

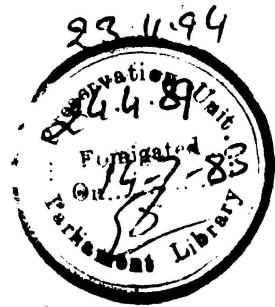
27th March 1945

THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES  
Official Report

Volume III, 1945

(14th March to 29th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION  
OF THE  
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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*Deputy President :*

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**Mr. GOVIND V. DESHMUKH, M.L.A.**

**Mr. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.**

**Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.**

# CONTENTS

Volume III—14th March to 29th March, 1945

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1945—	PAGES	WEDNESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1945—	PAGES
Starred Questions and Answers	1477—95	Member Sworn	1795
Unstarred Question and Answer	1496	Starred Questions and Answers	1795—
Short Notice Question and Answer	1496—98		1832
Declarations of Exemption under the Registration of Foreigners Act	1498—99	Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	1832—35
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Legislative Department	1500	Unstarred Questions and Answers	1834—36
Election of Members to the Defence Consultative Committee	1500—23	Motion for Adjournment re Erection of wall round a Mosque in Karol Bagh, Delhi—Postponed	1836—37
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Emigration	1524	Election of Members to the Defence Consultative Committee	1837
The Repealing and Amending Bill—Introduced	1524	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1837—72
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1524—34		
<b>THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1945—</b>		<b>THURSDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1945—</b>	
Member Sworn	1535	Member Sworn	1873
Starred Questions and Answers	1535—57	Starred Questions and Answers	1873—94
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Posts and Air Department	7	Unstarred Questions and Answers	1894—97
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Roads	1557—60	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Agriculture and Forests	1897—99
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways	1560	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Education	1899
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1560—90	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands	1899—1900
		Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Home Department	1900
<b>FRIDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1945—</b>		Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Supply Department	1900
Starred Questions and Answers	1591—	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on motion to consider not concluded	1901—38
Postponed Starred Question and Answer	1615		
Unstarred Question and Answer	1615—16	<b>FRIDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1945—</b>	
Declaration and Recommendations at Twenty-Sixth Session of the International Labour Conference	1616	Starred Questions and Answers	1939—56
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Supply Department	1616—17	Unstarred Question and Answer	1956
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Home Department	1617—18	Statements laid on the table	1956—60
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Labour Department	1618—19	Motion for Adjournment re Collision of Trains at Jungshahi Railway Station—Disallowed	1960—61
Election of Members to the Central Advisory Council for Railways	1620	Amendment to Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules	1961
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1620—53	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for War Transport Department	1961—62
		Election of a Member to the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India	1962—65
<b>SATURDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1945—</b>		Election of Members to the Standing Committee for External Affairs Department	1965
Members Sworn	1655	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Planning and Development Department	1965
Starred Questions and Answers	1655—77	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1965—2005
Unstarred Question and Answer	1677	Appendix	2005—06
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Planning and Development Department	1677—79		
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for External Affairs Department	1679—80	<b>MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1945—</b>	
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee	1680—83	Starred Questions and Answers	2007—29
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1683—96,	Postponed Starred Question and Answer	2029—30
	1696—	Unstarred Question and Answer	2030
	1721	Message from the Council of State	2031
The Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1696	The Indian Army (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	2030
		The Indian Air Force (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	2031
<b>TUESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1945—</b>		The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	2031—72
Starred Questions and Answers	1723—56		
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	1756—57	<b>TUESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1945—</b>	
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1757—58	Starred Questions and Answers	2073—2106
Short Notice Question and Answer	1758—80	Unstarred Question and Answer	2106—07
Motion for Adjournment re Requisitioning of "Chateau Windsor" Building in Bombay—Ruled out of Order	1760—62	Short Notice Question and Answer	2107—08
Statement laid on the table	1762—63	Announcement re Answering in the Legislative Assembly of Questions of Absentee Members	2108—09
Amendment to British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules	1763	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for War Transport Department	2109
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Food Department	1763—65	The Indian Finance Bill (as recommended)—Motion for leave to introduce—Negatived	2109—11
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Industries and Civil Supplies Department	1765	Demands for Supplementary Grants	2111—49
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Legislative Department	1765		
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Posts and Air Department	1766	<b>WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1945—</b>	
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Labour Department	1766	Starred Questions and Answers	2151—72
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on motion to consider not concluded	1766—92	Unstarred Questions and Answers	2172—73
		Short Notice Question and Answer	2173—76

WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1945— <i>contd.</i>		PAGES	THURSDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1945—		PAGES
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Governor General's Refusal of Permission to discuss Resolution <i>re</i> Delegation to San Francisco Conference—Ruled out of order		2179—80	Members Sworn		2225
Message from the Council of State		2180	Starred Questions and Answers		2225—45
Amendments to Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules		2180—81	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Food Department		2245
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Commerce Department		2182	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Agriculture and Forests		2245—46
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Defence Department		2182—84	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Education		2246
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Industries and Civil Supplies Department		2184	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Department of Education, Health and Lands		2246
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee		2184	Demands for Supplementary Grants		2246—65
Demands for Supplementary Grants		2184—2223	The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee		2265—70
			The Factories (Second Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded		2270—84
			Statement of Business		2284—85

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th March, 1945.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### COLLECTION OF INCOME-TAX FROM U. K. C. C.

**1361. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what progress has been made with regard to the collection of income-tax from the U.K.C.C.?

(b) For which year have statements been called for and received so far?

(c) In view of the fact that the U.K.C.C. will be exempt from taxes in the United Kingdom, have exemptions under section 60 or under section 49 been sought by the U.K.C.C. and given by the Government of India?

(d) What is the total amount of taxes so far recovered, or the amount fixed for recovery?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to part (f) of starred question No. 296 on the 13th November 1944. Detailed figures have not yet been received.

(b) and (d). The disclosure of this information is barred by section 54 of the Income-tax Act.

(c) No exemption from Indian Income-tax has been sought by or granted to the Corporation.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are they being assessed on their world income or on the basis of their Indian transactions only?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I am afraid, I cannot say. I should require notice.

#### SPECIAL EXCHANGE RATE FOR SALARIES OF BRITISH OFFICERS AND MEN OF INDIAN ARMY

**1362. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether the salaries paid to the British officers and men of the Indian Army are at a special exchange rate;

(b) under what law is this special exchange rate given;

(c) whether any body else is being given money at this or any other special exchange rates, deviating from the normal 18d. rate; and

(d) what the financial effect of this on the Indian exchequer is?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative. It is a well understood practice that individuals serving in a foreign country are given some extra pay to cover their additional expenses. On the civil side, this extra pay is known as 'overseas pay'. On the military side under the British pay system, it is given in the form of a colonial allowance. Under the Indian Pay Code, it is included in the rupee rates of pay, which have been arrived at by converting the British sterling rates at 1s. 4d. No colonial allowance is given in addition to these rupee rates of pay.

(c) Certain pensioners including annuitants of the Indian Civil Service, who are resident in India or Burma, or are of Indian domicile, are entitled to convert their pensions payable in sterling, into rupees at a rate of exchange of 1s. 4d., provided that they were actually drawing their pensions on 1st February 1921 at that rate or were of Indian domicile on that date.

Pensioners who are not resident in India, Burma, Ceylon, Nepal and the French and Portuguese establishments in India are entitled to a minimum rate of exchange of 1s. 9d. in respect of pensions stated in rupees and converted

into sterling. Particulars of this concession are given in Art. 934 *et seq.*, of the Civil Service Regulations.

Except as stated above, the rate of exchange at present in all cases is 1s. 6d.

(d) The information sought by the Honourable Member is not readily available in the form asked for, and its compilation would involve a considerable amount of time and labour.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Under what law is this special exchange ratio given to these people?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** It is given under the rules regulating the services to which they belong which are statutory rules.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether this Legislature was consulted at any time in regard to the grant of special exchange ratio for British personnel serving in India?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** These concessions have a very long history and are very complicated. No important question of principle arises in regard to them and I do not think that the Legislature ever was specifically consulted. The practice to which the Honourable Member wants to draw attention is one of very long standing and is generally understood.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact that is manifestly unjust to change the exchange ratio for the benefit of particular individuals or classes of individuals, will the Government consider the advisability of not giving this concession in this way in future?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I do not agree that the practice is manifestly unjust. If you decide to give to certain classes of officers some additional remuneration, it seems to me to be purely a technical matter whether you give it to them as separate overseas or colonial pay or whether you produce the same effect by converting their sterling pay at a different rate of exchange.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Are not the Government aware . . . .

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** Order, order, next question. You cannot go on arguing.

#### PERSONS RUN OVER BY MILITARY LORRIES

**1363. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

- (a) the number of people run over by military lorries in the year 1944;
- (b) whether any compensation is paid to them or their relatives when the victim is dead; and
- (c) what steps Government have taken in view of the large number of accidents?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** (a) Statistics about people who are actually run over by military lorries are not readily available. The collection of accurate information in answer to this part of the question would involve an amount of time and labour not justified in war time.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to starred question No. 361 on the 19th February 1945.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** May I know if reports of such accidents where people are run over by military lorries are sent to the Department of the Honourable Member or not?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** No, Sir. I think each specific case is not sent to the War Department at all. We may have some sort of statistics, but I do not think detailed statistics exist in G. H. Q. here; they may be existing in lower formations.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of instructing the military authorities to maintain statistical returns of this character in future?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I make no promise about that. But I shall certainly consider the matter.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Is the Honourable Member aware that his not replying to this question makes people suspect that there are so numerous cases of people

run over by lorries, that the War Department is concealing the information from this House?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** The Honourable Member's inference is absolutely unjustified.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** How can it be unjustified when the War Department refuses to give the information asked for?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** You are asking for information of statistics all over India.

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** With reference to the answer given by the Honourable Member to Sardar Sant Singh's question, is he aware that the Press in Bengal is not expected to refer to these accidents as having been caused by military lorries, but that they are expected to refer to such cases as having been due to accidents caused by special type of lorries?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I answered the Honourable Member's question some days ago and said that I was not aware of the practice, and that I was asking the Government of Bengal for a report.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether the labour in compiling of statistics is more costly than the lives of the people involved in these accidents?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** It would not save lives.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** With reference to part (b), may I know whether it is the policy of Government to pay compensation in these cases?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I have already answered that question. If my Honourable friend would refer to the answer to the question which I referred to, he will find the answer.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Has any compensation been paid till now?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

#### PROSECUTIONS AGAINST ARMY MISCREANTS

1364. **\*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) with reference to his answer to starred question No. 587, asked on the 1st March, 1945, how many of the 71 cases put up against the army miscreants have been brought to trial;

(b) what punishments have been awarded to them by the courts; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take against the recurrence of these offences?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** (a) and (b). I am collecting the information and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 587, on the 1st March, 1945.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** As far as the information is available, can the Honourable Member give me the answer to part (b), what punishments have been awarded? He must have some information.

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I have not got it. I was asked for information regarding 71 cases. I have not yet got the information. I am calling for it.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Have there been any cases where extreme penalty has been given?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** As I said, I am collecting this information.

#### LAND ACQUIRED IN BENARES DISTRICT, FOR AERODROMES AND OTHER MILITARY PURPOSES

1365. **\*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land acquired in the district of Benares for the construction of aerodromes and other military purposes and the arrangement, if any, made to settle the villagers dispossessed of their holdings in the process, and if the compensation paid was adequate;

(b) if there is any proposal for the acquiring of further lands in the district; and

(c) if Government are satisfied that such acquiring was necessary and that the establishment of extensive military organizations around a sacred city like Benares has been justified by results?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** (a) The total area of land requisitioned or acquired in the Benares district from 1941 to date is 4,424 acres, of which 416 acres have been restored to their owners. In cases where villagers were dispossessed of their holdings, it was not possible to make arrangements for settling them elsewhere, as no suitable vacant land was available; but adequate compensation was paid.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Government are satisfied that this land was required for essential purposes. The land is situated at a considerable distance from the city of Benares, and there is no interference with religious observances in or around the city.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Did Government satisfy themselves that it was really necessary for military purposes to surround a city like Benares from all sides at Rajwari, Lohta and Babatpur?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** My information is that the land which has been requisitioned or acquired is situated at a distance of 15 to 20 miles from Benares, and there is no doubt that it would not have been requisitioned or acquired if it had not been required for essential purposes.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** May I inform the Honourable Member that Lohta is only three miles from Benares city?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** I have no information.

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPERIOR OFFICERS RE RECEIVING VISITORS

1366. **\*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state: if it is a fact that Government have issued any general instructions to their superior officers regarding their conduct while receiving various grades of visitors?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** No such instructions have been issued.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member kindly make sure on this subject because I have information from a non-Congress Minister?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** I can hardly think of a more reliable source of information except perhaps myself.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I know what the Honourable Member understood from the concluding words of the question, "regarding their conduct while receiving various grades of visitors"?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** It should be read in connection with the context which has been cut out.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Have they divided visitors into various grades at all?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** I am afraid that I cannot understand.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it given to individual officers to treat their visitors exactly as they like? And will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of giving some instructions if no instructions have yet been given?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** No instructions are, in my opinion, necessary.

#### MENTAL HOSPITAL AT RANCHI

1367. **\*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether in the Mental Hospital at Ranchi Europeans from anywhere and Indians only of Bihar and Bengal are taken;

(b) the cost of maintaining the hospital, and how much is contributed by the Government of India and what part of the expenditure is met by the Bihar Government;

(c) if the Indian and European Sections are kept quite separate, and whether the doctors in charge of the European Section are also available for the Indian patients;



(d) if Indians of Provinces other than Bihar and Bengal are refused admission in the hospital;

(e) the present population of the hospital in the Indian and European Sections;

(f) whether the European criminal lunatics are also sent to the Ranchi Hospital, or whether arrangements are made for them in the ordinary institutions for such persons; and

(g) if an exception is made in the case of Indian members of the Indian Civil Service of other Provinces who are admitted to Ranchi in case they turn lunatics, and if so, why this exception is made, and if Government propose to consider the desirability of making exceptions in other serious cases also in view of the climate and equipment at Ranchi?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** The Honourable Member presumably wants information about the Ranchi European Mental Hospital.

(a) (i) Europeans and Anglo-Indians, subject to accommodation being available, are admitted from any of the Contributing Provinces (*viz.*, Bengal, Madras, United Provinces, Punjab, Bihar, Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, North-West Frontiers Province, and Baluchistan and also from the Kashmir Residency, Udaipur, Jaipur, and from Burma. European Patients from other Provinces and Indian States are also accepted (subject to the approval of the Bihar Government) if the contribution charges are guaranteed and accommodation is available.

(ii) Indian paying patients from any of the contributing Provinces or with the approval of the Bihar Government from outside the contributing areas, up to a maximum number of ten at any one time may be accommodated at the European Mental Hospital, provided they are accustomed to the European mode of life.

The Bihar Government have never raised any objection to the admission of Indian patients from outside the Contributing areas, provided accommodation has been available, and the contribution charges have been guaranteed.

(b) The total cost of maintaining the hospital during the financial year 1943-44 was Rs. 6,91,522 (the *per capita* cost per patient was Rs. 2,281).

The Government of India do not contribute to the hospital. The Bihar Government (like all other contributing Governments) pay contribution charges for the number of patients from Bihar Province only. The charges are assessed by the Examiner of Local Accounts, Bihar, on the basis of the number of days spent in the hospital by each patient.

