. I remember that for three years past no question of this kind was debated here simply because of the abnormal conditions prevailing in the country: on account of war conditions ventilation of this grievance was not sought. After several years this question has come up again and it would be the best solution if Government decides this matter once for all, so that we may never have this question again on the floor of this House. If the present Government really thinks they are abdicating and going to hand over charge to the other Government, it will be right and proper that they should not leave a legacy of this kind which has been witnessed year after year in this House—they must find out some kind of solution satisfying all sides and all parties.

I am very glad that some Honourable Members from the Congress Benches said yesterday that they were prepared to give even cent. per cent. seats to the Muslims. This was a very nice gesture, and if this kind of spirit is evinced they will find that the Muslims will not demand anything more than their rights.

I had this kind of problem before me in the committee which was sitting in London in 1933; and when I found that people could not come to any agreement in other places, we came, within ten minutes, to an agreement of this problem, which was supported unanimously; and it is recorded that it is the unanimous desire of the Hindu and Muslim Members of the legislature—we decided that within ten minutes. This matter can be decided easily, but unfortunately Government is not paying much attention to solve this problem.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They do not want to.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** When this question came up here in 1928 or 1929, one very revered and respected Hindu gentleman, Pandit Madan Malaviya said that the Muslims must get their quota. That was 18 years ago—in 1928 or 1929, I forget which year it was. Mr. Jinnah then said that it seemed to be the policy of the Government that they should keep the Muslims discontented and by this discontentment the Muslims should go on asking questions and blaming the Hindus, so that by these tactics they may go on keeping up the quarrel in this House, and thus continue the quarrel outside in the country also. Mr. Jinnah also said then that if the Government seriously wanted to stop these communal questions, the best way was to come to a solution. Now nearly 18 years have passed and I still find that this question is being debated and there is still discontent in the matter.

[Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan.]

My friend Mr. Jaffer gave figures about many Departments of the Government of India and Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman also gave same figures of other Departments. They show that Government has not seriously attended to this problem and try to do away with it. It is time now that a policy is adopted which would bring about a permanent solution and not a half-hearted solution. In 1934 the Home Department passed a resolution. It was very good and I am thankful to two old friends who were here—one was the Home Member and the other the Home Secretary, Sir Harry Haig and Sir Maurice Hallett. They did a lot, but though they made a great advance the problem is still there. Where there is a quota fixed for new recruits, we find that in other ways the Muslims are thwarted in their proper desire to get promotion. There is no quota for the superior grades to which people are promoted from the lower grades. This means that half the number of jobs are filled through promotion and half through direct recruitment; if there are 80 jobs, 40 are reserved to be filled in through promotion and the remaining 40 through direct recruitment. Now the Mussalmans are entitled to 25 per cent. of jobs which are filled through direct recruitment, that is 10. But they do not get their share out of the quota reserved for promotion, with the result that instead of getting 20 out of 80, they actually get 10 out of 80, and that is the cause of heart-burning. This creates a bad atmosphere in this House. I want the Government to see that their instructions are carried out properly both in letter and in spirit.

I remember, Sir, in 1939, when the war broke out, and the Honourable Sir John Thorne was officiating as Home Member, a deputation called upon him and a representation was made to him by several Members of the Muslim League Party to the effect that a quota for Muslims should be reserved in the temporary posts which would be created due to the war. He gave an assurance that this would be done, but when the war progressed it was found that it was not practicable because people were required to take up jobs immediately and a sufficient number of Muslims was not coming forward. The Muslim Members realized that it would not be reasonable to insist on this to be followed invariably, and they told the then Home Member, Sir Reginald Maxwell, that they would be satisfied if an assurance was given that at the time of retrenchment this fact would be taken into consideration and the Mussalmans would be compensated for the loss which they had sustained at the time of recruitment, and that the Muslims would get their share among the staff who would be permanently retained after the war. Sir Reginald Maxwell could not commit himself to anything, but he said that that was a reasonable demand and it would be taken into consideration at the proper time. Now, Sir, is the proper time to rectify this position. If Mussalmans did not get the opportunity to fill their quota at the time of recruitment, now at least their number is enough to make up their 25 per cent. in the posts which will be permanently retained. I therefore say that as far as possible retrenchment in all the Departments should be done in such a manner that the percentage of Muslims, which in 1922 was 2½ and which after 22 years of clamouring has increased to 6, should be raised to 25 per cent. which they deserve. If in the permanent cadres the percentage of Muslims is low, then the temporary Muslims hands may not be retrenched until their quota is full. This can be done easily, and if this policy is adopted, I am sure this problem will be solved.

Sir, we do not like it to be said that Mussalmans are communalists and they talk about jobs. Nobody is happy to bring forward this question of jobs to this House, but what is to be done? There are hungry, needy people who want jobs; they deserve but they do not get jobs and naturally when they do not get their proper share in Government services they come to us. I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, that people should not be anxious to come in Government service and they should seek other employments. Several communities who have been in business and have Lawyers and are highly qualified in other respects and who can get other jobs, also try for Government jobs.

They should not do so. But there are certain other classes who have done nothing but Government service during the last two or three hundred years. They are being ousted; where should they go? It will take time for such people to take to business, and until then Government have to find a solution of this problem.

I personally think, Sir, that Government is not really serious to solve this question of maintaining proper communal ratio in Government services. I can give you an example. During the war many Departments have been created and thousands of people have been appointed. Although all these jobs are of a temporary nature, but still it is ridiculous to find that, for instance in the War Transport Department, out of 33 posts of officers' grade not a single one has been given to a Muslim. Can it be said that no Muslims were available or Muslims are not considered fit for these jobs? No. I find that people have been recruited from different walks of life—trade, business, engineering and so on—but not a single Mussalman has been taken in the War Transport Department. On the Roads side in the same Department out of 34 officers there is only one Muslim—one of the Assistant Secretaries. Out of 10 Superintendents there are 2 Muslims, and on the top of it people who have already put in their full service and have retired are re-employed and are being kept on still, and younger people are not given a chance. Why is it that the Mussalmans are deprived of their due share in the War Transport Department? It proves that Government are not making any serious attempt to see that their instructions are actually carried out in practice. What actually happens is this: If one man gets in, he tries to bring as many of his friends and relatives as he can at the cost of others. It is the duty of the Home Department to keep a watch on these things. They issue instructions but I wonder if they ever try and see that their instructions are complied with. The other day the Honourable the Home Member, in reply to a question, gave a big ratio of Muslims in certain Departments. On examination I found that that ratio included the chaprasis, the daftris, and so on. If he includes them in the total number in the whole Department, it is all right. But the question is how many Muslims are there in the Officers grade. Is there anybody in the Officer grade, say, in his own Department? Has he got a Muslim Additional Secretary, or Joint Secretary, or Deputy Secretary, or Under Secretary? Yesterday in reply to a question the Honourable the Labour Member said, 'There is the Chief Engineer'.

**An Honourable Member:** In name.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** I know, but he is in the P. W. D. What about the Secretariat? How many Muslim officers are there? Has he got a Muslim Secretary, or Joint Secretary, or Deputy Secretary, or Under Secretary? Not a single one out of these. It is not difficult to find out how many there are. Just take up the telephone directory and go through the names of officers in the various Departments. I say that this is the time to create a good atmosphere in the country; let us create a brotherly feeling. Why should there be an animosity between the various communities? Why do you do thing in such a way that one people are forced to call bad names to others? Why not solve the problem in a proper way? I suggest, Sir, that if the Honourable the Home Member takes up this matter seriously and in his own hands, its solution will not be very difficult. Sir, I support the motion.

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne** (Home Member): I leave to my colleagues representing the other Departments to deal, so far as possible within the time limit, with the complaints which have been made. I admit that Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan has just added my Department to the list, but I will deal with that at a later stage. My main concern is with the Government of India Resolution of 1934 which has been quoted by most speakers today. May I remind the House what exactly the policy laid down, so far as Muslims are concerned, in the Resolution is. Paragraph 7 says:

[Sir John Thorne]

"In the Indian Civil Service and the Central and Subordinate services to which recruitment is made on an all-India basis, the following rules will be observed :

(1) 25 per cent. of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment of Indians will be reserved for Muslims. . . .

(2) When recruitment is made by open competition, if Muslims or the other minority communities obtain less than these percentages, these percentages will be secured to them by means of nomination. If, however, Muslims obtain more than their reserved percentage in open competition no reduction will be made in the percentage reserved for other minorities. While if the other minorities obtain more than their reserved percentage in open competition, no reduction will be made in the percentage reserved for Muslims."

I need not read the other parts of the Resolution but what I want to stress is that the undertaking given in that applies only to direct recruitment. In paragraph 6 we get a sentence: "They (*i.e.* the rules) relate only to direct recruitment and not to recruitment by promotion which will continue to be made as at present, solely on merit."

Well, I know, of course that my Muslim friends complain that at present promotions are not made solely on merit. But I cannot offer any undertaking that as a general statement of policy the Government of India will now go back on what is stated in this Resolution in regard to appointment by promotion. Now, Sir, what is the position which has after ten years or more resulted from the operation of this Resolution? I laid on the table the other day in response to a question of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jaffer, a statement which many in this House may not yet have read, which gave figures for the position, after ten years, that is from 1st January 1935 to the 1st January 1945. It shows the percentage increases during those ten years in various services, *i.e.*, the Indian Civil Service, the Central services of various classes, the subordinate services and so on. Now the percentage increase for Muslims in all services taken together in those ten years is 2.55 per cent. In some services it is considerably higher. For instance in the Indian Civil Service it is over 5 per cent., in the Central Services, Class I and Class II it is between 3 and 4 per cent. But the figure for all services together is 2.55 per cent. The resulting position is that in all services together, the proportion of Muslims on the 1st January 1945 is 20.67 per cent. There again in various services there is some difference. In the Indian Civil Service it is over 20 per cent. In some other services it is as low as 15 and 16 per cent. Well, Sir, appended to that statement are a note or two which I think would be of use if I read to the House, because if I did not read them to the House I should have to say much of it out of my head.

"The increase of representation of the minority communities would probably have been more marked but for the war, (*I know my Honourable friend, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan has recognised that during the war a large number of new posts, requiring special and technical qualifications were created suddenly and it was not always possible to find suitable minority candidates on short notice and the attractions of military service reduced the numbers available for civil posts. The extent of the problem is indicated by the war-time recruitment to the subordinate services where the number of temporary posts increased from 4,519 on the 1st January 1939, to 46,720 on the 1st January 1945. All permanent recruitment to the Central Services was however stopped from June 1942, 70 per cent. of permanent vacancies being reserved for war service candidates and the remaining 30 per cent. for temporary employees under Government. Government have issued instructions that in filling the 70 per cent. reservation for war service candidates and the 30 per cent reservation for temporary men, the rules regarding communal representation should be strictly followed. Government have further directed that where retrenchment is necessary (and this was a point raised by several of my Muslim friends) the temporary staff should be so discharged that the composition of the persons retained is, as far as possible, in accordance with the communal ratios prescribed for recruitment.*")

Now, Sir, I do not quite follow what my Muslim friends want in regard to retrenchment. I should have thought, so far as I could understand their request that the order to which that note refers meets the demand, but if that is not so,

if there is some loophole in this arrangement which they do not like. I shall be very glad to hear about it and see whether it can be stopped.

One thing I would point out is this it has been stated, I think, at times that in the flow of recruits to the armed forces and to all other forms of war service,—the definition covers quite a large field in that flow Muslims are represented in a considerably higher proportion than their proportion in the population. If that is so, then clearly they stand a better chance of recruitment in the 70 per cent. of posts which are now reserved for people with war service. The 25 per cent. for Muslims is not a maximum. It is a minimum as is clear from the portion of the rule that I read, and if the proportion of Muslims with war service is considerably higher than 25 per cent. then surely they stand a good chance of getting more than 25 per cent. of this 70 per cent. which has been reserved for people with war service.

Now, Sir, it is of course clear from what I have said that Muslims have not succeeded in getting 25 per cent. of the posts in Government service. I think that over on a superficial reading of the resolution of 1934 it could not be held that Government have guaranteed that Muslims shall get 25 per cent. There may be various causes (sometimes unavoidable causes) which will prevent that. But I quite sympathise with their feeling that 20 per cent. after ten years is hardly good enough; and it is our business, it is the business of the Home Department, to come to a conclusion as clear as possible as to the causes which have prevented Muslims from filling by this time a proportion certainly closer to the 25 per cent. which was fixed for direct recruitment. That applies specially to the higher services in the Central Services. In Class I the proportion of Muslims is 16·05 per cent. in Class II it is only 18·32 per cent. and in the superior railway service it is 15·21 per cent. And those figures, if I were a Muslim, would cause me some dissatisfaction.

What are the causes? The suggestion is that the principal cause is that the rules are not properly applied, they are not properly enforced and there are influences working against the Muslims in Government service which prevent them from getting their due proportion. As I have said, Sir, there are other possible causes and of course the main one is the possibility that there are not, especially for certain types of posts, enough suitable candidates from the Muslim community. These higher posts in particular are mostly filled in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission, through the agency and control of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Now, Sir, I was sorry to hear a remark that fell from my friend, Mr. Habibur Rahman I think it was. I did not follow exactly what he said but it seemed to me that he was making a suggestion that the Federal Public Service Commission itself is not properly following the policy which has been laid down in this regard. I hope that suggestion was not made and that I misunderstood my Honourable friend's meaning.

**Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang** (East Punjab: Muhammadan): He did not say so: he meant no reflection on the Federal Public Service Commission.

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne**: I withdraw my supposition that he had said anything of the sort. He referred to the Commission but I accept my friend's assurance, that there was no suggestion of a bias on the part of the Commission. I am very glad to hear that. I was going to say that the Federal Public Service Commission has proved and will continue to prove a very great safeguard not only for the cleanliness of the administration, cleanliness of appointments as a whole, but in particular a great safeguard of the rights of the minorities as laid down in the resolution of 1934.

