

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

## Official Report

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( 15th March to 30th March, 1946 )

### FIRST SESSION

OF THE

## SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 21st March, 1946.

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

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

SALE BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF EASTERN AND WESTERN HOUSES IN NEW DELHI

**1131. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have noticed the news in the *Hindustan Times* of the 4th February, 1946, that the White Hall was putting pressure on the Government of India to purchase the Western House and the Eastern House on the Curzon Road and Asoka Road, respectively; if so, what reply, if any, has been given by the Government of India; and

(b) Whether the Government of India consider that the price obtained for the material would be only a fraction of the purchase price?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Yes. In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to parts (a) and (b) of the Honourable Mr. Venkatasubba Reddiar's short notice question No. 23, of the 8th February, 1946.

(b) The purchase price has not yet been settled but the price of the materials on the demolition of the building will necessarily be very small as compared with the price of the building.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** In reply to part (a) the Honourable Member said 'yes'. Does that mean that pressure was brought to bear from Whitehall?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** No.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** What does the answer 'yes' to part (a) mean?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It means that I have noticed the news in the *Hindustan Times*.

**Mr. President:** Next question.

THREATENED STRIKE BY EMPLOYEES OF JOINT WATER AND SEWAGE BOARD, DELHI

**1132. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Health Secretary please state whether it is a fact that the employees of the Joint Water and Sewage Board, Delhi, have threatened to strike if their demands are not met with?

(b) If such a strike takes place, are Government aware that the citizens of Delhi would be put to a great difficulty in regard to their water supply?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to meet the situation?

**Mr. S. B. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. A body calling itself the Joint Water and Sewage Board Employees Union submitted a list of demands to the Board last month. The Board has the demands under consideration.

### PARTICIPATION OF INDIA IN GETTING JAPANESE TEXTILE MACHINERY

**1133. \*Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Textile Group is shortly visiting Japan for examining Japanese textile machinery and that India has been invited to nominate observers on the same;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Government of India have accepted the invitation of the United States of America in this respect;

(c) if the reply to (b) is in the affirmative, why India should not be represented on this international body directly rather than as an observer;



(d) the exact role that these observers are expected to play as compared to the direct nominees of the said International Textile Group;

(e) in view of the non-availability of the British textile machinery in the immediate future for the Indian textile industry and as part of the reparations to which India is entitled by virtue of the leading part it played in the victory over Japan, whether the Government of India have made representations to the proper authorities that India should have a fairly large share of the available Japanese textile machinery;

(f) whether Government are aware that the Australian Government have already made a move to get this machinery in sufficiently large quantities, so that they can quadruple their textile production in a very short period; and

(g) what immediate action, if any, the Government of India propose to take in this matter?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) and (b). The Government of the United States of America has sponsored the visit of a Textile Mission to Japan to report on the status of the Japanese Textile Industry, with special reference to its ability to assist in meeting the world-wide textile shortage, anticipated by the Combined Resources and Production Board in 1946. The Mission left Washington for Japan on the 15th January 1946. The Government of India were invited to nominate an observer to accompany the Mission and they have accepted the invitation.

(c) The Textile Mission to Japan is really an American, and not an international body, and the question of securing direct representation on it for India does not therefore arise.

(d) Observers accompanying the Mission will endeavour to secure that during the course of investigation, the special view points and requirements of their respective Governments are not overlooked. They will be free to report on facts of interest to their Governments and will not be expected to participate in the preparation of the official report.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Government are in correspondence with the authorities concerned.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I ask what is the name of the gentleman whom Government has nominated as observer?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** As far as my information goes, it is Mr. Bharat Rau.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I ask whether spinning mills will also be included in this?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** We have got our Trade Commissioner there, who is observing the whole situation *vis-a-vis* the textile position; and there are others from whom we are taking advice on this point. It is not always possible to send a representative of each different interest, specially in view of the difficulties of transport to Japan.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will he make this report available to the Members of this House?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have not yet received the report. But if a suitable occasion arises and if I remain here, certainly I shall place it before the House.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** In view of the Indian textile machinery having been overworked, what steps is Government taking to get Japanese machinery, as the Australian Government is doing?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** We have been pressing our requirements and claims for certain parts of the textile machinery; but to what extent these machineries exist or to what extent they may be available and

to what extent we may get our share as between the different countries, is a matter which is now being discussed between the different Governments.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will Government put up a case that India's right to this machinery should be considered first in view of the fact that India helped to clothe the whole world, even undergoing cloth famine here?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Yes; we have done our very best in this matter and we have placed our case even higher than my friend put it.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Before nominating this observer, did the Honourable Member consult the textile industry?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** This is a matter really for the Industries Department. The Commerce Department in all these matters has to consult the different departments concerned, and the other department must have been consulted.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** May I ask the Honourable Member if he is prepared to inquire into this matter?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If I am put a question as to what exactly my Honourable friend wants, I would certainly be delighted to give him an answer.

#### THREATENED STRIKE IN GOVERNMENT PRESS, ALIGARH

**1134. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if he is aware of a notice of strike given by the employees of the Government Press, Aligarh?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees are being paid Rs. 12, Rs. 14, and Rs. 15 per month?

(c) Is he also aware of their other grievances with regard to pay, amenities, working hours and supply of rations?

(d) What action has the Government of India taken or propose to take to meet the demands of the workers?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, certain categories of employees.

(c) Yes.

(d) The grievances are receiving attention. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited in this connection to the reply given to the starred question No. 896, on the 12th March, 1946.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to part (b) of this question, how many hundreds of these workers are being paid only 12 or 14 or 15 rupees per month?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am afraid I have not got the facts here.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it one of the proposals of the Government to increase the salaries of these people who are so low paid?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** My Honourable friend knows that the Government has appointed a salaries commission which look into this case generally.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Is the Honourable gentleman aware of the fact that the University of Aligarh pays a minimum salary of Rs. 30 per month to the low paid staff?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I congratulate my Honourable friend on that.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** It is no question of congratulation to me or condolence to you: this is the minimum standard for living: we cannot starve our own employees.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why is it necessary for the Government to wait until that particular commission reports about the salaries in general of all employees and servants in the Government of India, before they can think of increasing these pitiful salaries of 12 and 14 and 15 rupees per month?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The Government's intention is that they should have a general policy based on some uniform principle; and that policy cannot certainly be brought into execution unless the matter has been examined by a commission.

**Seth Govind Das:** By what date is the report of this Commission bring in?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am unable to say but Government propose to expedite this matter.

**Seth Govind Das:** By that time these people will be starving. Does Government think that till then these people should go on getting this 12 or 14 or 15 rupees per month?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The Government has no such intention.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government consider the advisability of giving them some temporary relief until the recommendations are received?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** As I said, the grievances are receiving attention.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** How long will they take to decide?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The matter is under active consideration.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it not a fact that press employees have gone on strike in other places?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Yes; that is so but they are working elsewhere, I understand.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable Member see that temporary relief is granted before they are forced to resort to a strike?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** As I said, the matter is under active consideration.

**Seth Govind Das:** The Honourable Member does not say by what time the report will come and till then, should these people starve?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I cannot give any time limit.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Is it not a fact that the words "under active consideration" usually indicate that there is no time limit, as far as my Honourable friends are concerned?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I do not think so.

#### CEILING PRICES FOR FOODGRAINS

1135. \***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) what steps are being taken to see that the present level of ceiling prices fixed for foodgrains are not below the level of remunerative and equitable prices;

(b) whether any Provincial Governments have represented that the present levels are inadequate;

(c) what proportion of the ceiling prices are actually being received by producers;

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure that producers get the maximum even under the ceiling prices; and

(e) what steps have been taken since the House passed the motion on the food situation on the 5th February, 1946, to ensure the payment of remunerative prices to the growers of different Provinces?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) and (e). The present foodgrain prices are considered to be fair both to the producer and the consumer. It is not considered advisable to raise prices during a period of acute scarcity.

(b) One Provincial Government represented that the present price levels were not economic compared with the prices in the neighbouring provinces.

(c) and (d). There are fixed producers prices in a number of provinces while in others the statutory prices are applicable to primary producing markets.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** My Honourable friend has not taken the trouble to give a proper answer to this question. In part (a) of the question, I have asked what steps are being taken to see that the present level of ceiling prices fixed for foodgrains are not below the level of remunerative and equitable prices; and in part (e) I have asked what steps have been taken since the House passed the motion on the food situation on the 5th February, 1946, to ensure the payment of remunerative prices to the growers of different provinces. My Honourable friend simply says that the Government consider that the existing prices are remunerative and therefore they need not take any steps. What I would like to know is whether they have reconsidered the whole position in the light of the Resolution passed by this House. What are their conclusions?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** The Honourable Member has put another question and he will get the answer when I reply to that question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is that particular province which has represented that the present price levels were not economic compared with the prices in the neighbouring provinces?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Bihar.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Several of the District Collectors in the Madras Presidency have asked for the raising of the prices prevailing there and yet the Madras Government and the Government of India have conspired not to raise them? What is the reply?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** The Madras Government consider that the present prices are economic and they are not in favour of raising the prices.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What about the Collectors' reports?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** I would point out to the Honourable Member that the whole question of prices was gone into by the Famine Inquiry Commission and when replying to the cut motion I read out extracts from the report. The report says that the present level of prices which are about 240 per cent. above the pre-war levels should be the target for all provinces in India for bringing their prices down.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to part (e) of this question, what proportion of the ceiling prices are actually being received by producers. Has any inquiry been made? My information is that whereas Rs. 11 per bag of 166 lbs. was fixed as the ceiling price in the Madras Presidency, peasants were in receipt of only Rs. 9 to Rs. 10—never more than Rs. 10.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** In certain provinces the prices were fixed *ex-mill*. In other provinces, the prices are those of primary markets. If in Madras the producers are getting something less than the ceiling prices that has already been taken into account in fixing the ceiling prices.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The fact is that ceiling prices are fixed, putting a sort of ceiling to the prices that the peasants can ever receive from the market. But actually there is no definite price fixed, which is assured to the peasant. I want the Government to inquire into the fact whether actually peasants are receiving the ceiling prices which are considered to be reasonable by Government and if they are not in receipt of this ceiling price, what steps do Government propose in order to see that the reasonable price is actually received by the peasants and middlemen are not allowed to exploit the peasants?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** There seems to be some misapprehension in the mind of the Honourable Member. Taking the case of Madras, the prices which the Madras

Government pay are the *ex-mill* prices and naturally the prices which producers will get will be something less than that price.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It cannot be . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Next question.

#### FIXATION OF REMUNERATIVE PRICES OF FOODGRAINS.

**1136. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken on the various items of the motion on the food situation passed by the House on the 5th February 1946, and

(b) whether Government propose to fix one fixed remunerative price, as the price for a season or a year as the case may be in place of the existing ceiling prices which are never reached by peasants in order to induce peasants to grow more foodgrains?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) The following action has been taken on the Motion adopted by the House at the end of the Food Debate:

(i) A telegram was sent to Sir Robert Hutchings in London to take up the question of India's independent representation on the Combined Food Board with the appropriate authorities.

(ii) A copy of the Resolution on the subject of procurement of foodgrains has been sent to all Provincial Governments and States for necessary action.

(iii) Subsidies are given to producers in respect of irrigation facilities, land improvement, distribution of manure, making of compost, multiplication and distribution of improved seeds, diverting areas from cotton to food crops and other similar measures designed to increase the production of foodgrains. Government do not consider it feasible to prohibit or restrict other cultivation of all crops other than foodgrains as that would mean the stoppage of the cultivation of tuberous crops, vegetables, fodder, etc. Steps have, however, been taken by a number of Provincial Governments to regulate the cultivation of non-food crops. Bengal regulates the acreage under Jute. Bombay have passed a Growth of Food Crops Act prescribing the maximum proportion of a holding that can be placed under non-food crops. Madras have placed restrictions on the cultivation of certain varieties of short staple cotton. Hyderabad has imposed a special tax on land put under cotton. Propaganda has been resorted to in other areas with the result that the cotton acreage has dropped from 24 million acres before the war to 15 million acres at present.

(b) Prices of foodgrains are normally fixed statutorily for the whole of the crop year at levels considered fair both to the producer and the consumer. A number of Provincial Governments have fixed producers prices as well. In certain Provinces where prices are not fixed statutorily, ceiling prices for Government procurement are adopted. These prices are fixed at levels closely related to the statutory prices prevailing in adjoining areas. Care is taken to keep the middleman's profit to the barest minimum.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that there is a difference of 2 to 3 Rs. between the ceiling prices fixed in Madras and the producer's price that is fixed in other Provinces and which peasants actually receive in the Punjab and the U.P.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** That must be a difference between the prices which producers get and the prices which the mills get. That difference is accounted for by various factors which are well known to the Honourable Member.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are we to understand that the mills are expected to get Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per bag merely for the purpose of hulling rice and selling it?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** We had a series of questions during the last Session on this subject. I think all the components of this difference were explained to the House. If the Honourable Member likes I can collect further information to explain as to how that difference is made up.

**Seth Govind Das:** At the time of procurement of grain the scale of price is one and when the seed is given to tenants as *takavi* loans, the scale of price is entirely different? Is it a fact?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** That question does not arise.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will Government make no profit on foodgrains? Is that principle observed?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Yes, Sir, that is observed.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** The Government of Bihar asked for authority from the Central Government to increase the price of foodgrains and it was turned down by the Central Government?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** I have already replied to that question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With regard to part (b) here is a specific question. A proposal is made to fix one fixed remunerative price and see to it that the peasants actually get it. Why is it that the Government does not wish to take any definite steps to see that a definite price is fixed and peasants do get it? Why are they so accommodating to the factory owners and middlemen and various other people and why do they leave the peasants to their own wits?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** That is a matter of administrative convenience. I am prepared to go into this question over again.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that news appears in the '*Hindu*' of March 15th that the *mirasdars* of Tanjore had made a representation to Mr. Dixon who is his prototype in the Madras Presidency suggesting that all middlemen's profits should be cut out and that middlemen's services should not be made use of but that peasant organisations and associations should be made use of for distribution of paddy and Mr. Dixon says this . . . .

**Mr. President:** What is the question you are putting?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** My question is this. In view of the profits to middlemen, the peasants could not be expected to work with zeal. The peasants themselves offered to supply the grain to Government straight and yet Government interests have been interposing these middlemen. I ask what steps Government propose to take in order to eliminate the middlemen's profiteering and help both the producers and the consumers?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** As I said I am going into the question over again. There are different methods followed by different provinces. Primarily it is a matter for the provincial governments to decide what procedure they should adopt in procurement.

**Mr. President:** Next question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How soon will the Government find it . . . . .

**Some Honourable Members** (on Treasury Benches): Order, order.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Evidently Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches do not want any supplementary questions.

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

#### FOOD SUPPLY IN AJMER-MERWARA.

1137. \***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of food supply in Ajmer-Merwara;

(b) what arrangements are being made to supply adequate quantities of foodgrains to this area; and

(c) the *per capita* ration of foodgrains that is actually made available to people in Towns and villages?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me to Starred Question Nos. 896 and 897, asked by Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava, on the 12th March, 1946.

(c) The scale of cereal ration in the rationed areas of Ajmer-Merwara is 6 chhataks per adult per day and three chhataks per child per day. In addition, a supplementary ration of two chhataks is allowed to heavy manual workers.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are Government satisfied that these rations are really enough to enable these people to carry on their work and live a healthy life?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** I have replied to this question more than once. The Government must distribute the shortage in the country as evenly as possible and with the resources that we have got at present, we consider that it is not possible to give more than this ration.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Government consider the advisability of calling a conference of representatives of provincial governments, including that of Ajmer-Merwara at the earliest possible date and also the representatives of different interests concerned on this food question in order to devise a more satisfactory plan for facing this food famine?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** No, Sir. We do not consider it advisable to call such a conference at this stage.

#### SURFACE WORK FOR WOMEN WORKERS IN COAL MINES.

1138. **\*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the twenty thousand women workers withdrawn from underground in coal mines have been provided with work on the surface;

(b) whether he will enquire how many of the women withdrawn from underground in the State Railway collieries have been fully employed on the surface on a permanent basis, and how many with six days employment in the week; and

(c) how many of these women have come to be employed by the Welfare Fund mentioned in answer to starred question No. 466, dated the 25th February, 1946 and how many by Provincial Governments?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) exact figures are not available but approximately 50 per cent. of the women workers withdrawn from underground in coal mines have been provided with work on surface. Of the remaining 50 per cent. about half have gone to their villages while some of the remainder are sitting down at collieries because they are refusing contract work, e.g., coal loading.

(b) All women withdrawn from underground in the State Railways' Collieries have been fully employed on surface works on a permanent basis; 1060 women employed on six days per week basis.

(c) No women have yet been employed by the Welfare Fund but sites are being requisitioned for the establishment of vegetable gardens and farms in the Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields and after requisition it is intended that women excluded from underground works will be employed under Head "Malis" appointed by Welfare Fund. The number of women which will be employed by the Provincial Governments is not known at present.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In regard to the women who are obliged to stay at home because they do not like to work under the terms of contract work, what steps do Government propose to take in order to help these women with some employment without the mediation of these contractors?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I cannot give an off hand answer.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why do Government fail to provide work without the mediation of these contractors?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** This practice has been going on for a long time in State railway collieries.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that the Royal Commission on Labour reported very strongly against the system of contractors. Will the Honourable

Member devise some system to control the vagaries of these contractors? Why do not Government take urgent steps to devise some other means of providing employment to these women?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I hope we shall be able to deal with that matter.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable Member consider the question of submitting this to the Coal Commission that is about to tour India?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I do not know that I can do so. I can bring the matter to the notice of the Department concerned.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Before I put my question No. 1139, I wish to raise a point of order. I find that the original question which I gave notice of has been substantially altered. I had asked for various figures. I find that the question has been recast completely. I seek the protection of Chair.

**Mr. President:** That is not the concern of the House.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** My question should be fully answered and it ought to have been printed in the way I gave notice.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member is perhaps not aware that questions are amended by the Chair, and the protection he seeks is really protection against the Chair.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Very well, Sir Question No. 1139.

NUMBER OF STAFF IN RATIONING DEPARTMENTS OF CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

1139. \***Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) the number of staff employed in Rationing Departments of the centrally administered areas;

(b) the expenses for the years 1944-45 and for the months of the year 1945-46 for which figures are available, for Rationing Departments, of the centrally administered areas; and

(c) the total population of the cities, towns and villages where rationing of foodgrains is enforced at present, and also during the periods stated in (b) above?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) and (b). A statement giving the information about the staff employed in Delhi and Ajmer Food Rationing Organizations is laid on the table of the House.

(c) In 1944-45 the number of rationed towns was 495 with a population of about 52 million people. The present number of rationed towns is 583 with a population of about 54 million people.

*Statement showing the number of staff employed in the Delhi and Ajmer Food Rationing Organizations and the expenditure incurred thereon.*

(a) Delhi—

During 1944-45—

Permanent Staff	.	.	808
Temporary Staff	.	.	700
			<u>1,508</u>

During 1945-46—

Permanent Staff	.	.	1,111
Temporary Staff	.	.	120
			<u>1,231</u>



Ajmer—	
During 1944-45—	
Permanent staff	330
Temporary staff	50
	380
During 1945-46—	
Permanent staff	336

## (b) Expenses for the year —

	Dellh Rs.	Ajmer Rs.
1944-45 . . . . .	13,82,933	1,71,140
From 1st April 1945 to 31st January 1946.	12,05,874	2,61,339

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that a large quantity of these grains was spoiled in Ajmer town because of the inefficiency of rationing there?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** That question does not arise.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What steps are Government taking to see that the Rationing department works more efficiently in Ajmer?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** That question does not arise.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It is a question of efficiency.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Is it a fact that the expenditure on rationing staff is so great that there is a great difference between the price paid to growers and the price charged to consumers?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** There is always a difference between these prices, but the difference is not very greatly influenced by the expenditure on rationing organisation. If I remember aright, in the case of Bombay presidency, the total expenditure is about one rupee per head a year, for the whole of the food administration in the province. I have not got calculations for these two areas, but the expenditure in these areas will be the same.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Is it not a fact that the difference between the two prices is very great?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** In some cases the difference is great. For this reason that the food grains were secured at a particular price but when the price came down in the markets, the price in the rationing areas did not come down in the same way.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The *per capita* income in the Bombay presidency is only Rs. 98 a year, and is it not wrong on the part of the Government to spend one rupee *per capita* on distribution of food alone, not to speak of the cost of food?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Somebody has got to bear the cost and under the present arrangement the consumer has to pay it.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Government see that the difference between the two prices is reduced? Take for example, Bombay and Ahmedabad. The price of rice in Bombay is Rs. 10 a maund, whereas it is Rs. 14 a maund in Ahmedabad.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** As the House is aware, the whole question of subsidy was referred to a committee last year and we are hoping to get the report of the committee very soon. They will have made certain recommendations.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government make a fresh examination to see whether it is possible to reduce the cost of distribution for instance in Bombay?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** That matter is continuously under examination.