(c) No; the services of the entire Medical Staff are available for all patients, whether European or Indian.

(d) No, but attention is invited to the answers given to part (a).

(e) On 19th March, 1945, the number of patients under treatment was as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Europeans . . . . .	65	36	101
Anglo-Indians . . . . .	70	102	172
Indians . . . . .	2	2	4
	<u>137</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>277</u>

(f) Criminal patients (European and Anglo-Indian) are admitted to the European Mental Hospital, but, so far, no enquiries regarding Indian Criminal Patients have been received.

(g) No.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** May I take it that the U. P. is a contributing province and that Indian members of the I.C.S. in that province who happen to become insane are admitted into this hospital?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** I am not trying to be flippant. There was an actual case as the Honourable Member knows.

**PUBLICITY AMONG PRIVATE CITIZENS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT AND RULES**

**1368. \*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether he proposes to consider the desirability of publishing and broadcasting some handy booklets giving instructions to private citizens as to what they should do in the various Departments of their social and economic life, in view of the endless regulations and orders under the Defence of India Act and Rules thereunder; and

(b) if he is aware of how innocent citizens are being harassed and punished for their most *bona fide* actions due to excusable ignorance of restrictions imposed upon them?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** (a) No. But I should like to add that whenever new rules or regulations are introduced and whenever it is felt necessary to explain to the private citizen how they would affect his economic and social life, instructions and explanations are published through various media by the administrative departments concerned. In all such cases the resources of the Information and Broadcasting Department are placed at the disposal of the Department concerned.

(b) No. There may be rare cases, but wherever excusable ignorance is established, I have no doubt the Magistrates take due notice of it in awarding punishment.

**STERLING DEBT OF INDIA**

**1369. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the sterling debt of India at the end of this financial year; and

(b) whether, in view of the sterling balances, attempts were made to liquidate these debts?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 33 and 34 of my Budget speech.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether they are sending out any deputation to delegation to the U. K. to talk over this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I have already answered more than one question on this subject and have nothing to add to what I have said.

**OFFICERS RECRUITED FOR DEFENCE FORCES**

**1370. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of officers recruited for the Indian army, navy and air force since the beginning of the war;

(b) how many of these were Indian and how many British; and

(c) whether any non-Indian and non-British officers have been recruited in the Indian army, navy and air force; if so, from what countries and nationalities?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) of his starred question No. 1261 on the 22nd March, 1945, and add that with the exception of the officers enumerated in my answer to part (c) below, almost all the non-Indian officers in the Royal Indian Navy and Indian Army are British.

(c) All the officers of the Royal Indian Air Force are Indians. As regards the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army, I lay a statement on the table.

Statement showing nationalities of non-British and non-Indian officers of the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army.

Nationality.	Royal Indian Navy.	Indian Army.
	Number of officers.	*Number of officers.
Afghan	..	19
American	1	20
Argentinian	..	5
Armenian	..	6
Assyrian	..	1
Austrian	..	1
Czechoslovakian	..	11
Danish	9	7
Dutch	1	6
French	1	3
Goanese	..	2
Greek	5	1
Iraqi	3	2
Jewish	..	9
Nepalese	..	24
Norwegian	11	..
Polish	..	1
Portuguese	..	1
Russian	2	..
Siamese	..	1
Swedish	2	2
Syrian	..	1
Turkish	1	..
Yugoslavian	1	..

\* Figures corrected up to 1st June 1944

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Among the officers are there any non-Indian and non-British officers?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I have laid a statement on the table.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Who are those nationalities?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** There are Afghans, Americans, and so forth.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** We want to know who are the non-Indian and non-British officers in the army and to what countries they belong, particularly if any one belongs to South Africa or to the Negro class as well.

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** A statement has been laid on the table.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I want to know whether there are any South Africans.

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** South Africans are subjects of the British Commonwealth, and the Honourable Member asked about non-Indian and non-British.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Sir, "British" does not mean the British Commonwealth. I want to know whether South African officers are there.

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I have not included them in the statement. If the Honourable Member will put down a question clearly specifying what he wants, I shall be glad to give an answer.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Is the Honourable Member, being an Indian himself, ashamed of having South African officers in the Indian army and that is why he is not giving the answer?

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** That is not a proper question.

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I have already said that if about South Africans a specific question is put to me I shall be glad to answer it.

ASSURANCE TO BETEL-NUT GROWERS OF SOUTH KANARA RE EXCISE DUTY.

1371. \***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government assured the betelnut growers of South Kanara in March 1944 that the excise duty would not affect the growers of betelnut; if so, whether it was kept up;

(b) whether Government have received complaints from that district that lowest grade of betelnut called "Koka" could not bear the heavy duty; if so,

whether that question was considered and what action is being taken thereon; and

(c) the market price including duty per cwt. in January, 1945, of this lowest variety 'Koka' in Mangalore market and how much of it represented the duty paid?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) I do not know to which assurance the Honourable Member refers. It is the case, however, that Government intended that the excise duty on betelnuts should be borne by the consumer. Complaints have however been received that some wholesale traders have deducted the tax from the purchase price paid to the producer and the matter is being investigated.

(b) Representations to this effect have been received and have been carefully considered. It is, however, impossible to draw a clear dividing line between different grades of betelnut and the tax can only, therefore, be levied on the total quantity marketed, irrespective of quality. The proportion of lowest grade betelnuts to the whole crop is very small.

(c) The price prevailing in January 1945, is not immediately available but the ex-duty price during 1944 in the South Kanara District ranged between Rs. 5-8-0 and Rs. 20 per cwt.

**Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** With reference to part (a), is it not a fact that an assurance was given that this excise duty would not affect the growers?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I have not been able to trace the specific assurance to which the Honourable Member refers, but I have said that it was the intention of Government that the excise duty should be passed on to the consumer.

**Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** How are you going to see that it is passed on to the consumer and does not affect the grower?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** It is up to people who are concerned in this trade to resist attempts by traders to lodge the duty on the producer.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that owing to their poverty these growers are not able to resist these traders?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I am having the matter investigated.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Have you already got a committee to go into that or are you going to have a committee?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I am having it investigated now.

#### COFFEE CULTIVATION IN BRITISH INDIA

1372. **\*Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under coffee cultivation in British India;

(b) the total excise revenue collected from coffee in 1944-45; and how a greater revenue is expected during 1945-46;

(c) whether Coffee Marketing Board increased the price of coffee to the extent of excise duty levied on it thereby throwing the burden of duty on consumers; and

(d) how Government propose to throw the burden of excise duty levied on betelnut on consumers which is now borne by the producers?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) About 114,000 acres.

(b) The revenue collected during the eleven months ending February 1945 is about Rs. 14 lakhs. The estimated revenue for 1945-46 is Rs. 30 lakhs. The coffee consumed during the current year included stocks which had been cured prior to the introduction of the excise and were not therefore subjected to the duty.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government have no reason to believe that the excise on betelnuts is in general borne by producers. Where on investigation it appears that such is the case in any area, the possibility of assisting primary producers with a view to their obtaining a fair market price will be examined.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Was it not intended that the betelnut excise duty should not fall on the raw betelnut but on the cured product?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Yes, certainly that is the statutory position.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** If so, may I know how many factories there are and how the question arises regarding the producers themselves being affected in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** It is quite possible for producers to preserve or cure the betelnuts.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Would Government take any steps to protect these betelnuts growers in the same way as coffee producers are protected by their Marketing Board?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** My idea is that it is in some such way that they might be protected against the wholesale trader.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will such steps be taken by the Government of India or by the Provincial Government?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** It may be that the powers in this respect are to be exercised by the Provincial Government, but I am having the matter enquired into with a view to seeing what remedies can be applied.

#### BETEL-NUT PALM CULTIVATION IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

**1373. \*Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land under betelnut palm cultivation in the following districts of—

Madras—(i) South Kanara, (ii) Malabar, (iii) Coimbatore and (iv) Nilgiris;

Bombay—(i) North Kanara and (ii) Ratangiri;

Bengal—(i) Noakhali, (ii) Chittagong, (iii) Bakarganj, (iv) Khulna,

(v) Jessore; and (vi) Midnapur;

Assam—Sylhet; and

Coorg Province;

(b) the annual yield estimated in the above respective districts;

(c) the excise revenue collected from each of the above districts in 1944-45;

(d) the excise revenue collected from each of the above districts on crops harvested before the 1st April, 1944; and

(e) whether any area was exempted from the excise duty on betelnut; if so, for what reasons?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I have called for a report and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

#### GIVING VEGETABLE PRODUCT AND DEHYDRATED MEAT TO INDIAN SOLDIERS

**1374. \*Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state whether it is a fact that Indian soldiers are now given vegetable product with dehydrated meat? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that military experts had opined right upto 1943 that vegetable product is not substitute for the milk ghee and such also is the opinion of Dr. Akroyd?

(c) Are Government aware that most of the Indian Army is averse to take vegetable product as also dehydrated meat, which are against their habits?

(d) Have there been severe complaints about the quality of the *atta* that was being supplied to the troops on the border of Assam during last year? If so, what action has been taken in this connection?

(e) Are European soldiers given vegetable product in place of butter or fat? If so, how many times a week?

(f) Is butter and/or fat imported for European soldiers? If so, is their cost less than that of vegetable product?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** (a) Yes, Sir, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply on the 14th March to starred question No. 1000.

(b) The opinion of the military experts which is the same as that of Dr. Akroyd, is that there is no difference from the nutritive point of view between milk ghee and the vegetable product. The latter however lacks the vitamin 'A' content of milk ghee.

(c) No complaints have been received about the use of the vegetable product, but naturally no soldier prefers dehydrated meat to fresh meat. I should add, however, that all dehydrated meat is sent to forward areas where the issue of fresh meat is impossible.

(d) Some complaints were received. These were due to the milling of some old wheat which came on the market when foreign wheat was imported. This cause of complaint has since been remedied.

(e) British troops are issued with hydrogenated cooking oil which is an indigenous vegetable product in their daily ration scale. Indigenous margarine is also issued when available.

(f) Small quantities of butter are now being imported for eating, but not for cooking. The cost of this butter is annas 0-15-0 per lb. Vegetable product costs annas 0-10-0 per lb.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** As butter is supplied to European soldiers for consumption and not for cooking purposes, why not an attempt be made to supply ghee to Indian soldiers for consumption though not for cooking purposes?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** We should very much like to supply the Indian soldier with milk ghee every day, but there is not sufficient quantity of milk ghee available. If the Honourable the Food Member makes more ghee available to us, we should be only too glad to meet this demand of the Indian soldiers.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Why not supply butter to Indian soldiers inasmuch quantity as it is supplied to the European soldiers?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** The British soldiers do not always get butter often they get margarine. Butter is only given when it is available, but very often butter is not available.

#### SAILORS IN ROYAL INDIAN NAVY AND INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE

1375. **\*Mr. Ramayan Prasad:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number and proportion of British, Indian and other sailors of different ranks and grades in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Mercantile Marine;

(b) the number of sailors and other ranks in the Indian Navy and the Indian Mercantile Marine from the province of Bihar;

(c) the number of British workers and Government shipyards;

(d) whether Government have prescribed any racial qualification and discrimination for the recruitment to the Indian Navy, just as they have got a martial and non-martial classification for the recruitment to the Indian Army; and

(e) if the answer to (d) be in the affirmative, what that qualification is?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** (a) and (b) In so far as the Indian Mercantile Marine is concerned the question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Commerce Member. As regards the Royal Indian Navy, I lay a statement on the table.

(c) On the assumption that the Honourable Member wishes to know how many British workers are employed in Government shipbuilding yards, I may say that there are no Government owned shipbuilding yards in India.

(d) No, Sir. I should add that the use of the term "martial" to distinguish those classes recruited before the war has been discontinued.

(e) Does not arise, in view of my reply to part (d).

Statement showing the percentage of British, Indian and other officers and rates in the different grades in the Royal Indian Navy on the 1st March, 1945

## (i) Officers

Rank	British	Indian	Others
Captain and above	1.2	...	}
Commanders	3.2	0.1	
Lieutenant Commanders	8.6	1.5	
Lieutenants	26.2	18.1	
Sub-Lieutenants	8.7	18.0	
Midshipmen	1.2	4.2	
Warrant Officers	1.7	6.3	
Total	50.8	48.2	1

## (ii) Rates

Rank	British	Indian	Others
Chief Petty Officers	...	2.6	...
Petty Officers	...	8.9	...
Leading	...	9.9	...
Below Leading	...	73.8	...
Boys	...	4.8	...
Total	...	100.0	...

Statement showing the percentage of officers and rates in the Royal Indian Navy from the Province of Bihar

Officers	Rates
0.8	1.2

## DESIRABILITY OF MUSLIM INCOME-TAX COMMISSIONER FOR THE PUNJAB CIRCLE

**1376. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazi-i-Haq Piracha:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if in the past a Muslim officer was ever appointed as Income-Tax Commissioner in the Punjab; if so, for how long;

(b) if Government ever gave an undertaking to consider the question of appointing a Muslim Income-Tax Commissioner in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle; if so, why it has not been fulfilled; ,

(c) if the reply to (b) is in the negative, will Government be prepared to consider the appointment of a Muslim Income-Tax Commissioner; if not, why not; and

(d) if the appointment of a Muslim officer as Income-Tax Commissioner in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle was considered at the time of retirement of the last Income-Tax Commissioner in September last; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) Yes. A Muslim officer held the post of Commissioner of Income-tax in the Punjab from the 1st to the 21st September, 1944.

(b), (c) and (d). In reply to a question in the Council of State on 15th November, 1943, Government undertook to consider the claims of suitable Muslim officers, if any, for appointment should the then Commissioner vacate the post; and when the then Commissioner vacated the post last September, Government did consider the claims of suitable Muslim officers.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Is it a fact that no suitable officer was available?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I have indicated that shortly afterwards a Muslim officer was appointed for a certain period.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am referring to the Commissioner's post. Is it because there was no suitable Muslim officer that one was not appointed?

(No reply was given.)

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** Next question.

## ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX, ETC., IN THE PUNJAB CIRCLE.

1377. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the number of Assistant Commissioners of Income-Tax in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle, and the community to which they belong; and how many of them are Muslims;

(b) the number of administrative posts of the Income-Tax Department in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle and the number of such posts held by Muslims; and

(c) the number of administrative posts held by Muslims and Hindus respectively in the Central Board of Revenue above Rs. 1,000 grade?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) There are 9 Assistant Commissioners of Income-Tax in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Provinces: five Hindus, two Muslims, one Jain and one Sikh.

(b) and (c). I regret I am unable to understand which posts the Honourable Member has in mind.

## RECOMMENDATIONS RE CLASS I INCOME-TAX OFFICERS FROM THE PUNJAB CIRCLE.

1378. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state;

(a) if any recommendations have been made by the Income-Tax Commissioner, Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle to the Central Board of Revenue for consideration for class I of Income-Tax officers; if so, what is the number of the officers so recommended and how many of them are Muslims;

(b) whether Government are aware that the administrative posts including the Commissioner of Income-Tax in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle in the Income-Tax Department are mostly held by Hindus, and that the rights of Muslim Income-Tax officers, have been overlooked by them, in making the recommendations for class I posts, and that these recommendations are being confirmed by those having the administrative control in the Central Board of Revenue; and

(c) if the Honourable Member proposes to look into this matter and see that suitable Muslim Income-Tax officers are given proper consideration and representation?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) Yes. The Commissioner's recommendations are, however, confidential and cannot, it is regretted, be disclosed.