I quite admit that the present arrangements which have been laid down by the Home Department for ensuring that the resolution shall be faithfully carried out are unsatisfactory. I have been looking into them lately, not for the purpose of meeting this cut motion but, shall I say, out of a fundamental desire to do



[Sir John Thorne]

my duty. I have been looking into them and I am not satisfied with them. We take an immense amount of pains. We give the other Departments of the Government of India a great deal of trouble and when it is all done we have not got, to my mind, a clear assurance as to the causes which still prevent not only Muslims but other communities for whom proportions had been reserved from reaching the figures stated in the resolution. We have prescribed returns: it is inevitable that returns should be prescribed. We have, if I may say so, great difficulty in getting from some of the Departments these returns properly and punctually filled up: in particular there are some attached offices which are habitual offenders in the matter of the submission of these returns. They are not punctually submitted and when they come they are imperfectly prepared and there has to be a great deal of passing to and fro before we are assured that the figures are correct. Even if we get what we have prescribed as returns, which should be received by the 1st April relating to the previous calendar year, even if we got those returns properly prepared, they would still, to my mind, not meet the need which exists. We should still be conducting only a *post-mortem* on appointments which are largely irrevocable at that stage instead of what I should like to see, a running check on appointments as they are made. I am not imputing to the Departments the motive which my Muslim friends impute to them, but I do feel that the duty of my own Department is not sufficiently fulfilled at present, because we have this mass of figures coming well after the event and we cannot be assured whether Muslims and members of the other communities had not received their proportion of appointments and whether the causes are fair and inevitable. I must of course make it clear that I am not concerned only with Muslims, I think I have made that clear. But I am now considering (I know my Honourable friends have not much respect for that phrase, more especially when a member of Government says that he is carefully considering or has carefully considered something, but it is an inevitable phrase) I am considering how we can improve that position. I should have liked to have something fairly definite to state to the House but I have not. It is a very difficult matter. It will mean a fairly elaborate machine. We cannot be content with just appointing a Muslim officer and handing the job over to him. Nor can we be content, as the mover suggested, with appointing a Muslim Deputy Secretary in each Department and requiring him to be personally responsible. Neither of those measures would meet the need which seems to exist and that is to have a running check, as appointments are made, on compliance with the terms of the resolution. I cannot go into more detail on that at the present moment but I do assure my friends, Muslims and others, that I mean business in regard to this. It is a matter on which I should like to consult the Standing Committee of the Home Department. If we have anything ready before the session ends that of course will be done. I am not sure whether that would be possible. I fear it may not be. We shall have to consult the Federal Public Service Commission over this, and it will not be easy to get hold of busy men whose headquarters, unfortunately, are not in Delhi. But if there is an opportunity which I can seize, without causing undue delay, or consulting the Standing Committee, I shall certainly do so; and I must repeat that I do feel that the present position is unsatisfactory, and it is my intention to do all I can to put it right.

**The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar** (Labour Member): Mr. President, it must be within the recollection of many Members of this House that many stones have been hurled at the Labour Department . . . . .

**Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Bricks, not stones . . . . .

**The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar**: or bricks, during the last week which preceded this cut motion. It is only fair that I should rise in my seat to state



How the position of Muslims stands in my Department. Yesterday I listened to a sort of running commentary by the two speakers who spoke on this cut motion; they gave some figures regarding the position of Muslim employees in the different Departments of the Government of India. As I listened to that commentary, I cannot help saying that, having the facts before me, I felt considerably proud that the Muslim employees under the Labour Department had certainly fared much better than the story that was revealed by the speakers with regard to other Departments of the Government of India. That this is no vain boast but that it is supported by facts is what I propose to do during the few minutes that I propose to occupy today. I have collected, and if I may say so, I have taken great pains in collecting figures regarding the percentage of the employees of the Government of India in the Labour Department, not only in the Labour section, but in the P. W. D. and in all other attached offices. Figures which show what the position of the communities is, the position of the Muslims is as well as the position of the other minorities. But I quite realise that within the time that I have it would be quite impossible for me to lay out in completeness the position of these different communities, and therefore I propose today merely to give the figures of Muslims—not only the totals but also the percentages, so that the members of the Muslim League Party may know what exactly the position is.

I begin with the communal composition of the Labour Department secretariat; and in doing so I propose to give not merely the figures as they stand now, but to give the figures on a comparative basis. I think the comparative basis is very necessary and very essential. So far as I have been able to understand the working of this rule, I think I may say that it is somewhat like shooting at a target: a target has a bulls eye; it has an inner circle and it has an outer circle. The percentages are the bulls-eye, undoubtedly. But I do not think that it would at all be possible for any member of the Government of India, no matter what his personal predilections may be, that he can arrange the services under him in such a manner that he would always be able to hit the bulls eye. What I submit is that there should be an endeavour on the part of every member to see that no community as far as possible is pushed out of what is called the centre; and the question therefore that we have to consider in passing judgment upon the doings of any particular Department is to know whether the position of any particular class of employees in that Department has deteriorated or has bettered, and from that point of view I think a comparative statement is the proper way of studying this matter.

I have collected figures in all cases for 1939 and for 1946-March. I said that I will first present the figures with regard to the Labour Department secretariat. The gazetted posts in the year 1939 were 12 and the Muslim percentage was 8 per cent. In 1946, the total number of gazetted posts is 80 and the Muslim proportion is 20 per cent. I will give the figures for the non-gazetted posts. In 1939 the total number of such posts was 75 and of that the Muslims had 23 per cent. In 1946 the total number of posts was 457, and the percentage of Muslims is 24.

Now I will come to that much-talked of C. P. W. D. I will give the figures for the gazetted posts. In 1939 the total number of gazetted posts in the C. P. W. D. was 43, of which the Muslims had 21 per cent. In 1946 the total number of posts was 181; and notwithstanding the difficulties to which my Honourable friend the Home Member referred in the matter of observing the communal proportions during the war emergency, the Muslims had 21·1 per cent. Now, this probably may not quite give enough comfort for the Mover of this cut motion; and I therefore propose to take the time of the House further to analyse the composition of the gazetted posts in the C. P. W. D. in the year 1946, taking the different grades for finding out the percentages. In Superintending engineers, the total posts are 14 and there is one Muslim—which gives 7 per cent. Of Executive Engineers there are 64, and the Muslim percentage is

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18 per cent. Electrical Engineers are 12, and the Muslim quota is 6-2/3 per cent. Assistant Executive Engineers—the quota for Muslims is 14 per cent. Temporary Engineers total 72 and the Muslim percentage is 32 per cent. While discussing the C. P. W. D. one of my Honourable friends—I forget which it was—mentioned the question of contracts of the Lodi Road . . . . .

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer** (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Myself.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I think yourself. I forget exactly the figure mentioned by the Honourable Member . . . . .

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** 5 crores.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** His complaint was that in the contracts for the Lodi Road works, the Muslim contractors got a very small percentage. I forget the exact figure.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** I referred to the Lodi Road Colony in particular and there are so many others in general.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The Honourable Member made his speech towards the end of the day and it was impossible for me to get the necessary figures but the figures are these.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): There was no necessity for you to intervene at this stage. You could have waited for some time longer.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am very much obliged to my Honourable friend for this advice but I thought it desirable to let the Muslim League have sufficient time for their other cut motions. That is the reason why I intervened. Otherwise it was really a general motion. I had no desire to intervene at all and there was no necessity to. It is only to allay the fears which some Members have about the Labour Department that I got up.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Very kind of you.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The position with regard to the Lodi Road works was this. According to the information supplied to me by the Chief Engineer, the Muslims have got altogether contracts worth 10.5 lakhs of rupees, which is a figure much higher than the figure mentioned by my Honourable friend.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Out of?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Out of three crores. My Honourable friend will also remember and take the fact into consideration that on these works the Executive Engineer was a Muslim?

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** What about the official pressure put on him not to give it to Muslims?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** My friend is making all sorts of allegations. I hope he has got sufficient evidence to back them up. Nobody has drawn my attention to them. If my friend will give me the facts, I will certainly make inquiries.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** I will give it to you on the floor of the House.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The fact is that there is a Muslim Executive Engineer in charge of these works. The second fact is that an officer of the Central P.W.D. who is in charge of works, whether he is a Muslim or whether he is a Hindu, no matter what community he belongs to, he is bound by the Central P.W.D. Code. The Central P.W.D. Code requires that the contracts shall be given to a man whose tender is the lowest. I have made inquiries overnight and I have been informed by the Chief Engineer that there was no Muhammadan whose contract was the lowest who did not receive the contract.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** On a point of order. . . .

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am not giving way. I have very little time.

**Mr. President:** Let the Honourable Member go on.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** These rules of the Central P.W.D. that the contract shall be given to the lowest bidder are subject to scrutiny from two different directions. One is the Auditor General and the second is the Public Accounts Committee. Both of them would require the departmental officer who broke this rule to give the necessary explanation as why he did so.

**Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** That will be a *post-mortem*.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It is a question whether the rules are observed or not.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The rules can be changed?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The Honourable Member knows more about it. He did a great deal of work in the Aligarh University. He ought to know something about the P.W.D. and doing the work of this kind. I cannot go into it now.

Let me take the Estate Office. In the Estate Office there are altogether 8 gazetted posts. Of them one is vacant. There the position is that there are six Hindus, one Scheduled Caste. There was one Muslim who recently was sent to his parent province. With regard to the non-gazetted posts, the total posts are 235. Of them the Muslims have 18.2 per cent.

Let me come to what are called the attached offices and I can only give the figures in a collective form—not item by item, which would take me very long. Here again the position in 1939 was this. There were altogether 64 posts. The Muslims had only 1.5 per cent. In 1946 the total posts were 155 and the Muslim percentage has risen from 1.5 per cent to 11.5 per cent. Let me take the non-gazetted posts in the attached offices. In 1936 the total number of posts were 2,238. The Muslims had .34 per cent. In 1946 the total number of non-gazetted posts had risen to 3,929 and the Muslim quota is 30 per cent.

Now, Sir, I will take the Geological Survey. As everybody in the House knows, the Geological Survey so far has been only a skeleton. It is during the war under the new projects of the Government of India relating to post-war development that we have taken up the work of the expansion of the Geological Survey. We recently made a beginning by the appointment of 13 permanent posts of Assistant Geologists. Now, I would like to tell my Honourable friend the real position so far as these appointments are concerned. We were naturally bound to fill these posts through the Federal Public Service Commission, which recommended altogether 40 names in order of merit. We had only to select 13. Out of the 13 there was only one Muslim whom we could select.

**Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan:** Out of 40 names.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Yes. The names were given in order of merit and we had only 13 posts. Obviously we had to stop with the 13. If we had stopped with the 13, there was only one Muslim in that list of 13. As I said, these posts are technical posts and therefore we had to be very certain about the qualifications. If the Labour Department had stuck to their original proposition that they shall only take men recommended by the Federal Public Service Commission on a purely meritorious basis, they would have had only one Muslim Candidate but the Labour Department knowing that this would not be satisfactory from the point of view of the Muslims went down the list and picked 3 candidates who were far below 13 in order to make up their quota of 4 another thing we have done and which I know some people might regard as very improper is this. We found that in the office of the Director General of Geological Survey there were no Muslim officers. What did we do. We selected two Muslim students from the University represented by my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed. . . .

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The credit does not go to you.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** They were not geologists by their training. They had qualified themselves only in geography but notwithstanding this we selected two. We trained them so that they may be subsequently recruited to the office of the Geological Survey.

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Now, Sir, I come to the School of Mines. There were some questions in the last Assembly on that.

May I know, Sir, how much more time I have.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member can have 20 minutes. I am prepared to give him more time if necessary. He can go on till 1/15.

**Shri Sri Prakasa** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You can take 25 per cent. of the time.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I do not wish to deal with this subject in that half philanthropic and half flippant manner that my friend has done.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** I was not flippant at all.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Coming to the School of Mines, the position is this. We have from 1937 restricted admissions to the School of Mines to 24; originally, there were about 50. It was discovered that there was not sufficient accommodation for such a large number of students and, therefore, it was restricted to 24. Now, the selection for the admission to the college is primarily provincial and not communal. Sixteen seats are allotted to the provinces and two to the Indian States. I had examined the figures up to 1937 and

I did not discover any single year in which there were not at least 2 P.M. Muslim students, who had sought admission to the School of Mines. I, therefore, did not think that any particular reservation was necessary to safeguard the interests of the Muslim students joining the School of Mines. However, when the matter was pressed by some Members of the Muslim League here, Members of the last Legislative Assembly, I did pass orders that two seats at least should be reserved for the Muslims in the Indian School of Mines.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** Out of how many?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Out of 24. Now, Sir, even here I would like to tell the House what steps the Labour Department have taken in order to see that the Muslims are able to realise the full quota which has been reserved for them; and I shall give the figures for this year. This year we have altogether admitted 48 students on the recommendation of the Governing Body. Out of these 48 students, there only one Muslim who had satisfied the qualifying test.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman** (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): That is what I referred to you.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** But, Sir, in order to make good the reservation that was made, it was ordered that the fifty-ninth student, who was a Muslim, may be taken, over-riding the claims of practically 11 other boys.

Now, Sir, I will refer briefly to the various training schemes which have been sponsored by the Labour Department—some overseas—and to show that even here the Labour Department has not only been correct but has been very considerate. I will first refer to the training scheme sponsored by the Labour Department for the training of Assistant Geologists in the Melbourne University of Australia, as a part of the re-organisation of the Geological Survey. This took place in 1946. The total number of men that were selected was 9. Out of them, 5 were Hindus, 3 Muslims and 1 of other minorities. It will be seen that in this selection the Muslim proportion has been 33 1/3 per cent.