## DESCRIPTIVE NOTES FOR PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN INDIA

1140. \***Shri D. P. Karmarkar**: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of protected ancient monuments in India; and

(b) whether steps have been taken to place brief descriptive notes near those monuments for the benefit of visitors; if so, whether the notes are in the regional language in addition to English; if no, such arrangements are already made, whether Government propose to arrange for such descriptive notes also in the regional language of the province where the monuments is situate?

**Sir John Sargent**: (a) The number of ancient protected monuments in India is, at the moment, 2826.

(b) In many cases steps have already been taken to place brief descriptive notes on these monuments for the benefit of the visitors. In accordance with the policy laid down urgent steps are now being taken to provide adequate notices on all monuments throughout India both in English and in the regional language or languages. As a matter of fact a number of such notices have already been prepared but in view of the difficulty of producing metal plates at the present moment, temporary notices are in a number of cases being displayed on wood and board.

**Shri D. P. Karmarkar**: May I know whether these brief descriptive notes are in the regional languages?

**Sir John Sargent**: Yes, I have answered that they are also in the regional languages.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer**: Is the Honourable Member aware that in Bijapur, the Muslim monuments have no inscription written in Urdu language? Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of having the description written in Urdu also?

**Sir John Sargent**: Certainly. That is the policy which we are endeavouring at the moment to follow.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer**: It is not there at present.

## COMPOSITION OF RESIDENTS AND POLITICAL AGENTS IN INDIAN STATES

1141. \***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava**: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state the number of Residents and political agents in the different Indian States on March 31st of the last three years, how many of them were Indians, and how many Europeans?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall**: The number of Residents and Political Agents in the different Indian States on March 31st of the last three years was:

12 Residents and 13 Political Agents on March 31st, 1943;

12 Residents and 12 Political Agents on March 31st, 1944; and

11 Residents and 13 Political Agents on March 31st, 1945.

All of the officers in these posts were Europeans on those dates. An Indian Officer has been holding the post of Political Agent from May 1945. Another held such a post for a short period in 1943 but had to be withdrawn for an important appointment elsewhere.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Is it the policy of Government to keep all these posts securely in the hands of Europeans?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall**: No, Sir; I have explained that Indians have been appointed to these posts.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Why is it that a preponderating numbers of these offices are continuously filled by Europeans only?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall**: For historical reasons.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Can the Honourable Member give us any idea as to when we may see the political Department Indianised?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir. I should want notice of that question.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it because Indians are not trusted and therefore Europeans are kept in this Department?

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

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it or is it not the policy of Government to Indianise this Department and its various offices?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir. I have explained that an Indian is holding one post already.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When do Government expect to reach full Indianisation, if at all?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have already answered that question.

#### GRANT OF SUGAR FOR MARRIAGE PARTIES

**1142. \*Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Government of India issued instructions to various Provincial Governments in respect of grant of permits for a definite quantity of sugar for each marriage; and

(b) if so, whether any complaints were received from any Provincial Government in respect of inadequacy of such quantity and a consequent tendency towards fostering the growth of black markets in sugar?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) The Government of India have not issued any instructions specifying a definite quantity of sugar to be issued for each marriage. But in January 1945, with a view to bring about uniformity in the issue of rationed foodstuffs for social and religious occasions, the Provincial Governments were supplied with a schedule giving a suggestive basis of supplementary supplies.

(b) No, Sir.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Now when there is food shortage will these instructions also continue for the future?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** We have issued instructions to Provincial and State Governments asking them to see that the consumption of foodstuffs on these occasions is reduced to the very minimum, not only in rationed areas but all over the rural areas.

#### BAN ON CONTRACTORS RELATED TO OFFICERS OF C. P. W. D.

**1143. \*Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Central Public Works Department, orders have been issued that contracts for works should not be awarded to any contractor who is a close relative of any officer employed in the Department?

(b) Is it a fact that near relatives include cousins, brothers-in-law, etc., and that officer includes for the purpose of this order Head Clerks, clerks, draftsmen, surveyors, etc.?

(c) Why was the order issued, and how many contractors have been put out of the list as a result of this order?

(d) Does any such rule exist in the working of Public Works Departments in provinces or other countries or in Departments like Military Engineering Service, Railways, Municipal or District Boards in India?

(e) Was the order issued under directions of the Government of India or by the Chief Engineer, Central P. W. D. on his own initiative?

(f) In view of the obvious hardship on persons being penalised for the sin of being related to others working in the Department, do Government propose to reconsider the order and withdraw it? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Yes.

(b) The term 'close relative' includes also first cousin and brother-in-law.

The term 'officer' does not include for the purpose of the order non-gazetted staff.

(c) The object was to ensure greater public confidence in the Central Public Works Department.

Names of 25 contractors have so far been removed from the approved list of Contractors. Cases of others are under consideration.

(d) Enquiries on this matter have not been made and the Government of India are not aware whether such rule exists in other Departments or Countries.

(e) By the direction of the Government of India.

(f) The matter is under the examination of Government.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What about nephews who come under the nepotism?

(No reply was given)

#### PROPOSED PUBLICATION GIVING HISTORIES OF TITLES AND HONOURS

†1144. **\*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) if there is any publication which gives short histories of the various titles and honours that are awarded by His Majesty the King or His Excellency the Governor-General, to persons in India, the significance of the names under which these titles and honours are known; and

(b) if no such publications is available, whether Government will consider the desirability of bringing out a proper publication in this behalf?

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

(b) No.

#### CONTROL PRICE OF EGGS AND MILK IN DELHI

1145. **\*Mr. Madan Dhari Singh:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that control price of eggs, in Delhi, has recently been reduced to Rs. 1/8/- per dozen;

(b) if it is also a fact that this reduction is partly due to the fact that most of the American have left the station; and

(c) if the reply to (b) be in the affirmative, whether, on the same ground, Government have considered the necessity of reducing the control price of milk; if not, why not?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:**(a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

#### COMPENSATION TO RESIDENTS OF WARD No. 14, DELHI, GIVEN NOTICE UNDER TOWN IMPROVEMENT

1146. **\*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** (a) Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state whether notices under sections 36 and 38 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, as extended to the Province of Delhi, have been served on the residents of Delhi, Ward No. 14? If so, on what date will the residents of that Ward be actually required to vacate their houses?

(b) In what Locality do Government propose to house the men of Ward No. 14 when they will vacate their houses?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the locality which is situated close to Ward No. 14? If not, why not?

(d) Will the residents of Ward No. 14 be given houses constructed by Government under the Poormen Housing Scheme?

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

(e) What are the conditions under which poor men are given those Government houses?

(f) What compensation will be given to (i) the Zamindars who own the land, (ii) the owner of the house to whom the buildings belong, and (iii) the tenants who live in hired houses of that Ward, and in what form will it be given?

(g) Have Government paid any compensation to the Zamindars of Ward No. 14, Delhi? If so, on what date?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) Notices have been served under the Serai Purani Idgah and Ahata Kidara Schemes which fall within the limits of ward No. 14. Under the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme, residents will be required to vacate if their properties are acquired. Acquisition can take place only after the scheme is sanctioned under section 42 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, as extended to Delhi. The scheme has not yet been submitted to the Chief Commissioner for sanction. In respect of the second scheme, acquisition after sanction is nearly complete. A few properties remain to be acquired and a few have been acquired but not yet vacated.

(b) No decision has yet been taken in respect of the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme. As regards the Ahata Kidara Scheme a number of families have been rehoused in the Western Extension area and within the area of this scheme. All remaining families will be rehoused in other suitable localities.

(c) The possibility of rehousing in areas close to the area included in the Scheme will be considered.

(d) Yes. All those who are eligible for rehousing under the State subsidised scheme.

(e) The conditions under which persons shall be eligible for the benefits of the rehousing scheme are at present under consideration.

(f) Compensation is paid in all cases in cash in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1919, as modified by the Schedule to the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, as extended to Delhi.

(g) The acquisition proceedings in respect of the Ahata Kidara Scheme commenced on the 22nd November, 1941, and compensation has been paid after that date according to the progress of the acquisition. The acquisition proceedings have not yet commenced in respect of the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With regard to clauses (f) and (g), will Government consider the advisability of giving alternative sites somewhere near Delhi to these Zamindars who own the land and whose land is taken away by Government now, if they wish it?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** No, Sir, compensation is paid in cash.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why should Government insist upon paying these people in cash when they are agriculturists and land which is their chief means of livelihood is taken away by Government? Why should not they be given alternative pieces of land?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** Because alternative land is not available.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that in New Delhi there are still vast extents of land which are not occupied either for house sites or for cultivation purposes and could be allotted to these people?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government make inquiries?

(No reply was given)

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO ELECTION RETURNING OFFICERS FOR BETTER TREATMENT FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS.

†1147. \***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Returning Officers for elections to the Legislative Assembly from general constituencies, are usually district magistrates;

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

(b) if the position of candidates is the same as that of the litigants before district magistrates;

(c) if it is a fact that candidates and their agents at election time are treated by Returning Officers as mere litigants before district magistrates;

(d) if candidates and their agents have to keep standing while presenting their papers or their points of view before Returning Officers just as ordinary litigants, while Returning Officers are seated in their official magisterial chairs;

(e) if Government propose to consider the desirability of putting candidates for elections to the Legislative Assembly on a different footing;

(f) if Government propose to instruct Returning Officers to fulfil their various functions as such in a special room where the candidates and their agents and other persons authorised to be present, are all seated along with Returning Officers round a table;

(g) if it is not a fact that all the processes of election are fulfilled in open courts of magistrates, and that many persons who have other work in the court, happen to be present there; and

(h) if Government propose to issue detailed instructions on the subject to ensure proper arrangements before Returning Officers?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) No, Sir. There is no general constituency of which the Returning Officer is the District Magistrate as such and it is only in Madras and the United Provinces that the District Magistrate is the Returning Officer under the designation of Collector and District Officer respectively.

(b) I would not regard candidates as occupying the position of litigants.

(c) and (d). I am informed by the Government of the United Provinces that it has been the general practice in that Province to require candidates to stand while presenting their papers on their points of view before Returning Officers. I do not know what other modes of treatment the Honourable Member has in mind when he refers to the treatment of candidates as mere litigants.

(g) I am informed by the Government of the United Provinces that most District Officers perform their duties as Returning Officers in open court with other persons present. Their attention has been called to Regulation 8 of the Legislative Assembly (United Provinces) Electoral Regulations which entitles each candidate, the election agent of each candidate, one proposer and one seconder of each candidate and one other person duly authorised in writing by each candidate but *no other person* to attend at the time and place appointed for the scrutiny of nominations. A similar Regulation is in force in all other Provinces.

(e), (f) and (h). The Government of the United Provinces have intimated that the suggestions made in parts (e) and (f) of the question will require further consideration, but that *prima facie* they see no objection to instructing District Officers to hold the proceedings round a table in their retiring rooms if there is sufficient room. I do not propose to issue detailed instructions, but I will send copies of the Honourable Member's question and of my reply to all other Provincial Governments for such action as they may consider appropriate.

#### LEGISLATION OF HINDU CODE

**1148. \*Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) the stage which the preparation of the Hindu Code has reached so far; and

(b) if he intends to introduce any legislation on the lines suggested; if so, when?

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

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) A complete Hindu Code was prepared by the Hindu Law Committee and circulated by them for opinion in August, 1944.

(b) As indicated in my reply to Starred Question No. 438, asked on the 21st February, 1945, Government must await the Report of the Committee before considering what legislation, if any, should be introduced by them.

#### DRAFT OF PROPOSED ANGLO-INDIAN TREATY.

**1149. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state the subjects included in the draft of the proposed Anglo-Indian Treaty?

(b) Who has made a draft of it?

(c) When will this be made available to the Members of this House for their consideration as a draft?

(d) Is the issue of commercial safeguards contained in sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act included amongst the subjects or topics covered by the proposed treaty?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a), (b), (c) and (d): As the Honourable Member is aware, in his broadcast of the 19th September, 1945, His Excellency the Viceroy stated that His Majesty's Government were proceeding to the consideration of the content of the treaty which would require to be concluded between Great Britain and India.

The question is now engaging the attention of officials both in India and in England. These discussions are still in a very preliminary stage, and I regret I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject at present.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will copies of the draft Treaty be supplied to the Leaders of the different Parties which will be meeting the Cabinet Mission?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am unable to anticipate the procedure which will be followed in the discussions.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** My question has nothing to do with the procedure to be followed by the Cabinet Mission. In order to enable our own Indian leaders to deal with the Cabinet Mission in the interests of India, will Government consider the advisability of placing before them this draft Treaty?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I will take note of the Honourable Member's question, but I am not able to make any further statement on the subject.

#### LICENCES ISSUED FOR CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS.

**1150. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**): (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the total number of licences issued by the Commerce Department in respect of (i) complete plants for textile mills, (ii) complete plants for vegetable ghee manufacture, and (iii) complete plants for other industries, including sugar and cement?

(b) What is the total approximate value of the plants, for which licenses have been issued as above, and how much of this amount would go to the United Kingdom and how much to the United States of America and other hard currency areas?

(c) On what principles have these licences been issued, and on what basis generally have applications of those who have made them, been rejected?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) and (b). I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the licences issued for complete plants under the Capital Goods Registration Scheme. I lay on the table a statement showing the total number of licences issued in respect of imports of complete plants for textiles, vegetable ghee, sugar and cement production and the total approximate value of the plants to be imported countrywise.

I am afraid that the time and labour involved in the preparation of a similar statement in respect of complete plants for all other industries will not be commensurate with the value of the results.

(c) The grant of licences for import of capital equipment depends on such factors as the source of supply, danger of overexpansion and the location of the proposed factory. Where a plan is complete, as in the case of cement, or very nearly complete as in the case of cotton textiles, production targets are fixed for different regions and individual schemes approved within these targets. In such cases, import licences are granted only to those whose schemes have been approved. Where plans have not yet reached an advanced stage, import licences are freely given subject only to currency considerations except where the schemes would obviously be contrary to the country's economic interests, for example, where it is proposed to establish a factory in an area in which there is already excessive concentration of industry.

Subject to the general principles stated above, licences for import from the sterling area are granted freely. Licences for import from non-sterling area are granted only if it is proved that the equipment required for a suitable substitute therefor could not be obtained from a sterling area within a reasonable time and at a reasonable price.

*Statement showing the number of licences issued for imports of complete plants for Textiles, vegetable ghee, sugar and cement production and the total approximate values of the plants to be imported countrywise*

Industry	Number of licences issued	Value in rupees					Total value (Rs.)
		United Kingdom	U. S. A.	Switzerland	France	Denmark	
Textile mills	41	8,11,52,950	29,62,463	13,00,600	3,00,000		8,57,15,413
Vegetable Ghee	31	1,57,20,356	46,97,766				2,04,18,122
Sugar	6	1,57,44,026					1,57,44,026
Cement	9	95,03,818	28,37,666	30,000		53,73,333	1,77,44,817

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** With reference to part (b), it is rather important for us to know about our trade with other countries as this will help to solve the question of the sterling balances.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** That is why we have been issuing, having regard to the sterling position as also the sterling reserve which we have in the issue of import licences.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Is the Muslim share of import of plants nil with reference to the cement machinery?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I cannot answer that because we have to take the advice of the Planning and Industries Department as to what schemes are to be sanctioned and the Provincial Government's distribution of the quota allotted, and if there is any fault for non-distribution of non-licences in any region, the fault lies with the authorities that grant those licences.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it because of the difficulties created by Government for licences for import that Indian industrialists and Government were not able to make full use of the 20 million dollars placed at the disposal of industrial development last year?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** No, Sir.

**Mr. President:** Next question.



ILL-TREATMENT OF INDIAN PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY *M. S. BATTERY*

1151. \***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to a letter in the *Blitz* of the 2nd March, 1946, under the caption: "Upper berths for whites, lowest for blacks," written by a large number of Indian passengers travelling by "*M. S. Battery*", which left Glasgow for Bombay on February 2, 1946?

(b) Have Government ascertained the true facts with regard to the alleged ill-treatment of the Indian passengers and the deliberate discrimination against them in assigning berths?

(c) Have Government secured any explanation from the P. and O. Steamer Company's authorities for their strange behaviour?

(d) What steps have Government taken to prevent a recurrence of this kind of discrimination of, and ill-treatment and affront to the Indian passengers by other boats of this steamship company?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government are making enquiries, and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

## STOPPAGE OF EXPORT OF RICE

1152. \***Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the report made by the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, published in the *Bharat Jyoti* in its issue of Sunday, the 24th February, to the effect that there has been scarcity of rice even in the surplus districts owing to heavy export in a clandestine manner at dead of night?

(b) Do Government propose to enquire if these reports are correct? If so, to what place has the rice been exported, and what steps are being taken to stop such exports?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) Yes.

(b) Inquiries were made from the Government of Bengal who have reported that there is strict cordoning of surplus districts and that they have no information of any heavy clandestine exports of rice from surplus districts.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if instructions were given to the Bengal Government to contact the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee for getting such evidence as might be available?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** No, Sir.

## RECRUITMENT OF OUTSIDERS IN AJMER-MERWARA

1153. \***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state if Government are aware that there is a strong all round resentment in the public of Ajmer-Merwara about the importing of outsiders in Government services of the Ajmer-Merwara Administration?

(b) Is it a fact that recently a representation was made by the Ajmer-Merwara Zamindar Sabha to the Secretary, Education Department, regarding the recruitment of local candidates to the vacancies in the Educational Administration of the Province? If so, what action has been taken thereon?

(c) Is it a fact that in spite of all this recently two important appointments in the Education Department for the posts of Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent have been made and the candidates selected are a Punjabi and a Bengali who do not understand even the language and dialect of the Province and have no claim in the administration of Ajmer-Merwara?

(d) Is it a fact that there were qualified and suitable local candidates available in Ajmer-Merwara for both these appointments, one of whom was a Principal of a Degree College already in first class Government service with considerable educational experience and the other a District Inspector of Schools

with long administrative experience of the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department?

(e) Is it a fact that the newly selected candidates have superseded both the Ajmer-Merwara candidates in service? If so, how do Government propose to redress the wrong done to the Ajmer-Merwara candidates?

**Sir John Sargent:** (a) The Government of India have received representations in the matter from time to time.

(b) Yes, Sir, According to the existing rules, all gazetted posts are filled through the Federal Public Service Commission. The claims of local candidates are given due consideration in the recruitment for the local education service.

(c) The posts of the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent of Education cover Delhi, and Central India as well as Ajmer-Merwara. These appointments have been made on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission. Both the officers belong to the Central Services and are familiar with the local languages and educational conditions in Ajmer-Merwara.

(d) Applications from the two officers referred to were duly considered by the Federal Public Service Commission, but neither of them was selected by the Commission.

(e) Does not arise.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Is the Honourable Member aware of the feelings of Muslims of Ajmer that Muslim officers in the Education Department are being removed from Ajmer?

**Sir John Sargent:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Has the Honourable Member read my speech on the cut motion wherein I brought this complaint to the Honourable Member's notice? If so, has any action been taken after that?

**Sir John Sargent:** I am not aware that there was any removal of Muslim officers from Ajmer. I will make inquiries and let the Honourable Member know the result. As far as I am aware, there is no such intention.

#### VEGETABLE CULTIVATION IN DELHI PROVINCE

1154. **\*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Agriculture Secretary please state:

(a) What steps if any, have been taken to bring all available land in the Province of Delhi under the cultivation of vegetables or other food crops since the cessation of hostilities against Japan;

(b) If any steps have been taken to bring under vegetable cultivation the vast spaces of land under grass or flowers throughout the Province and in Government-owned compounds and bungalows; if so, what additional quantity of vegetables is expected to come into the market during the coming summer months; and

(c) what steps, if any, are being taken by the Provincial Governments in this direction, and what results are expected?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) Schemes have been sanctioned for the immediate sinking of 500 pucca masonry wells on a subsidised basis and for the provision of 20 motor trucks to carry manure from Okhla and Badli to be distributed to growers both of food crops and vegetables on a subsidised basis.

About 1,000 tons of extra food may be expected from all the measures taken.

(b) Steps have been taken to bring under vegetable cultivation about half of the Central vista, i.e., some 60 acres and part of it has already been dug up for the purpose. Householders and occupants of bungalows have been asked to bring as large an area as practicable of their compounds under vegetables. Special staff has been appointed to go round to the houses and advise householders as to where vegetables, etc., should be planted of what types and when and for the supply of seeds, manures, etc. The limiting factor in most cases is water. It is not possible to estimate at present the additional quantity of

vegetables that will be marketed from this area; it is expected that the householders will utilise the vegetables for their own consumption. The increased production if adequate water is available and all the arrangements made work according to plan may be estimated to be 500 tons.

(c) The Honourable Member may please see the replies given to Question No. 757, asked by Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala, on the 6th March, 1946.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that there are large expanse of unoccupied but cultivable land still available in the environs of New Delhi?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Yes, Sir. There are large areas of land available, but there is not the water available owing to which vegetables cannot be grown.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government make available the necessary quantities of water and also give first preference for the allotment of this land to those people who are going to be evicted from their lands in Ward No. 14, as referred to in Question No. 1146?

**Mr. President:** This is a suggestion for action. The Honourable Member may ask for information.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** From whom?