(b) No. Several administrative posts are held by non-Hindus also. I am satisfied that the claims of Muslim Income-Tax Officers for promotion to the New Grade I in the Class I Service were duly considered and will continue to be considered in future.

(c) Promotion to Grade I of the Class I Service is made by selection on the basis of merit in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission and there need therefore be no misgiving that Muslim officers, if they are suitable, will not be considered and promoted.

## INDUSTRIAL PANELS OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1379. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please lay on the table of the House a complete statement regarding the industrial panels that have so far been set up to advise his Department regarding post-war development? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that not one of the Chairmen of the panels so far formed is a Muslim? If so, what is the reason for this omission?

(c) What are the special qualifications of the gentlemen who have been appointed as chairmen of the various panels set up so far?

(d) Is it a fact that a number of Government officials have been appointed as chairmen and members of some of the panels? If so, what are their qualifications?

(e) Were no Muslim Government officers, of the same or similar qualifications and experience, available? If there were such officers, what is the reason for not inviting them to serve as chairmen and members of the panels?



(f) Does the Honourable Member propose to give an assurance that the personnel of the existing panels will be modified so as to include an adequate number of Muslims as Chairmen and Members of the panels? If not, why not?

(g) Does he also propose to give an assurance that in the panels, which have yet to be formed, the percentage of Muslims amongst chairmen and members of panels will not be less than 25 per cent.?

**The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal:** (a) and (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b), (c), (e), (f) and (g). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to part (a) (ii) of the reply given by me to starred question No. 116 for the 10th February 1945, and to my speech on the Finance Bill on the 21st March. Muslims have been nominated to the panels whenever men with the required qualifications were available.

#### LIST OF PANELS CONSTITUTED

- (ii) Dr. E. Schoenberg, General Manager, Upper Indian Couper Paper Mills, Lucknow.
- (iii) Mr. G. P. Birla, Orient Paper Mills, Calcutta.
- (iv) Mr. Jagraj, Technical Director, Straw Board Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Saharanpur.
- (v) Mr. Bhargava, Pulp Section, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.
- (vi) Mr. Laiq Ali, Sirpur Paper Mills, Ltd., Hyderabad (Deccan).
- 5. Sugar, Alcohol and Food Yeast:**
- (i) Sir Shri Ram (Chairman), Banker and Mill-owner, Delhi.
- (ii) Mr. R. C. Srivastava, Indian Central Sugar Committee.
- (iii) Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, President, Indian Sugar Mills Association.
- (iv) Mr. M. B. Amin, Alembic Chemical Works.
- (v) Mr. Vishan Sahay, I.C.S., Sugar Controller to the Government of India.
- (vi) Mr. S. N. Dhar, Development Commissioner, Bihar.
- (vii) Dr. P. C. Guha, Chief Technical Adviser, Food Department.
- (viii) Mr. W. N. A. Webb, Sugar Expert of the Aluminium Plant and Vessel Co., Ltd., (United Kingdom).
- 6. Refractories and Ceramics:**
- (i) Mr. M. G. Bhagat (Chairman), Bengal Potteries.
- (ii) Mr. K. B. Sen, Chief Chemist, Bird & Co.
- (iii) Dr. N. K. Mitra, Refractories Engineer, Tata Iron & Steel Company.
- (iv) Mr. C. P. Shah, Bombay Pottery & Tile Works.
- (v) Dr. Atmaram, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- (vi) Mr. Krishen Singh, Ceramics Engineer, Delhi.
- 7. Soaps and Oils:**
- (i) Mr. P. A. Narielwala (Chairman), Tata Oil Mills, Ltd. (Not yet accepted).
- (ii) Mr. S. G. Shastri, Retd. Director of Industries and Commerce, Government of Mysore.
- (iii) Mr. A. K. Menon, Retd. Superintendent, Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut.
- (iv) Mr. Shiv Dayal Kapoor, Krishna Kapoor & Co., Amritsar.
- (v) Dr. S. S. Solatore, Lakshminarayan Institute, Nagpur.
- 1. Iron and Steel (Major):**
- (i) Sir Padamji Ginwala (Chairman) Director and Adviser, The Steel Corporation of Bengal.
- (ii) Sir J. J. Ghandy, General Manager, The Tata Iron and Steel Co.
- (iii) Mr. S. M. Bashir, Director, Juggi Lal Kamlapat, Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.
- (iv) Mr. Hain, Managing Director, Braithwaite & Co.
- (v) Mr. Frank Parr, Steel Commissioner to the Government of India.
- 2. Iron and Steel (Minor):**
- (i) Rai Bahadur Aftab Rai (Chairman), Materials Economy Officer, Supply Department.
- (ii) Mr. Chiswell Jones, Metal Box Co., Hide Road, Kidderpore, Calcutta.
- (iii) Mr. N. N. Rakshit, National Iron & Steel Co., 4, Dalhousie Square, Calcutta.
- (iv) Mr. B. Viswanath, lately of Mysore Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Govt. of Mysore.
- (v) Mr. Baijnath Bajoria, M.L.A., 1-B, Halwasiya Road, Calcutta.
- (vi) Mr. S. M. Bashir, Director, Juggilal Kamlapat Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Cawnpore.
- (vii) Mr. Ajaib Singh, Indian Steel and Wire Products, Tatanagar.
- (viii) Mr. Rafi Butt. (Not yet accepted).
- (ix) Dr. Venkat Rao. (Not yet accepted).
- (x) Lt.-Col. D. M. Reid. (Not yet accepted).
- 3. Heavy Chemical Industries:**
- (i) Sir Shri Ram (Chairman), Banker and Milkowner, 22, Curzon Road, New Delhi.
- (ii) Mr. Kapilram Vakil, Director, Tata Chemicals Ltd., Mithapur, Kathiawad.
- (iii) Dr. M. S. Patel, O. S. D., I. & C. S. Department.
- (iv) Mr. Seshasayee, Director, The Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation, Ltd., Mettur Dam.
- (v) Mr. S. G. Shastri, Retd., Dir. of Industries, Mysore, Sir Krishna Rao Road, Basavangudy, Bangalore City.
- (vi) Mr. P. R. Crear, Director of Chemicals, D. G. S.
- 4. Paper, Pulp, Wood Pulp Chemicals, Cotton, etc.:**
- (i) Mr. M. L. Narasimha Iyengar (Chairman), Director of Industries, Mysore, Incharge of Paper.

8. *Paints and Varnishes :*

- (i) Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, M.L.A. (Chairman), Businessman, Madras.  
 (ii) Mr. P. C. Chanda, President, Indian Paint Manufacturers Association.  
 (iii) Mr. Hampson, Director, Paints & Gases, Directorate General of Supply.  
 (iv) Mr. B. D. Gupta, The Sun Colours and Paints Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Jamnagar.  
 (v) Mr. F. H. Kemple, Director Goodlas Hall (India) Ltd.  
 (vi) Dr. R. Bhattacharya, Deputy Director, Paints and Gases Directorate, Supply Department. (Not yet accepted).

9. *Electro-Chemical Industries :*

- (i) Sir J. C. Ghosh (Chairman), Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.  
 (ii) Dr. B. K. Ram Prasad, Hydro-electric Engineer, Grid Scheme, Govt. of Bombay.  
 (iii) Mr. Kenneth Hall, General Manager, Indian Aluminium Co., Ltd., 5, Council House St., Calcutta.  
 (iv) Dr. M. S. Patel, O.S.D., I.&C.S., Department.  
 (v) Mr. Kapil Ram Vakil, Tata Chemicals, Ltd., Mithapur, Kathiawad.  
 (vi) Mr. Parker, Alkali and Chemical Corporation, C/o. I. C. I. (India), Ltd., Queensway, New Delhi.

10. *Silk :*

- (i) Mr. N. Rama Rao (Chairman), Mysore Silk Filatures, Ltd., T. Narasipur, Bangalore.  
 (ii) Mr. R. Peychand, General Manager, Government Silk Filatures, Kollegal.  
 (iii) Mr. H. Pullman, Manager, Mysore Spun Silk Mills, Chennappatna (Mysore State).  
 (iv) Mr. Rutnam, D. F. A., Supply.  
 (v) Mr. Bose, Special Officer, Silk, Government of Bengal.

11. *Coir, Rope and Cordage :*

- (i) Mr. Karunakaran (Chairman), Managing Director, Alleppey Co., Ltd., Alleppey.  
 (ii) Mr. W. G. Grant, M.L.A., Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., Cochin (Malabar Coast).  
 (iii) Mr. Rutnam, D.F.A., Supply

12. *Hosiery :*

- (i) Mr. H. G. Misra (Chairman), Misra Hosiery Mills, Cawnpore.  
 (ii) Mr. H. R. Dando, Swadeshi Manufacturing Syndicate, Ltd., Ludhiana.  
 (iii) Mr. A. K. Chowdhury, Bengal Hosiery Manufacturers' Association, 81, Talpukur Road, Beliaghata, Calcutta.  
 (iv) Mr. Fakhruddin, Messrs. Vallibhoj Kamruddin & Sons, 101, Abdul Rahman St., Bombay-3.  
 (v) Mr. Firth, Keoram Cotton Mills, Ltd., 5, Royal Exchange Police, Calcutta.  
 (vi) Mr. A. W. Tatlow, Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Cawnpore.

13. *Readymade Clothing :*

- (i) Mr. S. Jajodia, Associated Agencies, 9, Mount Road, Madras.  
 (ii) Mr. Khandke, Bhawoo Kashinath & Co., 63, Bhandin St., Bombay No. 4.  
 (iii) Mr. Wachel Molla, Wachel Molla & Sons, Dharrumtolla St., Calcutta.

- (iv) Mr. Narendra Singh, Controller of Clothing Factories, Lahore. (Under D.G.S.)

14. *Non-Ferrous Metal Industries :*

- (i) Dr. A. H. Pandya (Chairman), D.G.M.P., Supply Department.  
 (ii) Mr. A. Schwarts, Indian Smelting and Refining Co., Ltd., Bombay.  
 (iii) Mr. R. H. Kamani, Kamani Metal Refinery and Metal Industries, Calcutta.  
 (iv) Dr. Malhotra, Metallurgist, B. B. & C. I. Railway.  
 (v) Mr. Motichand Saha, Motichand & Co., Bombay.

15. *Leather and Leather Goods :*

- (i) Rai Bahadur B. M. Dass (Chairman), Superintendent, Bengal Tanning Institute, Tangra, P. O., Calcutta.  
 (ii) Sir M. Balasundaram, Naidu, Hide and Skia Merchant, Ritherdon Road, Viperu, Madras.  
 (iii) Mr. A. C. Inskip, General Manager, Cooper Allen & Co., Cawnpore.  
 (iv) Mr. Kaiser Ahmad, Hides and Skins Merchant, Sahala Buildings, Hornby Rd.,  
 (v) Mr. Bhool Chand, Dayalbagh Industries, Bombay.  
 (vi) Mr. Bhool Chand, Dayalbagh Industries, Agra.  
 (vii) Capt. P. S. Choudhury, Directorate General of Supply.

16. *Scientific Instruments :*

- (i) Dr. Meghnad Saha (Chairman), Calcutta University.  
 (ii) Prof. G. B. Paranjpe, Royal Institute of Science, Bombay. (Not yet accepted).  
 (iii) Dr. Venkat Rao, Messrs. Powells Ltd., Bombay.  
 (iv) Mr. Rafi Dutt, Messrs. Ghulam Nabi & Sons, Lahore.  
 (v) Mr. A. Lacamp, Mathematical Instruments Office, D. G. M. P. (Not yet accepted).  
 (vi) Lt.-Col. D. M. Reid, Asst. Director of Armaments, War Department. (Not yet accepted).  
 (vii) Dr. P. N. Ghosh, University College of Science, Calcutta.

17. *Light Chemical Industries :*

- (i) Col. Sir R. N. Chopra (Chairman), Director, Drug Research Laboratory, Kashmir.  
 (ii) Dr. Hameed, Managing Director, Chemical, Industrial and Pharmaceutical Laboratory, Ltd., Bombay.  
 (iii) Dr. J. N. Ray, Director of Drugs and Dressings, Directorate General of Supply.  
 (iv) Mr. M. B. Amin, Alembic Chemical Works, Baroda.  
 (v) Mr. Adhikari, Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, Calcutta. (Not yet accepted).  
 (vi) Dr. Habib Hasan, Industrial Chemist, Hyderabad State. (Not yet accepted).  
 (vii) Mr. Fielder, Shalimar Tar Products, Bombay.  
 (viii) Col. S. S. Sokhey, Director of Haffkine Institute, Parel, Bombay. (Not yet accepted).  
 (ix) Dr. Mukherji, Biochemical Standardization Laboratory, Calcutta. (Not yet accepted).

## 18. Glass.

- (i) Mr. Y. D. Varshney (Chairman), U. P. Glass Works, Bhajai.  
 (ii) Mr. D. N. Sen, New India Glass Works, Calcutta.  
 (iii) Mr. P. Ogale of Ogale Glass Works. (Not yet accepted).  
 (iv) Mr. Sridhar, Messrs. Bishamber Dyal Srinivas, Bangle Manufacturers, Eirozabad.  
 (v) Mr. R. D. Chandorkar, Vijay Glass Works, Mozgaon.  
 (vi) Dr. Atmaram (D. S. I. R.).  
 (vii) Dr. A. Nadel, O. S. D. Glass (D. G. S.).

## 19. Wool :

- (i) The Hon'ble Lala Ramsaran Das (Chairman), Member, Council of State. (Not yet accepted).  
 (ii) Mr. Jiwandas Bhagwandas, Indian Woolen Mills, Bombay.  
 (iii) Mr. W. R. Watt, Director, British India Corporation.  
 (iv) Mr. S. Ratnam, D. F. A. (Supply).  
 (v) Mr. J. O. Lal, Director, Wool, I. & C. S. Department. (Not yet accepted).  
 (vi) Mr. A. K. Watal, Shree Karam Singh Woolen Mills, Ltd., Srinagar, Kashmir.

## 20. Ship-Building and Marine Engineering :

- (i) Sir B. Rama Rao (Chairman), Chairman, Port Trust, Bombay.  
 (ii) Mr. M. A. Master, Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Bombay.  
 (iii) Mr. Henderson (D. G. S. R.), Supply Department. (Not yet accepted).  
 (iv) Mr. Taylor, Garden Reach Workshops Ltd., Calcutta.  
 (v) Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi, M.L.A.  
 (vi) Mr. Shivrattan Mohatta, Messrs. Harman and Mohatta, Lahore.

## 21. Industrial Plant and Machinery :

- (i) Mr. G. L. Mehta (Chairman), Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Calcutta.  
 (ii) Mr. K. K. Birla, Birla Bros. Ltd., Calcutta.  
 (iii) Mr. S. L. Kirloskar, Kirloskar Bros. Ltd., Kirloskarwadi.  
 (iv) Brig. Cox, D. D. G., Armaments Production, Supply Department.  
 (v) Mr. Malgaokar, Associated Cement Co., Ltd.  
 (vi) Mr. P. F. S. Warren, Jessop & Co., Ltd. (Not yet accepted).  
 (vii) Mr. Barraclough, Chief Mining Engineer, Andrew Yule and Co., Ltd. (Not yet accepted).

## 22. Machine Tools :

- (i) Sir Lakshminpathi Misra (Chairman), Member, Railway Board.

(ii) Sir Dhunjishah Cooper, Cooper Engineering Works, Satara.