The second scheme sponsored by the Labour Department was to train men in commercial and administrative side of electricity. Electricity is going to play one of the greatest parts in the reconstruction of India's economic and social life. Obviously, there must be people in India who are trained in the commercial and administrative side of it and we decided to train some men. Obviously, for a training of this sort, you could not take up raw boys from the university. You ought to have some men who have had some experience in

this matter. We, therefore, decided to ask the Provincial Governments whether they would suggest names of some of their employees in their Electricity Department for being sent abroad. The selection, therefore, was not a selection made by the Labour Department or in the Government of India. The selection was entirely within the purview and charge of the Provincial Governments. The total number of men selected was 10. Out of them one was a Muslim. He was selected by the Hyderabad State. The other Provinces did not suggest the name of any Muslim. I do not know why. Probably because there were not any Muslims in their Electricity Department.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan** (North-West Frontier Province: General): In the Frontier Province there are about 90 per cent. Muslims in the Electricity Department.

**The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar**: I am sorry, but your Province did not recommend any Muslim name. You had better address a question in the Assembly of the Frontier Province.

I am coming now to three other schemes which were sponsored by the Labour Department for training abroad. One was the Bevin training scheme. The total number of boys who were sent was 787. Out of them, Muslims were 154, or 19 per cent. Then, we have in the Government of India a scheme for training Labour Officers for welfare purposes. These officers are not selected by the Labour Department; they are selected by the different Departments concerned. And here the position is this. Altogether 23 have, so far, been sent. Out of these 23, 18 are Muslims, which is a proportion of 79 per cent. Then, Sir, we have another scheme which is a scheme for giving higher technical training to the employees of private employers. The Government of India circularised private employers that in view of the necessity of improving technical efficiency of Indians if they desire to send any of their employees for training abroad, the Government of India in the Labour Department would do their best to secure opportunities for training in foreign countries. In this connection, so far, 6 men have been sent. Unfortunately, there was no Muslim amongst them, but that certainly is not the fault of the Labour Department, because they were not responsible for the training.

Now, Sir, another point which I would refer to is the recruitment of what are called Project Officers and Utilisation Officers under the Central Technical Power Board. We required 9 posts, one of a Utilisation Officer and 8 of what are called Project Officers. These appointments, again, had to be filled through the Federal Public Service Commission. Unfortunately, there was no Muslim among the 9 posts that were filled. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Mover of the cut motion to the correspondence which the Labour Department had with the Federal Public Services Commission. We queried when we got the selection and found that there was not a single Muslim. I asked my Department to address a query to the Federal Public Service Commission as to why there was no Muslim in the names that they had suggested. The reply of the Federal Public Service Commission was this. It is interesting, I think, because it throws a different light on the subject. The Federal Public Service Commission said that, in response to their advertisement, altogether 240 applications were received. Out of that number, only 8 were Muslims, and out of these 8 Muslims, they invited 3 for interview. Out of three, they found not one suitable for the post. Well, Sir, this is in brief a record of the Labour Department in the matter of communal representation. I claim, Sir, that during the period that I have occupied this post, it can be fairly said that the position of Muslims, far from having deteriorated has considerably advanced. Sir, I do not claim anything more for the Department in which I hold charge. I should like to conclude just by making two observations. I have no idea how many Honourable Members of the Muslim League Party know what part I played in the issue of this communal Ratio Resolution. I think if any Member of the Muslim League Party was present when the Round Table Conference was held in London, he would very well realise that among those who fought for securing

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these privileges to the minority communities, I claim that I have played a considerable part. It cannot therefore be said that I am out of sympathy with the demand of the Muslims or the demand of any other minority community. It is for this that I have fought, it is for this I have been fighting, and it is for this that I will fight.

The second proposition that I should like to make, if my Honourable Colleague, the Home Member would permit me to say so, is that the action which he promised the House that he will take in order to see that the Government of India will not be merely content with rearguard action on the various Departments making default in this matter but that he will take some substantial steps so that as and when appointments are made, proper check is applied at the time, the credit must go to me because it is I who wrote to him a letter that this state of affairs ought to be rectified. I do not want to say anything more.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** On a point of information, Sir. I want to know whether in the figures which he just now quoted, are the appointments in the resettlement also included?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Yes, it is a consolidated section of the Labour Secretariat.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Including resettlement.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I have so many figures. I must say they are so interesting that if my Honourable friend wants, I am quite prepared to pass it on to him for his further study.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Sir, I had no intention to speak on this debate, and in fact, our Party decided to withdraw the cut Motion after the speech of the Honourable the Home Member. But after the speech which has just been delivered by the Honourable Labour Member, it is very difficult to restrain myself without saying a few words. The first point that was raised was that it was not desirable that the department of services should be combined with the department of profit. That is, the Public Works Department must be separated from the Labour Department altogether. This was the point raised by my Honourable friend the Mover of the cut motion. That is the point which I wish to press. I thank the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar for the services which he claims to have done for the minority communities at the Round Table Conference and perhaps elsewhere also, but I think he will be able to do better service if this Department of Central Public Works is separated from the Labour Department.

At the beginning of this session we brought to the notice of the Honourable Member, myself and some of my Colleagues in the Muslim League Party drew the attention of the Government to the convention that whenever the Chief Administrative Officer was a non-Muslim, then his two Assistants should be Muslims and *vice versa*. At present the two Assistants are non-Muslims. One of them was a Muslim, Mr. Nasim, but he was shifted to some other Department. We urge upon the Honourable Member that he should follow the convention and appoint a Muslim in his place. We have been pressing this for the last two months, but no action has been taken. We apprehend that as soon as the Assembly session is over, he will quietly appoint some one other than a Muslim for this post. We have reasons to believe that actually some persons belonging to the Scheduled caste were approached to accept this post.

**Mr. President:** If the Honourable Member will take some time, we will now adjourn for Lunch.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. President:** The Assembly will now adjourn for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Sir, when we rose for Lunch I was making the point, which was also made by the Mover, that the two Departments of profit and service should be separated. There can never be any coordination between these two contradictories; it is done only here and in no other country. The sooner we separate them the better for the efficiency of both. Even in the Provinces you do not find these two combined.

My second point is that though any amount of figures may be quoted, it is not, as was pointed out by Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman, only the percentage with which we are concerned but we should like to see the salary bills also and find out whether the higher posts are filled by non-Muslims and only the lower ones by Muslims. Pursuing the same point he said that out of thirteen Superintending Engineers there is only one Muslim. I approached the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar along with my Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and another friend and said that now that there is a vacancy and a suitable Muslim is available he should be appointed. But he has now started a new procedure, and that is to ask some one to carry on and that some one does not even hold a permanent post. You can carry on for some time but not indefinitely. What we wanted to draw his attention to is that in the higher posts also Muslim claims should be considered provided suitable men are available.

There is of course a great deal in what the Honourable Home Member said that Muslims should not be promoted out of place. But in making promotions they adopt two principles, namely, seniority and efficiency. In practice we find that only that principle is adopted which makes Muslims lower. Therefore we said that the senior man may be given the post and if he proved inefficient it may be given to the next man who may be efficient. But in this particular case when the senior man has been passed over some officer or the head of the Department should look into the matter personally and satisfy himself that he was really inefficient. That is all that we desire and nothing more.

The third thing we object to is that in addition to these two principles of seniority and efficiency Dr. Ambedkar has added a third one, namely, co-ordination of work. As the post was vacant he would not appoint any one and that in spite of our repeated requests. Persons who could be appointed to permanent posts will be Muslims because they are senior and efficient. We do not think it is fair that when the Assembly is on, the appointment should not be made in spite of our requests but that some one else should be quietly appointed when the Assembly is over, so that we may not move an adjournment motion and the interval between two sessions is long. That is not a fair method. I personally believe in discussing these matters privately outside the House without giving them any publicity. But if our requests are always refused the only thing to do is to give them publicity on the floor of the House. And it is with great reluctance that we adopt that course.

Then with regard to the Secretariat, there is an Assistant Secretary, a Deputy Secretary, a Joint Secretary and so on. All these people deal with the cases of Muslim officers. I do not like to speak about the Deputy Secretary because I spoke to the Premier of the Province to which he belongs and he said that he would like to have away from Bengal. I am sorry I have mentioned the name but still I do not wish to discuss personalities. But we have heard that he takes action even on anonymous letters provided the person concerned is a Muslim; otherwise he takes no action. Then, the Under-Secretary has been given three extensions: he is on the retired list and in these days when so many persons are available there is no need to give these extensions; and the same is about the Assistant Secretary.

So that out of four or five officers in the Labour Department one at least should be a Muslim, and many of the difficulties point out will disappear.



[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

I regret the heated debate that followed the Home Member's speech but he took it on himself for nothing and drew our attention to many things which we had not thought of before. He clearly emphasised that we should not only look at the percentage but to the percentage in the different grades, which means looking into the salary bill of the whole Department.

Sir, I did not like to say very much on this because I think that the Members who are in charge of the Government of India represent the people of India as a whole and not one community only. They should look to the interests of everybody and there should be complete impartiality. That is what we claim. But, as was pointed out by Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman, there is great discontent among the Muslims in the Central P. W. D. Some posts carry some profit because there is work going on; these are not given to Muslims, but it is only posts of a routine nature which carry no profits that are given to them. There is discontent among them because they do not get fair treatment and the result is that Muslim contractors also suffer because they do not get their fair share. The only remedy is that we should adopt the practice followed in the rest of the world and separate the Central P. W. D. from the Labour Department.

**Mr. President:** Does the Honourable the Finance Member wish to say anything?

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands** (Finance Member): No, Sir.

**M. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Home Member and the sympathy expressed by him, I do not desire to press the motion, and I therefore ask for the leave of the House to withdraw it.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

#### DEMAND NO. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,38,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,38,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

#### *Unsatisfactory Position of Export of Hides and Skins involving enormous loss to India*

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Mr. President, Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Commerce Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I find it extremely difficult to discuss the question of the hides and skins trade in such a short time that I have at my disposal, *i.e.*, 20 minutes. In my capacity as President of the Hides and Skins Traders Association of Calcutta, an organisation of over hundred years standing, I have been issuing statements to the Press from time to time. The last one which I issued was in February last in which I particularly drew the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member to certain important aspects of this trade. I represented the Hide and Skins Trade of India at the meeting which was convened by the Supply Department on the 24th and 25th of October 1944 and that was also a critical stage for this trade as effort was being made to throttle down this trade by certain scheme of "monopoly buying by Government", and thanks to the genius and understanding of the then Honourable Member in charge, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar who conceded to my point of view when I placed the case before the Conference on behalf of the entire hides and skins trade of the country—as all the other Hide and Skin Association of India who were invited to the Conference elected me as the only sole representative on their behalf for settling matters with Government. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar was convinced and agreed to the point of view expressed by me in spite of contrary opinions given by the officials circle under the influence of Mr. Inskip of Cooper Allen &



Co. Now, Sir, again I find that the official agencies are trying to create a difficult position in the matter of export of hides and skins, and that official opinion is mostly obsessed by our friend, Mr. Inskip, the Government Adviser who is here, and Mr. Randell, the Director of Tanning and Footware, both of them belong to the section of the tanning industry run by foreign agency, foreign money, and foreign influence. I doubt very much whether the opinions that they give to Government could ever be in the interest of this country.

Let me now review the present position of the raw hides and goatskins trade. During the war, prices of all commodities increased nearly 400 per cent. with the exception of raw hides which did not register an increase of more than 50 per cent. if you calculate the average of 1939-45 the 6 years of war and this increase was due to the higher cost of labour and high price of salt required for curing and preserving raw hides in good condition. I would like to impress upon the House in this connection that although the rise was to an average of nearly 50 per cent. the real factors which were responsible for this increase were the cost of labour and the cost of salt. During the war the hide merchants and producers co-operated with the Government in keeping low level of prices to allow Government to make their purchases of finished leather, like shoes, at the pre-war levels, but by manipulations of traders in the footwear industry, this did not happen and prices of shoes, despite control, registered a rise of nearly 250 per cent. compared to the level of prices which prevailed in 1939. On some pretext or other shoe traders like "Battas" could convince the Supply Department that procurement was not possible unless higher rates were given to them and they were supported by our friends, Mr. Inskip, Mr. Rendell and his group.

During the war a new arrangement affected expert adversely. 'Allied Shipping Pool' was established and a new scheme of buying through monopolist purchasing agencies was organized by U. K. and U. S. A. During the war and even now that the hostilities have terminated everywhere there methods were adopted to keep down the price of raw hides and goatskins in India. Regulations were formed by Government of India to restrict sales of raw and half-tanned Madras kips to the various branches of the combined "Raw material Purchasing Mission" of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. While it could be argued that for the duration of the existence of the "Allied Shipping Pool" the Government of India was forced to restrict the export of raw and half-tanned hides almost exclusively to the agencies of purchase created or controlled by this 'Allied Shipping Pool', which we understand has ceased to exist after the 2nd of March 1946, there can be no purpose other than allowing the exploitation of India by maintaining the regulation for the sale of raw and tanned cowhides, and goatskins at uneconomic prices to these monopolist organization. As the question of securing freight for many other countries will not be a matter of any Allied Pool control any more, the Government of India must at once withdraw the regulation which is restricting the sale of raw hides and goatskins to this monopolistic purchasing agency of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The House will be surprised to hear that Canada, France, and of all the countries, South Africa,—a country on which we would have marched with our army to conquer it if we had an independent status,—have been given a hand in the pie. White robbers have joined hands to rob Indian wealth and instead of one East India Company there are a quite a few East India Companies established to impoverish our resources. The ceiling price as enforced by the Allied Control is nothing short of loot and exploitation of Indian original producer of raw hides and skins at cheap and uneconomic prices. As soon as the regulations are withdrawn and free trade in raw hides and tanned kips is resumed, each country will have to pay economic prices to us for the supply of our raw hides and skins. The countries other than those in the Allied pool have got very little facilities and as they are not in this combine, they cannot have facilities for shipment to States like Turkey, the

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

Balkans, Greece and Palestine and other places, although they are prepared to pay for raw hides nearly three times the price that these Purchasing Missions can pay today. Speaking for my own firm we have cables and letters from clients in Greece and Turkey who are prepared to pay us 34d. per lb. for light raw cowhides whereas the U. K. Board would not give more than 18/19d. per lb. You can understand what the difference means. I demand, Sir, that immediately the regulations be withdrawn—and this view was also placed before the Honourable the Commerce Member when he called together a certain conference in last February the deliberations of which I hold in my possession, although I do feel that this conference was not at all representative as the Honourable Member in charge did not care to invite representatives from the stockist of raw hides and skins and producers of these raw materials and particularly the organisation to which I have referred the Hide and Skin Traders Association of Calcutta which has a standing of over 100 years and he is in the know of importance of this organisation in the trade. He did know of the great influence this organization commands as he himself belongs to Calcutta and Bengal. That is the position which I want to clarify and protest on his method of nomination to such conference, which become rather farce.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque** (Commerce Member): I do not know, but I did know of your office in Damzen Lane.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** But the organisations office is in 9, Maharani Swarnamoyee Road and the office of my firm "M. Jameel Ahmed & Sons", a firm of over fifty years standing is at 10, Damzen Lane—Calcutta.