**Mr. President:** .....if he has any to ask.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government consider the advisability of giving first preference to those people who are likely to be evicted from their own lands in Delhi—Ward No. 14—as a result of the operations of Town Improvement Act?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The suggestion will be examined. I do not know exactly what may or may not be feasible, but the matter will be looked into.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** May I know if the Honourable Members of the Executive Council have started growing vegetables in their gardens?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** They have done that long before.

**Mr. President:** Next question.

#### COMPILATION OF UNWEIGHTED RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBER

1155. **\*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the purpose behind the compilation of unweighted Retail Price Index Number by groups about industrial cities and towns of this country published in the *Indian Labour Gazette*?

(b) Were the items and their qualities constituting the groups for which Retail Price Index Numbers are worked out ever made known to the public? If not, why not?

(c) Will the Honourable Member place before the House total number of items for each group of every centre for which Retail Price Index Numbers are being released by the Labour Department? In this connection, will he also state what the criterion was for fixing upon items, their qualities and numbers, on which these unweighted group index numbers are based?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) The Government of India decided in 1942 to undertake a scheme for the compilation of cost of living index numbers on uniform lines. As the preparation of such index numbers was likely to take some time, it was felt that retail price data should be available as this might be of some value in wage disputes. Government, therefore, decided as an interim measure, after consultation with Provincial Governments to collect price data for certain selected centres in the country and to prepare index numbers based on such data.

(b) The items constituting the groups are not published. There is no particular reason except the desirability of limiting space in the Gazette.

(c) A statement regarding the number of items included in each group in the Retail Price Index number for each centre is placed on the table of the House. The main criteria adopted for deciding upon the list were the consumption habits of the class of the community concerned and the availability of comparable price data.

Statement showing the number of items included in the various groups for each centre for which retail price index numbers are being published in the Indian Labour Gazette.

## I.—URBAN CENTRES

	Cereals	Pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel & Lighting	Clothing*	Miscellaneous	Total
1. Ajmer . . . . .	7	5	15	27			2	41
2. Hubli . . . . .	2	4	13	19		5	6	33
3. Surat . . . . .	3	3	11	17	3	7	6	33
4. Dohad . . . . .	3	3	12	18	3	6	4	31
5. Akola . . . . .	3	3	14	20	4	8	6	38
6. Delhi . . . . .	9	3	16	28	5	5	6	44
7. Rawalpindi . . . . .	4	3	16	23	3	5	5	36
8. Amritsar . . . . .	4	4	15	23	3	6	4	36
9. Ludhiana . . . . .	4	3	17	24	3	6	4	37
10. Sialkot . . . . .	4	3	15	22	3	5	4	34
11. Lucknow . . . . .	9	3	10	22	3	9	7	41
12. Agra . . . . .	9	3	10	22	3	9	7	41
13. Bareilly . . . . .	9	3	10	22	3	9	7	41
14. Gauhati } 15. Tinsukia }	3	4	19	26	3	6	7	42
16. Dehri-on-Sone . . . . .		3	11	19	4	3	6	
17. Patna . . . . .		3	12	20	4	4	3	
18. Cuttack . . . . .			17	22	3	4	8	37
19. Berhampore . . . . .			19	24	3	3	5	35
20. Khewra . . . . .			16	23	3	5	4	35
21. Karachi . . . . .			16	22	4	4	2	32
22. Benares . . . . .			10	17	3	9	7	36
23. Meerut . . . . .	9		10	22	3	9	7	41
24. Howrah . . . . .								
25. Budge-Budge . . . . .								
26. Kankinara . . . . .								
27. Narayanganj . . . . .								
28. Serampore . . . . .	4	4	16	24	5	5	7	41
29. Gauripore . . . . .								
30. Kanchrapara . . . . .								
31. Kharagpur . . . . .								
32. Calcutta . . . . .								
33. Raniganj . . . . .								

\*In the Indian Labour Gazette, it has already been stated that due to changes in clothing grades, it has not been found possible to work out the index numbers for the clothing group.

	Cereals	Pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel & Lighting	Clothing	Miscellaneous	Total
1. Burma	1	2	8	11	2	3	5	21
2. Maibang	1	2	10	13	2	6	5	26
3. Rajapur	1	2	14	17	3	6	5	31
4. Shankargarh	7	3	8	18	2	3	4	27
5. Sonaili	3	3	12	18	2	6	5	31
6. Multapi	2	4	9	15	2	5	4	26
7. Nana	4	2	13	19	3	5	3	30
8. Salamatpur	3	4	12	19	2	4	3	28
9. Shujabad	5	4	11	20	4	6	3	33
10. Gujarkhan	2	4	12	18	3	6	2	29
11. Krishna	2	2	14	18	2	6	4	30
12. Lakh	2	3	10	15	2	5	3	25
13. Malur	3	4	13	20	2	4	5	31
14. Muniguda	2	3	13	18	2	4	4	28
15. Kudchi	2	2	13	17	3	7	4	31

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are figures being collected of the actual prices being paid by the working classes, or only the prices that are supposed to be scheduled to be paid in the retail shops?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I think if my Honourable friend waits there will be an answer to the next question by Mr. Ayyangar in which you will find the information about family budget.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What information have Government collected and kept in their possession of the prices which are actually prevailing in the blackmarket in which alone the ordinary working class people in towns are able to purchase most of their necessities?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I do not think Government have any information on blackmarket prices.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government collect that information?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** That suggestion, I must say, does not commend itself to me.

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

#### REPORT ON FAMILY-BUDGET-ENQUIRIES

1156. **\*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state when he intends to publish reports on the Family-Budget-Enquiries which started nearly three years back?

(b) Will the Honourable Member place before the House the dates on which the first and the last Family-Budgets were collected in every centre where such enquiries were conducted and state why such an extraordinary period was chosen for the conduct of such enquiries?

(c) Are Government aware that the whole purpose and results of these enquiries have been most seriously vitiated by leaving out of account the factor of qualities of items consumed by the workers from the questionnaires of the Family Budget Enquiries altogether?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please state if an Experts Committee was appointed to ensure uniformity and correct procedure in such Family Budget Enquiries? If so, how many times did it meet? Is it a fact that sampling techniques and other important decisions on methods and principles of obtaining and Compiling data applied in these enquiries, were approved by the said Experts Committee either before or after their application? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar:** (a) Reports on the Family Budget Enquiries are expected to be completed and published by the end of September 1946.

(b) A statement containing the information required is placed on the Table of the House.

As cost of living index numbers constituted an essential basis for adjustment of dearness allowance, which was urgently required during the war period and as no reliable data in this respect were available, a beginning had to be made without waiting for conditions to return to normal.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) An Experts' Committee was appointed to discuss methods of preparing cost of living indices. It met once and laid down general principles regarding the methods of investigation, which were generally followed.

*Statement showing the dates of starting and closing the Family Budget Enquiries at the various selected centres*

Name of centre	Date of starting the collection of budgets	Date on which the work was finished
I. Ajmer (1)	15-11-43	15-11-44
II. Bengal (4)—		
1. Howrah & Bally	28-7-43	28-7-44
2. Kharagpur	28-7-43	28-7-44
3. Narayanganj	28-7-43	28-7-44
4. Calcutta	1-8-44	31-7-45
III. Bihar (4)—		
1. Monghyr & Jamalpur	9-5-44	31-10-44
2. Dehri-on-Sone	1-11-44	31-1-45
3. Jamshedpur	1-2-45	30-6-45
4. Jharis	1-7-45	25-11-45

Name of centre	Date of starting the collection of budgets	Date on which the work was finished
<b>IV. Bombay (4)—</b>		
1. Bombay . . . . .	22-1-44	28-2-45
2. Ahmedabad . . . . .	22-1-44	28-2-45
3. Sholapur . . . . .	22-1-44	28-2-45
4. Jalgaon . . . . .	22-1-44	28-2-45
<b>V. C. P. &amp; Berar (2)—</b>		
1. Jubbulpore . . . . .	10-4-44	15-4-45
2. Akola . . . . .	2nd week of July 1944	15-4-45
<b>VI. Delhi (1)</b>		
1. Delhi . . . . .	13-10-43	31-10-44
<b>VII. Punjab (3)—</b>		
1. Lahore . . . . .	1-1-44	30-4-45
2. Ludhiana . . . . .	1-1-44	30-4-45
3. Sialkot . . . . .	1-1-44	30-4-45
<b>VIII. Khewra (2)—</b>		
1. Khewra . . . . .	1st week of April 1944	10-1-45
2. Dandot & A. C. C. I. . . . .	15-10-44	10-1-45
<b>IX. Sind (1)—</b>		
1. Karachi . . . . .	1-8-44	31-7-45
<b>X. Orissa (2)—</b>		
1. Cuttaok . . . . .	15-12-44	15-9-45
2. Berhampur . . . . .	15-12-44	15-9-45
<b>XI. U. P. (1)—</b>		
1. Cawnpore . . . . .	January 1945	Enquiries are proceeding
<b>XII. Assam (3)—</b>		
1. Tinsukia . . . . .	April 1944	15-10-45
2. Silchar . . . . .	April 1944	15-10-45
3. Gauhati . . . . .	April 1944	15-10-45

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will such enquiries be made at least in a few test cases in regard to agricultural labour?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I will bear that in mind although I cannot commit myself.

**ENQUIRIES ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE INTELLIGENCE ROOM AND ITS DIRECTOR**

1157. \***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the functions of the Administrative Intelligence Room, and the total cost of its maintenance and establishment per annum?

(b) Are any independent statistics prepared or researches made in this Administrative Intelligence Room? If so, of what nature?

(c) What are the qualifications of the Director, Major Homfray, for the office, and what are his general and special qualifications?

(d) Is he the son-in-law of the Governor of Burma, Sir Reginald Dorman Smith?

(e) Was the Administrative Intelligence Room sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee? If not, why not?

(f) Were applications invited for the post of the Director, and was the Selection made by the Federal Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

(g) Is the recruitment of the staff done by the Federal Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) A copy\* of the Interim Progress Report of the Administrative Intelligence Room for the period from 5th March to 5th November 1945, is laid on the table. The functions of the Administrative Intelligence Room are given in part I of the Report.

The total cost of the maintenance and establishment of the organization is Rs. 1½ lakhs per annum.

(b) Yes, Sir. A reference is invited to pages 2—4 and Part II of the Report.

(c) Major Homfray belongs to the Indian Army and has seen active service during the War. Before being appointed Director of the Administrative Intelligence Room, Major Homfray had acquainted himself fully with the working and set-up of the War Room of the General Headquarters, on the lines of which it was proposed to run the Administrative Intelligence Room. His services were originally lent for a period not exceeding six months to enable the new organization being set up. During this period he did valuable work and as it was considered necessary to provide for continuity of management, the Army authorities were requested to agree to his retention in the post of Director of the Administrative Intelligence Room for a period of another seven months.

(d) Yes, Sir. But as far as I understand the marriage took place seven months after the appointment was made.

(e) Yes, Sir; the latter part of the question does not arise.

(f) No, Sir; because the post of Director was originally sanctioned on a temporary basis for a short period only and the services of Major Homfray, who had full background knowledge of the working and general set-up of a similar organization, were readily available for a short period.

(g) No, Sir. Recruitment has so far been made on a purely temporary basis, as, pending the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, the future of the Administrative Intelligence Room was uncertain. In view of the fact that the establishment of the Room has been sanctioned for a period of five years, the question of recruitment to the posts in the organization will now be taken up.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** With regard to part (d) of the reply, is it not a fact that the appointment was made because he was found suitable and not because he happened to be the son-in-law of the Governor of Burma?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have said that Government does not set up an enquiry to find out who happens to be the son-in-law of whom. In this case the marriage took place seven months after the appointment was made.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** That is what I want to know.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What was the qualification of the gentleman who appointed him?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I do not know the qualifications of that man but he had an understanding of the problem and also to find out as to how to find a suitable officer to deal with that problem.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Who is that gentleman?

\*Not printed in these debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—  
*Ed. of Debates.*



**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I want notice of that question.

**NUMBER OF EVACUEES BROUGHT DOWN TO INDIA**

1158. \***Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar** (on behalf of **Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder**): Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of evacuees brought down to this country—British India and Indian States—since the beginning of the war;
- (b) how many have been sent back so far;
- (c) when the rest of them are going to be sent back;
- (d) where the remaining persons are located;
- (e) the reason for delaying them from being sent back;
- (f) the amount of money so far spent to support them from the beginning up till now, year by year; and
- (g) how this expenditure is being met?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) The total number of evacuees in India is about four lakhs and six thousand. Of this, about 7,000 were sponsored by or through His Majesty's Government and the rest evacuated to India of themselves.

(b) and (d). About 20,000 evacuees have so far been repatriated to their former homes. Of the remaining, about 17,000 evacuees are maintained in camps, the rest being distributed in the various Provinces and States.

(c) and (e). Arrangements are being made, in consultation with His Majesty's Government and the Government of Burma, who are principally concerned, for the repatriation of evacuees to their former homes, as early as possible. The return of refugees will be gradual, owing to the acute shortage of shipping and to the abnormal economic conditions prevailing at present in the countries concerned, as a result of the devastation caused by the war.

(f) and (g). I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the amounts spent on Indian evacuees from 1941-42 onwards for which alone the Government of India have accepted financial liability. The figures of expenditure on non-Indian evacuees are not readily available.

As regards the allocation of such expenditure, attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement referred to in my reply to Seth Govind Das' question No. 394, on the 20th February, 1946.

*Statement showing the total expenditure incurred on Indian evacuees in connection with their reception, dispersal and maintenance in India*

	Rs.
Actuals for 1941-42 . . . . .	8,34,181
Actuals for 1942-43 . . . . .	1,21,32,665
Actuals for 1943-44 . . . . .	2,93,23,918
Actuals for 1944-45 . . . . .	3,11,51,222
Revised estimates for 1945-46 . . . . .	3,02,31,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,36,73,586</b>

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** In view of the acute shortage in India, may I suggest to the Honourable Member the desirability of sending back these evacuees immediately so that they may not be an unnecessary drain on the limited foodstocks in India?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** I have replied to that in my reply to parts (c) and (e).

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** I want that they should be sent back immediately without the least delay.

**Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson:** With reference to part (b) of the question and the answer which the Honourable Member gave, namely that the total number of evacuees so far sent back amount to 20,000, is he in a position to state what

percentage of the 20,000 are non-Indian evacuees, and what percentage of available civilian shipping space is being used by these evacuees in returning to Europe?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** I am afraid the percentage of non-Indian evacuees is very small. These 20,000 mostly include people who have gone back to Burma. Some of them may be non-Indians, including a few British officers of the Burma Government. I am afraid I have no information about the percentage of shipping.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** In view of the serious food shortage in Southern Districts of Bombay Province, will Government consider the immediate closing down of the Polish Camp in Kolhapur where there are 5,000 Polish evacuees still there?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Having accepted responsibility for them, we cannot now send them away without the consent and co-operation of His Majesty's Government, at whose instance we took charge of them. But I can assure the Honourable Member that we are doing our very best to ensure as speedy repatriation of these evacuees as may be practicable.

**Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson:** Is it proposed to use any percentage of available civilian passages for the purpose of repatriating these 5,000 Poles at Kolhapur? The Honourable Member has stated that it is the intention of Government to repatriate them as soon as possible. I am asking him if he could indicate whether that will have any bearing on the available civilian shipping space?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** I should not think so.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** How many Italian prisoners of war are there still in India? I am given to understand that there are 5,000 or more. Are they going to be sent back or not?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Italian prisoners of war are not included in my figure of non-Indian evacuees.

**Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson:** The Honourable Member says he does not know whether it is proposed to encroach on civilian shipping space. Will he undertake to make enquiries to ensure that it is not proposed to encroach on civilian shipping space?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Certainly, Sir.

**Seth Govind Das:** Was it not a fact that the responsibility of these evacuees were taken by the Government of India when the war was going on?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Which evacuees? The question is not clear. The responsibility of which class of evacuees?

**Mr. President:** Does the Honourable Member refer to the Polish evacuees?

**Seth Govind Das:** I am referring to evacuees who are non-Indian. Was the responsibility of these evacuees taken by the Government of India when the war was going on?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** We undertook to arrange for their maintenance and care in India but we have accepted no sort of financial responsibility for them. The expenditure incurred on their maintenance is debited to the governments of the countries concerned or to His Majesty's Government.

**Seth Govind Das:** The Honourable Member said that the Government of India have undertaken the responsibility of their stay here. The responsibility was undertaken during the war, when there was not so much food shortage. In view of the food shortage at present in the country will it not be proper now, in spite of the responsibility which the Government of India have taken for these evacuees, to send them back to their own country?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** I hope the Honourable Member will look at the humanitarian aspect of it. Having taken charge of them we certainly cannot throw them overboard. But, as I have said, we are doing our very best to have them repatriated as soon as practicable.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## RE-HOUSING UNDER POORMAN HOUSING SCHEME

**149. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) With reference to the reply to part (a) of starred question No. 152 asked on the 11th February, 1946 regarding eligibility for re-housing under the Poorman Housing Scheme, will the Health Secretary please inform this House of the date by which persons shall be eligible for the benefits of the Re-housing Scheme?

(b) Does he propose to assure the House that while laying down conditions referred to in (a) above, due consideration will be paid to the financial conditions of the people affected with a view to afford relief to the largest number of persons?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) No particular date can be fixed, but persons will become eligible for the benefits of the re-housing scheme when the Sarai Purani Idgah Scheme is sanctioned and execution of the scheme is taken up.

(b) Yes.

## ELIGIBILITY UNDER RE-HOUSING SCHEME

**150. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) With reference to the reply to part (d) of starred question No. 110 on the 4th March, 1942, and the reply given to part (b) of starred question No. 152 on the 11th February, 1946, will the Health Secretary please state whether he has finally decided the limit of Rs. 30 per month as income within which persons will be provided with accommodation under the Re-housing Scheme? If not, how does the matter stand?

(b) By what time will Government declare the name of the place or places where they propose to house the persons of Ward No. 14 after the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme has been considered by the Trust?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) The matter is under consideration of the Improvement Trust and no final decision has yet been reached.

(b) The names of localities, in which the families evicted under the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme will be re-housed, will be made known when the scheme is sanctioned.

## PUBLICITY TO APPROVAL OF RE-HOUSING SCHEME BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

**151. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 153 on the 11th February, 1946, will the Health Secretary please state whether the general public will be informed of the approval of the Re-housing Scheme by the Delhi Improvement Trust through the medium of newspapers? If not, why not?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** The general public will be informed through the medium of the newspapers.

## ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT TO WOMEN PREVIOUSLY WORKING UNDERGROUND IN MINES

**152. Miss Maniben Kara:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many women were employed underground in coal mines in India before the last day that the ban on the employment of women underground in mines was re-imposed;

(b) how many of the women mentioned in (a) have been given alternative employment since the imposition of the ban on women working underground;

(c) the nature of alternative employment provided to them;

(d) how their earnings in the new employment compare with their earnings while working underground;

(e) apart from wages what the other concessions are that they have lost as a result of ceasing to work underground; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take in order to compensate them for their loss of earnings and other concessions?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) About 20,000.

(b) No exact figures are available but approximately 50 per cent. of the women mentioned in (a) have been given alternative employment since the re-imposition of ban. Of the remaining 50 per cent. about half have gone to their villages while some of the remainder are sitting down at collieries because they are refusing contract work e.g. coal loading;

(c) Loading of coal on surface, loading and unloading of sand and removing of overburden in quarries.

(d) The earnings of women so employed are from ten to twelve annas per day (excluding half seer free rice and bonus of two annas for each woman) as against twelve annas to fourteen annas per day paid to underground workers.

(e) Women so employed have lost the concession of free supply of milk which was granted only by reason of working underground.

(f) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 466 on the 25th February, 1946.

#### SUGGESTION *re* KEEPING OF HISTORY SHEETS AT EVERY HISTORICAL MONUMENT

**153. Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the letter of Mr. S. S. Lall of Peshawar in the *Hindustan Times* of the 4th March, 1946, in the forum of letters to the Editor, suggesting that "History Sheets" should be kept at every historical monument;

(b) if it is a fact that no such plates are kept at any of the South India Historical monuments like Amaravati, Bhattiprob, Nagarjunakonda, Jaggurra-pettah, Ghantasale, etc., and

(c) if Government will consider the advisability of adopting this suggestion?

**Sir John Sargen:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Short historical notices are already affixed to a large number of ancient monuments in various parts of India including some in the South India. In accordance with the policy laid down urgent steps are now being taken to provide adequate notices on monuments throughout India both in English and in regional language or languages. A number of such notices has already been prepared and investigations have for some time been in progress as to the best ways and means of displaying them on monuments. In view of the difficulty of producing metal plates at the present moment, temporary notices are in a number of cases being displayed on wood or board.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**Mr. M. R. Masani:** Sir, I would like to state that this question was put last Friday: otherwise it would appear partly pointless.

#### RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN

**Mr. M. R. Masani:** Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strong sympathy in this country for our Iranian neighbours and the indignation at the flagrant  
12 Noon breach of its pledges to evacuate its troops from Iran on the part of the Russian Government and its attempts to destroy the integrity and independence of Iran; and

(b) whether the Government of India, as a member of the United Nations Organization, will take immediate steps to invite the attention of the Security Council of the United Nations Organization, which is due to meet on March 25, to the Russian aggression against the neighbouring country of Iran, which is a matter of grave concern to this country and to the peace of the world, and to urge the Security Council to devise sanctions to protect the integrity and independence of Iran?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (a) Government are aware of the existence of the strong feelings of sympathy and indignation to which the Honourable Member refers.

(b) Government understand that an appeal has been made to the Security Council of the United Nations Organization by the Persian Government themselves.

**Mr. M. R. Masani:** Since India is unfortunately not represented in the Security Council, will the Government of India convey to the British Government the public opinion in this country that if small defenceless nations like Iran are to be left helpless against their powerful imperialist neighbours, the continued existence of the United Nations Organisation will become meaningless?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Sir, Government have sensed feelings of urgency, alarm and indignation in all parts of this House and in the country generally and they have represented these feelings to the Government in the United Kingdom as a member of the Security Council.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article of the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and, if so, will Government take the earliest possible steps before the Security Council actually meets to make all the members of the Security Council aware of the great anxiety felt by India about what is happening in Persia in her relation with Soviet Russia and of the threat involved in the same to India's own territorial integrity on account of the international rivalries that are being carried on in Persia?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Sir, I think the answer to that question is really implicit in what I have just said. India is not a member of the Security Council and is therefore not seized of this matter, unless of course the question comes before the General Assembly of which she is a member. Consequently, since the Government in the United Kingdom is a member of the Security Council, the Government of India have taken care to draw the attention of the Government in the United Kingdom to the feelings which I have mentioned in my reply to the last supplementary question.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House whether the presence of Russian troops in North Persia was arranged at the Yalta Conference?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I am not quite sure what the Honourable Member means. Is he inquiring whether an arrangement was made at Yalta that Russian troops should be brought into Persia? If so, the answer is 'No'.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** I am suggesting that Russian troops are in Persia because the two other members of the Big Three had agreed to it. Is there any truth in this suspicion?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** None whatsoever.

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Is the Government of India so helpless in the matter? Cannot something substantial be done instead of merely representing Indian feelings to His Majesty's Government?

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

## HINDU MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SEPARATE RESIDENCE AND MAINTENANCE BILL

### PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to give Hindu married women a right to separate residence and maintenance under certain circumstances.

Sir, I might mention for the information of the House that I have not been able to get the signature of Sardar Mangal Singh, because he is running a temperature of 104° or 105°. All other Members have signed the report.

## THE HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, with your permission I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus be extended up to Saturday, the 30th March, 1946."

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus be extended up to Saturday, the 30th March, 1946."

**Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar** (Madras: Indian Commerce): Will it not take the Bill up to the next session. There is only one day for non-official Bills before this session ends.

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh:** That does not matter. It is only for the presentation of the Select Committee Report.

**Mr. President:** That cannot be helped. The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus be extended up to Saturday, the 30th March, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

## ESTATE DUTY BILL

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands** (Finance Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an estate duty in British India.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an estate duty in British India."

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

## INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer** (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, when the House rose yesterday I was saying that we in this Group support the proposed new bullion duties. But, at the same time, I uttered a note of warning that the results might not be quite the same as the Honourable the Finance Member anticipates, unless he takes very good care and, I may add, very active steps, to see that what he intends is now destroyed and undermined by the activities of the same kind of people who nearly ruined the policy of his predecessor. Sir, I would ask him to remember three things. The first thing is that wealthy operators can move markets, especially the bullion market, even though Government may not desire these markets to move in that way. The second thing I would ask him to remember is that there is more than one bullion market now in this country: That state of affairs has

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arisen since about 1942. Thirdly I would ask him to remember what happened in 1919 and 1922 and what happened in 1942 and 1943. If he remembers these things, Sir, and then looks at certain things to which I shall refer now, I have no doubt that he will achieve the purpose he seeks to achieve by imposing these duties. Three things he must watch: firstly, '*changes in the rules or in the terms of contract of the bullion exchanges*', and I may add the same remark applies also to other commodity exchanges. He should keep a very careful watch on any change or suspension of the rules. That does not apply only to the bullion market, though it applies to it more especially at the present time. The second thing he must watch is "market comments" in the press and the way in which markets are being guided by those who seek to make them move in any particular direction; bearing in mind that the greatest movements in markets can be brought about when you first give them a lever *upwards* before you attempt sending them *down*. Thirdly I would ask him to watch very particularly the silver market and those who operate therein. But since it is useless to make comments and observations without perhaps at the same time offering some suggested remedies, I suggest for what it is worth (1) the registration of dealers in these markets, (2) disclosure of the names of partners of firms and directors of companies operating in these markets, and (3) disclosure also of stocks of bullion. Finally, Sir, he should take very good care to see that no new company enters into these markets at the present time. That is related not merely to the *operation* of the markets, but it may undermine his purpose in another direction: namely to deprive his revenue officers, who sit behind him, of their legitimate and proper dues. Before I leave this question of bullion there is just one final observation I should like to make and that is that I noticed in one of the newspapers the comment that "one large operator seemed to be in the know and was buying heavily". I have not the least doubt that that statement is totally incorrect, because I cannot imagine any Honourable Member of Government would commit such a breach of official practice and behaviour as to disclose anything that the Honourable Member had in mind; but I draw it to his attention for another reason. That statement has been made in the press, and the purpose is either one of two things. One is to encourage the people that they should follow that operator because he has influence—thus discrediting the Government—and the other is to give the suggestion that perhaps that is the right line to take.

Now, Sir, having commented on bullion duties I pass to income-tax and super-tax. The House will have heard, and will in fact hear more in the next few days, of the suggestion that the present proposal contained in this Finance Bill operate purely for the advantage of the rich, or mainly for the advantage of the rich. Any one who looks at the table attached to the Explanatory Memorandum given to all Members of this House along with the Finance Bill will see what nonsense that is. The individuals who are in receipt of *unearned* income up to Rs. 18,000 will all benefit. Those who are in receipt of *earned* income up to a lakh will also benefit. In the case of *unearned* income over Rs. 21,000 and in the case of *earned* income over a lakh, the advantage will not be to the assessee but the other way round. Therefore I hope that those Honourable Members who tell us that this is a rich man's budget will be a little more guarded in what they have to say, and—before they repeat their observations elsewhere—take the trouble to study the statement set out in the Explanatory Memorandum.

Now, Sir, in connection with this question of income-tax I have seen a statement by Sir Padampat Singhania in which he says that the rich get no relief. Then he goes on to talk about E.P.T., income-tax and super-tax. His contention is that during the war the Finance Member's predecessor deprived industry of as much as 93 per cent. of the income of companies. This is the kind of nonsense that we frequently hear from men who pose as leaders and captains of industry. They come along and tell us "You are merely politicians; you don't really understand these matters. We are telling you that



we are mulcted to the extent of 93 per cent. of our profits." Well, Sir, that is nonsense. Every member of this House who has any idea at all of income-tax matters knows perfectly well that it is nonsense. The position in fact is that the *individual shareholder* pays the income-tax in so far as the income is distributed. The individual pays on the distributed income of the company, while the company pays income-tax on that portion of the income which is not distributed, plus, of course, the one anna super-tax payable on the total income.

Having said that, I turn to paragraph D of part II of the Schedule where the most important proposal in this Finance Bill is set out. There we find a scheme for a graded additional super-tax on companies. We on these Benches have given the matter very careful consideration during the last fortnight and we have now come to the conclusion that the Finance Member's proposals are correct, and that if he has to change these in any way, the whole scheme which he and his able officers have brought out will be undermined or perhaps even destroyed. I hope therefore that the House will support this proposal. It has been suggested in some quarters that it imposes an additional burden on industry. Now, Sir, I have for my personal satisfaction worked out a number of illustrative cases and I am satisfied that that is not so. My own conclusion in the matter is borne out by the remarks made in the speech of the Chairman of the Bengal Coal Company, which remarks indicate very clearly that in general, and subject naturally to the precise effect of the technical details, it should be possible for properly managed companies to maintain reasonable dividends.

Having said that, I think we can now attempt to assess the effect of the Bill in the light of the Honourable the Finance Member's intentions. He has set out his intentions very clearly in his speech, more particularly in para. 4 and para. 24. But before I discuss that I just want to refer for a moment to the Excess Profits Tax. It has been suggested that because the Honourable Finance Member has decided not to impose the Excess Profits Tax for the coming year, he has done something which is going to be of benefit to the rich and hurt the poor. Now, I cannot understand the line of argument that thinks like that for one moment. In fact, as I have already indicated, the rich man will pay more, as a result of this budget. On the other hand, industry will pay less and will thereby be able to build up the reserves which it needs, to enable it to buy new machinery and so forth. He has also had in mind very clearly another important aspect of this Finance Bill, namely, stability. We know perfectly well from what has been told us that very large sums of money which were spent in the past are not going to be spent this year; and in these circumstances, unless the Honourable Finance Member had taken off the Excess Profits Tax, the result would have been not good for the poor, as some people suggest, but utterly disastrous. In fact, I go so far as to say that there could have been made out a strong case for the removal of this tax a year ago. It is of course no use discussing the past; it was not done a year ago; it is being done now. There are Honourable Members who may say that it has not been done in the United Kingdom and why should we not follow their example of reduction of the tax, instead of taking it off altogether? Well, in the first place, the circumstances are not parallel in the two countries; Government in the United Kingdom reduced the Excess Profits Tax and did not take it off altogether because their last budget was brought in within a very few months of the termination of the war. When their next budget comes in, I have a very shrewd suspicion that their proposals will not be very different from the kind of proposals which my Honourable friend the Finance Member has introduced here. Those who think that by reducing the Excess Profits Tax they are helping the poor entirely overlook certain factors in the operation of the Excess Profits Tax which become increasingly effective and operative as the war expenditure of Government declines. If they will refer particularly to the first schedule rule 4, part (2), they will see special advantages given to banks and others. In other words, the Excess Profits Tax, if merely reduced, would have left in an advantageous position the very class of people—banks



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and investment companies—which has played so big a part in the inflationary trend in this country in recent years. I am very glad therefore that the Finance Member has courageously decided to do away with Excess Profits Tax altogether. When I say that of course, I fully recognise that the Excess Profits Tax Act itself must remain the law for a good many years to come, because otherwise the Government could not administer all the problems that are arising now and will arise in future out of this tax which was put on as a war measure.

Then we come directly, from his attitude towards the Excess Profits Tax, to his whole plan and purpose, which is to secure as great a degree of stability as is possible in a period when government expenditure is declining rapidly; and when if they were not very careful, the downward spiral would be even more disastrous than the upward spiral in 1942-43. Therefore his whole purpose in these tax measures which he has set before us is to secure as great a degree of stability as possible. Now, I do not say that he will achieve one hundred per cent. stability: he obviously cannot—no man possibly can do so; but I believe, and we in this group unanimously believe, that his measures are the best that in the circumstances he can make having regard to the overriding question of stability.

The second thing he has set out to do—and it is very clear throughout the whole of the Finance Bill—is that he has sought to give minor relief to the poorest classes. I emphasise the word 'minor' because I am quite sure that the Honourable Finance Member will be the last to claim that merely because he has, for example, reduced the duty on kerosene oil he has done something wonderful for the poor. What he has done is, having regard to the circumstances, all that he could, in that and in other directions. As regards industry, he has not merely reduced taxation in the manner I have indicated, but he has also decided to give concessions in regard to machinery and so forth, all of which are very important if Indian industry is going to recover in these next few years, and if we are not going to see a repetition of the disasters of the years 1920 to 1924.

Another result that will arise directly from his proposals is that industrialists and traders will be encouraged to hold smaller stocks. There is evidence of that already in the speeches of various chairmen of industrial and trading companies. He is forcing them to disgorge stocks on which,—to be quite plain,—some of them had been sitting when they ought to have been releasing them for the public. That in its turn will mean not merely greater availability of supply but it should mean that prices of commodities that directly affect the masses will tend to go down—slowly, I hope, but I think they will tend to go in a downward direction, which is all to the good.

Then there is one aspect of the matter which is political perhaps rather than strictly financial, and that is the general question of the relationship between the Finance Member's proposals and the whole of the activities of Government. He has rightly stressed in one part of his speech that finance is merely a projection of the policy of Government into the sphere of rupees, annas and pies. That being so, I would earnestly urge him to remember this or to consider this: *viz.*, that it is not always wise, and it is not always effective either, to try to seek by means of income-tax Bills, etc., objectives which can better be achieved by amending other commercial legislation of Government. I should like to give him an illustration to show what exactly I mean. He presented to the House yesterday a Banking Bill. In 1942, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar made one of his "better" contributions to the welfare of his people—he brought in a Bill to amend the Companies Act. I need not waste the time of the House by repeating it; but to sum it up, what it said was that any company calling itself a bank *was* a bank; and now, four years later, the Government have to bring in a Bill to define and control banks! A great deal of the trouble (and I say this advisedly having studied the position in Bengal very carefully) in Bengal in 1942 and 1943 and since.

and a great deal of the trouble elsewhere in India is due directly and indirectly to that amendment of the Companies Act slipped in as an unimportant measure by Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar; and I would therefore suggest that in matters of grave commercial concern and in matters touching on the law of merchants and traders, the Government should consider whether their present method of handling such legislation is as good as it may be. Sir, I support the Bill.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad** (United Provinces: Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the question was raised whether this is a capitalist's budget or whether it is a poor man's budget. The very fact that this paper 'Commerce' is in favour of this budget shows clearly that it is not a poor man's budget. It is really a billionaire's budget.

The first thing I would refer to is the repeal of the Excess Profits Tax. Certainly when I heard the Finance Member's speech I was shocked when he said that this should be abolished altogether. I was expecting that he would give some relief this year, perhaps reduce it to half and abolish next year. It was not expected that it would be abolished entirely this year.

The second thing is that he did not give any relief to the poorer people in income-tax. We were expecting, as he has expressed repeatedly on the floor of the House that he is always for the poor people, that the income tax level will be raised from Rs. 1,500 to at least Rs. 2,000 and that the dearness allowance will be free of income-tax. These were the two reliefs which we were expecting for the benefit of the poor. Of course this would require a change in the Act and the change ought to have been provided for in the present Income Tax Act.

The next thing is about the duty on silver and gold. This also is a thing which requires careful consideration. I have been pressing in connection with the Bretton Woods Report and elsewhere that the selling and purchasing prices of gold should be fixed and brought on par. Abnormal difference in purchasing and selling prices is very unfair to the country. It unstabilises the whole commerce and demoralises the purchasing power of the rupee. If the purchase price is at Rs. 42 or 43 and the selling price is 100 and over, it means that the purchasing power of paper rupee is reduced from Rs. 100 to Rs. 43, this is very demoralising and I do not know whether the duty which he has imposed will stabilise the prices or it will have tendency in the reverse direction. Finance Member may have in his mind some ingenious method by means of which the price of gold may be stabilised. I agree with him. I know his views he is in favour of bringing the sale price and the purchasing price at par or bring them within very narrow limits. There I entirely agree but whether levying this duty will bring it at par is a thing which I could not visualize at the moment. This duty has created a good deal of gambling in the bullion market of Bombay. The Honourable Member must have got the figures. I only hear from hearsay. I have no opportunity to find out the facts. A good deal of gambling in bullion market occurred on the 27th and 28th of February. I happened to be in Bombay soon after and I was told that a number of people knew the budget proposals particularly about gold and silver a day before. I have no evidence. I only rely on what I heard from persons who carry on business in Bullion. I hope that the Finance Member will collect the facts of transactions on the 27th and 28th and investigate the matter. He may gather facts and convince himself that this duty was known when this gambling was going on. I have pressed repeatedly and I repeat again that these gambling houses ought to be abolished because unless we abolish these gambling houses, there cannot be any commercial stability in this country, any stabilisation of prices and the purchasing power of the rupee cannot be stabilised. The three gambling houses are the Stock Exchange, the Bullion Exchange and the cotton markets. Unless these three gambling houses are abolished, it is absolutely impossible to have scientific commercial transactions in this country, because these people engaged in this business spend so much of their energy and money in gambling that honest people cannot

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enter into the field. If my friend and the Commerce Member do want that commerce should proceed on scientific lines, and stabilised in the country there should be some kind of security and these three gambling houses should be abolished and exploitation should be stopped. I tabled a motion to this effect but unfortunately I have not succeeded in the ballot. In fact during the last 15 years I could not draw a single Resolution in my name by ballot. I had to move Resolutions tabled in other names. I am very unfortunate in this respect.

Now, the Honourable Member in the course of his speech referred to the appointment of a taxation committee. This thing is needed after the war, because we must now proceed on certain principles. If the principles are accepted, then naturally there will be no grievance in taxation because people will know what the taxation would be and the method that we are adopting now is that we are taking up a few articles here and there. My friend the Finance Member is not so speculative as his predecessors had been. The taxation was done in such a way that no regard was paid to the law of diminishing returns. There ought to be some scientific basis behind taxation. After the Great War things have changed enormously. The recommendations of the Taxation Committee were made 20 years ago and those peoples no longer hold good. We must reconsider the whole thing.

Along with the Taxation Committee, there ought to be a Fiscal Commission also. The recommendations made by the Fiscal Commission in 1921 and 1922 are no longer correct at the present moment. Things have enormously changed. Their theory of protection has proved to be impracticable. It has proved to be a source of income to the capitalists and a great discouragement and nuisance to the consumers and the poorer people. These capitalists are exploiting the poor people. Protection once given could not be removed on account of vested interest. Look into the protection given to sugar and other articles and we find that it has worked only for the benefit of the mill owners and not for the benefit of the consumers of the country. Capitalists did not consider it as a loan but their rights. These two things require special consideration.

There should also be a radical change in the Companies Act. It is out of date and the Law Member and the Commerce Member may by co-operation change the Companies Act in a radical manner. Piecemeal legislation will not serve the purpose. The views have enormously changed. No person will favour the enormous profits given to the shareholders. Labour has been ignored and it is the duty of those who represent labour to bring this forward. If we want the labour in this country to be contented, then the piecemeal legislation that we have been having is no good. It only gives temporary relief and those who get it soon forget all about it. The relief must proceed on a substantial basis. There are only two methods by which you can solve this question. You should not employ labour for the production of wealth for a few. This is the principle of Communists; or you have the German method of having labour as business partners. The profits should be divided in a certain proportion between the capitalists and the workmen. The ratio should be fixed, so many annas and pies in the rupee. Capitalists have got the right to demand a bank rate of interest and a little more on account of the risks. Labour should have a living wage and whatever profit is left should be divided in a certain proportion among all the persons. If labour is convinced that they are partners in the business, they will cheerfully work and earn the money, even if it comes to working 16 or 18 hours a day. If I am asked to work 16 or 18 hours a day for my own benefit, I will not hesitate but if I am asked to work 18 hours a day in order that the earning may go to somebody else, then I will always say that I should work only 56 hours a week or 48 hours a week or 36 hours a week and so on, coming down and down. The only solution is that these persons should be business partners and earn the fruit of their labour. If this principle is accepted, then all the legislation that you pass will be back number and

they will be no longer required. I think this present Government or any Government of the future should adopt this bold step for the protection of labour.

Now, I come to the air service in this country. I am sorry the Honourable Secretary for Posts and Air is not present here, but I must say that he has completely failed to take lessons from the history of the development of Indian railways and learn something from the mistakes which the Indian railways have made, in this particular direction. The railways started with the same idea with which my Honourable friend Sir Gurunath Bewoor is now starting that you must begin with company management. That was the policy which the Railways laid down in 1854. All the time we continued this policy of company management till the Acworth Committee published its report in 1922. The opinion at that time was divided and the question of State control and State management of railways was decided by the casting vote of Mr. Acworth himself. He decided that we should take over the administration of Indian railways. The Government of India accepted that principle and now all the Indian railways have come under State management. By the experience of the past we have now come to the right conclusion, a conclusion which has been accepted by almost all the countries in the world that railways should be State managed. Similarly in the case of air, we have not come to the right conclusion. I do not know why we should adopt a retrograde step in the case of air service alone. This will have to be rectified soon. My friend Sir Gurunath Bewoor, did not benefit himself by the early mistakes of the Railway Department. The mistake has now been corrected. I ask why not adopt a similar policy and bring the air services under State management. As regards the through services which pass over India, we charge for the use of aerodrome and charge royalty on tickets purchased in this country on journey included or ended in this country. This is the principle which we ought to adopt. This is the principle which should be adopted by the future Government. It is unfortunate that company management is encouraged without the consent of the legislature. If these proposals for private air services were brought forward before the House, I am sure they would not be carried in this House, but all these were done by backdoor methods. Before I leave this Department of Sir Gurunath Bewoor, I must say one little thing and that is the encouragement given to capitalists like Tatas to make more and more profit, but in the case of the poor postal employees who are living under hard conditions, they have not even given sufficient relief. The subordinate are paid very low and this requires to be considered.