(iii) Mr. S. L. Kirloskar, Messrs. Kirloskar Bros. Ltd. (Not yet accepted.)

(iv) Mr. J. Hodgkinson, Dy. M. T. C., Directorate General of Munition Production.

(v) Dr. Seth, India Sewing Machine Co., Lahore.

(vi) Mr. Latif, Batala Engineering Co., Batala, Punjab.

(vii) K. B. A. G. Khan, Dy. C. G. I., M. G. O. Branch, War Department.

## 23. Rayon and Artificial Silk :

(i) Dr. Nazir Ahmad (Chairman), Director, Technical Laboratory, Indian Central Cotton Committee. (Not yet accepted).

(ii) Mr. M. Subba Rao, Technical Director, Messrs. Poddar & Sons. (Not yet accepted).

(iii) Mr. P. N. Sinha, Messrs. Birla Bros. (Not yet accepted).

(iv) Mr. M. P. Bhargava, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. (Not yet accepted).

(v) Mr. Gautam Sarabhai, Messrs. Ambalal Sarabhai & Sons. (Not yet accepted).

## 24. Plastics and Celluloid :

(i) Dr. John Mathai (Chairman), Director, Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd. (Not yet accepted).

(ii) Dr. S. Siddiqui, Acting Director, Chemical Laboratories, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Delhi. (Not yet accepted).

(iii) Mr. Akbar Fazhalboy, Messrs. Fazhalboy, Ltd. (Not yet accepted).

(iv) Dr. M. S. Patel, Officer on Special Duty, I. & C. S. Department. (Not yet accepted).

(v) Dr. H. K. Sen, Director of Industries, Government of Bihar. (Not yet accepted).

## 25. Light Engineering Industries :

(i) Mr. B. M. Birla (Chairman), Messrs. Hindustan Motors, Ltd.

(ii) Mr. P. N. Krishna Rao, Deputy Controller General of Civil Supplies. (Not yet accepted).

(iii) Mr. Kishen Chand, Kayce & Co., Ltd., Lahore. (Not yet accepted).

(iv) Dr. Wahid, Messrs. Feroz Sons, Ltd., Lahore. (Not yet accepted).

(v) Mr. G. D. Naidu, Autoservices, Coimbatore. (Not yet accepted).

(vi) Mr. Sahai, Hindustan Bicycle Co., Ltd. Patna. (Not yet accepted).

(vii) Mr. Bishendas Basil, Ragho Engineering Works, Ltd., Delhi. (Not yet accepted).

(viii) Col. R. C. Lyons, M.C., Chief Inspector of Armaments, Calcutta. (Not yet accepted).

(ix) Mr. S. L. Kirloskar, Messrs. Kirloskar Bros. Ltd. (Not yet accepted).

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** May I know what was the machinery which chose those chairmen or those panels and whether the Honourable Member himself was associated with their choice or not?

**The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal:** Every single member and every chairman has been chosen personally by me.

## SPECIAL PAY OF (PERSONAL ASSISTANT) STENOGRAPHERS

1380. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether certain stenographers in the various departments of the Government of India are given special pay when they are attached to work with Honourable Members, Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, etc.? If so, what are the objects which such allowances cover?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes. Special pay is given to the stenographers of the officers named in the question in view of the arduous nature of their duties and the increased responsibility which they have to undertake in handling the secret and confidential papers of the officers to whom they are attached.

## INCREASING THE FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO WIFE OF S. NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB

1381. \*Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the family allowance given to the wife of S. Niranjana Singh Talib during the last year;

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the question of increasing it in view of the high prices of consumers' goods; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider his release on the grounds of health as he has been ailing for a long time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 1381 and 1382 together.

The family allowance of Mr. Niranjana Singh Talib was increased by 50 per cent. in May 1944 with retrospective effect from June 1943. As regards his health, the latest report is that his general condition is satisfactory. He had been complaining of various symptoms due to slight enlargement of the prostate gland and rhinitis but his condition has improved and does not justify release on medical grounds.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the total allowance?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have not the figure.

## HEALTH OF S. NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB

†1382. \*Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the latest condition of health of S. Niranjana Singh Talib, a security prisoner now confined in Gujrat special jail;

— (b) whether there had been an improvement in his health after he was discharged from the Mayo Hospital; and

(c) the treatment he is getting now and with what effect?

## GAZETTED POSTS IN OFFICES OF SUPPLY ACCOUNTS AT NEW DELHI, BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

1383. \*Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the number of gazetted posts in the offices of Supply Accounts at New Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, respectively;

(b) the number of Sikhs holding those posts;

(c) the number of Accountants lent by other offices; how many of them are Sikhs;

(d) how many of these Accountants were promoted to the gazetted ranks since 1940; whether any Sikh was promoted to such post; and if not, the reasons for such supersession;

(e) the number of Assistants-in-charge and Assistant Superintendents; how many of them are Sikhs;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1381.

(f) if it is a fact that several clerks have been promoted as Assistants-in-charge and Assistant Superintendents; how many of them superseded the Sikh clerks; whether any Sikh was promoted as Assistant-in-charge; if so, what is the number;

(g) whether it is a fact that while making the promotion from clerk to Assistant-in-charge, no definite criterion is maintained; and

(h) whether it is a fact that, when other offices demand the services of Sikhs on promotion to higher posts, the services of Sikhs are not spared while in similar demands, Muslims and Hindus are spared; if so, the reasons for this discrimination against the Sikhs?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) New Delhi—20, Bombay—12, Calcutta—18; Total—50.

(b) None.

(c) 110 of whom four are Sikhs.

(d) 25 Accountants have been promoted to gazetted rank since 1940, none of whom were Sikhs. Appointments to the rank of D. A. C. are made strictly by selection but in making these appointments no Sikh was actually passed over.

(e) There are 40 Assistants-in-Charge and 119 Assistant Superintendents of whom one and three respectively are Sikhs.

(f) It is a fact that several clerks have been promoted as Assistant Superintendents. Promotions to the rank of Assistants-in-Charge are generally made by selection from the rank of Assistant Superintendents, who in turn are selected from among efficient clerks. Three Sikh clerks were passed over in the Delhi office when promotions to the rank of Assistants-in-Charge were made. No Sikh was passed over in the selection for Assistant Superintendents. One Sikh was appointed as Assistant-in-Charge.

(g) No.

(h) No. There is no discrimination against Sikhs.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I ask the Honourable Member how is it that there is so much paucity in the gazetted posts he mentions and then again what are the reasons why these Sikhs were superseded by the Non-Sikhs?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** To take the second question first, I imagine that they were superseded because they were not competent for promotion. As regards the other question, well, I must ask it of my Honourable friend. I suppose the reason is that sufficient qualified personnel from his community were not forthcoming.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I inform the Honourable Member—and I have drawn Government's attention to this repeatedly—that this plea of the non-availability of the Sikhs is a flimsy plea. It was tried with the Muslim League but now that pressure is coming from that quarter, the same difficulty is not felt. May I ask that enquiries be made to ascertain that these supersessions are not due to communal feelings?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I am assured that there is no question of discrimination against Sikhs in this Department.

OFFICERS IN THE MAINTENANCE, RESEARCH AND INSTALLATION DEPARTMENT OF THE ALL-INDIA RADIO

1384. \***Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the number of Gazetted and non-Gazetted officers in the Maintenance, Research and Installation Department of the All India Radio and how many of them are Muslims;

(b) how many of the posts in the above cadres are permanent and what the proportion of Muslims and Non-Muslims in these posts is;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to give Muslims their proper representation in the cadres referred to above; and

(d) whether Government propose to give an assurance that Muslims will be given their share in permanent and non-permanent posts under the All India Radio posts in respect of both Gazetted and non-Gazetted appointments?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d). Communal proportion in the various cadres in All India Radio is maintained not in individual offices, but in the All India Radio as a whole. Every effort is made to give each community its due share in posts in All India Radio.

*Statement showing the total number of Gazetted and non-Gazetted officers, the number of total posts held by Muslims, the number of permanent posts and the proportion of Muslims and non-Muslims in the permanent posts in the Maintenance, Research and Installation Department, All India Radio.*

Total number of posts	Number of Muslims	Number of permanent posts	Proportion in permanent posts	
			Muslims	Non-Muslims
			Per cent.	Per cent.
92 (including 8 vacant and one exempted from application of communal orders.)	24	32 (including 6 vacant).	12	88

#### PILFERAGE OF GOODS CARRIED BY STEAMERS

**1385. \*Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** Is the War Secretary aware of the fact that pilferage of goods carried by steamers is frequent and wide-spread? If so, what steps does he propose to take to put a stop to this?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to the steamers of the Joint Steamer Companies, Rivers Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, the answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

#### WHITE SOLDIERS IN INDIA

**1386. \*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. Churchill said in the House of Commons some time back that there were more white soldiers in India now than ever before;

(b) the exact number of such troops now in India for security and garrison purposes, and if the exact number cannot be given, their proportion to Indian troops;

(c) number of Indian troops that are employed on garrison and security duty, and their proportion to the total strength;

(d) the considerations which prevent the white soldiers here from being transferred to the Italian and other European fronts and the Indians fighting on those fronts being transferred back to India;

(e) if there are any Indian soldiers stationed in the Middle East; if so, whether they cannot be replaced by other empire soldiers;

(f) if the number of soldiers, sailors and other fighting forces among the United States army, navy and air force are constantly given out in American papers; if so, why such details are not given out in India; and

(g) the probable saving in cost of transport and food and other matters if white soldiers are kept in Europe and in other fighting fronts and the Indian soldiers necessary for garrison and like purposes are retained in India itself?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). In the interests of security I am unable to quote actual numbers, but I may say that the number of British troops employed on Frontier Defence and Internal Security is only 8.5 per cent. of the number of Indian troops similarly employed, and the number of Indian troops so employed is 10.9 per cent. of the number of Indian troops in the India Command.

(d) and (e). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the supplementary questions and answers to starred question No. 453 on the 16th November 1944.

(f) The gross strength of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force is frequently publicised in the press in the same way as is that of the United States of America's armed Forces, but neither the United States of America nor any other nation present vital information to their enemies by publishing detailed fighting strengths.

(g) I cannot agree to the expenditure of time and labour which would be necessary for preparing a reply to this hypothetical question.

**Mr. Abdul Qayum:** May I know if the Government have any fixed percentage for British and Indian troops which they consider essential for the better security of this country?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** As far as I know there is no such percentage.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are the British now in India very much higher in number than before the war, and if so, by what proportion has the number gone up?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** Will the Honourable Member repeat his question?

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Isn't it a fact that the number of British troops in India is higher now than before the war, and if so by what proportion has this number gone up?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** The Honourable Member knows that previously there was no war. Now there is a war against Japan and the proportion of British troops must obviously go up.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Who decides this proportion? Is it the Governor General in Council or the Commander-in-Chief on his own responsibility?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** There is no proportion laid down between British and Indian troops.

(At this stage Prof. Ranga again rose in his seat.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is no use arguing unnecessarily. Next question.

#### REQUISITIONED HOUSES AND FLATS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN BOMBAY

**1387. \*Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) the number of houses or flats and the total accommodation requisitioned in Bombay within the city's municipal limits for military purposes;

(b) how many families have been displaced in order to make room for military personnel;

(c) how much, if any, material has been given by the military and other departments in order to rebuild, at least in part, the area devastated by the explosion of April, 1944;

(d) if the military department cannot build hutments in vacant areas in government-owned lands inside and outside Bombay city limits, within a few months; if so, why they did not do this before; and, if not, why not;

(e) if this requisitioning has been greatly increased in recent days with the result that 600 families in and about Marine Drive and other areas have been given notice to quit, without any provision being made for their stay elsewhere;

(f) if the Bombay Municipality and other bodies and persons have emphatically protested against this further infliction on an already over-populated area; and

(g) if Government propose to shift all the central departments situated in the city to places less congested outside Bombay; if not, why not?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** (a) The number of residential premises requisitioned in Bombay for military purposes since the beginning of the war is 150.

(b) I regret that information is not available.

(c) 60 lakhs bricks, which were reserved for military works, were released for civil consumption from October 1944 to January 1945. I have no information regarding material made available by other Departments.

(d) All possible building has been undertaken within the available engineering resources in the Bombay area.

(e) If the Honourable Member is referring to the two buildings about which questions have recently been asked in this House, my information is that only about 24 civilian families have been given notice that their premises are likely to be requisitioned. The Government of Bombay is considering the question of providing alternative accommodation.

(f) A representation has been received from the Bombay Municipality. I am also aware of the anxiety expressed in various quarters.

(g) It is impossible to move all Central Departments from Bombay. But a general review is being undertaken to see whether any removals are feasible.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What steps were taken to find houses for the two hundred thousand people who were thrown out of their homes on account of the explosion?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** I require notice of this question.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government consider the removal of some of the Central Government Departments which are in Bombay to one of the suburbs of Bombay in order to utilise that space instead of requisitioning houses any more?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** The question whether any removals are feasible is being reviewed.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are Government considering the removal of refugees and evacuees before throwing out *bona fide* residents of Bombay from their homes?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** This question is also under consideration.

#### DETENTION OF PT. AMARNATH VIDYALANKAR

1388. \***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if Pt. Amarnath Vidyalankar of Amritsar, a 1942, detainee is detained in the Lahore Central Jail, under the orders of the Government of India? If not, under which Government's orders is he detained?

(b) In case Mr. Vidyalankar is detained under the orders of the Government of India, does the Government of India or the Punjab Government review his case periodically?

(c) Was Pt. Amarnath ever convicted or tried in a court of law for an overt act as part of his political activities? If so, when, and for what period?

(d) Is it a fact that the reason for Mr. Vidyalankar's detention is that he keeps correspondence with people outside the Punjab, particularly with one who was his class fellow when they were reading together? If so, will Government please state if there is anything incriminating in the correspondence?

(e) If the reply to (d) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of placing the correspondence before a high judicial authority?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of trying Mr. Vidyalankar in an open court? If not, why not?

(g) Is it a fact that Mr. Vidyalankar has been running low temperature and that he was recently operated upon for a throat trouble? Has the temperature disappeared? If not, do Government propose to release him so that he can have himself treated privately?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** I have no information.

Pt. Amarnath Vidyalankar is not detained under the orders of the Government of India.

**Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member inquire into the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Why not?

(No reply was given.)

#### PAUCITY OF HIGHER GRADE RECEPTIONISTS IN HOME DEPARTMENT

1389. \***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please say whether it is a fact that the rules about communal representation apply to each grade separately?



(b) Is it a fact that there are two grades of Receptionists in the Home Department?

(c) Is it a fact that there are no Muslims in the higher grade of Receptionists? If so, will he kindly say why appointments to the higher grade have not been made according to rules of communal representation?

(d) Is it a fact that one of the Muslims appointed to the lower grade is on a fixed pay?

(e) Will he kindly say why some posts are on the fixed pay and others on the time scale?

(f) Does he propose to consider the desirability of bringing the post on the fixed pay also to the time scale?

(g) Is it a fact that at the time of appointment, advance increments have been allowed to some of the Receptionists? If so, is any Muslim included among those granted advance increments?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** The cadre of receptionists was created piecemeal as necessity arose, with the result that some posts were created on a time-scale and some on a fixed pay. The questions of putting all posts on the same scale and of abolishing the two grades of receptionists are at present under consideration. The communal percentage was applied to both grades taken together but its application to this case raises difficulties that are being examined. After the examination of these points has been completed, I hope that no legitimate ground will remain for thinking that Muslims have not been treated fairly in this cadre.