I get support in this demand from even official representative in the conference that regulation of restrictions should be withdrawn.

Mr. President, now I come to the question of the peculiar position in the goatskin trade. The goatskin prices in 1939 were about 25d. per price C. I. F. Port of destination and the average of the depression years that is between 1929-39 works to 37d. each whereas this U. S. A. Board would not give us more than 22d. in 1945-46. And there you have to take into consideration the present factor of a higher cost of labour and salt, which actually means that they are paying nearly 18d. for the same commodity that they were paying 37d. on the average of the ten years calculation between 1929-39. That is the deplorable position which has been created by these "Monopolist" buying agencies of U. S. A. and U. K.

Now, as soon as this regulation is taken away I have no doubt that we would be able to get for our raw goatskins three or four times the prices that we are being quoted today by these Boards. Probably the Honourable the Commerce Member should know that the African skins of Mombassa are far inferior and are selling at 68d. each. The China goatskins which are still inferior are fetching 60d. a piece. To give their Government a right idea of the price position, Sir, I would say that in 1918-19 the average Indian goatskin, Mozaffarpur quality was fetching eighty pence per piece and at the same time Mombassas and Chinas Skins were fetching nearly fifty pence per piece. That would be the real position if we had a free hand in the trade and if the Government of India did not interfere to throttle down our business, all the foreign buyers will have to buy at our dictation.

There is a belief that the supply position is not very satisfactory and we have not enough hide for exports. Let me come to the supply position of raw hides and expose this plea of Government by their own figures. In the meeting of the Advisory Council of export in Bombay, in September 1945 Government agreed that the supply position had considerably increased and since September 1945 there is a further increase in the supply position. I will now refer to the Calcutta market position which is the chief emporium of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and parts of the Central Provinces. In 1944 tanners and exporters purchased

1,32,558 pieces monthly, whereas the average in 1945 was 1,64,888 pieces and you will not be surprised to appreciate the fact that the monthly average of unsold stock in the market was nearly 58,800 in 1944 and nearly 84,350 in 1945. By this I mean that that 84,350 pieces cowhides was the monthly unsold stock carried from one month to the other. That is in one particular month we could not liquidate the entire stock which the Calcutta market had imported from moffasil agencies. What it showed was that the internal demand could not absorb the whole of the increased supply and this is the position, Sir, when prices have been kept down below the average as compared with any other commodity of this country.

India's capacity to consume her own resources of raw material in this class has been very limited. India has been one of the biggest exporters of raw hides and skins since over 150 years, I can prove to you that even 200 years ago, Surat and Calcutta used to be those ports from where we used to ship our raw hides to different countries and get much higher value for that that India could pay them. India in those days was self-sufficient in the matter of her own shoes requirements and India used to produce her own shoes through the system of cottage industries on a vast scale.

Now I come to the tanning industry. The most pertinent question here is whether the old and patent plea for safeguarding tanning industry should compel India to sell her raw hides at an uneconomic rate to tanners and in turn allow the East India Kip Tanners to either play in the hands of the present Purchasing Boards of the U. K. and the U. S. A. or allow them to earn all the profits in foreign trade and only pay Indian producer a pitiable uneconomic price. The House knows that we gave the tanning industry a chance to build up her capacity and for a number of years protective duties were levied on the export of raw hides and skins for this purpose and they had the advantage of the two big wars where these tanners had ample opportunities to develop their industry by scientific researches and by experience. If our tanners are not able to compete on world parity prices for purchase of raw hides and skins even with the advantages offered to them for near by 30 years they cannot live on the charity of 400 million people of India for all time to come and ignore the question of the producer's position and the consumer's cost. They deserve no support when they have proved so incompetent in their own act of developing tanning industry.

I will now give the figures. The total production of hides was on the average is 257 lakh pieces, i.e., 2 crores 57 lakhs out of which one crore and 13 lakhs hides were exported. Speaking for average of the Calcutta market exports, nearly 40 lakhs pieces hides were exported during 1938-39 out of which 5 lakhs pieces went to Madras and the balance to other parts of the world. The position I will try to show is that a competitive price we had built up a trade with all parts of the world including every country of Europe say—Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, etc. and all the important countries in the Middle East like Palestine and others: all the important ports of the U. S. A. were the biggest buyers for our goatskins.

Now, Sir, the total position in Calcutta of arrivals has dwindled down to 10.5 lakhs in 1945 out of which 9.75 lakhs were sent to Madras as facilities for exports were blocked practically on all sides. Now compare this position as to that of 45 lakhs export average of Calcutta and if we export our cow hides at prices available today in Turkey, Egypt, Palestine, the Balkan States and other places which is nearly 34d. to 35d. per lb. for light qualities whereas our tanners can only afford to give us 16d. to 17d. per lb. and sell it to the present monopolist pool at dictated prices, we can bring our trade to old days in the export and continue the supply to tanneries in full.

I will tell the House one thing more. If the export is made free, prices of raw hides and skins will improve on competition. I want to give an idea of the personnel engaged in the raw hides and skins trade in Calcutta market alone.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

The total membership in my organization of "Hides and Skins Merchants Association" is nearly 120 in Calcutta and with their agencies in the provinces concerned the number is nearly 25,000, and taking the average of six persons engaged in each agency, you will have over one lakh and sixty thousand of people engaged in this trade in one market of Calcutta. As regards the price, the most easy calculation is this. Out of a total of 257 lakh pieces of raw hides the average production of 10 years, if the weight is put at eight pounds average per piece, you will notice that 2,056 lakhs pounds will be the total weight. In tons 91,785 tons and if we sold at 34d. per pound instead of 16d. the value would be just double. This country will be losing to the tune of 50 crores of rupees if export of raw hides is restricted.

The most surprising factor is this. Mr. Inskip is a great advocate of the tanning industry and he referred to the development of tanning during the war. Still he has been one of those who has been opposing the indigenous tanners tooth and nail in conferences and elsewhere on all occasions. What I want to impress is this that in developing our tanning industry we have got to tell our tanners that they have got to compete with the world parity prices in the matter of their purchase of raw products of India and if there is any protection to be

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given we have got to develop this in a manner so that we may be exporters of finished leather goods like shoes, suitcases, attaches, etc. There is no reason why any preference should be shown to the half-tanned and tanned skins exporters to those exporters who send them in raw condition when this country is to lose so heavily say about 50 crores of rupees to the Indian producer of Indian Raw Hides and Skins. I have not got much time to convince the Honourable the Commerce Member as to how the imports to Calcutta markets and other markets were affected by the depression in prices. Probably he knows that three fourth of the total production in the country is out of fallen hides. Unless those who go to collect them in the jungles and other parts get a remunerative price, which would enable them to make a living, they would not take the trouble of continuing this profession of collection of hides. Naturally it was pointed out by the merchants representative in the conference that the import to the Calcutta market slowed down as soon as the prices became un-remunerative for those who are engaged in this trade. I will convince the Honourable Member about the truth of this if he discussed it with me and as he promised me a few weeks ago. We cannot be guided by the opinion of these tanners whose self-interest would not allow them to do justice to the producer and stockists of Hides and Skins. The industry should be developed on proper lines so that the country could have a proper value for its production. When I say proper value I mean the value which hides and skins can fetch in the world on parity prices basis, prices which these commodities can fetch in world competition of raw products. It is no use saying that the conditions in this country would not allow tanners to pay a price which will be on world parity and therefore control the prices at the cost of the producers and stockists and again control the import of finished leather at the cost of the consumers for all times. That is something which is probably most obnoxious. We should develop our industry in a manner which would give a fillip to the entire production of the leather manufactured goods and unless the industry is able to benefit all sections we do not suppose they deserve any credit and can claim any particular preference which they have been asking for and which we gave them for many years in the past.

My last submission is that raw hides should be allowed to go through its normal channels and efforts should be made to restore this trade to their old conditions, so that the tanneries which depended on Indian stock would still depend on them and pay rates which world conditions demand of them. It will be noticed that all those commodities that we are importing from foreign markets are being paid 300 per cent. higher rates and there is no reason why

our raw products should not be sold at the same rate of 300 per cent. over the pre-war levels. Tanners must get high prices for their own products and pay for raw product in same proportion.

With these few words, Sir, I move the motion.

**Mr. President:** Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Commerce Department’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**Mr. A. C. Inskip** (United Provinces: European): Sir, this cut motion has been moved to consider the unsatisfactory position of export of hides and skins involving an enormous loss to India. (Interruption by *Mr. Muhammad Nauman*) I did not interrupt when my Honourable friend spoke and I hope he will show me the same courtesy. The position in regard to the export of skins is unsatisfactory and had the mover confined his motion to the question of goat and sheep skins I would have supported him. He has, however, included raw hides in the subject for discussion and for this reason I must join issue with him.

Sir, when viewed from the exporter's point of view the export of raw hides is unsatisfactory but far from involving this country in financial loss, the present position is bringing increased revenue to India and is providing a source of employment to many thousands. In putting forward this cut motion, if I may say so, without giving offence to my Honourable friends on my right, the Members on the Muslim League Benches are not doing justice, I contend, to the many thousands of their own community, who are engaged in the leather and tanning industries of this country. Does my Honourable friend appreciate that for every person engaged in the export of raw hides, there are no less than ten thousand, mostly of his own community who are engaged in the processing of those hides into leather and the fabrication of the leather into such articles as footwear and other leather goods. Is he also aware of the fact that the Indian tanning Industry has expanded to such an extent during the war years that the industry is now able to process all the hides which are available in this country. I particularly mention hides and not skins.

Sir, even before the commencement of the recent war raw hide exports showed a considerable decline, while the export of tanned leather showed a corresponding increase. Let me quote from official government records in support of my statement. The trend of development before the present war can be judged, I think, by comparing the export figures of 1913-14 and those of 1938-39. Raw hide exports for the year 1913-14 amounted in the case of cow hides to 92.6 lakh pieces. In the year 1938-39 this figure was reduced to 46.1 lakh pieces.

Then, Sir, in regard to raw buffalo hides, the exports in the year 1913-14 amounted to 28.9 lakh pieces while that of 1938-39 was 6.2 lakh pieces.

Now, Sir, let me quote the export figures for tanned leather for the same periods. During the fiscal year 1913-14 the export of tanned cow hides totalled 29 lakh pieces but this increased to 48 lakh pieces in the year 1938-39. Similarly, in the case of chrome tanned cow hides, the volume of exports increased by no less than 28 times during the two periods I have mentioned. (Interruption by *Mr. Muhammad Nauman*). The Honourable Member says that I have selected those years which are convenient. I shall quote, if he wishes the figures for the other years regarding the export of buff hides. Here are the figures:

1913-14, 28.9 lakh pieces.

1918-19, 13.4 lakh pieces.

1923-24, 8.7 lakh pieces.

1928-29, 10.2 lakh pieces.

1933-34, 5.2 lakh pieces.

1938-39, 6.2 lakh prices.

[Mr. A. C. Inskip]

I did not want to labour the House with all these figures but since my Honourable friend wanted them, I have given them.

This was the position before the recent war. But since then, the tanning industry has expanded to such an extent that despite what my Honourable friend has said just now, it is not able to secure its full requirements of raw materials, with the result that the majority of the tanneries in this country are now working to only 50 per cent. of their capacity.

Now, Sir, let me give the House as briefly as possible details of the industry's expansion during the war years. As early as 1940 the industry through its trade organisation willingly came forward to assist Government in meeting the enormous war demand for leather and leather goods. As the demand increased, new tanneries came into existence and extensions were undertaken in existing concerns. With the wholehearted co-operation of all concerned, war demands were met, although this necessitated the introduction of a very rigid control, involving as it did the abandonment of all civil trade and export markets. But let me quote the opening and closing sentences of a speech made by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar when he addressed the quarterly conference of tanners in January 1945. He commenced his speech with these words:

"Yours is one of the earliest organisations which have met under the auspices of Government and which have tried to help the Government in its efforts to produce the required articles for war purposes. I think it was early in 1940 that your conference was first convened, convened when you expressed your willingness to come together and help the Government in the problems that then faced it. From that time onwards you have had regular and frequent conferences."

He finished his address on the same occasion with these words:

"I want to assure you that the Government is deeply grateful for all you have done during the last five years and they are very much concerned with the permanent and lasting benefit which this industry will give to the country as a whole."

Sir, by reason of its war effort the tanning and leather industries have a right to look to Government for assistance at this time. Indeed that assistance was actually promised by Government through the late Supply Member in January 1945. In the speech to which I have previously referred, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar said:

"I realise that the Government of this country particularly has an obligation also. Having dislocated all your normal channels of trade and commerce and having put you on special purposes to meet the Government demands, I do not think it is right or fair that the Government as soon as its needs are over should turn and say 'Now, look after yourself.' I do not think we want to do that with reference to any industry, least of all that industry which has already helped us so much."