Now, a word about the Labour Department. Really the Labour Department is not interested in the welfare of labour. This attitude of theirs became exceedingly clear when we put questions about labour in P. W. D. workshops at Aligarh this morning. Last time I mentioned this and I mention it again that it is a mistake to tag P. W. D. to the Department of Labour. Department of Labour—is the department of service. P. W. Department is a Department of profit. No connection between the two. I hope even the present Government will realise their mistakes and will separate the two Departments. We also pointed out on the floor of the House the other day that the work in C. P. W. D. passes through the Secretariat of the Labour Department where the representation of minorities is nil. I pointed out several cases in which the Muslims are handicapped on account of absence of representation. I drew the attention about the Executive officer, I drew the attention about appointment of the Superintending Engineer, I drew their attention to the appointment of S. D. O's. I am sorry that this particular Department has nobody's confidence. No one likes the way in which money is squandered, the way in which culprits have been let off. I just draw attention to the two Committees which sat on this point, one is the Prior Committee. The other was appointed 20 years ago. They admit that this Department is not honest, that it is a corrupt Department, but those people who were corrupt had all gone away and

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therefore we cannot take any action against them. Very little has been done about the culprits.

Now, a word about the post war development. I am not satisfied with the post war development. We have not been taken into confidence. This question was never brought before the Assembly, this question was not brought before the Standing Finance Committee, and yet we are asked to vote large sums of money. We do not know why we should vote for them. We were not taken into confidence. We do not know what happens. Policy committees were appointed, and in these committees a majority of people were big businessmen. The Government of India had no control over the businessmen, while the businessmen control the Government of India. These businessmen made certain recommendations for their own benefit. We only provide money for their advantage. The interest of the poor people, the interest of the cottage industries, the interest of the consumers never taken into consideration. They are always overlooked in all our post war developments. I said before, and I repeat again, that whenever you plan any scheme of post war development, the first thing to be considered is how many persons could be employed and what relief could be given to poor people. This is the first point we ought to consider. But this has never been done. What is generally considered is the dividend which any undertaking will pay to the capitalists, that is the only question on which the issue is decided. If it does not pay good dividend it is said to be uneconomic even if it employs large number of workers. But they never consider the question of the number of employments. The cottage industries are left out altogether, because they don't give enough dividend to capitalists. For given capital it would employ very larger number of workers. Unfortunately in all these planning committees that we have formed, in not even a single one the interest of the consumer is considered. In not a single one have I seen the interest of the cottage industries is considered, in not a single one have I seen the interest of the poor people is taken into consideration. The capitalists really know only one thing in what particular manner enormous profits could be derived. They derived huge profits during the war, they want they should continue to derive more and more profits even after the war. That is the only principle on which all the recommendations of these planning committees are based. This is a policy which the legislature would not like to endorse either now or in future.

Now, Sir, a word with regard to trade in skins and hides. I said on the cut motion and I repeat again that this is a trade which has been most unfairly treated by the Government, and this is evident from the fact that the price index of this particular commodity is not in keeping with the price index of other commodities. It varies between 137 and 147 whereas price index of wheat is 378. There are two fundamental defects which Government should remove as early as possible. One is the present system of monopoly purchase, i.e., two business firms of U. K. and U. S. A. are the sole purchasers to the exclusion of others. Monopoly purchase may be justified in war time because all possible resources must be directed to the successful prosecution of the war, but there is no reason to continue it after the war. The second thing is that the purchasers should not fix the price; it should be fixed on an economical basis, and the price index shows that that has not been done. The question of hides and skins requires serious consideration. These defects should be removed as soon as possible. It applies not only to raw hides but also to half-tanned hides. Some leather firms use the position to their own advantage and make fat dividends even after the war and therefore they are advising Government in the wrong direction. The time has now come that such mentality should change.

The monopoly of purchase about hides and skins also applies to tea. It is unfortunate that the British Government has the sole authority to purchase tea

from India; they take the best tea to London and leave the poorer quality for us. I am fond of tea myself and I know how to convert poor tea by small process into good tea. But the price level of tea is 155 and of coffee is 506 which shows that the prices which they are given to tea cultivators are not economic prices.

Now I come to education. The country has accepted the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education known as Sargent Report. But there are some lacunæ therein and unless they are filled up the report will not be so popular. I do not refer to the financial aspect because these and many other proposals of post war development are in the same position. But if money is to be found, I hope it will be found for education first and also for health and agriculture. But with regard to the lacunæ there are three of them; the first is about the mode of selection. At the age of 11 you have to select boys for high schools, other to remain in the ordinary board schools. The method of selection may work adversely in case of the depressed classes, who are not on a high level of mental equipment and culture. So that the educated people will be more educated and the less educated will further degenerate. That is a principle that I do not like; we should devise a principle by which we not only raise the intellectual classes but also the depressed classes who need education most. So here they have provided for the requirements of the better classes and not for the intellectually lower classes. The second lacuna is that we have not provided for religious instruction. In England and other places religious education has been accepted as a necessary part of general education; that principle should be adopted in India also where the people are certainly more religious than in the west.

**Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, does my Honourable friend recommend the provision of religious instruction at State expense or at the expense of the religious community concerned?

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** England has agreed to the principle of its being undertaken at State expense, and the same principle should be accepted in India.

**Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee:** Does my Honourable friend realise that this has been done by those religious institutions giving up a great deal of their freedom. They have now almost become State-managed institutions.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I am talking of the system of compulsory education. Whenever there is compulsory education most of them will come under State management and religious instruction will be necessary.

Then with regard to teachers, they have not made adequate provision about their training. Another important thing is what should be done about transitional arrangements, how should the object be achieved stage by stage, in five years, ten years or longer period. It is very desirable that these lacunæ should be filled up. These are defects on account of which it has not been very popular. I know the Central Advisory Board is at work on these points; I hope they will remove these defects.

I will next draw attention to the Grants Committee. I pressed the importance of this question about eight years ago. Whenever this question is raised about grants to universities directly under the control of the Government of India, they say they wait for the recommendations of the Grants Committee. Year before last I pressed this; we were asked to await the report of this Committee. Then 1944 passed away. In 1945 we were told that the Committee has met; that year also passed away. Now 1946 has come; the Grants Committee has been appointed but its report is not there. I do not know if the Finance Member has confidentially received anything; I have not heard



[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

anything about it. The Grants Committee never went even to the universities on which they are going to report.

**Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee:** Is the Honourable Member satisfied with the present Grants Committee or its terms of reference?

**Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffar** (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Does the Honourable Member belong to the Treasury Benches?

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** If this Grants Committee works in the same way as the Grants Committee in the United Kingdom it will be very useful. I recommended it in my book in 1929.

I will next deal with the controls. These controls may be all right in war time, when we need all the resources of the country for the successful prosecution of the war, but why should you continue them now?

**An Honourable Member:** The third world war is coming.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Then we will have them again. Sir, it is certain that these controls raise the price-levels, and so when you remove them prices are sure to come down. That should be done quickly.

As regards corruption, some time ago the Standing Finance Committee had a special meeting to consider the question of corruption in the Supply Department; and it should now deal with the problem of corruption in the matter of all articles which are subject to control by the various Departments of Government. Every Honourable Member who has spoken about controls has referred to corruption. This question should now be tackled by the S. F. C.

Then I refer to co-ordination between road, rail, air and water. This co-ordination has not been set up. We are demanding grants for various services without having any scheme behind us. So I hope the Transport Member will look into the problem of co-ordination.

Then I come to death duties about which a Bill has been introduced. It will be bitterly opposed by Muslims as it is against Islamic law and it will be an interference with our religion. The moment a man dies his property is transferred to other people according to shariat and you have no right to deprive these people of a part of their share. The interference with religion will strongly be resented. We must have some kind of a good programme for roads. Unfortunately under the influence of Roorkee engineers we are now having instead of straight roads, roads in the shape of S. I have calculated that we have an extra length of half a furlong for every mile of road constructed by these Roorkee engineers. This means additional capital expenditure, additional travelling for the public, and further we will have to spend large

**1 P. M.** sums of money—probably about ten crores—to correct the follies of Roorkee engineers. All the roads made by them are zigzag, in the shape of S. When I asked some of the engineers, the reply was 'we want to change the perspective; if we have straight roads, the perspective will not change', this argument may have force for pedestrians and users of bullock carts! They are great nuisance to motorists. Well, we have to correct the follies of Roorkee engineers.

Then I come to the Bhoré Committee Report which has now been published. I hope that some action will now be taken to improve our health, and to give us more doctors, hospitals and more medical colleges.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy** (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, as my Honourable friend, Sir Zia Uddin, was speaking, Mr. Ahmed Jaffar made a speculative interjection as to whether we are not going to face a third war in the near future. I have a shrewd suspicion that my Honourable friend the Finance Member is really apprehensive that we may have to provide for a third war very soon. I do not see how I can explain otherwise his anxiety to extend the so-called Financial Settlement that determines the respective financial liabilities of the Government of India and His Majesty's Government

in regard to defence expenditure. I cannot understand how he proposes to extend a settlement that was definitely intended to last during the war time, and devised a rough and ready method as a mere war expedient. My Honourable friend thinks that there is some confusion of thought and misunderstanding over this question. I very much think that my Honourable friend, in the extreme rush of his work, could not look up the debates that took place in this House in the past years over this controversy. My Honourable friend says that after all it is a single issue that is involved: The settlement proceeds to divide the responsibility of financing the war expenditure between two Governments on the basis, on the one hand, of what is India's liability, and, on the other, what is the liability of Great Britain. And he says, "after all, when you accept this formula it is only a question of a few accounting rules that have to operate for the purpose of working out the exact figures representing the liability of each party." Sir, the matter goes, I am afraid, very much further than that, and the objections that have been urged on behalf of the Opposition in past years are of a really fundamental character. Sir, under the financial settlement, the defence expenditure chargeable to Indian revenues is made up principally of three elements: First, a fixed annual sum representing the normal net effective costs of the Army in India under peace conditions, and a lump figure of thirty-six crores seventy-six lakhs and odd was adopted for the purpose of fixing this particular liability—there are no details available on the subject, but . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands** (Finance Member): At Pre-war costs.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I know this was worked out on the basis of pre-war costs, but at the present moment, it represents a lump sum adjustment between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. The second item is a variable item which is added to this figure of thirty-six crores and odd, as representing the extra cost due to increase in prices. This year the figure stands at seventeen crores forty-five lakhs and ninety-four thousand. Now, Sir, we come to the third item: cost of such war measures as can be regarded as purely Indian liabilities by reason of their having been undertaken by India in her own interests, and the figure in the present year's budget under this stands at Rs. 1,79,31,89,000. There is, besides, a fourth item which is to be found under the head 'Defence Services—Noneffective', and is responsible for very nearly eleven crores of rupees this year. In addition to this there is the capital provision which I need not refer to in this context.

Apart from the simplicity in accounting, one merit, in fact the principal merit, that was claimed by my Honourable friend's predecessor on one occasion for this financial settlement was that it would limit India's financial liability in connection with the war to such measures as are within her financial capacity and are taken for the local defence of India. This basic assumption has never been accepted by the people of India. In no sense can it be said that the defence expenditure that has been fixed under the financial settlement is within the financial capacity of India. Sir, I call my Honourable friend himself to bear witness to the financial capacity of India, and I need not do anything more than refer him to his own words which describe the economic condition of India today: "Poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment, and under-employment". If these results have been achieved under a system of administration, which includes the administration of defence, can it be claimed by my Honourable friend that whatever amount India has been made to pay in the past on account of the defence services really is within her financial capacity as was claimed by my Honourable friend's predecessor? The financial settlement cannot be allowed to continue any longer. It has been allowed to continue sufficiently longer, because it was expected to operate during the period of the war, and any further continuance of it would be a continued wrong.

Now, I come to the question of the procedure for the allocation of the expenditure under this financial settlement. We have in the past protested



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against the facile assumption that no injustice is done in the process of the allocation of expenditure under this settlement. I very much hope that my Honourable friend will not repeat the old argument, namely, that it is the Commander-in-Chief who decides as regards whether the particular figure is needed for the defence of India. It is humanly impossible for the Commander-in-Chief to look into every item of expenditure. I take it that some subordinates of his, who are authorised to act in his name, has it in their power to decide whether any particular expenditure should be charged to Indian revenue or not. I further hope that my Honourable friend will not repeat the argument that we have in the Auditor-General a watch-dog of the financial interests of India. After all the limitations under which audit has to work are not unknown to us, and I do not like that the Auditor-General should be dragged into controversial politics over this matter.

We have demanded the appointment of a committee of this House to go into the defence expenditure and scrutinise all the various items and satisfy itself as regards the justice and equity of the settlement, as also the accuracy and the propriety of the methods of allocation. Sir, this demand of ours has not been accepted, though in the case of the British House of Commons a committee on National Expenditure was allowed to go into the details of war expenditure a few years back and we have a number of reports of that committee in the library of this House, indicating that even during the war the non-official members of the House of Commons were entitled to information of a detailed character which has been withheld from us on grounds of security. Reference perhaps will be made by my Honourable friend, if he agrees to reply to these points, to the fact that year after year we have the Public Accounts Committee reporting upon the financial settlement although in a very cursory manner. I have gone into all the reports of the Public Accounts Committee as also the Military Accounts Committee on which that committee bases its report on this particular subject. It is definitely clear that neither of these committees was allowed the chance of examining actual cases which might have arisen—I mean the border-line cases in which doubts might have arisen in the minds either of the military authorities or of the audit authorities. My Honourable friend, if he goes into those reports, will find that all that they say is that “on the basis of the statements made before us, we find that the procedure of allocation is working satisfactorily”. It does not go any further. They do not get that opportunity which we want for a committee of this House to examine the propriety of the various individual charges that are levied on India for the purpose of defence.

Now, Sir, there is another point which I should like to mention. The defence of India is certainly a subject in which we are all interested, and I maintain that it is the right and the duty of Indian soldiers to defend their motherland. It is also—it should be also,—their exclusive privilege to do so. But what do we find, during the war in particular and also as a matter of general practice? We have a number of white soldiers maintained during peace times, and their number was increased to a record figure as was testified boastfully on one occasion by Mr. Churchill. He said: “Well, we have to remember that never before in the history of India we had so many white soldiers as now.” Now, Sir, we do not need white soldiers to defend us, and if they are here it must be as a part of an imperial strategy or for reasons of a political character. And when we know that a British soldier costs several times what an Indian soldier costs, from the purely financial point of view, the financial liability for the defence of India in this matter should be measured in terms of Indian soldiers being maintained for the defence of India, and the difference between the costs of Indian soldiers and the British soldiers should in all conscience be borne by the British Exchequer.

**Mr. President:** The House will now adjourn.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two with Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan) in the Chair.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Sir I would just say a word on the subject of the financial settlement before I proceed to another subject. The Honourable Member in his speech wanted to emphasise that it was Whitehall and not Delhi that wanted to terminate the financial settlement at the end of the current financial year. I think I can claim to speak on behalf of this side of the House when I say that in taking this decision the Government acted contrary to public opinion in the country. The Government should have given this House a chance to reconsider the terms on which the defence expenditure should be shared between this country and Great Britain, and the Honourable Member has no justification in denying that opportunity to this House merely on the ground that it would have placed a very heavy burden on his staff. Administrative inconvenience is no excuse for ignoring a public demand of this character.

Sir, another relic of the war is the lend-lease arrangement, which is coming up for consideration in America in a few weeks time. The Honourable Member has announced the decision of the Government to depute certain officers to settle our lend-lease accounts with America. This is a very complicated question, and in the absence of full details I can only deal with a few broad points bearing on the subject.

Sir, lend-lease aid which was granted by America with effect from 1941 was not intended to be of the nature of a debit-credit arrangement. It was made definitely clear by the President of the United States in several statements of his that he made to the Congress, as also by Mr. Stettinus (Junior) in his book on Lend Lease, that it was a sort of co-operative effort, under which the United States' Administration were to help the other United Nations with all the materials that were needed for the purpose of the prosecution of the war, not in exchange for money or for goods necessarily, because I find that among the reciprocal assistance which the Government of the United States expected of countries that benefited by the lend-lease arrangement was even "information", and it has been repeatedly stated by those in authority in the United States administration that . . . . .

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha** (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, on a point of order neither the Honourable the Finance Member nor anyone representing his department is in the House when such important issues are discussed.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall** (Leader of the House): I am taking notes, Sir, on his behalf.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** But then the agreements that were executed in pursuance of this policy, apart from ensuring mutual assistance, also committed the various governments who were parties to those agreements to certain economic policies that had to be followed in future—policies that were first of all adumbrated in the Atlantic Charter and reaffirmed in these documents. In the case of India there is no formal document of any kind. In the case of certain countries of the British Empire there were notes exchanged and no formal documents were executed; but a formal document does exist between the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It has been declared in this House on behalf of the Government that although there may not be any written instrument to indicate the conditions of the lend-lease arrangements and reverse lend-lease obligation undertaken by India, India is going to be treated exactly on the same footing as the United Kingdom in regard to the terms of the settlement. The justification which was put forward by Government for not having negotiated a formal agreement between India and the United States of America was that acceptance of the economic clauses in the preambles of those agreements might have had an embarrassing effect upon India in regard to the question of her future fiscal and economic policy.

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I have before me the relevant clause of the Mutual Aid Agreement, where those countries that entered into that agreement formally had to pledge themselves in favour of the elimination of all forms of discriminatory treatment in international commerce and reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers and, in general, the attainment of all the economic objectives set forth in the joint declaration which goes by the name of the Atlantic Charter. Now, Sir, although we have not subscribed to this particular form of declaration, it so happens that there is a formal agreement between India and Canada called the Indo-Canadian Mutual Aid Agreement dated November 1944. In one of the clauses of that agreement I find that there is more or less a substantial reproduction of the clause that I have already referred to in the other agreement, and India therefore stands committed to the following principle: Adoption of measures to promote employment, the production and consumption of goods (harmless in their own way), expansion of commerce through appropriate international agreements or commercial policy with the object of contributing to the attainment of the economic objectives set forth in the Atlantic Charter. On the one hand we are assured that we have not committed ourselves to any declaration of policy in regard to the economic future of India by not having entered into a formal agreement with the U. S. A., and on the other we find that we stand committed to the basic formula of the Atlantic Charter on which the subsequent agreements proceed. I should like to know whether the Atlantic Charter really provides a clue to our fiscal policy, the fiscal policy of India.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** (Nominated Non-Official): May I remind the Honourable Member that on several occasions in this House from Government Benches it was definitely stated that India was not bound with regard to that fiscal clause and an assurance was given from the Government Benches on more than one occasion in reply to the Honourable Member and myself?

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** It was a vague assurance that was given. The present position is that India is a party to an agreement, one of the clauses of which I have read out and which referred to the Atlantic Charter.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Did not the Honourable Member draw attention to it at that time, to which he received a satisfactory reply?

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I got a very evasive reply. I am referring to this fact, because the question of the settlement of the lend-lease accounts is coming up very soon and in that connection also this very issue is likely to arise, as I shall show presently.

I was referring to the Atlantic Charter and the relevant economic clause, which reads:

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

To this we definitely stand committed by virtue of the Indo-Canadian trade agreement. My excuse for referring to this aspect of the question at some length is that when the lend-lease and reciprocal aid accounts between the U. S. A. and the Government of the United Kingdom were settled, along with other financial proposals of the United Kingdom, it was stated that in arriving at this settlement both the Governments had taken full cognisance of the benefits already received by them in the defeat of their common enemies. So far so good. But then, what follows is very important. "They have also taken full cognisance of the general obligations assumed by them in Article 7 of the Mutual Aid Agreement of the 23rd February 1942", and the understandings agreed upon, that is to say with regard to commercial policy. So, it is not merely the reverse Lend-Lease aid that was given by the United Kingdom Government to the United States of America, that was taken into account for purposes of settlement of the bill, but it was also the consideration that the United Kingdom Government stands committed to the carrying out of the obligations contained in Article 7 of the Mutual Aid Agreement, from which

I have already read out a portion. Now, Sir, I should like to know what instructions the Government of India are giving to their officers in regard to the settlement of this vexed question. In this connection I should like to say that on different occasions, in very solemn language the President definitely declined to consider Lend-Lease and Reverse Lend-Lease as being of the nature of a financial transaction at all. This is what the President said on one occasion :

"Lend-Lease and Reverse Lend-Lease are not a system of debits and credits. They involve neither gifts, nor loans, nor transfers of money. Lend-Lease and Reverse Lend-Lease are not two sides of a financial transaction. The system is a system of combined war policy."

On one occasion Mr. Churchill himself made a declaration that the Lend-Lease policy of the United States represented the most unsordid transactions in the history of the world. But this was not the opinion of that perfect accountant, Sir Jeremy Raisman, who year in and year out was making provision under a suspense head for the price of each article of Lend-Lease goods received in India on the basis of cash transactions, and last year he took the trouble of assuring this House that our assistance given by way of Reverse Lend-Lease is not going to exceed the assistance which we are likely to get from the United Kingdom by way of Lend-Lease.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** The United States.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I beg your pardon. The United States of America. As a matter of fact there is a great deal of confusion, in regard to this matter.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** Not on this side.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I do not know whether the Honourable Member has been able to disentangle the very tangled accounts as between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India in regard to Lend-Lease aid.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I am very glad to hear that. But then, strict accounting is a thing which was never attempted even by the United Kingdom Government as being too complicated and too unpractical a task.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** I do not want to reply to that now, but I think the Honourable Member's assumption is completely wrong. It was at the express wish of the United States Government that an attempt was made on the part of the United Kingdom Government or India to evaluate in terms of money the services rendered on either side. If you look at the book you will see it contains my photograph.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I was going to show it to the Honourable Member. This is what I find in Stettin's book:

"As Reverse Lend-Lease meant service as well as goods it is impossible to keep accounts." It is the opinion of Stettinus who was in charge of Lend-Lease administration.