Permanent Government servants appointed receptionists were given pay corresponding to the pay they were drawing before being so appointed.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Will the Honourable Member please state what is the total number of receptionists employed both on time scale and fixed pay?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** Eleven, I think, is the number.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** What are these Receptionists and what are their exact duties?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** If the Honourable Member will come to see me in my office he will find out.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is the Honourable Member assured that these gentlemen are necessary?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** I am assured.

#### DECLARATION RE SELECTION POSTS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT

1390. **\*Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that it was represented by Muslim Members of the House that if Government were not disposed to apply the communal rules to posts filled by promotion, it should at least be seen that senior Muslims are not superseded in the matter of promotion?

(b) Is it a fact that as a result of (a) above the question, about declaring posts in the Government of India Secretariat as selection and non-selection posts, was taken up by the Government?

(c) Is it a fact that as a result of that examination, all posts in the Secretariat, with the exception of a few of them, have been declared as selection posts?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** (a) and (b). Allegations were made that Muslims were treated unfairly in the matter of promotions and that they were adversely affected owing to the absence of clear instructions stating which posts are selection posts. Government have since issued orders designed to ensure that there should be no indefiniteness in this matter.

(c) No.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Will the Honourable Member please state whether it is a fact that most of the posts in the Home Department are selection posts?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** No.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Can the Honourable Member give any idea as to how many posts in his Department are known as selection posts?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** I am afraid not.

## ORDERS RE ADJUSTMENT OF UNDER-RECRUITMENT OF MINORITIES, ETC.

1391. \*Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay on the table of the House a copy of the orders on the following subjects:

- (i) adjustment of under recruitment of minorities;
- (ii) filling vacancies in replacement; and
- (iii) selection and non-selection posts in the Secretariat?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** Copies of the orders on the subject are placed on the table of the House.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. F-14/1/37 Ests.(S), DATED THE 6TH JANUARY, 1938; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT.—*Interpretations of the orders relating to communal representation in the services*

In connection with the application of the orders mentioned above, the question has been raised whether the over-recruitment or under-recruitment of members of minority communities in one cycle of rotation should or should not be adjusted in subsequent cycles. As regards over-recruitment, the view hitherto taken has been that under Supplementary Instruction 7(b) there should be subsequent adjustment; while no ruling has been given in regard to under-recruitment.

2. In so far as the first matter is concerned, it is obvious that if no limit is placed on the process of adjustment against over-recruitment, the minority communities will never get more than their reserved shares. This is contrary to the intention of the Government of India, since unreserved vacancies are open to all communities alike. It has therefore been decided that the unit for this purpose should be a year, not a cycle or a particular number of cycles, and that there should be no adjustment from year to year. If a cycle is not completed in a particular year, the next year's recruitment will start with the next point in that cycle. The intention will be clear from the following example. Suppose there are, in a particular year, 53 vacancies in a service for recruitment area in which the reservation for Muslims is 8½ per cent., and the cycle of rotation comprises 24 vacancies, the 4th and 17th vacancies being reserved for Muslims. If Muslims obtain, on their merits, 6 vacancies in first cycle the 4th and 17th vacancies in the second cycle and the 4th vacancy in the third cycle will be treated as unreserved in pursuance of Supplementary Instruction 7(b); but no adjustment will be made in the following year in respect of the remaining excess of one. On the other hand, if there is under-recruitment of Muslims in the first cycle and it cannot owing to shortage of qualified Muslims, be made good during the year, the reservation will lapse under paragraph 7(1) (v) of the Resolution of 4th July 1934.

3. It is to be clearly understood, however; that the over-recruitment of candidates belonging to a minority community, which is not to be adjusted, must have been due to vacancies in excess of its reserved share having been obtained by merit. If the community has been given excess appointments by reservation, such appointments must be cancelled as irregular, unless they were made in pursuance of the provision in the latter part of Supplementary Instruction 7(a), when subsequent adjustment must be effected, even though this has to be done in another year.

4. The under-recruitment in respect of which no adjustment is to be made in a subsequent year or years must have been due to shortage of qualified members of minority communities. But to justify a statement that there was such a shortage it is necessary to show that the various steps prescribed in Supplementary Instruction 8 have been duly taken.

5. All recruitment made to permanent posts or vacancies (including those temporary but likely to become permanent), since the date of application of the orders relating to communal representation in the services, should be reviewed in the light of the above orders, and if a cancellation of an appointment seems called for the case should be referred to this Department.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. 14/13/38-Ests. (S), DATED THE 15TH JULY, 1938, FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, SIMLA, TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

SUBJECT:—ADJUSTMENT OF OVER AND UNDER RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to this Deptt. O. M. No. F-14/1/37-Ests. (S), dated the 6th Jan. 1938, and to state that it has been decided, in partial modification thereof, that a shortage in the recruitment of members of minority communities should be carried forward for one year only. The intention will be clear from the following example. Suppose in a service 12 vacancies are filled every year and the reservation for Muslims is 25 per cent. If in one year, say 1939, only 2 qualified Muslims are available, the third vacancy shall be treated as unreserved and filled in accordance with

merit. In 1940 four vacancies instead of the normal 3 shall be reserved for Muslims, but if in that year also only 2 qualified Muslims are available, the reservation carried forward from 1939 will lapse, and only the shortage of 1940 will be carried forward to 1941. In order further to explain this, a chart is appended to this Office Memorandum.

2. The above procedure will apply to services to which recruitment is made on the results of a competitive examination. Where recruitment is made by selection, the reserved vacancy for which a qualified Muslim is not available should be filled temporarily and efforts made to attract more candidates of the Muslim Community. In this connection use might be made of communal organisations as laid down in the latter portion of Supplementary Instruction 8.

3. The procedure will be the same in the case of the other minority communities, except that if a shortage of one year cannot be made up in the next year, the vacancies should, instead of being treated as unreserved, be treated as reserved for Muslims, in accordance with para. 7 (1) (iii) of the Home Department Resolution No. F-14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July, 1934.

4. Attention is once again invited to the second sentence of para. 4 of the O. M. of 6th Jan., 1938, which lays down that to justify a statement that no qualified candidates of minority communities were forthcoming, it is necessary to show that the various steps prescribed in Supplementary Instruction 8 were duly taken.

5. There will be no change as regards adjustment of over-recruitment of minority communities. In other words, if members of minority communities obtain, in any year, more than their reserved share, no corresponding reduction shall be made in their share for the next year.

6. These orders will have effect from the 6th January, 1938.

7. The orders in paras. 1 and 2 above will not apply in the case of Divisional Accountants in the Indian Audit Department.)

( ) To Finance Department only.

*Adjustment of under-recruitment of Muslims owing to lack of qualified candidates on the lines suggested by the deputation, taking a cycle of 12 vacancies*

Year	Number of vacancies reserved	Number of qualified candidates available	Number of Reserved vacancies unfilled owing to lack of qualified candidates	Number of unfilled reserved vacancies carried forward to the next year
3		2	1	
3(1939) + 1 (1938)		2	1 (1939)+1(1938)	1 (1938) 1938
3(1940) + 1 (1939)		3	1 (1939)	Nil 1939
3(1941)		Nil	3 (1941)	3(1941)Nil 1941
3(1942) + 3 (1941)		4	2 (1941)	1942

COPY OF AN O. M. No. 31/7/44-ESTS. (S), DATED THE 6TH DECEMBER, 1944; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT.—*Adjustment of under-recruitment of members of minority communities.*

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to this Deptt.'s O. M. No. 14/13/38-Ests.(S), dated the 15th July, 1938, which lays down *inter alia* that a shortage in the recruitment of members of minority communities should be carried forward for one year only. According to para. 2 of the O. M., this procedure is to apply only in cases in which recruitment is made by competitive examination. Where recruitment is made by selection, the reserved vacancy for which a qualified candidate is not available, is to be filled temporarily and further efforts made to attract suitable candidates of the community concerned. It has been represented that certain Deptts. have been continuing such temporary arrangements for periods exceeding a year—in some cases for several years—and that this practice causes hardship to the persons employed on a temporary basis. There appears to be no justification for differentiating, in respect of the period for which reservations should be carried forward, between services or posts to which recruitment is made by competitive examination and other services or posts. It has therefore been decided that the one-year limit should apply in all cases, whether recruitment is made by competitive examination or by selection. Should there be no recruitment in the year immediately following that in which the reservations were originally made, they should be carried forward to the next year in which recruitment is actually made. In all cases the reservations carried forward will lapse after the expiry of the year in which recruitment is actually made, irrespective of the number of vacancies available during that year.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. 23/1/39-ESTS. (S); DATED THE 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1942; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT.—*Representation of minority communities in posts filled by promotion*

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to this Department Office Memorandum No. 23/1/39-Ests. (S), dated the 16th August, 1941 and to say that after considering the views expressed by the departments on the proposals contained in that Office Memorandum it has been decided to adopt the following principles:

(a) There should be no indefiniteness about the normal mode of filling vacancies for any uncertainty about the proportions to be filled by direct recruitment and by promotion. The practice, where it is not sufficiently well-defined, should be settled for the future.

(b) No variation in existing rules or practice which would have the effect of increasing the present proportion of vacancies filled by promotion, nor any departure from the pre-determined proportions, should be made without the orders of Government.

(c) Except in certain classes of appointments which must be defined as open only to selection, seniority must as a general rule be given its due weight and good men should not be passed over by their juniors merely because the juniors might, other things being equal, be judged to be better than they.

(d) Without prejudice to the position of the War Department *vis-a-vis* Naval, Army and Air Headquarters, each Department should be responsible not only for the accuracy of the communal returns from each of its Attached and Subordinate Offices, both in form and substance, but also for submitting a consolidated return for all its offices to the Home Department by a specified date each year, accompanied by brief remarks on any defects or departures from the rules that may have come to its notice. It should be the duty of the Home Department not to check the returns of other Departments but to consolidate them further without delay and review the general working of the rules as disclosed by the returns.

2. In order to comply with principle (c), Departments will have to prepare lists of appointments which may be filled only by selection of the best candidates available. So far as posts in the Secretariat Ministerial Staff are concerned, the list will be prepared by Home Department after consulting the other Departments.

3. As regards (d), the departments are requested to submit to Home Department consolidated returns for 1941 as soon as possible and thereafter by 1st April of each year.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. 31/23/42-ESTS. (S), DATED THE 1ST APRIL, 1943; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT.—*Selection and non-selection posts in the Secretariat ministerial staff.*

The undersigned is directed to invite attention to paragraph 2 of the Home Department Office Memorandum, No. 23/1/39-Ests. (S), dated the 4th September, 1942, and to say that the question of classifying the various posts in the Government of India Secretariat and its Attached Offices at headquarters as "selection" and "non-selection" posts has been under the consideration of this Department. It is proposed to treat these posts, when filled by promotion, as follows:

(a) *Selection posts* (i.e., posts which should be filled by the selection of the best candidates available).

(i) *Posts of Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary.*—These are important posts carrying great responsibility and call for the exercise of considerable discretion and initiative. The best candidates available should therefore be selected for these posts.

(ii) *Posts of Establishment Officer, Administrative Officer, and Officer Supervisor.*—The remarks against item (i) above apply to these posts also.

(iii) *Posts of Superintendent and Chief Superintendent.*—Since 1920, when the time-scale was introduced, selection has been the normal rule for filling these posts. This was further emphasised by the Maxwell Committee. In view of the increasing complexity of work and the consequent need for proper supervision and control, it is perhaps more important now that these posts should be filled by selection.

(iv) *Posts of Assistant-in-Charge and Assistant in the Upper time scale.*—What has been said above of Superintendents is generally true of Assistants-in-Charge as well. They are Superintendents in all but name, status and pay, the difference being based not on the nature of duties and responsibilities but on the size of the Branch controlled and the quantity of work in it.

As regards assistants in the upper time scale this grade is normally the recruiting ground for Superintendents and as such the best men eligible should be selected.

(v) *Clerks-in-charge of Issue Section, etc., and Cashiers.*—These posts involve duties and responsibilities of a much higher standard than other posts in the Division in which they are included. They should therefore be filled by the best available candidates.

(b) *Non-selection posts* (i.e., posts to which promotion should usually be made by seniority subject to fitness *vide* paragraph 1(c) of the Home Department Office Memorandum referred to above.)

(i) *Assistants (ordinary grade).*—Although at present, these posts are treated as selection posts when filled by promotion it is not considered that there will be serious loss of efficiency if in future they are filled according to seniority subject to the rejection of the unfit.

(ii) *Clerks, Second Division (Ordinary and the Selection grades).*—The ordinary grade of the Second Division is in the process of abolition and the Selection grade is intended mainly to provide a *solatium* for those not good enough for promotion to the First Division.

2. It is requested that the views of the Finance Department, etc., on the above proposals, as well as their recommendations in respect of any other posts in that Department or in its Attached Offices at headquarters which are not covered by these proposals, may kindly be communicated to this Department at an early date. Pending a final decision in the matter, promotions may continue to be made in accordance with the existing rules.

No. 31/23/42-ESTABLISHMENTS (S)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd September, 1943.

To

All Departments of the Government of India, the Political Department, the Crown Finance Department, the Secretaries to the Governor-General (Public) (Reforms), and (Personal) and the Secretary, Executive Council.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT.**—*Selection and non-selection posts in the Secretariat Ministerial Establishment.*

The replies to the Home Department Office Memorandum No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S), dated 1st April, 1943, reveal that the great majority of Departments have accepted the proposals made therein. It has accordingly been decided that the posts specified in clause (a) of paragraph 1 of that office memorandum should be classified as "selection" posts and those mentioned in clause (b) thereof as "non-selection" posts, when they are filled by promotion. This means that when posts of the first category are to be filled by promotion, merit will be the primary criterion; while when posts of the second category are to be filled by promotion, the criterion will be seniority subject to fitness for the post in question.

2. It has also been decided that the posts of Personal Assistants to Honourable Members of the Executive Council and of stenographers to Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and other officers, which carry special pay in addition to grade pay, should be classified as "selection" posts.

3. The above orders apply only to posts in the Departments of the Government of India Secretariat proper and their Attached Offices at headquarters.

4. Departments should themselves decide how the other posts under their administrative control and not covered by the orders contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above should be classified.

H. K. CHAINANI,

*Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.*

No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S), NEW DELHI, THE 2ND SEPTEMBER 1943.

Copy forwarded to the Federal Public Service Commission, the Federal Court, the Military Secretary to H. E. the Viceroy; and the Director, Intelligence Bureau, for information and guidance. (The classification proposed in his memorandum No. 25/Est./42, dated 16th October 1942, is approved.)

( ) To D. I. B. only.

By Order

F. WARD,

*Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.*

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. 31/23/42-ESTS. (S); DATED THE 12TH FEBRUARY, 1944; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

**SUBJECT.**—*Selection and non-selection posts in the Secretariat Ministerial Establishment.*

As will be seen from the last sentence of para. 2 of the Home Department O. M. No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S); dated the 1st April 1943, it was not intended to give retrospective effect to the orders contained in the Office Memorandum No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S), dated the 2nd September, 1943. It has accordingly been decided that permanent, quasi-permanent and provisionally permanent vacancies which occurred before the 2nd September 1943 in posts which were previously selection posts but which are now classified as 'non-selection posts' should be filled in accordance with the rules previously in force, that is, by selection. Permanent (including quasi-permanent and provisionally permanent) vacancies in such posts arising after the 2nd September 1943 must, however, be filled according to seniority subject to fitness; but any persons appointed in a provisionally permanent capacity before that date should be preferred to others even if the latter are senior to them.