Now, let us look more closely into the position as it exists today. According to the latest trade statistics, the volume of hide production in this country amounts annually to some 12½ million cattle hides and just under 1½ million buffalo hides. Prices now paid by the tanning industry in this country for its raw supplies are far above world parity figures despite what my Honourable friend has said, and represent an advance of over 300 per cent. on pre-war levels; and in that connection I will refer my Honourable friend to the record note of the trade meeting to which he himself has referred: a member of his own trade, the export trade, gave figures on that occasion which read something like this:

"In answer to a question by the Chairman Mr. Gresham stated that the history of the prices of raw hides was as follows: In 1938, just prior to the war, Rs. 3-15 to Rs. 5-8 per piece: in 1945, Rs. 16 to Rs. 17 per piece."

This is from an exporter. If as my Honourable friend states there are such huge surpluses of raw hides available in this country for export, and he accepts the fact that prices are governed by the law of supply and demand, then perhaps he will endeavour to explain why the present high level of prices obtains.

At the same time, he might also explain why the tanning industry—and here I include the cottage tanning industry—are unable to secure their full requirements even at present price levels.

No, Sir. The true facts are that, due to the present world shortage of leather, certain countries which were not large purchasers of Indian raw hides in pre-war years are now anxious to obtain their supplies of raw materials from us. This temporary export demand can only be met at the expense of the tanning industry in this country; and as the industry has now grown in strength, I submit that it should receive the first consideration of Government. The position in which we find ourselves now was correctly forecast by the late Supply Member when in the speech from which I have already quoted, he said:

“The tanning industry in this country has grown during the war. We used to export our hides and skins during the war. Owing to circumstances many of which were beyond our control and which have been brought about by the accident of war, we had to turn our attention to a phase of work which was not done on a very large scale except in the south, and we have proceeded very far indeed with it. It would be a great pity indeed if the progress that we have made during the war was in any way lost in the post-war period. You know it better than myself that this tanning industry which has been so much developed should continue to develop in the post-war period also. We hope that it will continue to flourish and grow in strength and take its rightful place as the exporter of manufactured goods and not as the exporter of raw hides.”

Sir, with the tanning industry working to capacity, the leather it can produce would, I agree, be in excess of India's requirements, but with the existing world shortage the present is an opportune time to develop and expand our export markets for leather and leather goods. In this regard, Sir, I would urge on Government the necessity of adopting a more liberal policy in the matter of the export of these commodities. Many of the present export restrictions are relics of the war, and as some show preference towards certain sections of the industry at the expense of others, a general review of the position in the light of conditions as they exist today, is much overdue. Arising from the meeting which was convened by the Commerce Member on the 9th February last, to which we have had a reference from the Honourable Member, Government is now conversant with the views of all sections of the trade; and in replying to this debate I trust the Honourable Member in charge of Commerce will provide the House with details of the policy that Government propose to follow. Sir, I oppose the motion.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Sir, I have no interest in the hides and skins trade or in any other trade, and I speak only from the economic point of view, I have as much interest in raw hides as I have in the half-tanned hides and skins produced in Madras, because I have got friends both in Madras and Calcutta who are interested in one or the other. This particular industry is very unfortunate—I do not know what sins they committed during the great war. Soon after the war, the first thing they did was to levy an export duty of 15 per cent. on hides and skins. This export duty was condemned by the Fiscal Commission; it was condemned by the Taxation Inquiry Committee, but still it was put on. In 1927 we had a debate on the floor of the House about the abolition of the duty and the House was divided between the Madras supporters on one side and the supporters of Bengal on the other and there was an equality of votes. I was not in the House then but the matter was decided by the casting vote of the Chair and he naturally gave his ruling in favour of the *status quo*. The duty remained as it was in 1937.

When I came up I raised this question again in 1931 and I said this:

The value to India of this industry taken as a whole is about forty to fifty crores; it provides employment to large numbers of men and is a factor in the economic well being of millions of the depressed classes. There is scope for work in order to reduce the national waste.

Then I quoted from the report of the Hide Cess Committee and said:

The report also tells us that the larger percentage of exports consists of inferior grade hides from animals which have died a natural death, while the



[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

greater proportion of the hides of animals which have been slaughtered in slaughter houses is utilised by Indian tanners. Sir, we find that on account of this exchange policy of the Government, coupled with the export duty, which is really an insult to injury added, we find that the trade of the export of hides is going down very rapidly.

Now, my friend Mr. Inskip quoted figures and he said that the trade was flourishing in 1932. While advocating that this duty should be abolished, I quoted figures of the money received by means of the import duty and clearly showed that the law of diminishing returns was operating and then I pointed out at that time that in 1919-20 the money realised by export duty was 90,24,651 and year by year it has been falling down so much so that in the year 1930-31 it was reduced to 23,83,600 and to 12 lakhs in the following year. When the export duty of 5 per cent. has been falling down and the law of diminishing returns had begun to operate how on earth can you say that the export has been flourishing.

I took up the question again in the year 1934 and after a good deal of discussion the export duty was abolished. I had a great discussion with the then Commerce Member, Sir Joseph Bhole and I proved that it was on account of this export duty of 5 per cent. that the hides and skins trade, both tanned and raw, was really suffering. Sir James Grigg in the following year was satisfied by my arguments and he by the certification of the Government abolished the duty of 5 per cent. for the first time. Sir Cowasji Jehangir is not here. He could not understand why the Government should abolish the duty by means of certification by the Viceroy. The fact is that the case was genuine and real and Sir James Grigg did it. During the first great war, the trade suffered enormously and during the last year it suffered still further. The war does not suit this industry. And I do not know how much troubles are still in store for this industry.

I shall now put one or two simple questions to Mr. Inskip and any person who does not agree with me. Take the census of cows and buffaloes in India. It comes to 20 crores. The life of a buffalo is 7 years. So every year there must be a natural death of 3 crores. Exactly it comes to 275 lakhs. Out of this 3 crores India can only consume one crore. Where do the other 2 crores go? How are they consumed. If my friends stop the export altogether in order that our industry may be benefitted, then I entirely agree but they must show on the floor of the House that they have got facilities to tan the hides and skins in this country.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Let us create the facilities.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad**: Unless those facilities exist now, these hides and skins will go to waste. My friend is an economist. He cannot allow waste to go on. Now, I should like to tell my friend that the export of both tanned and raw hides is falling. Where has it gone. This really means that a large number of persons, specially the village chamars, who used to take the skins from the dead bodies of animals do not consider it worth while to take the skins. (*An Honourable Member*: It is wrong). Where does it go then? It is no use simply saying that I am wrong. You must be able to account for it satisfactorily. They have not gone outside, as the export has been stopped.

I shall now put two questions on which my whole case depends. I do not think any one engaged in the trade will support for a single moment the monopoly purchase system. I ask the Commerce Member whether it is not a fact that one organisation in London and one in the United States have got the sole right to purchase. Is this what you call freedom of trade? Why do you allow export only to these two countries and stop the export to other countries. This is absolutely not justifiable and I am sure that Professor Ranga as a champion of trade and industry will not support this.



Then as regards prices, the prices are not fixed by the market and by the local conditions but the purchasers have got the sole right to fix the price. They have got the right to fix any price they like and they have also got the monopoly of purchasing. I am not talking as a business man. I take my figures from the 'Economist'. Whenever the prices are going up of one article, then naturally the prices of all other articles go up in sympathy with each other. I have got the paper 'The Economist' before me and I have got there the index figures of all the articles. The index price of rice has gone up from 100 to 353; the index price of wheat has gone up from 100 to 372; the index price of coal has gone up from Rs. 100 to 287; but the index price of hides and skins has gone up from 100 to 128 only. So, 128 is the price which these foreign purchasers have fixed for the purchase of hides and skins.

I object to it on two principles. Firstly, there should be an open trade in hides and skins and we should be free to send them to any country we like; and, secondly, they should be sold at the economic price. And what we are getting now for hides and skins is not the economic price. When the purchasing power of the rupee has fallen to such a great extent in the case of rice, wheat and coal, it has not fallen to this extent in the case of hides and skins, so that the foreign people may be benefited by it. These are the two points which I would like to press.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** May I ask the Honourable Member what he is reading from?

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I thought I was reading from *The Economist* but it is *The Capital* I am reading from. But that does not matter because the figures of *The Capital* are just as good as those of *The Economist* except that they are a bit old.

The industry of hides and skins is rather unfortunate because the foreign markets are closed and shipping is not available. Government purchased all its military requirements at prices which were fixed by the purchasing authority. These are the difficulties under which this particular industry is suffering. In this particular case, they have really to consider the requirements of the villagers also, because unless you pay them an economic price, they will not undertake to take out the skin from the dead bodies. The price of meat, which used to be 6 annas a seer before the war, has gone up to Rs. 1-8-0.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** In Calcutta it is Rs. 3 per seer.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** It has gone up four times and therefore it is not worth while for these people to deal in hides and skins, to remove the skins from the dead bodies and then sell them. They do not get much from the skins and they have made up their loss by raising the price of meat. So, the price of other foodstuffs has gone up by 4 times, but the price of hides and skins has gone up only by about 42 per cent.

**Mr. A. C. Inskip:** It has gone up by about 4 times.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The Honourable Member is thinking of the finished leather articles. Their price may have gone up by 4 times and that is also very unfair. The manufacturer of leather goods has raised the price four times, but he refuses to pay in the same proportion for the raw material from which he has manufactured his finished leather articles. If you charge the finished article a particular price, then economically it is correct and just that you should also raise the price of the raw material on which the manufacture of the finished article is based.

**Mr. A. C. Inskip:** May I point out to my Honourable friend that I made it clear in my speech that the price of raw hides had increased by no less than 400 per cent. He might be interested to know that the actual cost of the finished leather has increased only by 200 per cent. I think that answers his question.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The question before me is this: whether I should believe Mr. Inskip or I should believe the Capital? The Capital says that the price of hides and skins has gone up by 128 only.

**Mr. A. C. Inskip:** It includes skins and there I agree with it.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I am talking of hides and skins; my motion also relates to hides and skins and I am not separating them.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I would ask the Honourable Member to cease to be an economist but be a mathematician.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The figures that I have given are for both hides and skins and my cut motion is also with regard to both. If my Honourable friend Mr. Inskip wants to produce leather goods and if he wants to buy hides and skins at a cheap price, then let him go to the open market. He should not use the influence of the Government and get the price fixed, nor should there be the Defence of India Rules which fix an uneconomic price, as is evident from the figures I have given. If they go into the open market and do not depend upon the Defence of India Rules and follow the legitimate principles of trade, I will have no objection; but this is not what they are doing. What right have you to force this particular trade to sell its stuff only to a particular firm in England and also in America? What right have you to say that they must sell it at the price which they fix?

In conclusion, I would like to say that this trade has suffered a lot. It is a trade which has been given about 50 crores of rupees and we cannot allow it to be dwindled by artificial methods of the Defence of India Rules. My friend says that whatever benefits and advantages they had been deriving during the war they should continue to have during the post-war period also. We strongly object to it. We allowed you to have enormous profits during the war, but after the war we want you to look after the people whose income is limited. You should not take advantage of the Defence of India Rules but you should follow the usual trade channels. Come to the open market and give us freedom to sell at any price we like and then we will have no objection.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava** (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am not a leather merchant nor have I take any part in any such trade and I want to look at this question from the point of view of the common man living in the villages. I want to look at this question from the point of view of the cultivator.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** And also from the point of view of the village chamar.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Yes. The cattle belong to the cultivator and the chamar only takes the carcass and then prepares the hide. I join with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad in his complaint that there should be no monopoly. I quite see his point. I also feel that the purchaser should not be allowed to fix a price for himself. I can see the ground of the charges. All the same, what I want and what I aim at is that instead of giving a fillip to the whole trade, the slaughter of cattle should be stopped altogether.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** And their deaths should also be stopped.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** My point is that if there is an export and the cattle are being slaughtered for purposes of being exported, then this scandalous. In India, if you consider the figures, you will be pleased to see that production of hides in this country is 257.2 lakhs, import is 21 lakhs and the export in tanned hides is roughly 103.44 lakhs. India only uses in this manner 175 lakhs of pieces of raw hides for itself. The rest is exported. If you see how many hides are made from fallen animals and how many from slaughtered animals, you will see that about 66 lakhs of animals are slaughtered and 191.2 lakhs of hides are obtained from fallen cattle. It appears therefore that so far as internal needs of India are concerned, the hides from these fallen cattle are more than enough for general consumption of India. The hides of cattle which are slaughtered are exported. I want to submit that if in this country it is

proved to the satisfaction of this House that the number of bullocks, and the number of cows are very small and the number is deteriorating every day, there is a case in which conditions should be so brought about that export is not encouraged. Now, Sir, if you kindly see the census of cattle so far as bullocks are concerned, we have got 4,39,34,150 including the States which possess 1,56,73,990, bullocks and the total is 5,96,08,140. Now, Sir, this is the number of bullocks over three years of age that is bullocks which grow food for us. The amount of cultivated land in this country is 36 crores 20 lakhs acres, including both British India and the States. If you kindly see the report of the Agricultural Commission, and consider also the figures given in Statement II of Mr. Burns' book, you will come to the conclusion that to cultivate 100 acres of land, you require ten pairs of bullocks. This is the estimate given in these two books and it is fairly accurate. Now, just finding what the number of bullocks in our country should be, I come to the conclusion that we require something like 7,24,00,000 bullocks—because 36 crores 20 lakhs of acres divided by five, gives this figure. We have got only 5,96,08,146 bullocks which means that we are in deficit of more than 125 lakhs of bullocks only to cultivate the land which is to be cultivated. It may be argued that camels and he-buffaloes also are used for the purpose of cultivation. Even considering the number of camels and he-buffalos, it is quite clear that we are still in deficit as regards the number of bullocks required to cultivate all the lands. I do not want to go in detail. I submit that about 80 lakhs more of bullocks are required to cultivate the land which is already fit for cultivation. Some of my Honourable friends have no familiarity with village conditions. I very well know how this paucity of bullocks affect the villagers. I come from a district where there is great paucity of bullocks. You will be perhaps surprised to hear that after the last famine, even donkeys were used for ploughing, even cows were used and sometimes even men and women were used for ploughing. In a country like India where the supply of bullocks is not sufficient, it is suicidal to think of export of hides.