"For Reverse Lend-Lease, goods or services, in battle conditions, there has never been any account at all."

Do I take it that my friend has attempted to do what Stettinus considered impossible?

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** Unfortunately the administration of the United States is like the administration in India, that is subject to a command called "Congress". And it was Congress who insisted upon the administration doing something that they had no intention at the beginning of doing.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I go by the statements made by the President who, I take it, has the support of the Congress.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** He had to withdraw from his original position as a result of the pressure brought upon him by the Congress just as this Government takes notice and yields to the view of the Congress.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Let me then come to the treatment which Great Britain has received at the hands of the United States of America, because I am

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entitled to claim the same principle being adopted in the case of India for the settlement of Lend-Lease accounts.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** 'Certainly.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** The total Lend-Lease aid from the United States to the United Kingdom was estimated at 20 billion dollars and Return Lend-Lease from the United Kingdom Government to the United States was of the order of 5 billion dollars. Now, how did the United States of America settle this account which left a debit balance of 15 billion dollars against Great Britain? From the information that is available to us it appears that the debit balance of 15 billion dollars had been settled by the payment of 650 million dollars only.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** May I interrupt the Honourable Member once again in the interests of the debates? There is a complete misconception. I know it was referred to by Mr. Manu Subedar. This 650 million dollars had no relation at all to the difference between the 20 billion dollars supplied by Lend-Lease and the 5 billion dollars supplied by the United Kingdom Government in respect of Reverse Lend-Lease. It had relation merely to the amount, the value, of the articles left over at the end of the war.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I was going to say that.

**Mr. Deputy President:** The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I will just finish this. In paragraph 3 of the Joint Statement regarding settlement for Lend-Lease and Reciprocal Aid, the adjustment between the Governments of the U. S. A. and the U. K., I find this 650 million dollars mentioned in paragraph 3. I was coming to the point that of the 650 million dollars at which the net claims have been settled a sum of 118 million dollars, or one-fifth of the total, is in respect of supplies which were already in the pipe line when V. J. brought the Lend-Lease system to an end; and the remainder, 532 million dollars, has been reached by computing the net value of the supplies previously furnished under Lend-Lease and still consumed on V. J. Day.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** That is the point.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I find my friend was unnecessarily impatient. I was going to place all the facts. It comes to this that in regard to articles supplied to the United Kingdom on Lend-Lease basis, those that had been used up to the V. J. Day were not charged for.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** That is right.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** My Honourable friend agrees with me entirely. Would my Honourable friend see to it that an equally generous settlement is arrived at in respect of India . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** As the Americans say, you bet.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** And that there may not be any commitment with regard to the future economic policy of India, and that no reference to that particular point is made in the course of any settlement? My fear is that there may be an attempt to introduce this rather extraneous element into any agreement that takes place in settlement of our accounts on the lines of what I find in the Joint Statement which was executed between the two Governments of U. K. and U. S. A. If my Honourable friend is in a position to give me that assurance. . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** Yes, unqualified and unrestricted.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I should have liked to know from the Honourable Member as to what our economic policy is at the present moment. But I have no time—I should have liked to go into that question.

**Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, when the budget for 1946-47 was presented to us, some of us thought that this budget had brought some improvements on the previous budgets; but when this Finance Bill came before us, we found no improvements at all. Taxes on postage, matches and salt and other things which affect the poor people are the same as before. Shortage of cloth is another difficulty which affects the poor people a great deal. I have seen in many houses of middle class that the ladies remain inside and cannot come out as they have not got sufficient cloth to cover themselves. I do not understand why the controls are not removed from the cloth now, when the mills are making enough cloth in this country. Why cloth is exported outside India when it is not sufficient for the people here, is not quite clear. There would have been some satisfaction if there had been provision in the budget to sell grain at a cheap price to the people who are poor; but nothing has been done. The ration of wheat which has been reduced to two chattaks is not sufficient at all for keeping the health of the people in proper order.

The Government of India does not pay any regard for the preservation of the health of the poor people. Recently, about 2½ years ago, a committee called the Health Survey and Development Committee was formed, and the committee after about two years submitted a report; but we do not find any provision in the budget about any of their recommendations. Medical aid and pure water supply are necessities to keep the health of the poor man in India. But nothing is being done. There are about 1,400 towns in India, out of which only about 250 have got tested and piped water supply. After so many years of British rule, only about 4½ per cent of the population of India gets pure water supply, with the result that a lot of people in many places in the country die by using bad quality of water. The report says it will take about 35 years to give water supply to the 1,400 towns and other places in India. What is the good of such a report when nothing can be done immediately? I will suggest that the water supply throughout all the towns in India can be made available within ten years if they start water supply here like the water supplies in European and in England. Water supply is run by companies everywhere in the world. Why should we not adopt it here, so that pure water may be available to the people without any expenditure either on the part of the Government or of the municipal administration? The usual way of water supply starting in this country is that the municipalities construct their water works with the aid of the Government—about 50 per cent and the balance they provide; but as they never have sufficient money at their disposal, they are unable to make a start with the result that all these municipalities which should have water works in their areas are unable to start them. In the United Provinces several years ago, legislation was made which authorised the municipalities to grant licenses for waterworks, just on the lines of the electric supply companies. I see no reason why this is not done throughout the whole of India. The Central Government should make some legislation and ask the Provincial Governments to do it accordingly; and I am sure with the capital now available in India many companies will come forward who can take over these water works and run it with great efficiency. There is another feature of these water supply companies. There will be no taxes in the cities. At present where the supply of water is started in a municipality, they have to levy a tax called water tax; but with these companies, everybody in the towns will be free to use water according to his requirements without any tax, but will pay just as the electric supply bill is paid, that is, by measurement; and I am sure it will be much cheaper than what it is costing now. There are two companies already in the U.P. I think the water supply in those two places is ample and the charges are very moderate; and no responsibility is cast either on the municipality or the Government to make arrangements. They make their own arrangements. There was some little difficulty during the war in these two places on account-

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of short supply of pumping machinery and other fittings, but now that the war is over, we hope the position of such companies if started in India will be quite safe.

I want to say a few words about the budget which is presented always to this House. The budget which consists of about 73 Departments and which is made by the heads of the different Departments in two or three months' time is brought before this House and discussed and passed within ten to fourteen days' time. I cannot understand how the members can go through this long budget in such a short period. I think it will be much better if every Department consults this House during the framing of the budget, so that expenditure may be curtailed and revised accordingly. I find a lot of departments are being created in Delhi, without any regard to the expenditure; because the Government knows that any extra expenditure may be met by levying taxes. I attended a meeting of the Standing Committee for Roads the other day and found that a sum of about Rs. 48,000 was provided for the employment of two mechanical engineers. I asked what the mechanical engineers are required for in roads. I got the reply that they were going to make arrangements for the purchase of road rollers. I find it a very strange thing that mechanical engineers are required to purchase road rollers and on a salary of about half a lakh of rupees a year. This is a great discredit to the P.W.D. engineers who use these road rollers. I think they were quite able up to this time to make purchases of these road rollers themselves. The specification for these road rollers is always given by the companies who supply them and I do not know what these mechanical engineers who have been appointed will do by their suggestions. About the Central P.W.D. I do not know what are the conditions in Delhi but I find outside Delhi in many sub-divisions and divisions advertisements for contracts are made just only in name and notice for small

3 P. M. works are put on the notice boards only a day or two before. I saw the other day an advertisement in the '*Hindustan Times*' for a work of about half a lakh for which tenders were called by the Central P.W.D. at Dehra Dun for a work in Sitapur near Lucknow. The notice was published on the 14th, that will reach Lucknow or Sitapur on the 15th or 16th and the same date has been fixed for the tenders. How is this possible? Why this money is being wasted in advertisement, I do not understand. I have got another instance of a sub-division in Allahabad, of the Central P.W.D. who are supposed to send notices for publishing to other offices at Allahabad on the 31st October for calling for tenders for a small job on the 6th November. This tender notice goes to the office of the Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department who was supposed to put it on the notice board on the 6th November, the date of the tender. This is only cheating and showing favouritism to some contractors who are friendly with the Engineer in charge. I think these things must be corrected. Small contractors are being harassed every day by the Sub-Divisional Officers and others and no work is given to them. Now, the name of the contractor who made a report of this incident to the Executive Engineer has been struck off. I hope the Government will look into these things and make corrections. With these remarks, I resume my seat.

**Mr. R. C. Morris** (Madras European): Sir, in rising to support the Finance Bill, I wish to touch briefly on a few points which, to my mind, either require clarification or merit some observations. Sir, the office of the Examiner of Capital Issues was started as a war time measure, presumably to force investments in Government loans; as part of a fight against inflation; and for prohibiting the use of funds in the hands of the public for unproductive purposes. The control is now being continued as a peace time measure for other purposes, in connection with which we have had no clear statement by Government.

We have heard from the Finance Member of his proposal to set up a National Investment Board but in the meantime the Control of Capital Issues



is putting a brake on the introduction of new projects and the mobilisation of capital for worth-while industrial undertakings. We realise that we are living in a partial socialistic State, but we feel we should have a clear Government statement of policy in this respect; for how long is this control to continue and for what reason is continuance still considered necessary?

Then, Sir, I must deplore the continued lack of publicity in connection with the disposals of surplus British and American Army stores. When are the lists of such stores to be published? My constituents are interested in stores such as agricultural tools, wire, piping, electrical equipment, medical supplies, clothing, garage equipment, rubber hose, Army Transport carts, belting, wireless equipment, Field telephones and hardware. No information has been forthcoming as to what quantities of these will be available to the public, prices, condition and delivery points. I think I am correct in saying that after the last war the Ordnance Department organised the sales and publicity of surplus army stores in a business like manner and dealt direct with the purchasing public. In another two or three months the monsoon rains will commence and I can imagine that this will not improve the condition of the vehicles parked at Chabua in Assam.

Then, Sir, I have received several complaints over the delay in dealing with applications for import licences, and provision of permits, by the Department of the Chief Controller of Imports. In two cases applicants were not favoured with their licences for three months, and then only when the matter was taken up in Delhi by myself in person. Such delays cause the greatest inconvenience, and often serious financial loss. In one case, the commodity applied for was available in India, but this did not prevent a delay of three months in the granting of the permit to the applicant.

Now, Sir, the total cut passed in the Demand, by the Department of Information and Broadcasting in respect of Films' Research and Reference, Field Publicity and Arts can only result in a curtailment of the present income received by St. Dunstons' (who do wonderful work for the blind in India) and other charitable institutions, whose activities have been publicised by the excellent films produced by the Department. Such films being home to the public, in a manner nothing else can, the good work of institutions that depend largely on public subscriptions for their income, and it is a matter for great regret that this form of publicity is now, to be shut down.

Sir, in my maiden speech in this House on the food situation, I touched on the necessity of increasing the production of foodgrains in existing cultivated areas. I trust that the suggestion to have agricultural experimental stations in every taluq or tahsil will be carried out. In addition, seed from improved strains of cereal crops should be widely distributed. The training of a large number of suitable men to run such Government experimental stations should be commenced without delay, and the salaries offered should be such as to attract the right type of individuals. Both Madras and the South Indian States have done a lot of good work in producing improved types of cereals, but much more remains to be done.

Sir, I should like to know what is proposed to be done to speed up the delivery of inland air mails. The position is at present farcical in that letters posted by air in South India are taking as long as, and frequently longer than ordinary mail to be delivered in the North and *vice versa*. Why is this? Surely the reason can only be that the ground work of the postal Department in this respect is defective.

Then, Sir, we should like to know the scope and value of the Botanical and Zoological Surveys of India for which demands have been passed. I believe these Surveys were suspended during the war; but it is hoped that the valuable researches, which have contributed beneficially to the field of economic biology in its relation to agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will now be continued. I understand, Sir, that the Royal Asiatic Society submitted proposals to Government regarding the development of these scientific surveys



[Mr. R. C. Morris]

as part of a post war reconstruction policy, and we should like to learn what Government has decided about this matter. I believe the Royal Asiatic Society also recommended the establishment of a Central National Museum of Natural Sciences in Delhi, and it will be interesting to learn whether Government have arrived at any decision on this matter also.

I have mentioned, Sir, Scientific Research Work on Fish, and my Colleague, Mr. Lawson, in his speech on the 19th stressed the necessity of Government devoting proper attention to this very important side of food supply. Why is it that the supply of dried fish, which was, some years ago, available for all working classes, is now in such short supply? It is known that the Japanese working classes lived largely on fish. It is not necessary to wait until we have adequate cold storages in the country—let the Fisheries Department get down to it, and encourage the production of salted and sun dried fish, as was produced at very cheap rates in past years. Thousands of tons of this cheap food supply should be made available to the public—and the assistance of the Royal Indian Navy, and utilisation of all their suitable craft, should be made possible in order to achieve this. Sir, I support the Bill.

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee** (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): Sir, I would not have got up to encroach on the valuable time of this House, but I was rather taken unawares after a late lunch yesterday when I was told by our vigilant Government Whip that my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das who unfortunately is not present here at the moment thought fit to use the Finance Bill as a stick to hit my Department with. I rather expected Sir, that particularly in view of the economic war on which we are about to embark, my Honourable friend would vote the sinews of war for our Honourable Finance Member without uttering a word. I say this, Sir, particularly because, thanks mainly to the energy and persistence of my Honourable friend, the subject of the interests of Indians overseas has been discussed quite threadbare at the present session of the House. I recall, Sir, that there have been two adjournment motions, and a longish preliminary discussion which the Honourable the President was pleased to allow on an adjournment motion which was subsequently disallowed and a very large number of questions including a good few short notice questions from my Honourable friend himself. I think, Sir, in the course of these discussions I have placed enough material before the House to enable the House to judge what exactly the present Government have been able to do for safeguarding the interests of Indians overseas. I think, Sir, I have made out very amply that the only effective weapon open to us, namely, strong protests and representations has been used by us, every time there has been any effort in any part of the Commonwealth to prejudice the position of Indians. I expected some appreciation of all that the Government have done, and account of which I have given the House in the course of these discussions. I do feel that the charge of imbecility is not justified. I should say, if I may, that it is most ungenerous, if not unfair. In dealing with the question of Indians overseas, Sir, it is perhaps not realised that these problems are very old. Indian immigration into overseas countries started nearly a century ago. We have a great deal of bad legacy to tackle. There is no magic wand with which we can evolve solutions of these problems overnight. Sir, it is easy enough to carry out implicitly and automatically the suggestions made by the public for improving the position of our countrymen abroad, but our countrymen often forget that these Indians are settled down irrevocably in those lands and the Government of the day whatever may be its composition is to bear a continuing obligation and responsibility for the welfare of these Indians. The Government must therefore weigh very carefully the implications of any measures advocated by the public. That, Sir, always means time. We have got to ascertain the possible repercussions of any retaliatory action taken by us on the local Indian community. That again,

Sir, takes time. My Honourable friend wanted to know whether we are delaying the recall of the High Commissioner with a view to enabling him to make a start in passive resistance. Talking merely as a historian and I hope these words would be noted. I feel that my Honourable friend could not have made much allowance for the sentiments of his countrymen in South Africa. He lost sight of the obvious historical fact that passive resistance was a South African Indian invention and therefore if our countrymen do have occasion to use that weapon, they would not look for my Honourable friend's guidance. Sir, I have said that so far we have always used betimes the weapons available to us. My Honourable friend has not suggested any other weapon which might be effective immediately and which is open to us to use. I said the other day that this is a matter in respect of which there is a great deal of unanimity between the Government of the country and the public; and if that is admitted I think it stands to reason that some discretion must be allowed to Government, dissatisfied as the House may be with its composition, to determine the nature and pace of further action to be taken in dealing with this matter. We have only wanted time; we have never said that the High Commissioner would not be recalled. We have taken, such measures as we thought were timely and we can assure the House that we shall take further measures. These measures will be taken to record our maximum protest against the action of the South African Government. I should like to know from the Honourable Member what other really effective measures he suggests. I think Government have done all that they could do in the circumstances of the case.

I will now deal with one or two points of detail to which the Honourable Member referred. There are three grievances of Indians in East Africa. I gave full details of these grievances and of the action taken by this Government for remedying them, in the course of the adjournment motion. My Honourable friend seemed to suggest that in dealing with the new proposal for the inter-territorial reorganisation of the East African colonies we had taken a line rather contrary to the views of the Indian community there. That is not a fact. We had taken care to ascertain the views of the Indian community and the line that we have taken is quite in keeping with the stand that they have taken. The Indian community generally approve of this measure in principle and have agreed to support it subject to reserving their right to have modifications made in details. Apart from that, my Honourable friend himself knows that the Indian community in East Africa is not so utterly helpless as elsewhere. There they have Legislative Councils, they have representation in the Legislative Councils, and even in the Executive Council of Kenya there is an Indian member. I may even inform the House that our countrymen in that part of the Commonwealth rather resent our seeking to spoon-feed them, and they have often told us that they are able to stand on their own legs and look after themselves and the mother country need not worry so much about their future. In any case we have done all we could. The fact that there has not been sufficient response to our representations does not show that there has been any lack of vigilance on our part. There is no permanent remedy against the evils flowing from the colour bar and there will be none until and unless international opinion finally and effectively penalises colour bar. Therefore, for a cent per cent, remedy of the grievances of our countrymen in areas where they are labouring under the evils of colour bar we will have to wait for the future. As for ourselves we are keeping all these grievances alive. We protest and make our representations and, as our recent action indicates, we will take firmer measures and we shall go on keeping these grievances alive until the time is reached when we shall perhaps be in a better position to make more effective protests or perhaps our protests and representations will carry much greater weight. Short of that we have done all we could and, if I may say so, even when the composition of this Government changes it will be found that there is nothing else to be done in the immediate future.

**Sri A. Karunakara Menon** (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is with some diffidence that I attempt to speak on the Finance Bill. Not only am I new to an adventure of this kind, but I have to confess that I am not a financier or even a good accountant. The appeal of the Finance Member to judge his budget proposals on their merits and not to be rejected on political grounds urged me to examine the extent to which this House had power to direct the expenditure of its national income for the benefit of this country. The total expenditure for 1946-47 is estimated to be 355.71 crores. Of this defence expenditure absorbs Rs. 248.77 crores and the Assembly has no control over this. Detailed civil estimates come to Rs. 111.94 crores. The disparity between the military and civil estimates is by itself sufficient to take away the breath of a patriotic Indian. Now taking the total civil estimate by itself, what do we find? I find that the votable expenditure comes to 68 crores and odd. A large percentage of this votable expenditure will be found to have been taken up by salaries, pay of establishments and other items. The grain left out of the chaff is very small. How can an Indian, a representative of the people, in such circumstances reject politics in judging the budget? The administrative structure as existing today is too expensive for the poverty-stricken population. The British interests are more cared for than the Indian interests. People have no share in the administration.

I am prepared to concede that the budget to some extent has tried to patronise the industrialists and attempted the expansion of Indian industries. But the poor agriculturist has been neglected. Beyond stating in the speech that preparatory works of various kinds have been put in hand (such as the establishment of a Central Electrical Board, an Irrigation and Waterways Board, etc.); no concrete steps to help the agricultural prosperity of the country have been outlined in the budget. Seventy-five per cent of the population of the country are dependent on agriculture. Still in the 150 years of British rule in India it has not been attempted to make India self-sufficient with regard to food and other primary products. The Government was interested only to secure exportable surplus of raw materials (like jute, cotton, groundnuts, etc.), and neglected the production of food. We are suffering the consequence of that policy, *vis.*, the constant recurring famines which carry all the evils like poverty, squalor, ill-health and under-nourishment mentioned by the Finance Member in his budget speech. There is no use blaming the people for this state of affairs in the country today. Only the State with all its resources can utilise and plan the utilisation of all our agricultural resources. Government should have foreseen the famines and spent money on a lavish scales on irrigation, wells, tanks and also on manures. Given manure and water our people will produce food even on rocks. The Central Government should have taken the responsibility in the matter for measures to supply water and manure and not left it primarily as a matter for private enterprise. The primary charge on the Central Revenues should have been the claims of agriculture.

I do not know why the Government is afraid of launching a policy of nationalisation of land and agricultural production. Agricultural production has to be converted into a public utility service. At least it is high time to make some attempt in the line of collective and co-operative farms suited to the conditions of our country. Economic self-sufficiency should be our aim. Instead of leaving the main task to the provinces, the Central Government should have taken charge of a greater sphere of agricultural policy than it is doing today. Instead of feeling themselves satisfied with researches and the power to deal with animal and plant diseases, the Central Government ought to have widened its outlook and powers and dealt with the agricultural problems more directly than it is doing today. The Government has still to do a good deal for the people in matters like malaria, soil-erosion, land reclamation, forest conservation, etc. Now on account of war, forests have been denuded of their trees. Afforestation should be an important item to be taken up in the coming years in the interests of our country.