*Memorandum of Supplementary Instructions connected with the orders contained in the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. F. 14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934.*

1. *Minority communities.*—Subject to any special orders which may be issued in connection with Section IV of the Resolution, the term "other minority communities" covers the following four communities only, viz., Anglo-Indians including Domiciled Europeans, Indian Christians, Sikhs and Parsis.

2. *Application of orders to inferior posts.*—Subject to any special orders which may be issued regarding any particular class of inferior servants; the orders contained in the Resolution do not apply to inferior posts.

3. (a) *Application of orders to temporary appointments.*—The orders contained in the Resolution apply to temporary vacancies lasting three months or longer (including vacancies in permanent posts filled temporarily by persons not permanently in Government service). Vacancies for a period of less than three months may, if suitable candidates belonging to a particular community are not readily forthcoming, be filled without regard to communal considerations. Similarly, vacancies originally sanctioned for a period of less than 3 months and extended thereafter need not necessarily be filled in accordance with the orders contained in the Resolution unless the period of extension is 3 months or more. But special care must be taken to see that the orders are strictly applied in all cases, in which posts though originally sanctioned on a temporary basis are likely to become permanent. If any doubtful cases arise they should be referred to the Home Department.

3. (b) "A person holding a purely temporary vacancy, who has no substantive post under Government, must, if appointed to a permanent post, be treated as a direct recruit."

4. *Application of orders to paid apprentices.*—As has already been provided in the case of Special Class Apprentices in the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Department of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways [vide Railway Department (Railway Board) Notification No. 2387-E. G., dated the 18th October, 1934], the orders contained in the Resolution apply to paid apprentices.

5. *Application of orders to each grade or division of a service, etc.*—(a) The percentages prescribed for minority communities are to be applied to vacancies (as distinct from posts) in each grade or division of a service to be filled by direct recruitment and not to vacancies to be filled by promotion, which will continue as at present to be made solely on merit and seniority. It is not the intention to reserve all future vacancies for Muslims and other minority communities, or to stop or postpone recruitment from the majority community, till the prescribed percentages of posts in a grade, division or service are held by Muslims and members of other minority communities.

(b) A person holding a post to which the orders contained in the Resolution do not apply (e.g., an inferior servant) must, if appointed to a post to which the orders do apply, be treated as a direct recruit.

6. *Minimum standards of qualifications.*—In accordance with rule (v) in para. 7(1) of the Resolution, minimum standards of qualifications applicable to all communities alike should be prescribed for each grade, division or service to which recruitment is made direct. No fresh restrictions in other respects should be introduced except with the previous approval of the Governor General in Council.

7. (a) *Procedure for filling vacancies.*—A minimum of 12 vacancies (out of which 3 will go to Muslims and 1 to other minority communities) is required to give proper effect to the rule reserving 25 per cent. of vacancies for Muslims and 8½ per cent. of vacancies for other minority communities. If the number of vacancies in a particular year is less than 12 (or is not a multiple of 12) it will be necessary to keep a running account from year to year as in the model rotation below:

1. Unreserved vacancy.	1 Unreserved vacancy.
1 Muslim.	1 Other minority community.
2 Unreserved vacancies.	2 Unreserved vacancies.
1 Muslim.	1 Muslim.
1 Schedule Castes.	1 Unreserved vacancy.

It is not necessary to adhere strictly to the rotation as shown in the model rotation above but Muslims or other minority community candidates may be taken at an earlier stage of the rotation if the actual composition of the service at the time suggests that such a course would be desirable. In any case, the filling of the four reserved vacancies in every twelve should not be postponed until the eight unreserved vacancies have been filled.

(b) Unreserved vacancies are open to all communities on their merits, but when a member of a minority community obtains an unreserved vacancy, a corresponding reduction should be made in the number of vacancies reserved for that community. For example, if Muslims are entitled to three vacancies out of twelve and one Muslim obtains an unreserved vacancy on his merits, two more vacancies only should be given to Muslims by reservation; if Muslims obtain on their merits more than the number of vacancies reserved for them, no vacancies should be given to them by reservation. It is open to minority communities to obtain on their merits more than the percentage of vacancies reserved for them.

"(c) A vacancy caused by the termination of the services of a probationer should not be treated as a fresh vacancy, but should be treated as (i) unreserved or (ii) reserved for Muslims or the other minority communities, according as the vacancy in which the probationer was originally appointed was treated as unreserved or so reserved.

8. *Steps for securing a supply of suitable candidates from minority communities—Communal Societies.*—So far as services recruited on an All-India basis are concerned, no serious difficulty is anticipated as regards the supply of candidates, but all vacancies in such services should be advertised in the following papers:—

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) The Madras Mail, Madras                | (9) The Eastern Times, Lahore.            |
| (2) The Hindu, Madras.                     | (10) The Indian Nation, Patna.            |
| (3) The Times of India, Bombay.            | (11) The Hitavada, Craddock Town, Nagpur. |
| (4) The Statesman, Calcutta.               | (12) The Khyber Mail, Peshawar.           |
| (5) The Star of India, Calcutta.           | (13) The Hindustan Times, Delhi.          |
| (6) The Leader, Allahabad.                 | (14) The Tribune, Lahore.                 |
| (7) The Pioneer, Lucknow.                  | (15) The Dawn, Delhi.                     |
| (8) The Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore |   |

As regards locally recruited services, the question as to the papers in which vacancies should be advertised is left to the local Head of the Department. If in any area a sufficient number of qualified candidates for a particular service or post are not forthcoming from the minority communities to fill the reserved percentage of vacancies, the local Head of the Department should communicate the deficiency of qualified candidates to the Societies, if any, recognized by the local Government concerned as representative of the minority communities in the locality and should invite the Societies' co-operation in bringing the existence of vacancies to the notice of suitable candidates. It should, however, be made clear to the Societies:—

(1) that their functions are limited to the following matters:

(a) to bring to the notice of suitable candidates any examinations for recruitment to the services for which they could usefully enter and any advertisements of appointments to be made by selection;

(b) to advise candidates about the examinations for recruitment to the services for which they should enter or the appointments for which they should apply;

(c) to advise candidates on any matters which might be of assistance to them in preparing for or applying for admission to, examinations for recruitment to the services; and

(2) that it will not be their function to press the claims of any individual candidates who should submit their application direct to the appointing authorities.

9. *Annual returns*:—With reference to paragraph 5 of the Resolution, the Government of India have prescribed two annual returns as in the model form attached. Subject to slight modifications of detail which may be decided upon in connexion with locally recruited services, the form should be suitable for all services to which the orders apply. Particulars in regard to each service should be furnished in this form each year, those due in 1935 being sent as soon as possible, and those due in subsequent years being sent so as to reach the Government of India in the Home Department not later than the 1st April.

10. *Non-observance of orders.*—Any appointment made contrary to the orders contained in the Resolution, read with the foregoing supplementary instructions, should be regarded as null and void and should be cancelled by the Head of the Department concerned as soon as it is brought to his notice through annual returns or otherwise.

COPY OF AN O. M. No. F.-14/1/37-Ests. (S), DATED THE 18TH AUGUST, 1937; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT:—*Supplementary Instructions connected with the Home Department Resolution No. F. 14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July, 1934, relating to communal representation in the services, and instructions for filling the statements prescribed in Supplementary Instruction 9.*

A doubt has been expressed as to whether a vacancy caused by the premature discharge (for e.g., unsatisfactory work) of a person holding a temporary post or vacancy should or should not be treated as a fresh vacancy, and if not, whether the procedure will not be in conflict with Instruction C-2 for filling the annual communal Statements. Such a discharge is akin to the termination of the services of a probationer, which is governed by Supplementary Instruction 7(c), and failure to treat the resultant vacancy as a fresh one does not conflict with Instruction C-2 of the Instructions for filling the communal Statements. It has accordingly been decided to make the following addition to Supplementary Instruction 7(c), namely:—

"A vacancy caused by the premature discharge of a person holding a temporary post or vacancy should be similarly treated."

2. As regards Instruction C-2 of the Instructions for filling the communal statements, the intention will perhaps be clear from the following example. Suppose a person "A" in an office goes on leave, and his return to duty synchronises with the going on leave of another person, "B", in the same office. Then, according to the Instruction, the vacancy caused by "B's" going on leave is a fresh vacancy and not the same as caused by "A's"

going on leave. The vacancies should be reckoned as the separate vacancies for the purposes of the communal roster and the communal statements, even though they happen to be filled by the same person (which is possible if both vacancies are unreserved):

No. 31/12/44-Ests. (S).  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi, the 31st March, 1944.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT.**—*Question whether vacancies caused by resignations, etc., of persons appointed in temporary vacancies should be treated as fresh vacancies or filled "in replacement."*

Under clause (c) of paragraph 7 of the Supplementary Instructions relating to communal representation in the services inserted by the Home Department's Office Memorandum No. F. 14/41/35-Ests. (S), dated the 4th June 1936, a vacancy caused by termination of the services of a probationer is not to be treated as a fresh one but as (i) unreserved or (ii) reserved for Muslims or other minority communities according as the vacancy was originally treated as unreserved or so reserved. This is based on the view that until a probationer is confirmed, the arrangements made are only provisional and that a reserved vacancy can be said to have been filled from a particular community only when a member of that community has been made permanent in it.

2. In 1937 the question arose whether vacancies caused by the premature discharge of temporary men should be treated as fresh vacancies or not for purposes of the communal roster. It was decided that such vacancies should be treated as if they had been caused by the discharge of probationers [vide paragraph 1 of the Home Department's Office Memorandum, No. 14/1/37-Ests. (S), dated the 18th August 1937]. The effect of this decision is that a temporary post or vacancy once filled from any particular community must always be held by members of that community. This amounts to a reservation of posts and not vacancies and therefore is not in accordance with Government's declared policy in the matter. The grounds for the treatment accorded to a vacancy held by a probationer do not apply in the case of other vacancies. In view of these considerations the orders contained in paragraph 1 of Home Department Office Memorandum No. 14/1/37-Ests. (S), dated the 18th August 1937, are hereby cancelled. In future all vacancies, whether permanent or temporary, except those caused by the termination, due to whatever cause, of the services of a probationer or of a person appointed 'on trial' for a specified period during that period, should be treated as fresh vacancies for purposes of the communal roster.

By Order

F. WARD,

*Under Secretary to the Government of India.*

To

All Departments of the Government of India [including Joint Financial Adviser (Supply), Additional Financial Adviser (Munitions Productions) etc.]; the Political Department; the Crown Finance Department; the Secretaries to the Governor-General (Public), (Reforms) and (Personal); the Secretary to the Executive Council; the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy; the Director, Intelligence Bureau and the Federal Public Service Commission.

SETTING UP OF INDEPENDENT PENSION APPEAL TRIBUNALS

1392. \***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to his answer to Starred question No. 644 of 21st November, 1944, and state when Government propose to set up Independent Pension Appeal Tribunals?

(b) Does he propose legislation after the model of the War Pension Act, 1915 to 1920?

(c) What interim measures does he propose for the revision of cases dismissed without reference to the position recognized in the War Pensions Acts, 1915 to 1920 and other statutory protections contained in Section 136 of the Army Act and the preamble to Pension Regulations?

**Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to starred question No. 1279 on the 22nd March 1945.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Pensions Act, 1915 to 1920 does not apply to personnel under the rule-making control of the Governor General. Section 136 of the Army Act applies to pay only and not to pensions. The preamble to Pensions Regulations for the Army in India has no bearing on entitlement to pension. The question of any interim measures does not, therefore arise.



**Sir F. E. James:** With reference to the answer to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member tell the House the substance of the reply to which he has referred?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** Certainly. "Every effort is being made to set up Pension Appeal Tribunals as early as possible."

**Sir F. E. James:** With reference to that particular answer my Honourable friend is aware that the matter was raised in the house a year ago. Can he give any indication that the matter will reach completion in the near future?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** I think we have gone a long way. We have created a new Pensions Branch in the War Department. The machinery is very nearly being got ready, and we will establish Pension Appeal Tribunals as soon as possible.

#### PROCEDURE RE ADJUDICATION OF WAR PENSIONS CLAIMS BY INDIAN PERSONNEL

**1393. \*Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to the fact that claims to War Pensions in the case of Indian personnel have been and are being adjudicated by the War Department under the rules and procedure of its own making, whereas in the case of all other personnel of His Majesty's 'regular forces' such claims have been adjudicated by War Pensions Acts 1915 to 1920?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the authority for this discrimination with special reference to the amendment made in 1916 to Section 84 of the Government of India Act, 1915?

(c) Is he prepared to revise the Indian Personnel's cases affected by such discrimination as referred to in (b)?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I am advised that the War Pensions Acts 1915 to 1920 are not applicable to Indian personnel and that the reference quoted in this part of the question is not relevant.

(c) Does not arise.

#### CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY, ETC., OF WAR PENSIONS

**1394. \*Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state the particular Section, also the particular item of the particular Legislative List of the Government of India Acts of 1919 and that of 1935, under which the conditions for the eligibility of death and disability pensions and reductions and stoppages thereof, in the case of Indian personnel, have been laid down for the personnel of Great War and the present War?

(b) Will he please state, with reference to the first para. of the preamble to Pension Regulations, the authority that has sanctioned and enforced the conditions for the eligibility and stoppage of war pensions referred to in (a)?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** (a) The rules governing the grant of death and disability pensions, and reductions and stoppages thereof, in the case of Indian personnel during the present war have been framed by the Governor General under Section 235 of the Government of India Act, 1935. There was no statutory provision for such entitlement issues of the last war, and the rules governing such claims were framed by the Governor General in Council with the approval of the Secretary of State.

(b) The first para. of the preamble to the Pension Regulations for the Army in India is not relevant to the question of war pensions, the authority for the grant of which I have already indicated in my reply to part (a).

#### STOPPAGE OF WAR PENSIONS OF INDIAN PERSONNEL OF THE GREAT WAR

**1395. \*Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the War Secretary please state whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that War Pensions, admitted for life to Indian Personnel of the Great War, have been stopped and continuance thereof has been refused without reference to protections afforded to such pensions *vide* Section 136 of the Army Act, Section 51 of the Indian Army Act and War Pensions Acts 1915 to 1920 read with Section 84 of the Government of India Act, 1919?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** I am advised that none of the provisions referred to by the Honourable Member have any bearing on the stoppage or continuance of pensions granted to Indian personnel of His Majesty's Indian Land Forces.

**KING'S PREROGATIVE TO STOP WAR COMPENSATIONS, ETC., IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES**

**1396. \*Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if the King's prerogative to stop war compensations and war pensions, payable under War Pensions Acts, 1915 to 1920 for death and disablement casualties sustained while rendering Military Service during the last War, has been applied to Indian personnel of the Indian forces which had been lent to His Majesty's Government for wars carried on beyond the external frontiers of His Majesty's Indian possessions?

(b) Under whose name and by what officer the prerogative referred to in (a) has been exercised in the case of King's Commissioned Officers, Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and other Indian Ranks in His Majesty's Indian Forces?

(c) Has there been any Royal Warrant or Order-in-Council delegating the powers of exercising King's prerogative to the Government of India to withhold in part or full any death or disablement pension, childrens allowance or arrears thereof after the statutory recognition of claim to War Pensions *vide* War Pensions Acts 1915 to 1920?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, does he propose to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House stating the position with reference to the statutory limitations imposed on the powers contained in Section 70 (2), 136 and 44 of the Army Act and also with reference to the definition of the expression 'pension' given in Section 311 of the Government of India Act 1935?