Now, again, Sir, if you kindly see the cultivable land of this country, it is about 25 crores of acres which require another five crores of bullocks, which means that in order to make the Grow More Food campaign a success, we require 5 crores, 80 lakhs of bullocks more, so that we may be able to cultivate just the cultivable lands. If you then see the present figures of cows and bullocks in this country, you will be surprised to know that in spite of what the Government of India tell us that they are doing in the matter of increase of cattle, actually the cattle are decreasing. In the Punjab, in 1895, there were 43,50,374 working bullocks, that is 20 bullocks per 100 acres. Now in 1944, the number of bullocks is 44 lakhs 5 thousand while acreage has increased which means that we in the Punjab have got only 14 bullocks for every 100 acres of cultivable land in 1944.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** The Punjab is one of the biggest provinces that export cattle to North West Frontier Province and other places. They cannot have it both ways.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** It is true that from the Punjab, bullocks are also exported. Our difficulty is that there is no National Government in the Punjab. If there were a National Government, we won't allow a single cattle to go out of the Punjab. As a matter of fact these conditions are quite unknown to many people and the Government themselves do not care to improve these conditions and that is why the cattle are exported. I come from a district which has been very and is famous for its cattle wealth. The Punjab, which was also the richest province in cattle wealth has now become poor and we need 16 lakhs of bullocks more to cultivate our lands in 1944. If you see the number of cattle which existed in the Punjab in 1869, you will see that we had 38-6 cows and bullocks per 100 persons whereas in 1940-41, we had only 22-3 per cent. If you look at the figures in U.P. and Madras, you will find a similar tale. It appears from the Famine Enquiry Commission report page 177 that in U.P. the number of cows decreased 11 per cent. in 1944 and in Madras there is also a decrease. In such a state of affairs, how can you view

[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava]

with equanimity when export trade is asked to be encouraged. Now, Sir, leaving this matter aside, there is another aspect which must be considered before you come to any conclusion as to whether exporting conditions should be made more favourable to those who are engaged in the trade. The consideration which I want to place before you is that the children in India generally do not get the milk they require. It is well known that we want more milk for nourishing children, but how can you have more milk if you slaughter 66 lakhs of cattle for the purpose of export of hides only. I do not want to look at this matter from a religious point of view. I look at it only from an economic point of view. I submit that in the Punjab as well as in the whole of India, the children of Muslim peasants require more milk for their sustenance. They are not in the habit of taking animal food. If you see the report on marketing of hides, you will see on page 4 and 56 that in this country as a matter of fact except for some urban towns, the cattle are not slaughtered for the purpose of supply of beef. And this is true not only of the Hindus but also of the Muslims who do not want to slaughter their cattle for food. Therefore my submission is that in this country where according to Government's own report we want to increase the supply of milk by 300 per cent. we cannot say that the slaughter of cattle should not be stopped. The Government of India issued instructions some time ago and I know that there were certain Governments including the Punjab which did not stop the slaughter of cattle as advised by Government.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Sir, on a point of order, may I remind my Honourable friend that it is not an Agriculture demand but a Commerce Department demand?

**Mr. President:** I may invite the attention of the Honourable Member who raises the point of order, that the cut motion relates to the unsatisfactory position of export of hides, and the position is unsatisfactory, according to the argument, if the slaughter is permitted.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am glad you have supplied the last answer.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Now, Sir, I just heard from Sir Zia Uddin that he was in favour of putting an embargo on exports if these hides were needed in the country. I will refer him to page 102 of the report on the marketing of hides which says that in this country out 175 lakhs of hides 12 lakhs are used as raw hides, and of the remaining 163 lakhs only half is used for chappals and country shoes. You will find that the number of hides is only just enough to supply the needs of one-fifth of the population of this country. If every person in India is to be furnished with a pair of shoes you will require many more heads, and the total supply will not be enough to cover the naked feet of all the people of the country.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I point out that the number is 275 and not 175?

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** My Honourable friend will excuse me if I tell him that the total production is 257.3 out of which about 103 lakhs are exported and the rest consumed in this country, i.e., about 175 lakhs (with the additions of 21 lakhs exported). And we can give shoes only to one-fifth of the population of India. It is clear that even if all the hides are used in this country they would not be sufficient for the needs of all the people in India. Moreover, if you want that the hides should be used here, I submit that they must be entirely tanned here. The chamar and the butcher, with both of whom I have got sympathy for their not getting proper prices, will get much better prices. Why do you allow hides to go out? If you tan the leather here you will get much better prices. The poor chamar is an ignorant person and he is being exploited by the butcher and the merchant every day. The question is between the chamar and the ordinary man in the street who are interested in agriculture and production of food on one side and the leather merchant who wants to take advantage of them on the other. I have no

antipathy against any leather merchant, but I do not want that these people should take advantage of their position and thrive at the expense of the poor people. Therefore so far as the interest of the poor chamar and the cultivator are concerned, all slaughter should be absolutely stopped at once. It may go on only for religious purposes. The people who want to take meat is very small and the country in general does not require the cattle to be slaughtered. To every Hindu and Muslim peasant his cattle are as dear as his children and people who know the conditions in the villages are aware that it is repugnant to them that this slaughter should be continued. Leaving aside this consideration.....

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** Have you not heard of the tractor?

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Yes, I will deal with that. We read in the papers yesterday that tractors will not come till September. But how many tractors will you bring in and how can you go on with the agriculture of this country with tractors? In the Punjab many people are small owners of land; can you conceive of any time in the near future when people will take to collective farming? I do not think it will be possible in the near future to use tractors for agricultural purposes.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** You can use them on holdings of 20 acres.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I wish my Honourable friend had the same experience as I have. I understand it is his intention that tractors should cultivate the land in the country that all the people will combine and distribute the produce. I do not think that is likely to happen. Perhaps for another fifty years we would not want tractors; we want bullocks and cows. The tractors will not give dung and urine to fertilise the soil. If you read the books on manure which are issued by the Government of India you will find that the best manure for the soil comes from the excreta of the cattle. We want therefore our cattle for fertility; they will give us food, raiment and every other thing.

I do not make these submissions from the point of view of religion. Perhaps in the N.W.F. Province there are not many animals and so the difficulty is not realised there. So far as Punjab and the rest of the country are concerned I am on solid ground when I ask for the stoppage of cattle slaughter and the total stoppage of raw hides being exported, what to speak of facilities for greater export. I have refrained from saying anything about skins of goats, etc., because I have not studied that question; but so far as hides are concerned, I am positive that in the best interests of the country it is imperative that our hides should never be allowed to be exported.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin said with an apology that he is not interested in this business. I have no hesitation in saying that I am interested in this business. You may be surprised with this mark on my forehead, that I can be interested in this business at all. Sir, I come from Madras and Madras consumes 90 per cent. of the skins and hides which are tanned in this country, and the lowest of the low are engaged in this business. We have seven lakhs of villages in this country and on an average three heads of cattle die every month in each village, and about 36 or 40 is the total number that a village has by way of fallen or slaughtered cattle. In all we have 257 lakhs of skins produced in this country per year, out of which 197.1 lakhs are dead animals, not slaughtered. Therefore this is a very important industry. I would have whole-heartedly supported the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Nauman if he had not used the word "raw". Goats and skins and hides are produced in this country of the value of 50 crores of rupees a year. I find that by the monopoly that is practised by Government proper prices are not being given either for raw hides or for tanned hides. Whereas raw hides have been going down in exports, the prices and exports of tanned hides also have been going down. If we are interested in the tanning industry at least tanned hides must have a proper market elsewhere. To that extent I join with my Honourable friend in condemning the action of Government in securing a

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

monopoly and fixing prices which are not in conflict with the prices that ought to be given to them and against the interests of producers in this country and all in favour of those persons who wanted to buy us out. To that extent I wholeheartedly support it. But, Sir, I disagree with him in this respect that I am in favour of not exporting any kind of hide or skin whether tanned or raw. Our country can consume the entire quantity. The fault lies with the Government. A number of years ago my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, who was then the Finance Member, allotted one crore of rupees for the improvement of village industries. A number of batches of persons were taught—chamars and others—in the art of tanning and they were despatched from Bombay and other Presidencies from village to village, but that scheme stopped after one year. Tanning is of three kinds: Hides and skins are tanned as a

4 P. M. cottage industry. There are such hides and skins which are tanned locally in each village and are used for the purposes of making chappals and other leather articles—that is going on to a large extent. It is a secondary occupation for chamars; they live on agriculture, and this is another occupation. This is not touched by Hindus. Mussalmans do not do the business of flaying but a number of them are engaged in the business of tanning in my part of the Presidency. Over five lakhs of men are engaged in this industry and three millions of harijans are also labourers in this industry, and therefore it will seriously affect them if raw produce is sent away to foreign countries. The tanning industry in my country would be seriously affected. That is why about 8 or 9 years ago when export duty placed upon the export of hides and skins was sought to be removed, my Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, who wants export of raw hides and skins from this country,.....

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Sir, just a word of personal explanation. What I said then, and have been saying all through, is that economic price should be given, *i.e.*, tanners should be able to compete on the world parity prices; if the United Kingdom or Turkey is prepared to pay Rs. 10 for a certain class of hide, the tanners in India should also be prepared to give the same price so that there may not be any loss to the original producer.

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

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I am only sorry he is not on the Treasury Benches. Such kinds of answers I have received from the Treasury Benches when a measure of protection of industry in this country was brought before this House. They used to say how are you going to protect the consumers? For a number of years the industry is not going to stand on its own legs. Whether industry in a short period of time can stand on its own legs or not, the industry must be protected.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** For how long?

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Eternally. Where I am pulling this side, you are always pulling that side. It is unfortunate that in this country we have taken sides—some people have taken the side of producers and others have taken the side of manufacturers. They are not struggling with the British Government, but they are struggling against each other. My Honourable friend must have helped the tanning industry in some parts, but there is one big or small tanning industry in Cawnpore. He does not know in how many small factories, tanning is going on in my part of the Presidency. Instead of joining hands with me in forcing this Government to help those poor who are struggling for occupation, you are going against them. I am not putting it on religious grounds. Cattle must die sometimes; they are also slaughtered; I am not against people who eat them.....

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** You want to give the hides away for a song.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** My Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, is possibly a rich man—I am not so rich—and I would like that all his property

should be given away to the poor if it is a question of helping the poor in this country, giving one more morsel of food. The sooner he gives up asking for export of hides and skins, he will do a real service to this country. So long as they are not giving proper price for tanned hides, I agree in condemning the Government. My Honourable friend in charge of the Department certainly is sympathetic, but he is unable, in the midst of a number of others sitting alongside him, to do anything. I have no quarrel with any of the dark men sitting there, because they are small wheels in a huge machine, and they can only laugh.....

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Say 'tanned men'!

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I have not much to say; I only want to say that I am unable to give support from this side of the House and that I am not able to see eye to eye with Mr. Nauman.

So far as Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed is concerned, he has been misunderstood. I have understood him aright. A long time ago he was also against the export of raw hides and skins. He gave an illustration. He said, ladies in Western countries and in America are very anxious to have dove-like skin which is very soft and malleable and therefore they are not satisfied with the skin of animals born in the natural way. They would like to remove the uterus, kill the animal and remove it so that the skin if it is peeled out may be very soft. That is what happens in this country.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I did not say that.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** You said so. I have got the reports here.

Lastly, so much tribute has been given to the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaiar. He was a Member of this House, and his speeches have been recorded. When he was an ordinary member of this House and when the motion for removing export duty, came up before this Assembly as long ago as 1934, instead of Mr. Nauman there was some other Mr. Mazdoor and he was anxious to get this export duty removed, and Sir Ramaswami cried out 'no, no'. Therefore even then, so long ago, he voiced the feelings of Madras. We are opposed to export of raw hides, and therefore all of us agree that this industry should flourish and we condemn this Government in not having developed this industry as cottage industry and industry in factory both of finished and tanned articles. To that extent I agree, but in as much as it is not properly worded we are not able to vote in favour of this motion.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): I have full sympathy with my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, from Madras. It is not only the problem of his province, but this cottage industry exists all over the country. The *chamar* in every village in the Punjab cures and tans hides in his own crude way, and they are used for making shoes for the villagers. I think we should develop this small industry to make good leather and eventually we should be able to tan all the skins and hides which we produce in this country. I do not agree with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin when he says that bullocks could be substituted by tractors. I shall welcome the day—(I am sorry I mean Khan Abdul Ghani Khan).

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** I did not say substituted.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh:** I shall welcome the day when we can cultivate large areas by tractors but so far they have failed, and failed for the following reasons:

(a) We by use of tractors demolish the banks which we require for irrigation purposes.

(b) We need ordinary ploughs for inter-culture of cotton and other crops, which cannot be done by tractors, and if we keep bullocks we have to incur double expense.



[Sardar Sampuran Singh]

(c) As it was pointed out by Pandit Bhargava, we require cattle also for manure. That is an additional help in agriculture.

(d) The farm holdings are so small that unless with the interference of Government lands are consolidated and there is co-operative agriculture, till then, we cannot use tractors in this country successfully except by very big landlords and at great expense I think.

But I cannot agree with Pandit Bhargava that the number of bullocks in this country is small. His calculations are even wrong and based on wrong data because he thinks that we require a pair of bullocks for ten acres of land. At least it is not so in the Punjab. Ordinarily one pair of bullocks cultivates 14 to 15 acres of land.

**Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** In India where the average is 10·8 acres per pair whereas the acreage is only six or seven in Madras, Bombay and Bengal, etc. If you will kindly see statement II, p. 113 in Burns' Book.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh:** I am talking from practical knowledge. I am a farmer myself and I know. To our tenants we give 14 to 15 acres of land per pair of bullock but they always demand more land and it is with great pressure that we keep them within those limits. Besides it is a well known fact that the quality of cattle in our country has so much deteriorated and if we go on breeding out of them and increase the number of cattle in our country, I think we will be creating so many more parasites to eat the grain which we require for human beings. For that simple reason we have to reorganise this cattle question throughout the country. We have to reduce their number. That may be done by stopping breeding from inferior animals and by improving the breed. Unless we take some radical steps in that direction; I think we would be creating so many animals which I think we really do not require.

In the end, Sir, I have to say only one word. Tanning and curing is a great industry, which with one or two exceptions is practically ignored all over the country and this can be very much developed as a cottage industry where a few men in each village can make their living out of tanning the skins and hides which they get from their own village. For that reason also I would submit that if it is to be exported, let it be exported not in a raw form but in a manufactured form.

**\*Chandri Sri Chand (Nominated Non-Official):** Is it not a matter for regret and for surprise that in this Land of India which was proverbial for its streams of milk, milk is now being imported from other countries? I read, a few days ago, in the papers that 70,00,000 tons of milk would be imported into India. It has been discussed in this House that facilities may be provided to export hides to foreign countries. It would have been better if we had discussed to export milk to foreign countries and to import hides from those countries. At present, we, Indians, can neither get pure milk nor unmixed *ghee*. In cities skimmed milk, containing a large proportion of water, and, vegetable *ghee* in place of the genuine *ghee* are being used. This has bred dangerous diseases like tuberculosis which are daily on the increase. In villages, where in the absence of fruit and vegetables, people lived on milk and *ghee* these commodities have become so scarce that they cannot be had even for children.

India is an agricultural country. 70 per cent. of her people live in villages and depend on cultivation. Villagers, whether Hindus or Muslims, have no taste for meat-eating. They prefer milk to meat. They love their cattle more than their children. Leave aside eating them, they cannot bear to see them slaughtered. For Indians, cattle are essential for their milk, curd and *ghee*, etc. Pandit Thakar Das has told us the pace at which cattle are decreasing in India. If this pace is kept on we shall have no cattle left in India nor shall we have hides to export to other countries.

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\*The Honourable Member spoke in Urdu.



Population is increasing while cattle are decreasing. I am afraid that if the slaughter of cattle is not stopped the health of the villagers will deteriorate after a very short time.

In cities, cattle are slaughtered merely for their hides. Lacs of cattle from the District of Rohtak in the Punjab are carried to larger towns, such as, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi, etc., etc., where their calves are forthwith slaughtered while they are allowed to live till they become dry and then slaughtered for their hides.

The export of hides and skins must be stopped otherwise the practice of slaughtering cattle will never end. Poor *chamars* used to live on the skins of dead animals. This has gradually been monopolized by capitalists in each town, who are greedy of money and export hides to other countries while poor villagers go about barefooted. Seventy per cent. of the people of India live on agriculture but owing to export of hides they kill bullocks. I am told that bullocks and calves are severely beaten before they are slaughtered. This is done to make the hide tougher and weightier. Sheep are killed in pregnancy for the skin of the unborn lamb because it is delicate and soft and fetches good price. Bullocks have decreased to such an extent that camels, cows, buffaloes and donkeys are yoked to the plough. The farmer knows that by ploughing with the help of these animals the yield from the field is greatly reduced because they cannot plough the soil deep enough to make it more productive. After the last famine men and women were yoked to the plough. Pandit Thakar Das has rightly said that the area of land under cultivation is larger than before and yet the number of bullocks has much decreased. Somebody suggested that we should follow the Americans and cultivate our land by means of tractors which will come to India from foreign countries by the month of September next. My learned friend seems to have no rural experience. In the Punjab a cultivator possesses, on an average, two acres of land. He is too poor to buy a tractor nor has he so much land as to need a tractor. The time is yet far off when tractors will be used for cultivating land in India. Bullocks are essential for the farmer. Cattle are most necessary for the health and economy of India. Sardar Sampuran Singh has suggested that the number of cattle may be decreased but their breed may be improved. I do not agree with him. The number of cattle is already insufficient in the country and an increase in their number is essential. The breed was not good at first but since the increase in price the cultivators have tried to improve the breed and we can now see cattle of the highest breed in our villages. Hence I am against his suggestion.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Sir, I will not try to preface my remarks by saying that I only propose to speak a few words as my friend Mr. Nauman said but concluded his speech after 20 minutes. My friend is suffering under a misconception and I personally tried to explain to him that we have been at considerable pains to find out as to what should be the future export position of hides and skins in this country. I can assure my friend, though I am not in the trade like my friend, that I am fully cognisant of the position of hides and skin export, so far as India's future postwar trade is concerned. There are a certain number of export articles for which India had been reputed in the past and if we have to maintain an export market for this country in future, these avenues should be explored to the utmost. Long before my friend even wrote to me his letter I took up this question myself. I will not say anything more on this. I felt that with the cessation of war the time has come when we should review the position. In fact I may tell him that by tabling this cut motion he has made my position more difficult than what it was. That is the very least I can say without disclosing some of the facts.

My friend has got a copy of the proceedings from which he read. He will find that on the 9th February the hide and skin conference was called. The Export Advisory Council was held sometime about the end of December or at

[Sir M. Azizul Huque]

the beginning of January. And even though I plead guilty that I did not invite the representatives of my friend's association, to it my only excuse was that in the matter of export the real interests concerned for the time being were not those who actually collected from the field or got from the middlemen, but the traders who export or the manufacturers who manufacture. I thought that I need not confuse the issue and in order to come to a conclusion as to what should be the future export line, people, who have been in the export trade and people who are in the manufacture should be invited to a conference. That was the line I took, it was not because I did not recognise the existence of my friend's association and I will try to show that I wanted to consult every possible interest in the country, apart from the question of the different Departments which are concerned in this matter. I shall read the names of those bodies which attended the conference, though there are a number who did not.

(1) Hides and Skins Shippers Association, Calcutta. (2) South India Tanners and Dealers Association, Ranipet. (3) Southern India Skin and Hide Merchants Association, Madras. (4) Karachi Hide and Skin Shippers Association. (5) Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industry. (6) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. (7) Tanners Federation of India. (8) Associated Chambers of Commerce. (9) The Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay. (10) The Buyers and Shippers Chamber, Karachi. (11) Hide and Skin Merchants Association, Amritsar. (12) Hides and Skin Merchants Association, Multan. (13) Amritsar Muslim Traders Association. (14) Hide Merchants and Suppliers Association, Lahore. (15) Goat and Sheep Skin Exporters, Delhi. (16) Leather Goods Manufacturers Association, Bombay. (17) Association of Indian Industries. (18) All-India Footwear Federation. (19) Bata Shoe Company. (20) Agra Shoe Manufacturers Association.

If after this long list, my friend Mr. Nauman comes to the House and says that this is not a representative conference, as his association was not convened, I think that he is doing wrong to those distinguished men who came to represent the various interests concerned. Sir, I only wanted to bring to your notice that long before this cut motion I had thought out this problem and I wanted to do my best in order to help the trade.

Let me here quote what I said in my opening speech on that occasion:

"The Chairman opened the discussion stating that the views expressed in the past by various interests regarding the supply position and export possibilities of hides, skins and leather goods were irreconcilable. This Conference was therefore called in order to reach agreed conclusions if possible regarding the future export position of these commodities. He added that the position of these articles was quite different at present from what it was before the war. Since 1929 there has been a tendency for increased tanning and finishing of leather goods in this country, apart from the fillip given to organised factories and cottage industries during the war period. It was the policy of the Government of India to develop wherever possible manufacture of indigenous articles in the country. The question therefore, before the conference was to ascertain what quantities of raw materials could be processed within the country and to what extent raw materials or manufactured goods could be exported."

I made my position quite clear, that I was anxious to find out or explore the possibility from those who were interested as to what is actually the consuming capacity of the country, what can be consumed in the near future and if there is any balance left, whether or not we should export that. I hope every section of the House will agree that that was the only sound position to take up. Unfortunately I have not had many facts or statistics. My friend has not given me any figures to answer any of these actual points which should determine the issue. My friend has not said anything as to what is the present consuming capacity of the tanning industry both in the factories as well as in the cottages. If my friend can give it, I can come to a conclusion tomorrow. My friend has not given any data on which I can estimate the present production of hides and skins in this country. Sir, having regard to these two factors I therefore wanted a little data. Unfortunately there are

two interests each against the other and irreconcilable almost till the end I therefore immediately took steps to issue a long note about surveying the actual position today and I wanted from the different Departments concerned as to the actual facts and figures with reference to these three factors which I have referred to. I have not been able to get them. It was written in my own hand. If my friend can answer any of these points on the floor of the House or even tomorrow or within a week, I can assure him that I will be able to come to a decision immediately on this export policy. I said, for example that there has been a complaint in the country, that there has been a reduction in the cattle population of the country. We must know what is the cattle population today. What are the actual figures of the death rates within the last few years? What is the annual production of hides within the last few years? To what extent they are fallen hides and to what extent are they slaughtered? Are there any corresponding figures for any of these items during the recent war years and also corresponding figures for goats and sheep? We wanted also to know the extent of the expansion of the tanning industry in organised factories and also the nature of expansion in the village cottage industries including footwear industry. Only after knowing all these facts we can come to a decision. I hope my friend will not press this motion on the ground that simply because there was this export before irrespective of the consideration of the internal manufacturing capacity of this country, we should allow exports to be resumed. While I am in sympathy with the object of my friend, I cannot assure him straightaway as to what line we shall take. But I can give this assurance, that if I am satisfied reasonably that after allowing all that is necessary for internal manufacture in this industry at the present moment there is still a good or fair surplus or likelihood of such a surplus, I will certainly try my best to revise the present policy, by encouraging exports, because this wealth will return to the man who collects it; and if I can allow export to that extent, it will help his economic position. But I will be jeopardising the economic position if I allow an article to be exported which can be consumed within the country itself. That has been the policy of the Government of India and I stand by that policy. My Honourable friend has referred to certain prices. Sometimes it is dangerous for a mathematician to be an economist. My friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad is a distinguished mathematician, but he tried to play the role of an economist also. He gave certain figures and it was with great difficulty that I was able to get the facts: I found that whereas Mr. Inskip was referring to the price of hides in Calcutta, Sir Zia Uddin was referring to the prices of both hides and skins, together; and it is well known that whereas the price of hides has risen very high, the price of skins is comparatively on a lower level; and the combined figures naturally will react on one another . . . .

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The motion refers to both.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** But my figures referred to hides only, and Mr. Inskip also referred to hides only. Mr. Inskip's point was—and he was quoting from the same proceedings to which my friend Mr. Nauman referred—that according to those who wanted export to be encouraged, the figures in Calcutta were: in the year 1938, Rs. 3/15 to Rs. 5/8 a piece; and in 1945, the prices were Rs. 16 to Rs. 17; and the present ruling price was Rs. 16. Therefore it cannot be complained about the Calcutta price it is more than 400 per cent. . . . .

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** May I interrupt? The particular class of hides he is referring to is different. Besides, the question I put is this, whether Indian hides are able to fetch higher prices through export or not. I am not by any chance going to say that we should not help our industries or that we are not prepared to co-operate with industries. At the same time what I wish to impress on the Honourable Member is that industries should not be allowed to pay Rs. 5 for an article which can be sold at Rs. 15 elsewhere.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have understood my friend perfectly. At the same time I should think that it is not a sound economic proposition from the point of view of economic development of any country, that because you can get a rupee more outside, as against the local price which is 300 per cent more, you must send it outside, even when you are satisfied that the price you are getting is a fair economic price here. I think it will be wrong if our export policy is only governed by the price consideration. There are so many other considerations. The question of unemployment, the question of manufacturing in this country, the question of strategy and defence all these are factors on which the export policy has to be built up; and it is for that reason that as a part of the war effort, the sanctions of economic warfare were considered very important with a view to winning the war. Anyway, even supposing, that my friend is correct, I take it that there is no special virtue in the Dacca hide, except that it is dry salted. Others are not dry-salted, but treated in another manner; and if ordinary experience is any guide and if it is a fact that the Dacca price has gone from 3/15 to 17, (and my friend cannot contradict me unless he gives me the facts), I say that other prices must have followed the same parity. That is only reasonable, unless my friend can satisfy me that though the Dacca price by virtue of adding a little salt has increased so much, the prices of other articles have not increased. I do not know if that is his contention. As I said, I am anxiously waiting for figures. Unfortunately in my experience—and I plead this very humbly—we often talk of general propositions but unsubstantiated by facts which are necessary to come to a conclusion on such propositions. I am quite prepared to accept my friend's argument wholly that I should not be guided by the self-interest of tanners. I think he will also agree with me that the other side is also true, namely, that I should not be guided only by the advice of the exporters. In all conscience I must look to the development of the country as a whole; and it was with that view that I brought all these interests together in order that they may be reconciled in one place. My friend has seen their proceedings. In fact this matter still requires a considerable amount of reference to different Departments and different ports and different trade interests in a vast country like India, before you can come to a satisfactory solution. But I do hope that I shall be able to come to some conclusion within a week or two at the utmost.

I shall take only a few minutes more because I have to reply to all these points. As I said, I recognise the value of this hides and skins business. Our business was with almost every country in the world before, and I am anxious that this should also if possible be one of our exports; but if these goods can be manufactured in this country, the better; and if from the tanned leather, we can manufacture shoes and export them, it is still better. Therefore I must try to find out a reconciliation between all these interests before I can come to a conclusion.