Food problem is, as all know, intimately connected with agriculture. Lack of food articles produces famine. Famine is intimately connected with pestilence and revolution, as links in a chain. Americans are eating 64 ozs. of various kinds of foods in America as against 12 ozs. in India by Indians. Now that the famine threatens the country, the Government and the people have begun to come closer together to combat it. But until the foreign Government is replaced by an Indian Government and identity between the people and Government is established, it is in vain to hope for the fullest results that we all like to achieve. I am familiar with and I am hearing from my friends at home about the manner in which the food administration is carried on in those parts. There is no desire on the part of either the Provincial or the district administrators to get out of the red-tapism to which they are slaves. Inefficiency and corruption are rampant everywhere. The middleman is allowed to exploit the people. District administrators know that these middlemen can make huge profits and therefore appoint these middlemen from among their favourites to procure food. They are reluctant to give the business of procurement and distribution to co-operative societies and other public agencies. The wholesale dealers are purchasing paddy at Rs. 1/5/- *per para*, a local measure, and they sell it at Rs. 1/13/-. The profit is exorbitant. *Per para*, on an average not more than four annas cost has to be incurred by the wholesale purchasers. Formerly per bag of rice, the profit obtained before ration was introduced was one anna. Now it is Rs. 1/4/-. Another complaint is about the wholesale removal of paddy from the villages where they are grown, and those villages being supplied with inferior and rotten paddy instead. This takes away all interest that cultivators have in growing paddy. The Government is also reluctant to take leading non-officials into their confidence. At this time of 'Grow More Food' campaign, the Government should supply seeds, manures, cattle and cattle-feed at reasonable prices even bearing the transport charges and a portion of the price themselves. The Government is unmindful of these matters because they are not the producers of food but are only procurers and distributors through their own agents. None of these difficulties will arise if production of food also is undertaken by the Government.

Now coming to another matter—betelnuts. This is a subject, Sir, which is creating a stir in my constituency, Malabar and South Canara, and that is due to the continuance of the excise duty on betelnuts. It is refreshing to find that the Finance Member has admitted that the grower has to bear the excise duty himself and is not able to transfer it on to the consumer. Once that position is granted, the abolition of the duty should follow. For the same grower ought not to be compelled to pay both land revenue and excise duty for the same agricultural produce. It is not correct to say that any reduction in the excise duty will not benefit the growers but will go to fill the pockets of the wholesale dealers. The persons that will be really benefited will be the growers and the consumers and not the wholesale dealers. The growers are extremely thankful to the Finance Member for the increase in the duty on the imported betelnuts. It will undoubtedly help in arresting the further drop in prices. But it is wrong to contend that the increase proposed with respect to import duty will be able to meet the high cost of production that the growers have to meet, leaving sufficient profit to pay the excise duty. It is satisfactory to note that the peculiar position of betelnut growers has been taken note of by the Finance Member with respect to their existing lack of marketing facilities and poor bargaining capacities. The best way to assure the growers will be placing the betelnuts on a basis similar to that of coconuts. An Indian Betelnut Committee Act should be passed for the improvement and development of the cultivation, marketing and utilization of betelnuts in India. The same machinery that is now working for the coconut interest could be entrusted to look after the betelnut interest also. This will give not only relief to the growers but enable them to secure a proper price for their produce. It is not unwillingness to pay but incapacity to pay, that stands in the way of the

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betelnuts growers paying this duty. Secure them proper price and they will not mind to pay the duty to the Government. Anyway, the present circumstances demand the abolition of the cess or at least suspension.

I do not want to deal at length with the vexatious and oppressive manner in which the excise rules are administered, because I am hopeful that the Honourable the Finance Member will eventually abolish the tax. Most of these growers are illiterate peasants, owing less than an acre. Then there is the injustice of excise duty being charged on fresh betelnuts at six annas per hundred with husks. This I know is not evidently intended by the Government, but still it is there and should be put an end to.

That is all that I have to say.

**Captain Syed Abid Hussain** (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, as I stand in this House amidst this quiet and calm atmosphere, the grandeur and the splendour of the Assembly Hall gives me a feeling of contentment and satisfaction and I begin to feel as if I am living in a country which is very well off and perhaps full of contentment. But just as I peep outside, I find the picture of a totally different state of affairs, I see thousands of poor, naked, and destitutes crying for a cloth to cover and clamouring for bread to eat. Such is the real picture of the inhabitants of this sub-continent which is naturally gifted with boundless resources the parallel of which would be quite difficult to find in this world. This sub-continent which has become the fortune of millions abroad leaves her, or I should say is made to leave her, own sons and daughters starving and dying. For the wealth and riches of India there are countless sharers: some as rulers, some as sympathisers, some as advisers, some as traders, and some as mere friends. But when death takes its toll, then it is only the poor Indian who shares it. I would not have the least grudge even to the man—wrought Bengal famine taking the lives of millions of my countrymen if even a handful of foreigners had also sealed their fates with us.

**Mr. T. C. Chapman-Mortimer**: On a point of order. I do not want to interrupt but there is not a single member of the front bench in the House.

**Mr. B. E. Sen** (Secretary, Food Department): I am listening on behalf of the Food Department.

**Mr. Deputy President**: I think there ought to be some Member from the Finance Department. I suppose, Sir John Sheehy is watching on behalf of the Finance Department.

**Captain Syed Abid Hussain**: Perhaps they would prefer reading their criticism in the news-papers rather than listen to it in the House. So, we are alone to be the sufferers and that is the reason why 400 millions are yearning and crying for their independence. If we were masters of ourselves such calamities would not be met with such a cold indifference. Today we are faced with another famine more severe than the Bengal one. Things I believe have never been too easy since the Bengal famine but the Government has only been taking half-hearted steps in the direction of remedying the troubles. A twelfth-hour effort could not have produced results which would meet our requirements and the Honourable the Food Member's gesture of flying to America, and Europe, although we appreciate it, still, it does not satisfy us, in spite of the fact that we on our part have extended our wholehearted co-operation to it. As for the efforts on the part of the Governments both Central and Provincial to do all that was possible to mobilise their resources to produce the maximum of foodstuffs, I can very well say how that effort has been going on in my province of the Punjab. Thousands of acres of culturable land are lying waste which could be brought under cultivation because of the water also being available. Schemes had been contemplated to increase the percentage of the water supply on certain canals which owing to the War could not be carried out. The war has ended, the famine is there, but the schemes

are still shelved by the Punjab Government, surely that is no gesture of an "all-out effort" to stop and avert that catastrophe with which India is being faced. The Punjab Government in the recent years had given some extra water supply shoots to the Agriculturists to grow more food. But recently, I hear that even that concession has been withdrawn. Will not that reflect adversely on the effort of the Government of India to avert this famine? No inducement whatsoever is offered to the grower for growing more food crops rather than what we call the money crops, which obviously fetch him more money and he is always inclined to grow these in preference to the food crops. It is the duty of the Government to come forward and create such circumstances that the grower becomes naturally inclined to grow more of those crops which would give us more foodstuffs. If the Government were to show complete indifference I am sure the grower would not by himself divert his attention to growing foodstuffs. In this connection Government could have very well given an inducement to the grower by curtailing the water rates or compensating him in some other suitable manner which could be very easily manipulated. This is the condition of indifference of the Government towards a country whose main occupation is Agriculture. The old system of agriculture continues. No modern methods are introduced. No machineries are brought in. No impetus is afforded by the Government to the Agriculturist to revolutionise the agricultural methods in the country. And we are allowed to carry on as we did 50 years ago. What have the Agricultural Department done to improve the standards of Indian agriculture? It is not the Agricultural Department alone, to be blamed. I feel that the Government in all its Departments always prefers *status quo* to any drastic measures of improvement. On my father's marriage two trains were running up and down between Malakwae and Shorekot Road thirty-six years ago and the Railway had not found it necessary, in spite of the public demand and the changed circumstances to add anything to its thirty-six years' old programme. This is just one small example out of the millions to show the way in which the Government continues to role on slowly without diverting its attention to take some quick, drastic and comprehensive steps to improve the conditions of the country. Unfortunately things are very peculiar in this country. With the beginning of the War, all progress came to a standstill. Every contemplated scheme was shelved and things began to deteriorate. Whenever any question was asked the pet reply of the Government was that owing to the war nothing could be done; The war emergency did not allow any progress to be made and so on. Now that the war has ended there will emerge various Resettlement problems, Postwar plans will crop up and so will come out the development schemes. All these of course will take so long that, by the time any material progress is made we will find ourselves again pushed into another war. What about the other countries I ask. What about Europe? How rapidly do they recover the lost ground and how quickly do they make progress? Why cannot India do the same?

Look at the Army of 2½ million men that was raised in this country during the war. Many of us were killed, many of us were wounded and many of us were taken prisoners. We fought for freedom, and we were asked to fight for liberty. We saved the British Empire. But what is the result? To be kept under the British autocratic rule and to be denied the liberty that we fought for? To be left without jobs, without money and without any land? The Government has done nothing to preserve land for the returning soldiers. On the other hand, government has been just throwing away lands. I know well of the Punjab. Under the guise of War effort land has been given to those agents of the Unionist Party who had done absolutely no War effort but had only acted as tools in the hands of Unionists in the recent elections. (Cries Shame shame). For example most of the candidates contesting on Unionist tickets were helped with grants of a rectangle or two to compensate for their efforts in the election campaigns. I only wish that the Governor of



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the Punjab Sir Bertrand Glancy, had paid more attention to this primary job of his, rather than muddle himself in the party politics of the Punjab.

**Mr. Deputy President:** In this House the Honourable Member cannot criticise the Governors of Provinces.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** This Governor is not above party politics. He takes active interest.

**Capt. Syed Abid Hussain:** I close my speech with this sentence. The Government has unfortunately forgotten its real job. They are seen busy yet doing nothing—nothing that would solve our problems, nothing that would take us ahead, just as the Persian couplet says:

*"Khisht-i-awwal chun nehād memār Kaj.  
Tā Surayyā mi ruwād diwār Kaj."*

The real trouble lies at the foundation, and when the fundamental stone is improperly laid sure the building could never stand erect.

**Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri** (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadian): Mr. Deputy President, I come from a 'backward' province and so I would request you to exercise greater forbearance when you apply brakes to my speech, more forbearance than what is ordinarily shown to a maiden speech.

Coming though as I do from a backward province I was shocked to hear what my Honourable friend, the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations said just now. He seemed to be quite satisfied with what is being done by this Government so far as the Indians in South Africa are concerned. I really wondered if there could be even today an Indian gentleman who could speak in that strain, an Indian gentleman who has had a fair amount of education. Does he realise that if the economic sanctions had been applied last year to South Africa things would have been quite different from what are today? Even today in spite of the demand throughout the country for the recall of the High Commissioner for India in South Africa, he seems to justify the retention of that officer there. If the European members of the Treasury Benches really mean to quit India, my advice to this Honourable gentleman, the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations is that he should also accompany his conferees and go to the country where the service to which he belongs was born.

Sir, I belong to a backward province in the sense that the people of my province do not know how to exploit others. They are exploited and they submit to this exploitation meekly and they submit also to all the injustice which they receive from different quarters, the Government of India and elsewhere, very meekly. That is why I say that in these days such a province cannot but be called a backward province. Take for instance the Otto Neimeyer Award. From the province of Assam a huge amount is taken by the Government of India by a special excise duty on petrol but what do we get in return? We get only a comparatively small sum a mere pittance of 30 lakhs. There is nothing sacrosanct about that Neimeyer award. That province bore the brunt of the war and in spite of that the Government of India has not thought fit to increase the amount of the Award. That is a great injustice which would remain to the Credit of the Government of India for ever.

There is another very glaring piece of injustice. That is the treatment meted out to Assam so far as excise duty on betelnuts is concerned. Apart from the general question that this excise duty should have been done away with now, because it was a sort of war measure, now that the war is over there is absolutely no justification for levying the excise duty at all. During the war there was no income derived from the import duty on betelnuts from other countries. Now import has again begun to flow and the import duty is being levied and the Honourable the Finance Member says that he expects as much:

as a crore and a half from this import duty. After that, Sir, can anybody justify the Government of India for continuing that tax? It is also very well known that this is a sort of a direct tax on the agriculturists who already pay for occupation of their lands and for the yield of this particular crop by way of land revenue. It is generally the poor people, the poor and middle class people, who consume the betelnuts. Why have these poor people been subjected to this taxation? So far as the case of Assam goes, the position is still worse and still more unjustifiable. The tax was intended to be levied on cured betelnut only. In Assam the betelnut is never cured either for the purpose of consumption or for purposes of trade. That is a fact very well known. In reply to a question put by Mr. Jinaraja Hedge in the last session, I think on the 19th of March 1945, the Honourable the Finance Member's predecessor stated to this effect—He said that fresh betelnuts in the husk which were sold by the growers directly to the consumers and which had not undergone any sort of drying or water preservation are not chargeable to duty, and he added that curing involves either the process of drying or preservation in water. None of these processes are adopted so far as betelnuts in Assam are concerned. Sir, the poor and the middle class people consume a good quantity of betelnut. Mostly the betelnut grown in that Province is sold in the Province itself and there is very little export. Our people consume a good quantity of betelnut not only for their ordinary use but also on ceremonial occasions. The invitations to marriage and dinners have to be always sent—not in the ordinary way of sending an invitation letter but they have to be invited with at least about a dozen betelnuts and *pan* also has to be sent at the time of invitation. So, this tax has fallen heavily on the poor peasants in our country. Betelnuts are never grown in an extensive manner. They are to be found in the compounds of each peasant proprietor. They are not grown or cultivated for commercial purposes or for purposes of sale. It is only the surplus that is sent to the local markets. In spite of all this this tax has been levied. And, what is worse and what cannot be defended at all is this, that the tax is being levied in an arbitrary manner. Because the betelnuts there are not husked, it had been arbitrarily fixed that 100 betelnuts are equivalent to 3 lbs, that is that 100 betelnuts in husk are equivalent to 3 lbs. for which 6 annas is to be paid as the excise duty. But if these betelnuts were actually cured and weighed in would be found that the weight is only 1.5 lbs. So, the betelnut growers in Assam have got to pay three times what other taxpayers in other provinces of India where betelnut is used as *supari*, pay. Since there it is never used as *supari* they have to pay for their husks because the calculation has been made in that way, that hundred betelnuts with the husk is equivalent to 3 lbs. although the kernel, if weighed, will weigh only 1.5 lbs. So, a serious injustice has been done to Assam in the matter of the levy of the betelnut tax. The Honourable the Finance Member realizes all this. He had admitted all this. But he says that he can make amends for all the injustice that he has done to the betelnut growers by giving out a dole of Rs. 3 lakhs for the purpose of helping them in the process of curing as well as in the process of marketing. I do not know about other Provinces, but those two concessions will not help Assam at all because the habit of curing or the habit of eating cured betelnut is not in vogue in that Province. As much as Rs. 3 to 4 lakhs are being levied from Assam on this head. If, instead of wasting money in the so-called process of curing of betelnuts or in helping to get a better market, if the Honourable the Finance Member exempt the Province of Assam entirely from payment of the betelnut tax in view of all these circumstances, then I think real relief would be given which the Province really deserves.

**Mr. Deputy President:** The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

**Sreejot Rohini Kumar Choudhuri:** I would draw the attention of the Government to the exploitation in our Province. We have by 'we' I mean the people of the Province of Assam—no great industry of our own. We have not got in that Province even one textile mill. We have not got there a sugar



[Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri]

factory. We have not got there a jute mill, or even we have not got any hydro-electric scheme functioning on a large scale. We thought that with the advent of the new Government the process of nationalisation of these industries will be taken in hand and in that case the now backwardness in the Province will be converted into advantage. Honourable Members of this House may have heard of the tea industry in Assam. That tea industry is practically the monopoly of the Europeans. Honourable Members of this House may have heard of the oil fields of Assam. That again is owned by a Scotch Company. Honourable Members of this House may have heard of the coal mines in Assam. That is again held by Englishmen. The only Indian company, the Assam-Bengal Cement Company which made some profit during the war is also a company not belonging to the Province itself. In these circumstances what we should have expected a sympathetic Government to do was to introduce the process of nationalisation of these industries in Assam so that we could get some advantage. What do we actually find? Instead of doing that, because that would have involved a loss of income-tax to the Government of India, the Honourable the Finance Member has thought it more to the interest of the Government of India to allow grants and concessions to the business magnates to relieve them of the Excess Profits Tax and to encourage them to organize those business themselves in my Province. If those businesses are organised by business magnates belonging to places other than India or belonging to places other than Assam, the people of the Province will get very little out of them. The Honourable Finance Member thinks that by adopting this process, he will be encouraging business people to start business in different places which will give employment to our unemployed youths. . . .

**Mr. Deputy President:** The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri:** But experience has shown that this is entirely wrong. What employment do we get in the various tea gardens and in the oil fields and other business? The highest salary which our young men get there is a nominal maximum of Rs. 50 a month to a *burra babu* or Rs. 30 to a *moharrar* and the others who may be matriculates get about 20 or 25 rupees. This is the salary they get. As my time is up, I finish by asking the Honourable Finance Member to consider these two aspects at least—nationalisation of industries in the Province of Assam in those industries which have not been already started there, and the absolute exemption of the Province from the excise duty on betel nut.

**Choudury Md. Abid Hussain** (Bhagalpur Division: Muhammadan): Sir, the war has ended and now we are passing in peace time, but our budget has no colour of peace time as it has not relaxed the burdens which were placed on the larger section of the population—the poor. It has done something no doubt for the rich. The poor people of this country were awaiting for the days when the war will come to an end and bring to them happiness and prosperity. They were waiting in the hope that the days were coming when most of the burdens by which they helped in winning the war will be lightened, but their hopes were shattered when no measures were taken for the betterment of their conditions. No doubt, as shown in the Bill, there is a deficit of 44 crores of rupees and the Finance Member has tried to balance it. But in adopting the ways and means for balancing the budget, he has not taken into consideration the condition of the country and the capacity of the people to pay. He should have considered these points and also the fact whether the larger section of the people are able to pay any more. I am of the opinion that the taxes should be levied upon those people who are able to pay and relief should be given to those who deserve it; and these are the poor people who were hard hit when they are labouring hard to live. But what we see is that the Honourable Member has done just the opposite. He has stretched his helping hand to the rich people who never care for the poor.

The wealth of a country depends upon the power of production. Therefore it is desirable that we should increase this power of production and this power of production depends upon two important factors, education and health. Now, if you see the health side of the country, you will find that according to the Bore Committee Report, the public health is at a very low level, and this is evidenced by the wide prevalence of diseases and the high rates of mortality. We find that the rate of mortality among infants and children under ten years and of women are greatest in this country; and if we go into details we will find that every year about 100 million people suffer from malaria and more than 2 millions die from this disease. The next dangerous disease is tuberculosis by which five lakhs of people die every year. Cholera, small-pox, plague, etc. also take a heavy toll from this country every year. The cause of deaths by these diseases are many. In villages the people are unable to live healthily. They live in an unhygienic way; and the sanitation is at a very low level in almost all the parts of the country. There is no easy availability of health protection in villages. There is inadequate nutrition and this reduces the vitality of the people who easily come under the clutches of these diseases. The food consumed by the poor is insufficient and mostly adulterated. Therefore the Government should take these points into consideration and improve the health and sanitary conditions in the country.

Not only this. There must be another consideration also. The need for aid in these matters is greater for the poor than for the rich. Rich people can afford to take care of themselves. But it is the duty of the Government to give all facilities and all possible help, medical and other, without charging the poor anything. The state funds should be used in the health services of the nation.

There is no doubt that there is lack of co-operation of the people in the maintenance of their own health; but no change is possible without a change in the economic and educational condition of the people. There is necessity for increase of doctors, nurses, and hospitals; but these cannot reform the country side unless effective measures are taken to raise the standard of life of the people and eradicate illiteracy throughout the country. Co-operation of the people is required, and it is not possible to secure this co-operation if the people cannot afford to buy health services and cannot appreciate the value of maintaining health.

Thus an improvement in agricultural methods is necessary to augment the income from land and also the provision of adequate educational facilities is necessary in order to appreciate the value of maintaining health. Education should be given to all and the next step is to raise the standard of living.

Now, I come to the next point. Though the war has ended, we find that there is a heavy sum provided in the budget on the defence side. If we are going to spend so much money on the defence side, I submit that Indians should get their share in the higher posts in the defence services. This is the time when Government should come forward and help Indians to become officers in the army and in other connected departments on the highest ranks. I have not heard till now that Indians who are working in the Army Department or the General Headquarters are less competent or less qualified in comparison with Europeans. Therefore the number of Indian officers should be increased and Government should do all in their power to shake off the blame that they are only for British and they are exploiting the Indians.