I do not think I need answer the point because when Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad put a simple question to those who did not agree with him, I felt that it was a very complicated question. I do not think I need enter into the question of slaughters and bulls *versus* bullocks and tractors and all those factors which I consider wholly beside the point for a considered judgment on the export policy. Suffice it for me to say that I have been for the last two or three months trying to get the actual data on all these points, and I can assure the House that if I am satisfied that having regard to the needs of the country there is likelihood of a surplus of hides and skins in this country, I certainly would be the first to see that they are exported in order that India may get wealth from abroad. But simultaneously I should also try to do everything possible to help the manufacturers.

There is one point which I must say. As a matter of fact we have relaxed to a large extent in our export policy, and my friend knows well that

we have relaxed a great deal in that direction and are permitting a certain number of things to go out in reasonable quantities.

As regards his offer for monopoly purchases, I think that is a matter which should be tackled by the Supply Department, because the price factor was controlled by the Supply Department, and that is wholly beyond the issue of the export policy; but for the information of my friend I can tell him that the Combined Raw Materials Resources Board at Washington, which was dealing with this, has been, I think, dissolved; and therefore the question of price-combination by the Governments of other countries does not arise in the present moment. Whether there is any trade cartel or not, I can assure him that India is not a participant in the trade cartel and I would certainly very carefully watch the situation before I enter into a negotiation with such an organisation which can control and monopolise the price, so far as India's export is concerned.

As regards the price, as I said, this is a point which is outside the scope of the Commerce Department and therefore I would not like to touch it. I think, Sir, that is all I have got to say. So far as Mr. Inskip is concerned, I want to make it quite clear that in so far as the interest of the internal manufacturer and the tanning industry is concerned, both in factories and within the country, we shall certainly watch before we think of doing anything which might jeopardise their position. Sir, I oppose the motion.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban):** I think the debate on this question has been side tracked by my friends on my left as well as by my friends on my right. I will leave the cow to take care of itself and I shall leave the milk of the cow for the children again to take care of itself. The problem here is that in order to help tanners the Honourable Member wishes to crush the trade in hides and skins and is stopping us from selling our goods to the best buyers. If Indian tanners want the hides and skins let them pay a price which other countries in the world are prepared to pay. I cannot understand how the Honourable Member for Commerce could come and tell us of his great theories about industrialisation and about the needs of the tanners when we know that the price of hides for export and even goat skins is not fixed by the seller or the buyer through negotiation but by other influences outside of them. The Honourable the Commerce Member ought to know the trick played about jute, about tea and certain other monopoly commodities in this country. My request to him is—leave us alone. If the man in New York or the man in London or the man in Hamburg, whenever he comes into the picture, wishes to purchase Indian hides and skins, let him pay the price which is fair. The Indian tanner, in competition, will benefit to the extent of the transportation and insurance charges. I cannot understand why the merchants of hides and skins should be punished because of the desire of the Honourable the Commerce Member to have more tanneries in India.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** May I ask whether in deciding the export policy I must forget the tanneries altogether?

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** The tanneries should, in my humble judgment, take care of themselves, but I shall not be robbed and here I speak with some feeling, because you will understand me better; when I say, *Barq girti hai to bechare Mussalmanon par*. This is the one trade in which the Muslim has some standing. This is the one trade he has understood at least for a hundred years and certainly understands it today. Why hold him back? You sell other goods. You sell other things. Let the Indian tanner come into the market and pay me my price, not the price that New York or London or any of the big folk outside India fix.

**Sir M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Does the Honourable Member know that the tanner is also a Mussalman?

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** The tanner may be a Mussalman or a Marwari. That does not matter. Even if he is a Muslim tanner, he has to pay the full price for the goods he purchases. These manipulations have led to heavy losses. I do not know when their great tanning programme will come into being. Until then I should not be punished. Increase your tanneries, increase your village tanneries also and cottage industries and all what you like and create a balancing between exports and imports in this country but until you are able to give us a definite plan, you must leave us alone. The Honourable the Commerce Member, according to his own confession, still wants the Honourable the Mover of this Cut, to supply him with figures. What is his great Department doing? I refuse to give him figures. Let him find them out and when he has done that and when he has distributed the hides and skins between the tanners and our great masters in New York and London, then I shall begin to think of another distribution of a higher percentage in India and a lower percentage outside. It is absolutely correct fact that certain combinations in London and New York bring such great pressure on us that we are unable to sell our hides and skins to Middle Eastern countries where we are liable to get higher prices. What happens is, they take away our goods at prices fixed by them and then they sell at a higher price to others. Would not the Commerce Member let me have that little margin between the two prices. That is what I am trying to impress upon him. It is all very well to talk of industrialization and so on. I hope it will come soon but until then do not crush us. Do not pulverise us and do not throw us back into poverty once more.

**Mr. Deputy President:** The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Commerce Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

[While the division was in progress, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) resumed the Chair.]

AYES—24.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.  
Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.  
Abid Hussain, Captain Syed.  
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.  
Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.  
Ali Asghar Khan, Mr.  
E. H. Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed.  
Ghazanfarulla, Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.  
Guruswami, Mr. S.  
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.  
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.  
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah.

Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.  
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.  
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad.  
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.  
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.  
Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.  
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.  
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.  
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.  
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.  
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.  
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—37.

Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.  
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.  
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.  
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.  
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.  
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.  
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.  
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.  
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.  
Fenton, Mr. R. V.  
Greenfield, Mr. H.  
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.  
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.  
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.  
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.  
Inskip, Mr. A. C.  
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.  
Joshi, Mr. S. C.

Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.  
Mason, Mr. P.  
Morris, Mr. R. C.  
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.  
Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.  
Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.  
Rangachari, Mr. M. V.  
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.  
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.  
Sen, Dr. D. M.  
Sen, Mr. B. R.  
Spence, Sir George.  
Sri Chand, Chaudhri.  
Stokes, Mr. H. G.  
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.  
Turner, Mr. A. C.  
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.  
Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.  
Weightman, Mr. H.

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. President:** It is just one minute to Five and there is hardly any time for moving any further cut motions. So, I will put the Demands for Grants to the vote.

## DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,04,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Customs’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,04,42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Central Excise and Salt’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,96,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 4—OPIUM

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,09,55,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Opium’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 5—PROVINCIAL EXCISE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,61,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Provincial Excise’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 6—STAMPS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,33,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Stamps’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 7—FOREST

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,56,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Forest’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 8—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES NAVIGATION,  
EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS MET FROM REVENUE)

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,31,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue).'"

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING  
WORKING EXPENSES)

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,81,50,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses).'"

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 10—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND REDUCTION OR  
AVOIDANCE OF DEBT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,06,12,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,700 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—42

Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.	Joshi, Mr. S. C.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.	Mason, Mr. P.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra	Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Mohan.	Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Rangachari, Mr. M. V.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.	Sen, Dr. D. M.
Greenfield, Mr. H.	Sen, Mr. B. R.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Guruswami, Mr. S.	Spence, Sir George.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
	Weightman, Mr. H.



## NOES—49

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.  
 Adityan, Sri S. T.  
 Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.  
 Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.  
 Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.  
 Chaman Lal, Diwan.  
 Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.  
 Choudhury, Sreejutt Rohini Kumar.  
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.  
 Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.  
 Dani, Mr. G. B.  
 Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.  
 Gangaraju, Sri V.  
 Gole, Mr. P. B.  
 Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.  
 Govind Das, Seth.  
 Hiray, Sjt. B. S.  
 Jagannathdas, Sri.  
 Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.  
 Jinachandran, Sri M. K.  
 Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.  
 Lahiri Choudhury, Srijiut Dharendra Kanta.  
 Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.  
 Malaviya, Pandit Govind.

Mangal Singh, Sardar.  
 Manu Subedar, Mr.  
 Masani, Mr. M. R.  
 Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.  
 Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.  
 Narayanamurthi, Sri N.  
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
 Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.  
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr.  
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.  
 Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.  
 Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.  
 Salve, Mr. P. K.  
 Sampuran Singh, Sardar.  
 Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.  
 Satakopachari, Sri T. V.  
 Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.  
 Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.  
 Sri Prakasa, Shri.  
 Sukhdev, Seth.  
 Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader  
 Sardar.  
 Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.  
 Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit.  
 Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.  
 Varma, Mr. B. B.

The motion was negatived.

## DEMAND NO. 12—COUNCIL OF STATE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of Council of State.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 13—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPT.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,73,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 14—HOME DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,65,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Home Department’.”

The Assembly divided.

## AYES—59

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.  
 Abid Hussain, Captain Syed.  
 Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.  
 Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.  
 Ali Aghar Khan, Mr.  
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.  
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.  
 Banerjee, Mr. R. N.  
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.  
 Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.  
 Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.  
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.  
 Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.

Cook, Mr. B. C. A.  
 Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed.  
 Fenton, Mr. R. V.  
 Hazanfarulla, Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.  
 Greenfield, Mr. H.  
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.  
 Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.  
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.  
 Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.  
 Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.  
 Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.  
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.  
 Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj  
 Syed Sher Shah.

AYES—59—contd.

Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.  
 Joshi, Mr. S. C.  
 Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.  
 Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.  
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.  
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.  
 Mason, Mr. P.  
 Morris, Mr. R. C.  
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.  
 Naqvi, Mr. A. T.  
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.  
 Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.  
 Rangachari, Mr. M. V.  
 Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.  
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.

Sen, Dr. D. M.  
 Sen, Mr. B. R.  
 Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.  
 Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.  
 Spence, Sir George.  
 Sri Chand Chaudhari.  
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.  
 Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.  
 Turner, Mr. A. C.  
 Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.  
 Waugh, The Honourable Mr., A. A.  
 Weightman, Mr. H.  
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.  
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.  
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.  
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—49

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.  
 Adityan, Sri S. T.  
 Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.  
 Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.  
 Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.  
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.  
 Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.  
 Choudhury, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.  
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.  
 Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.  
 Dani, Mr. G. B.  
 Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.  
 Gangaraju, Sri V.  
 Gole, Mr. P. B.  
 Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.  
 Govind Das, Seth.  
 Hiray, Sjt. B. S.  
 Jagannathdas, Sri.  
 Jhunhunwala, Mr. B. P.  
 Jinachandran, Sri M. K.  
 Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.  
 Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dharendra Kanta  
 Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.  
 Malaviya, Pandit Govind.  
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.

Manu Subedar, Mr.  
 Masani, Mr. M. R.  
 Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.  
 Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.  
 Narayanamurthi, Sri N.  
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
 Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.  
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr.  
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.  
 Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.  
 Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.  
 Salve, Mr. P. K.  
 Sampuran Singh, Sardar.  
 Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.  
 Satakopachari, Sri T. V.  
 Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.  
 Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.  
 Sri Prakasa, Shri  
 Sukhdev, Seth.  
 Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader  
 Sardar.  
 Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.  
 Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit.  
 Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.  
 Varma, Mr. B. B.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 15—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 42,95,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Department of Information and Broadcasting’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 16—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,73,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Legislative Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 17—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,13,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Department of Education’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 18—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,32,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Department of Agriculture’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 19—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,55,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Department of Health’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,74,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Department of Commonwealth Relations’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,04,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Finance Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,38,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Commerce Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,96,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Department of Labour’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 24—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of Department of Posts and Air.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 25—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘War Transport Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 39,54,900 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Food Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,04,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Central Board of Revenue’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 28—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘India Office and High Commissioner's establishment charges’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 29—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC. ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Payments to other Government Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 30—AUDIT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,74,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Audit’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Administration of Justice’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,21,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Jails and Convict Settlements’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 33—POLICE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Police’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,20,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Ports and Pilotage’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 35—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,72,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Lighthouses and Lightships’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 36—SURVEY OF INDIA

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,20,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Survey of India’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 37—BOTANICAL SURVEY

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 89,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Botanical Survey’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 38—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,67,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Zoological Survey’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 39—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,40,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Geological Survey’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 40—MINES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,56,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Mines’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 41—ARCHÆOLOGY

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,68,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Archæology’.”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 42—METEOROLOGY

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,89,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947 in respect of ‘Meteorology.’”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 43—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,53,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Other Scientific Departments.’”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 44—EDUCATION

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,47,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Education.’”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 45—MEDICAL SERVICES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,81,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Medical Services.’”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,98,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Public Health.’”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 47—AGRICULTURE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 55,49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Agriculture.’”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 48—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,89,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Civil Veterinary Services.’”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 49—INDUSTRIES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,61,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Industries.’”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 50—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,23,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Scientific and Industrial Research’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 51—AVIATION

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,64,900 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Aviation’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 52—BROADCASTING

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,66,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Broadcasting’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 53—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,83,43,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Department of Industries and Supplies’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 54—EMIGRATION

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,90,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Emigration’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 55—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Commercial Intelligence and Statistics’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 56—CENSUS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Census’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 57—JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,84,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Joint-Stock Companies’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 58—IMPERIAL DAIRY DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,20,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Imperial Dairy Department’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 59—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,01,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous Departments’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 60—CURRENCY

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,13,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Currency’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 61—MINT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,84,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Mint’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 62—CIVIL WORKS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,01,75,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Civil Works’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 63—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,00,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Central Road Fund’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 64—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,43,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Superannuation Allowances and Pensions’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 65—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,19,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Stationery and Printing’.”

The motion was adopted.



## DEMAND No. 66—MISCELLANEOUS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,96,27,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 67—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 68—POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,63,84,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Post-War Planning and Development’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 69—CIVIL DEFENCE

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,24,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Civil Defence’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 70—DELHI

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,23,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Delhi’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 71—AJMER-MERWARA

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 47,97,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Ajmer-Merwara’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 72—PANTH PIPLODA

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Panth Piploda’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 73—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,34,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Andaman and Nicobar Islands’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 74—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SALT . .

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,27,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 75—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,68,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 76—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE SECURITY PRINTING PRESS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,00,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on the Security Printing Press'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 77—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,38,79,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 78—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 79—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,98,38,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 80—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,38,99,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 81—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 82—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,50,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Mints'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 83—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 89,80,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 84—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,18,29,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 85—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 86—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,00,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 87—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,70,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 88—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,26,00,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Development’.”

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 89—INTEREST-FREE AND INTEREST BEARING ADVANCES

**Mr. President:** The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,91,82,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Interest-Free and Interest Bearing Advances’.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 15th March, 1946.