In Indianising the Departments Government should see that all the communities are well represented in those services and Muslims must be given 50 per cent. share as they form the bulk of the martial races.

Now, I come to the food problems of the country. The food condition is very acute now, but the Food Department has done nothing to improve the condition of the country. The Food department has no doubt sent a delegation to the foreign Countries for begging, but they have not thought to improve

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the condition in the country itself. They have not improved the methods of agriculture, though there are very valuable schemes on paper to improve agricultural methods by implementing scientific methods. There are schemes of improved seeds and manures etc. but they are not helping the agriculturists with those things. The agriculturists cannot buy the scientific implements, because they are poor and they do not get sufficient price for the products of the land by which they can buy. Sometimes they do not get so much which they spend for seed, for ploughing, for reaping etc.

I now come to another point. Government has always thought about the irrigation of those lands where nature does not provide sufficient rains to produce foodgrains but the Government never cares about the drainage system of water where it is overflowed. In the Bihar province, the northern part of Bhagalpur Division is always washed away by the flood water of Kosi river. This Kosi river every year does very great harm to the lands which are good for the paddy crops. If the Government at the Centre takes control of the drainage system of the Kosi river, I think a great part of the food problem will be solved. The controlled water of this Kosi river can also be used for producing electricity which will be useful for the industry of the country.

Now, I come to the Industries and Supplies Department. Yesterday my friend Mr. Nauman referred to the maldistribution of cloth to the Muslim merchants all over India. On the question of scarcity of cloth I fail to understand why this condition should continue now when the Government Defence Department has released these mills for the supply of the civil population. I think the mills are exporting their products to the countries outside India and this should be absolutely prohibited. I would like to impress on Government that the cloth situation cannot be improved unless these mills are strictly forbidden to make export outside India.

**Shri D. P. Karmarkar** (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to oppose the consideration of the Finance Bill. The Honourable the Finance Member in the speech which he made when he introduced his budget proposals said and hoped that this year the proposals would not be thrown out on political grounds. As one might discover easily there has been a special attempt this time made by the irresponsible executive of this country to defend itself before the eyes of the world.

His Excellency the Viceroy in the course of his address to this House also paid a compliment to them. He said:

"My much maligned colleagues have served India well and have had her true interests at heart."—(An Honourable Member on the Treasury Benches: Hear, hear.)—"I believe that any new Government is likely to adopt many of their ideas. They are all, without exception, ready and willing to hand over (I hope they will cheer this statement also) their responsibilities at the earliest moment to their successors to whom they will wish good fortune and godspeed in their difficult but vital task."

The Honourable the Leader of the House gave very special compliments in the course of a debate that took place some days ago to his colleagues and especially his Indian colleagues. It seems that the present executive council on the eve of its departure from office, is very anxious to feel that at last it has delivered the goods by the country. The position taken up by the party to which I have the honour and privilege to belong is that of throwing out the consideration of the Finance Bill. The House wants to make it clear to India and to the world that of the many things that could be said about the present executive, the prominent and the chief one is this, that the present executive rule of this country has never commanded and has ceased to command the confidence of the country. During the later years of its administration and especially during war times, the executive has thought fit, as I had occasion to remark in my earlier speech on the budget, to put forward before the world a lot of publicity regarding what it has done. Much has been said during the

earlier stages of this debate about the deficiencies of the present system of Government and the budget itself. The Honourable the Finance Member does not, in my humble opinion, need any elucidation regarding the broad defects in his own budget. The principal one is that it is an Imperialistic budget put forward for Imperialistic ends. Secondly, this budget has admittedly done very little for the poor. When I spoke earlier I was under a delusion that the budget had done some good for the richer classes of this country. I am very much indebted to the Honourable Member for having disillusioned me on that point also and now I stand convinced that whereas the Budget had done nothing for the poor man the Finance Member on his own admission has done nothing for the richer classes also. If the budget stood condemned partially earlier, it now stands condemned wholesale.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** What about the Middle classes?

**Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** There was a middle class once in this country, of which we were all proud but thanks to the administration which the Honourable the Finance Member represents that middle class has vanished and we now find that the rich are richer and the poor poorer and there happens to be no middle class in this country.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** To which class does the Honourable Member belong? Rich or poor?

**Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** I do not know exactly to which class I belong but there is a class in this House and outside which has taken up the task of fighting this administration and I have the privilege of belonging to that class.

To pursue the point I was about to make, the present executive of the country has forfeited the confidence of the country as a whole. When we say that, the other side feels impatient about it and feels that we are the aggressors and the people to be criticised. The Honourable the Finance Member in his reply to the earlier discussion said that many brickbats had been hurled at him. He said it metaphorically. He has the good luck of being the Finance Member of a country which is known and which is famous for its patience. If he were a Finance Member in some other country which was also a slave country, I am sure it would not be wordy brickbats but real brickbats that would have been hurled at him. Thanks to the nation and thanks to Mahatma Gandhi, the Honourable Member has had to face only wordy brickbats which he can face on a pleasant afternoon and which he can forget next morning as the occupant of the Treasury Benches of an irresponsible Government.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** The Honourable Member has thrown quite a number of brickbats.

**Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** Now, Sir, of course I must confess that I was one of the Members who threw one of those wordy brickbats against him. For once I want him to be serious, though he may not say so on the floor of the House. Mr. Attlee in his recent speech in the House of Commons has drawn our attention to the problems which confront us. In my opinion the most urgent and the most serious problem in India is that of the British rule. He referred to the minority problem, he referred to the States problem and latterly he mentioned the services problem too. He said:

"We are mindful too of the position of the services and of the men who have done great service to India. India should be sensible of the responsibility she has to those who have served her."

Then he makes another significant statement:

"Government which takes over the assets of the Government will also take over the liabilities. That again is a point to be dealt with later on."

One question that arose in my mind when I read the speech, when I came to examine the financial position, the political position, the moral position, and every possible position of the present executive, what do I find? What are the

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assets which they have created for us? The first asset of their rule for the last 150 years is they have impoverished my country as no other rule has done in any other part of the world. They have made us semistarved, a large population actually starving. On this point there came out during the course of the debate on another subject a very significant admission from the Benches opposite. While we were discussing about the reparations that were due from ex-enemy countries, we were given a short account of the speech made by a servant of this Government at a conference abroad: This is what Mr. H. V. R. Iyengar said:

"But I suggest that the conference should go behind these figures and consider what is the human sacrifice involved in this expenditure. India is one of the poorest countries in the world with an appallingly low standard of living. She has for generations been underfed, underclothed and underhoused. Whereas in economically advanced countries the war has meant that luxuries have had to be eliminated, in India it has meant that people who already were undernourished had still less to eat, and people already underclothed still less to wear. In other words while in the one case it was the sacrifice, relatively speaking of luxuries, in our case it has meant a sacrifice of the barest essentials of life."

Then again speaking about the deaths in the Bengal famine he said:

"But the lowest figure, which has been adopted recently by the official commission of inquiry appointed by the Government of India is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions".

But according to our estimates, this tragedy has cost us more than 3 millions. So, Sir, the Bengal famine is our next asset which the present executive has offered for the future generations of Indians. The next part of the asset lies in the people who are still to die. One would wonder at the incompetency of the Government which a fortnight earlier assessed food shortage at three million tons, raised this figure of 3 millions as if by a magic wand to six millions all at once. The Honourable gentlemen opposite are very responsible people, they have got a whole army of statisticians at their beck and call, and it is surprising that they should behave in such an irresponsible manner as not even to have correct figures about food shortage in the country when millions are likely to die due to direct cause of this food shortage. This is all about the food condition, which as I said is another asset of ours left by the British rule. An Honourable Member who preceded me drew pointed attention to the health conditions of this country. That is where we should find another asset of British rule. As my Honourable friend pointed out, more than 10 million men suffer from malaria, that is our next asset; about 2.5 million suffer from tuberculosis, a million men die from cholera, another million from small pox. That is our next asset which this irresponsible executive is handing over as a legacy to the new Government. That is not all. They have not been partial. They have been impartial to the people who live in India and who have got to live in India. Their rule has affected even our cattle position. There is great shortage of cattle and consequently of milk for our children. That is our next problem to be tackled. The live stock is in a state of semi-starvation. The Treasury Benches can satisfy themselves that here again they have been impartial, they have not only rendered human beings semi-starved, they have also rendered the cattle useless. Mr. Pepperall has summarised the cattle-problem. "Milk production is very low, human population is increasing, diseases take a great toll of lives of cattle".

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** Does the Honourable Member mean that the executive is responsible for an increase of population of the country?

**Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** I do not know whether I should take the Honourable Member very seriously. He knows it possibly as a measure of experience, and possibly he has heard that increase of population is more consistent with the poverty of a country, because the richer the man, the less the number of children he has. The poorer the man, the larger the number of children he has. Owing to this fact, India's population has risen by leaps and bounds, but it has not increased its prosperity, as it has in England. In England there is less and less

population because it is grabbing more and more of the fortunes of other countries in the world.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** The population also is going up.

**Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** No wonder that 150 years of British rule is producing more and more children. We are proud of our children and I am sure our children would look after you if it comes to that. Now, Sir, what does the report of Mr. Pepperall, the Milk Marketing Adviser to the Government of India say. According to this report we find that not only the human element in the country but also the cattle element has been neglected. That is our next asset left by the British rule. What shall I say of the legacy left as a result of the war which was ostensibly waged for our purposes, but really for their own benefit. On account of war, we have spent something like 1,650 crores over and above the pre-war expenditure, during these eight years. Then there are the sterling balances which represent the price of articles supplied by this country during the war to England. They are kind enough to say they will deal with it later on. Let us be content with this promise. They might as well pass an emergency ordinance and make these sterling balances vanish. If they had done so, nothing more would have been heard about it. The sterling balances are there. Our assets are there in the blood bank. But we are not able to realise anything. That is another legacy left to us as a result of this war. That is our next asset bequeathed to us by the rule of this irresponsible executive. These are observations which unhappily this executive is not able to appreciate. We feel very strongly that under the iron rule of this executive we are growing in slavery which has never been exemplified for its brutality, for its unkindliness, for its sacrilege against the wishes of the people of this country. I hardly find, Sir, a proper word in the English vocabulary which can really express our deep anguish and poignant feelings against the British rule in this country. That is a constitutional anomaly which exists here. We find the Treasury Benches, according to their own statement, responsible to a Government 6,000 miles away, they are subordinate branch of another Government. They say that this Government is not responsible to this section of the House, nor to that section, nor to any other section. We go on passing cut motions, we censure Government through Adjournment Motions, we throw out the Finance Bill.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** Will you? Let us see.

**Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** We carried two cut motions. The cuts were not restored. That raised some hope in our mind. We hoped that at least when the demand for Executive Council was thrown out, the Honourable the Leader of the House would come forward before us and make a sporting offer saying, "now that you have passed this censure motion and refused supplies for the Executive Council, we shall go out, we shall make room for you. We shall make a recommendation to the Viceroy that even during this session, this executive will be replaced by another responsible to the House". In view of the fact that they have to go out tomorrow, if not today, in view of that, I expected the Honourable the Leader of the House to have set an example and told the Viceroy, "look here, we do want to vacate. We do not want to be sitting in an undemocratic manner on these benches when we really do not command the confidence of the majority of the people, when we definitely know we are not needed and have ceased to command any confidence of the country". But that is not to be. And not only that but when Mahatma Gandhi made a sporting offer that if the food situation was to be met one of the remedies that he would suggest was that the present irresponsible executive must walk out and another Executive Council responsible to the various parties in the House should come in, there was no response to it. There are of course offers of all kinds. We ourselves often make the same kind of offer. If after we have finished our dinner a guest comes at midnight—in these rigid ration days—and we know he has had no food for 48 hours, we just ask him, "Have you had your meals? Otherwise go and have your meals." That is not an offer at all. If they were sufficiently serious there were plenty of ways open to them. Even at this time of



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crisis, the like of which this country has not seen before, they are not going to relinquish. Many words are hurled across the House that this is their last budget; but there again we find in the speech of the Prime Minister that other things have got to be settled, minority questions have got to be settled, the States question has to be settled, the service question has to be settled, etc. Then we shall also hear that the commercial question will have to be settled,—questions which we know will not be settled so long as they have their feet on Indian soil. They make an offer of self-government. I am not here to spoil the atmosphere in the House and outside it; I am not competent to do that and I am not authorised by my party to make any statement here, which would prejudice the present atmosphere. In view of the fact that for the time being sweet words and good words like those used by my Honourable friends opposite should be used, I will say, Amen; let this be the last budget and let this be the last speech of the Finance Member and let this be the last House of an India which is at present a slave and which is promised liberty in the future.

Now, Sir, coming to the budget itself, the Finance Member at one stage said that perhaps this budget has been psychologically defective. Now I wonder whether the budget was psychologically defective or the framer of the budget was himself psychologically defective. I do not mean any insult or offence, but he is born and bred in a system which does not know a slave nation's feelings. And when I examine the whole thing, I find that it does not care for the masses of the country nor, according to his own admission, for the classes of the country. It is not due to any psychological defect in the frame of the budget itself but it is a psychological defect of the system which he is representing.

When I was speaking last time on planning I did not have any inside information about the workings of the Department. Now on that same day we had a statement from a gentleman who is competent to speak better and with greater authority. I refer to Professor Vakil who after resigning from the Planning Department had the goodness to tell us why he left it. In an interview at Bombay he said, what we knew from the outset, that:

"The atmosphere for economic planning of the right type did not exist because the outlook of the bureaucracy had not yet changed. By training and habit most of the bureaucratic men were not suited for the work of planning and they were, as a rule, not willing to take expert economic advice when it was offered. They wanted to sit in judgment on things they did not understand. Unfortunately that comprehensive grasp of things which is essential for the success of planning and above all the necessary vision and determination to accomplish the task on national lines were lacking among those who were in charge of the work."

That has not come from an "irresponsible" Congressman but from a responsible economist whom the Government of India appointed for the Planning Department.

The last reason why we want to throw out the Finance Bill is this, that the British Government during the long course of 150 years has not yet shed its real character. The character that it has had during a century and a half is principally—and shorn of all pretence—a type of military occupation. We have got this House where elected Members are speaking and Honourable Members opposite are replying, and everything else goes on. But as emergencies show and as events also show this present executive has continued to have its true self. It is essentially intended for the military occupation of the country. I will not take this House to the days of the Mutiny, I shall not also refer to the Jallianwala Bagh, nor even to the 1942 days when every kind of force that could be used physically against Congressmen, against every man, woman or child who rose against this Government in 1942 was used. I will not refer to that, but I will just refer to the recent happenings in the country, the various mob demonstrations which unfortunately have taken a character which we on this side of the House do not approve. The events at Bombay and Calcutta and many other places have demonstrated beyond measure that the present

administration has not at all lost its original character. I had tabled short notice question regarding the happenings in Bombay and one of the questions was whether it was a fact that innocent men, women and children had been killed during the firing in Bombay. The short notice question was not accepted by the War Secretary but a reply was given to me which I was authorised to make any use of, and I was told that:

"It is not true that only British troops were used. My reports are that the firing was very carefully controlled and was in accordance with the instructions which are that firing should, as far as possible, be directed at ringleaders."

What were the facts in Bombay? If the Leader of the House were to find out the real facts he would find just a measure of the tragedy which British rule represents in India, that a lot of women have been injured and a few children have been killed. And women and children were at no time in Bombay the ringleaders of the hostile demonstrations. My information is that not knowing the order of the military and the police, there was a party of ladies standing in front of a ration shop, and a squad of military came there and thought that it was an unlawful assembly; and the ladies were fired at and shot in cold blood. That is my information and I am open to correction by the other side. But the essential fact remains that the other side which represents the executive in this country has still retained not only its irresponsible character but its essential character as an army of occupation in this country. And it was very good of His Excellency the Governor General to have assured us, if assurance was necessary, that his much maligned colleagues were prepared to leave their places as soon as the new Government comes in. There is no other alternative. They will have to leave the country some day or the other; there is no mercy or courtesy shown to us that the present irresponsible executive are prepared to leave their benches. If they are not prepared to leave the time will soon come when they will find discretion the better part of valour and they will themselves be in a position to pursue the instruction which I understand was given in the critical days of 1942. The Honourable Leader of the House was once pleased to retort, "Who won the war? Did we win the war or did the Congress win the war?" My answer is that neither the Government nor the Congress won the war; it was the atom bomb. Their essential strength is of a kind that is humorously described in our remotest villages where they say that the one strategy that the British understand is the strategy of retreat. That is the strategy which they advised their own civil officers in 1942. That is the strategy which they will have to follow if with good grace and in good time they are not prepared to leave India. The country has been patient but even in a slave country there is a limit to patience.

Sir, I oppose the Finance Bill.

**Sri T. V. Satakopachari** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I really would not like to stand in the shoes of the Honourable Finance Member at the moment, and in spite of all my courage I am afraid it is very difficult for any one like me to do so. For the past two or three days my Honourable friend has been listening to various kinds of carping criticisms and still preserves a very genial attitude. (*An Honourable Member*: only outwardly). Not only outwardly, I am sure it is an inward buoying up that he has got. But he seems to me like a raw diamond; by the cuts that he receives, he improves his facets and becomes more and more valuable.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands**: Becomes an asset!

**Sri T. V. Satakopachari**: Sir, I feel it is very difficult for any person to be a Member of an irresponsible Government,—in the sense of constitutionally irresponsible I mean,—it is difficult for any human being to be a nut or a bold in such a machinery and not feel embarrassed at every turn. But at the same time I feel, even with the limitations that such an irresponsible Government has, it is quite possible to frame a budget or at least to plan in a way as to improve the



[Sri T. V. Satakopachari]

opportunities given to them. It is true that the Budget is framed with a sense of one who has got soon to leave the scene. I believe this has been the psychological background which has actuated my Honourable friend the Finance Member to look out for a few financial stunts here and there, to put in one or two palliative measures to please a portion of the rich and to try to look as if he has helped the poor—to make gestures here and gestures there, because he knows or probably he wants us to believe that he has no permanent interest in the matter. That I believe has been a drawback in the Budget and so it is that we see a budget which does not fulfil the expectations of a nation, a nation which is awaking. Whereas I agree with most of the things said on this by my Honourable friend, Mr. Karmarkar, I am afraid the psychological defect is not with the gentlemen opposite or with the great people to whom they belong, or even the system of administration. They are not a set of physical defects or psychological defects or mental defects. They have their heads rightly screwed on; they know their job. But at the same time the setting in which they are placed is so difficult I think that it will be a great achievement if really they produce a budget or a plan worthy of the consideration of the nation's representatives. I wished to preface my remarks over the Budget with these observations, because I feel that in the situation in which the Finance Member has been placed, it will be almost next to impossible to satisfy the demands or the aspirations of the nation. The nation's representatives ought to be there. When and where or how is a matter which is still hanging in the balance. If I say that the Budget is defective or, as a matter of fact, if I say that any particular matter or any work is not up to the mark I always feel this difficulty: whether I should say not only where it is defective or how it is defective, but also how the defect can be cured, how the particular work should be made better. But at the same time I feel, as Dr. Johnson has said, you may criticize a table even if you are not a carpenter and cannot make a table. So it is not necessary that I should be able to suggest how the defects can be cured. That is the refuge I have, and I shall take shelter behind it. That is why I say that I would not feel comfortable in the Chair of the Finance Member, but I do feel very comfortable sitting here or rather standing at a safe distance and criticizing him. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Karmarkar said, we are or we may be trained people in indulging in wordy warfare, but I am afraid they have got stronger answers to all these things. In some occasions I have faced some of those things in my place, and I hate getting used to facing them here.

It has been said by my Honourable friends on this side of the House that the budget makes the rich richer and the poor, poorer. Much has been said on the subject, but I wonder whether when it makes the rich richer, it really makes the Indian rich richer. There also I have my doubts. What I mean is this. It gives chances to the rich man as such to get richer—that portion of the rich men which belongs to Indians is not given the opportunity that it ought to be given, that is to say the Indian rich man is not made richer. That is what I feel about it. If the Indian rich man has to be made richer, then he should be given opportunities of industrialising the country, getting capital goods from outside, and of improving the standard of living of the people in this country. You know the Bombay Plan which was prepared by some of our industrialists. They represent the rich classes of this country, I believe.

**The Honourable Sir Archibald:** Indians.

**Sri T. V. Satakopachari:** Yes, Indians. I am concentrating my attention on Indians and my criticism is that the Budget which is said to make the rich richer, really makes the non-Indian richer, but not the Indian richer. And so I say that the Bombay Plan of Indian industrialists has not received any attention from the Finance Member and no help as such has been rendered to them. The gesture of doing away with the Excess Profits Tax is, I think, a mere gesture.

Of course as a psychological gesture we want such gestures to exist; but we don't want the E. P. T. to go; we want the Excess Profits Tax to remain, we don't want it to be abolished. Again abolishing the Excess Profits Tax alone is really not a great help to the rich people of India. If a portion of the sterling balances were made available either in kind or by multilateral transactions, that would certainly have kept them rich. But that is not the case. We are in a very nebulous stage.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Order, order. It is now 5 O'clock. The Honourable Member may continue his speech tomorrow.

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The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 22nd March, 1946.

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