**Mr. O. M. Trivedi:** (a) to (d). The Honourable Member's question raises issues of law. I am having the whole position examined, and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

**WORKING OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA**

**1397. \*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to make a full statement regarding the working of the Reserve Bank of India since its establishment explaining clearly:

- (i) the main objects for establishing the Bank;
- (ii) how far and to what extent those objects have been achieved;
- (iii) the policy laid down and followed by the Reserve Bank as regards financing the trade and Industry;
- (iv) the steps which are actually being taken for execution of that policy;
- (v) specific obligation and duty imposed on the Reserve Bank for promoting agriculture and providing cheap agricultural credit; and
- (vi) steps actually taken in that behalf?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I cannot make a full statement in reply to a question but I will deal with the specific points raised.

(i) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the preamble to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

(ii) A reference is invited to the annual reports of the Central Board of Directors of the Bank in terms of section 14 of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

(iii) Being a bankers' bank the Reserve Bank of India is not authorised in normal times to finance trade and industry direct but it can make loans and advances to scheduled banks and provincial co-operative banks in terms of section 17 of the Act.

(iv) The Reserve Bank of India has extended financial accommodation to a number of scheduled and provincial co-operative banks.

(v) The duties and functions of the Reserve Bank of India in regard to agricultural credit are contained in sections 17 and 54 of its Act.

(vi) The Reserve Bank of India has rediscounted agricultural paper at a concession rate of 2 per cent per annum for provincial co-operative banks and this facility would have been utilised to a much greater extent but for the large

surplus funds with co-operative banks as a result of the conditions arising out of the war. The Agricultural Credit Department of the Bank is also assisting Provincial Governments in the study of their problems, and has contributed materially in drawing up schemes and laying down procedure for their fulfilment.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have the Reserve Bank Board or the Managing Governor ever represented to the Government of India the desirability of varying the policy of issuing further notes in India? Have they done so in any correspondence with the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** All matters concerning the currency policy of the country naturally come under discussion between Government and the authorities of the Reserve Bank.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Ever since the inception of the Reserve Bank has the Finance Department reviewed the work that it has done in its Rural Credit Branch?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Yes, Sir. The Bank has issued publications indicating some of the work it has carried out in that Branch.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What steps have Government taken to satisfy themselves that the Reserve Bank has discharged the duties cast upon it by the Reserve Bank of India Act?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I do not consider that any special steps are necessary to see that an institution like the Reserve Bank has carried out the statutory duties laid upon it by the Act.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are we to understand that the Government of India have no responsibilities at all in regard to this matter and the Reserve Bank is absolutely autonomous and is not accountable to any authority?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I would not accept that statement of the position.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government please consider the desirability of circulating Reserve Bank's reports to the Members of this House?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** The reports are available in the Library for those who wish to study them.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Can they be circulated, Sir?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** No.

#### ASSISTANCE BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA TO SCHEDULED AND OTHER BANKS

1398. **Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if any service and assistance have been rendered by the Reserve Bank to the Banks in the country and to the Scheduled Banks in particular?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative what are the particular facilities given?

(c) How many and which Banks received financial accommodation either in normal conditions or in emergency?

(d) How the interest-free statutory deposits of Scheduled Banks are employed by the Reserve Bank? Are they employed for the direct benefit of the Scheduled Banks? If so, in what manner?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) Yes.

(b) The facilities have taken the form of advances and rediscounts under section 17 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

(c) It is not in the public interest to give the names of the banks but the numbers of institutions that have made use of the facilities on different occasions are 33 scheduled banks and three provincial co-operative banks.

(d) The statutory deposits form a part of the Reserve Bank of India's liabilities which are utilised by the bank in the manner reflected in the weekly statements issued by the bank.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Are the deposits employed for the direct benefit of the Scheduled Banks?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I take it that the maintenance of the general credit stability of the country is in the interests of the Scheduled Banks as well as of the country as a whole.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** I say, are the deposits employed for the benefit of the banks who have made them?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I do not consider that the object of these deposits is merely to ensure the direct benefit of the Scheduled Banks.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** So the answer is in the negative.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** It is largely in the negative.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I ask if Government contemplate enlarging the usefulness of the Reserve Bank by amending Section 17?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I should like to have notice of that question.

#### APPLICATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES ORDINANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**1399. \*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Essential Services Ordinance applies to all Government employees; and

(b) whether protests have reached the Government regarding non-application of the provisions of sections (5) and (6) of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance II of 1941, in regard to obligation of the Crown not to discontinue the services of the Crown servants without a reasonable cause, and the issue of rules regulating or empowering a specified authority to regulate their wages and other conditions of service?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Labour Member who will answer it in due course.

#### HARSH TREATMENT AS REGARDS LEAVE METED OUT TO STAFF IN AMENDMENT SECTION OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

**1400. \*Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state whether the provisions of the F.R.S. and S.R.S. and orders issued by the Home and F.D.S. in regard to grant of leave and establishment cases are followed by the various branches and offices of the Defence Department?

(b) Is Government aware of the harsh treatment, meted to the staff attached to the Amendment Section of the Defence Department by its officer-in-charge?

(c) Is it a fact that leave applied for from Monday is granted from Sunday and debited to the leave account of the applicant, accordingly, in the Amendment Section of the Defence Department?

(d) Is it a fact that the Officer-in-charge of the Amendment Section does not hesitate even from discharging officials who proceed on medical leave for a small period of a fortnight?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** (a) A certain portion of the Defence Department including the Amendment Section is paid from Defence Services estimates, and this portion is not governed by Fundamental Rules and Supplementary Rules.

(b) No instances of harsh treatment have come to the notice of Government.

(c) I understand that in certain cases this procedure has been adopted, but it is not done as a general rule.

(d) Leave supported by a medical certificate from a Government Medical Officer is invariably allowed, and I know of no case where a man has been discharged for taking such leave.

**Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** Will the Honourable Member inquire into the matter if instances are given to him?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** If any instances are brought to my notice, I shall make the necessary inquiries.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Have Government called for papers and made inquiries? If leave is applied for from Monday is it granted from Sunday?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** It is not done as a general rule; I have stated that in my answer to the question.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Why is that procedure adopted in certain cases? It is manifestly unjust.

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** A clerk may have taken a lot of leave already. In such cases or for some other reason the leave debited to his account is counted from Sunday.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashifingam Chettiar:** Is it allowed under the rules?

HARSH TREATMENT AS REGARDS LEAVE METED OUT TO STAFF IN AMENDMENT SECTION OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

**1401. \*Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state whether it is a fact that if an official on medical leave is declared fit by the medical authorities to resume duties on Friday or Saturday, he is not allowed by the officer of the Amendment Section to join from Friday or Saturday but is allowed to join on the following Monday, and Sunday is debited to his leave account?

(b) Is it a fact that instances are not wanting in the Amendment Section in which poor clerks on medical leave are sometimes threatened by the Officer Incharge to join office at once or on prescribed dates at the cost of their service and if the poor sick clerks do not join on account of illness, they are discharged and extraordinary leave of three months, which is admissible under the ordinary rules, is denied to them?

(c) Is it a fact that officials with three or four years service are discharged by the Officer of the Amendment Section for small faults, like late arrival in office by three or four minutes?

(d) Is it a fact that no replies are given to the appeals preferred by the affected staff?

(e) Is it a fact that the officials of the Amendment Section are not allowed to appeal to higher authorities and if they do they are discharged straightaway?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** (a) No.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to part (d) of his starred question No. 1400.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) All clerks are allowed to appeal to higher authorities provided that such appeals are submitted through the proper channel.

HARSH TREATMENT AS REGARDS LEAVE METED OUT TO STAFF IN AMENDMENT SECTION OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

**1402. \*Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) whether Muslim clerks in the Amendment Section are not allowed the usual time allowed in other Government Offices for offering their Jumma prayers and if not what steps the Government propose to take against the officer responsible for this irregularity;

(b) if it is a fact that for one day's casual leave, the clerks have to attach their out-door ticket and for two days casual leave a proper medical certificate has to be attached to their application; and

(c) whether it is permissible under the rules and regulations prescribed by the Home and Finance Departments; and if not, what action, if any, Government propose to take in this connection?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** (a) Muslim clerks are allowed the usual time for offering their Jumma prayers. The second part does not arise.

(b) Yes, when leave is asked for on medical grounds.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to part (a) of his question No. 1400. I am however considering whether the orders referred to in part (b), which were introduced about a year ago because of a wave of absenteeism, need be kept in force.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** With reference to the reply which has been given by the Honourable Member to part (a), I want to ask the Honourable

Member if he knows that many complaints have been forwarded by me to the Home Department, Finance Department and other Departments that Muslims are not allowed the time for saying their prayer, and that they are asked to say their prayer only during their lunch time, and that if they are 15 minutes late they have to work 15 minutes after office hours to make up that time?

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** Is the Honourable Member referring to Muslim clerks in the Amendment Section only of the Defence Department?

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** This is a general complaint. If a Muslim has to go for saying Jumma prayers, then he has to make up that time by staying after office hours. If he has to go to say his prayers during lunch time and is late by 15 minutes, then he has again to make up that time by staying after office hours.

**Mr. Ram Chandra:** Now that this has been brought to my notice, I shall certainly make inquiries.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Why not declare *Jumma* as a public holiday instead of Sunday?

### UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

#### INTERPRETATION OF "OLD ENTRANT" AS APPLIED TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

**105. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the exact meaning of the words 'old entrant' as applied to Government servants, and also whether the words are defined in any statute? If so, under what statute?

(b) Do the new scales of pay which were introduced after 1931 apply to the 'old entrants' when promoted to a higher grade? Is it a fact that the posts in a given cadre will not be closed down and converted into posts of a lower cadre so long as the old entrants are available who are legitimately looking forward to being promoted to a higher grade with old scales of pay?

(c) Does an employee in Government service holding a substantive post before 1931, when promoted to a higher cadre, continue to be an 'old entrant' for the purposes of his pay and privileges?

(d) Are Government of India aware whether the terms 'old entrants' and 'new entrants' are applied in the same sense by all the Provincial Governments?

(e) Are Government of India responsible for maintaining uniformity of meaning in this matter all over India?

(f) Have Government any power or authority to prevent anomalies between the meanings attached to the words at the Centre and in the Provinces?

(g) Is the sanction of the Government of India sought by Provincial Governments before the grades of posts in All-India services are reduced? If the reply to (g) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to see that the interpretation of these words by Provincial Governments is not different from that which prevails in the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** (a) An 'old entrant' is a Government servant other than one defined in sub-rules (i)-(v) of Rule 8 of the Revised Rates of Pay Rules, as read with the executive orders thereunder, which are contained in the appendix to those Rules, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative, as will be apparent from paragraph (7) of the Appendix to the publication referred to in the above reply. As regards the last sentence, attention is invited to section 258 of the Government of India Act, 1935. Except for the posts mentioned therein, the Governor General in Council has full power to vary the strength of the cadres under his control.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government of India have no definite information on this point.

(e) and (f). No, since Provincial Governments are fully competent to frame rules and interpret them in respect of services under their rule-making control.

(g) Attention is invited to sections 246—250 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and to rules 23 to 26 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules according to which the strength, including both the number and character of posts, the rules regulating recruitment to the All-India Services and the rules regulating conditions of service and any allowances etc. of such services, are the responsibility of the Secretary of State. The latter part of the question therefore does not arise.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

## CLOTH FAMINE IN BENGAL

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies been drawn to the Press report of a joint statement issued by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Sir Jagdish Prasad from Calcutta regarding the cloth famine in Bengal?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state whether any special step is proposed to be taken as an emergent measure for the purpose of giving relief to Bengal in the matter of supplies of cotton textiles, and if so, will the Honourable Member make a comprehensive statement explaining any such step, indicating, at the same time, any special directions that may be given to the Government of Bengal in that connection?

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

(b) I have already arranged for a special despatch immediately of about 8,000 bales of cloth to Bengal. We are grateful to the Honourable War Transport Member for specially arranging this on an extremely short notice. I expect that the delivery will have been completed within the next few days. In addition I have also decided as a special case and without prejudice to the ultimate decision on this matter to allot to Bengal during April and May cloth at the rate of 12 yards per head per annum. We are also trying to isolate special needs for Red Cross, Hospitals, etc. We propose to depute a senior I.C.S. officer, if available, to be in constant touch with the cloth situation in the eastern zone. As I have already stated, on several occasions internal distribution within a province is the responsibility of the Provincial Government and the Bengal Government is now taking drastic steps to overhaul its distributive system and organisation.

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the recent press statement made by the Minister for Civil Supplies regarding the actual yardage contents of bales of cloth sent to Bengal?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** My attention has been drawn to it. The Bengal quota was sent almost entirely, by sea. Honourable Members are aware that for Customs purposes, for any despatch by sea the actual yardage has to be declared, and we therefore knew the actual yardage. Thereafter for purposes of statistical calculation we divided the total yardage by taking 1,500 yds. for each bale. My estimate of 1,500 yds. per bale and the number of bales are correct, so far as the total yardage is concerned.

**Pandit Lakshmi Banta Maitra:** Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House if he has already considered carefully the question of the effective distribution in areas where cloth shortage is acuter than in others?

12 NOON. I may tell the Honourable Member that recently in connection with the death of my father, and for his *Sradh* ceremony I could not get a shred of cloth anywhere in the markets of Krishnagar and Santipur the places from which the Honourable Member comes,—I repeat I could not get a shred of cloth in the market for the *Sradh* ceremony of my father and it was only through the kindness of some of my friends that I could get any cloth at all. Is the Honourable Member aware that that is the position in Muffassil Bengal today?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am aware that there are isolated cases here and there and I know exactly the situation in my district too. But

the internal distribution has been left to the Provincial Government and they are taking drastic steps with a view to remedy this; but as I explained in my Budget speech they have their difficulties and I hope the Honourable Member will realise that they have now started a drive in Calcutta. After all is said and done, if people who are the dealers keep the cloth, unless drastic steps are taken, it will not come out; and these steps have been taken.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Is it a fact that apart from the representations of the Minister, His Excellency the Governor of Bengal has written a special letter inviting the attention of the Government of India that Bengal is practically going naked?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have never seen any such personal letter. On the other hand I have received a letter of course relating to the cloth situation, but that does not disclose a situation as my friend states it.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Has the Honourable Member secured assurances from the Honourable War Transport Member that special facilities will be granted for the purpose of reaching this cloth from Calcutta to the different consuming centres—a special priority?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** As I said, I can assure on behalf of the War Transport Member that if the Government of Bengal desires anything with a view to help them in the internal distribution in the Province we shall immediately go into that question.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Member aware that in the district towns and mofussil areas in Bengal, whenever cloth is sent there, the district authorities at first earmark the bulk of the supplies for the Government servants and their clerks who get any quantity they like while the civilian population does not get even a shred in the open market?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** This is the first time I am hearing about this and in view of the statement made, I propose immediately to make an inquiry into the matter.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Has the Honourable Member received a copy of the resolution passed by District Bar Association, Krishnagar?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There has been enough discussion.

**Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Is the Honourable Member aware . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* ANSWERING IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUESTIONS OF ABSENTEE MEMBERS

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand there has been some misunderstanding as to why I asked, on the 22nd March, the Government Members concerned if they wanted to reply to the two questions of Members who were absent at the time and had not previously authorised any other Members to put the questions on their behalf. I already had occasion to point out (*see* my ruling at page 1008 of the Legislative Assembly Debate of February 20, 1935) that in order to meet properly the requirements of Standing Orders 18 and 19 the President would insist ordinarily that the absent Member must authorise in writing another Member to put his questions, otherwise they would not be answered orally and the answers would be laid on the table and printed in the proceedings in due course. I saw no sufficient reason to depart from this ruling in the cases mentioned above and I wish to make it clear once again that it is not desirable that the well-established practice in this respect should be relaxed, though in some exceptional cases the President may, at the request of a Member who has not been especially authorised in that behalf, direct the Government Member to reply to a particular question of the Member



who is absent. What happened in the cases referred to was, that while I did not think it necessary to direct the Government Members to reply to those questions I left it to them to do so, if they considered it desirable in the public interest in the spirit of the well-known parliamentary practice in this connection. In May's Parliamentary Practice at page 244, it is stated " . . . but in case the member responsible for a question does not answer to the Speaker's call, a Minister may rise and make such statement on the question as the public interest demands". This far from being in conflict with the requirements of Standing Order 19 is an additional means of securing the object in view.

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Monday, the 26th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport eight nominations were received. As there are eight vacancies I declare Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Ramayan Prasad and Mr. G. W. Tyson to be duly elected.

### THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to read out a Message to the Assembly from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General:

*"Whereas by its vote of the 26th March, 1945, the Legislative Assembly has refused to take into consideration a Bill entitled a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I John Colville, in pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 67B of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935 do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that it do pass the Bill in the form hereto annexed.*

(Sd.) JOHN COLVILLE,

Viceroy and Acting Governor General."

NEW DELHI;

The 26th March, 1945.

(Copies of the Recommended Bill were then distributed to the Members of the Assembly.)

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman** (Finance Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945, in the form recommended by the Governor General.

I will only say that the Bill is in the form in which it was previously introduced in this House, with the exception of one Government amendment which stood in the name of Sir John Sheehy and which was intended to rectify an omission which occurred by oversight in the stage of drafting the Bill.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What is that?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945, in the form recommended by the Governor General."

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee** (Calcutta suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): On a point of order. No notice of this motion has been supplied to Members of this House.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the practice in this House.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai** (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, it is a somewhat unusual course to oppose leave to introduce a motion before this House in the shape of a Bill but this step is necessitated by the circumstances attending the recommendation to the Legislative Assembly that it do pass the Bill 'in the form hereto annexed'. It is a royal mandate which has been most loyally received by some Members of this House but I dare say that the very loyal receipt of it by those who stood and those who didn't, clearly indicates the fate of this recommendation. It is perfectly obvious that this matter receiving the assent has been before this House for 8 or 9 days and 45 speakers have taken part in its discussion and, except as a mere constitutional form, it does require immense courage even in a Governor General to ask us to reconsider what we have rejected.

The fact remains, however, that constitutional propriety requires that the Bill should be presented to us again and it is not merely as a matter of bare consistency, as it is called, or even as a matter of self-respect but as a matter of our considered attitude towards Finance Bills of this kind, this House will, I recommend at all events, reject this motion.

There is one word more I should like to say. Day before yesterday, I heard an announcer of the B. B. C. announce in most stentorian terms—Berlin is burning for purification. I dare say, Sir, the wisdom underlying that has dawned on the world. If Berlin is burning for purification, I am quite certain that there are many Empire builders who also require a great deal more of purification. If Berlin is to purify herself of the sin of attempting to take away the freedom of England, England, in her turn, I dare say, will have to purify herself of many other similar sins. I have no doubt the time has now come for that penitence to be expressed in the form of action and I hope, Sir, that the announcer did not confine the ceremony of purification and the necessity of purifying itself of all the sins of imperialism to Berlin itself. It is a good lesson which, I believe, Britain can take to heart today and there should be no more excuse. As I said yesterday, in support of the motion of rejection, it is quite clear that we desire now that the affairs of this country be managed by ourselves, by the representatives of the people. For that reason, I ask that those Members who voted with me yesterday and many more who didn't but who do still wish to defy the royal mandate will reject this Bill.

**Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam** (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There cannot be any more speeches.

**Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam**: On a point of information. I asked a question yesterday whether any agreement has been arrived at. In reply to that I was told . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That subject cannot be raised now.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945, in the form recommended by the Governor General."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—50.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.  
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.  
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.  
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.  
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.  
 Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.  
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.  
 Caroe, Sir Olaf.  
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N. —  
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.  
 Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.  
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.  
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.  
 Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.  
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.  
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.  
 Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.  
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.  
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.  
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.  
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.  
 Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.  
 James, Sir F. E.  
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.  
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.  
 Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.  
 Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.  
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.  
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.  
 Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.  
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur  
 Sir A. Ramaswami.  
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.  
 Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.  
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.  
 Ram Chandra, Mr.  
 Richardson, Sir Henry.  
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.  
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir  
 Muhammad.  
 Sheehy, Sir John.  
 Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.  
 Spence, Sir George.  
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.  
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.  
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.  
 Sundaresan, Mr. N.  
 Thakur Singh, Capt.  
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.  
 Tyson, Mr. G. W.  
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—57.

Abdul Basith Choudhury Dewan.  
 Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.  
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.  
 Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.  
 Banerjea, Dr. P. N.  
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.  
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.  
 Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain  
 Chunder, Mr. N. C.  
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.  
 Das, Mr. B.  
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.  
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.  
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.  
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.  
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.  
 Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.  
 Habibar Rahman, Dr.  
 Hans Raj, Raizada.  
 Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.  
 Hosnani, Mr. S. K.  
 Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.  
 Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.  
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.  
 Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.  
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.  
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.  
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi-Kanta.  
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.  
 Manu Subedar, Mr.  
 Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.  
 Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.  
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.  
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
 Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.  
 Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.  
 Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.  
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr.  
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.  
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed.  
 Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.  
 Sant Singh, Sardar.  
 Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.  
 Sham Lal, Lala.  
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.  
 Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.  
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.  
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.  
 Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.  
 Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.  
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.  
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.  
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.  
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

## DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1944-45

### DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman** (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7.49,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Customs'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7.49,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Customs'."

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani** (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Copies of the Supplementary Demands and other papers relating thereto were supplied to us only on Friday night, the next day, Saturday, was the only working day and so we had no time to go through the papers and give notice of cut motions. I therefore suggest that we should be given sufficient time to send notices of cut motions.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand the papers were sent on last Friday night. I think the Honourable Members had enough time to send out motions.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar** (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I find from the list of Supplementary Demands circulated to us that many of them have not been placed before the Standing Finance Committee. In fact this particular Demand under Customs has not been placed before the Standing Finance Committee. If the amount involved is small, there may be some excuse for not placing it before the Standing Finance Committee. I find from the list that the amount involved is more than ten lakhs in many cases and in the present demand under discussion, the amount involved is seven lakhs odd and this has not been placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

The next point I wish to refer to is that in certain cases, the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, has been taken without really giving the estimates. In the list circulated to us, I find under item (b), the excesses are mainly due to "payment of travelling allowance to officers proceeding on leave for rest and recreation and payment of rewards to informers in case of seizure of contraband goods attempted to be smuggled out of British India". Now, Sir, there was no estimate prepared and there was no sanction taken of the Standing Finance Committee on the estimates. I find on page 2 of the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, Vol. XXI, No. 1, dated the 31st July, and 1st August, 1944 that there is a memorandum put forward by the Home Department before the Committee which relates to Central Government servants proceeding on leave for rest and recreation. In para. 4 it is said:

"Financial effect of the proposal:—

(a) Total actual expenditure involved: At present it is not possible to give an estimate of the cost involved."

Without giving any estimate how could it be done? I can understand a memorandum being presented to the Committee, but anything passed by the Committee without the estimates before it is not really proper. It is not proper for Government to take it as if the thing has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee. And I suggest it is wrong to put a proposal before the Committee without any estimates, because the job of the Finance Department is to look into the figures of the money likely to be spent.

Then, Sir, in some demands I find that the demands as passed by the Committee and as brought forward before the House today are different. I do not know how it happens but I suggest that if anything is put before the Standing Finance Committee they must put the exact amount. In certain estimates we find the words "or so". I must say that in figures there can be no doubts; the figures must be exact, and so I suggest that these things be considered by the Finance Department.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I should like to have a little explanation from the Honourable the Finance Member with regard to the method of allocation referred to in clause (d) of the note in demand No. 1. I should like to know whether this method of allocation came into force this year or whether it follows a precedent, and if so, what the principle of allocation is and how it is worked out.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman**: Sir, as regards the first point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar I am afraid he is somewhat out of date. It was explained to the House in the time of my predecessor Sir James Grigg that the department did not consider it necessary to place each and every sup-

plementary grant before the Standing Finance Committee. The reason for that was given, namely, that in some cases supplementary demands arose without any question of policy or merits being involved, but merely as a result of factors which are not within the control either of the Legislature or of Government.

As regards his second point, as far as I understood it, the position is that if some new departure is being made, if for instance dearness allowance is being increased, then at the proper time that is brought before the Standing Finance Committee. Such indication as is possible at the time of the probable cost of this measure is given to the Standing Finance Committee. But if it should so happen later in the year that the cost has varied somewhat from that estimate it is not automatically necessary to bring the matter before the Standing Finance Committee.

As regards his third point, I can only say that we are human and not celestial beings. We cannot undertake that estimates prepared at every stage are absolutely accurate. We do our best to make an estimate and we put it before the Standing Finance Committee or before this House as being the best estimate which we can make on the knowledge which we then have. But we should be misleading the Committee or the House if we pretended that such forecasts were absolutely accurate and that they were not susceptible of variations.

As regards the point taken by my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar, the position is that certain establishments are entertained jointly between various heads; that is to say, establishments which were originally employed, say, purely on Salt duties may be given duties in connection with Central Excises. Then for the purpose of accurate accounting it seems desirable to make some indication that part of the expenditure is debitable to the Central Excise head; and it is as a result of such administrative rearrangements that changes in the allocation of expenditure become necessary.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** Sir, this is a new demand—expenditure for rest and recreation—but still no estimates have been given to the Standing Finance Committee although a memorandum only was prepared.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** That is a matter which was brought before the Standing Finance Committee. It is a concession applicable generally to all establishments and so it did not come under the head Customs. It was brought to their notice that this concession was being extended to the establishments of the Government of India.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,49,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of ‘Customs.’”

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Central Excise Duties.’”

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Central Excise Duties.’”

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to oppose this demand. I was hoping that some other procedure would come to be adopted and we may be able to have a chance of discussing the advisability or otherwise of the Central Excises as a whole. But now under these altered circumstances I wish to say that it is a very queer idea on the part of Government first to impose a tax and then begin to inquire on whom the incidence is falling. The Honourable Member was good enough to tell us this morning that he has instituted an inquiry to find out to what extent betel-nut growers are being taxed by the Central Excises. I am glad he has appointed that committee; I hope that as a result of the report of that com-

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]  
 mittee he will see reason to modify the imposition of these betel-nut and tobacco duties, so that the actual growers might not have to suffer as they have been suffering till now. There is an item here, "Compensation to Provincial Governments for suspension of provincial measures of taxation on wholesale trade in tobacco", the amount being Rs. 88,92,800. I should like to have some details in regard to this matter. So far as I know, most of the tobacco that is being taxed is being grown in the Madras Presidency, particularly Guntur District. There is a sales tax, it is true, on tobacco also, but whether the contribution that the Government of India has to make to Madras Government can possibly amount to as much as 88 lakhs, or even half of it, is doubtful.

One thing is certain: These taxes are hitting the ordinary growers. When they were being imposed, it was not the intention of this House, and I am sure it might not have been the intention of even the Finance Member, that agricultural products as such should be taxed. He only wanted, I thought, to tax

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is this a new tax?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: This is not a new tax; that is why I am opposing.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the Honourable Member cannot go into the policy of the tax.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: All right, Sir. I wish to make one suggestion,—I thought I made it, to some extent, at the time of the question hour today—and that is, it is high time that Government should appoint a thoroughly representative committee consisting of non-officials also to go into the question of the incidence of these taxes and see that people who really were not intended to be taxed are not being taxed. The Honourable the Finance Member himself has recognized that it is quite possible that the growers themselves are being hit because of their inability to safeguard their own interests as against the merchants and traders. His idea was to tax the merchants and traders and also, if possible, consumers, but certainly not to tax the producers of agricultural products themselves. But in actual fact it does happen that the actual growers also are hit hard as a result of this tax. In this tax both tobacco and betel-nut growers are affected. Therefore, I will request the Honourable the Finance Member to appoint a Committee to go into this matter and make as comprehensive an enquiry as possible and suggest ways and means by which the growers can be sufficiently safeguarded as against the traders and the consumers, and they may not have to pay, as at present, the whole of these taxes in an un-merited manner. It certainly is not the intention of the Government that the taxes that it imposes should be paid not by the people on whom they are imposing the taxes, but by people who are unfortunately weaker in their bargaining capacity. Therefore, it is high time that Government should take some definite steps and I hope that the Honourable Member will give a definite assurance to the House in this matter.

Sir, I oppose this demand.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: Just one question, Sir. What is the case referred to in the Privy Council?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman**: My Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, dealt with the question of policy in regard to Central Excises which, I submit, is not germane to the voting of a supplementary demand. I have already replied to points in connection with this question this morning. I did not say that I propose to set up a committee. I said that the tax, broadly speaking, does fall on the consumer and not on the producer, but in so far as it is represented that to a certain limited extent that is not so. . . .

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Wholly.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman**: . . . I have asked certain investigations to be made and I hope that it will prove possible to prevent that unintended effect. It is really a matter of strengthening the position of the producer *vis-à-vis* the trader. It does not matter whether it arises out of taxation or anything else. If the trader is in a position unduly to depress

the price which he gives to the small producer, whether he alleges that it is because of new taxes or anything else that is the position which has to be dealt with. It is a question of marketing,—it is a question of the strength of the relative parties,—it is a question which probably has to be dealt with under a provincial enactment. I am having it looked into.

In regard to the item about compensation paid to the Provincial Governments, the position is: when we introduced the central excise on tobacco, there were also certain provincial duties on tobacco and unless we had rationalized the whole field, the people would have been liable both to the provincial tax and to Central tax, because both these taxes were legally leviable. We, however, approached the Provincial Governments and asked them to abandon their taxes and in return we offered to compensate them to the extent to which those taxes formed part of their revenues, and this 'total compensation' item represents the amounts which we are now paying to Provincial Governments including a certain amount which is due for the previous year when these arrangements had not yet been finalized.

As regards the Privy Council case, I think the actual case was a Madras case. I think the name of it is the Budu—Pudaun case.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What is the point involved?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** There was some point in connection with the administration of Central Excise. I have forgotten it, but in any case it went to the Privy Council and we had to incur these charges.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 3.—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan: Rural): Sir, this supplementary grant is mainly due to the appointment of additional temporary staff for disposal of arrear assessments in connection with the 'Pay as you earn' scheme. This is due to the recruitment of 33 supernumerary probationary Income-tax officers. The question of policy that arises in this connection is. . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, no. The Honourable Member cannot discuss the question of policy. . .

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Sir, I would submit that instead of these temporary appointments, there should be permanent appointments and my reasons are these.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this supplementary demand.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Then I submit that this grant should not be granted. If that is in order, then I submit that the additional work, for which this additional temporary staff has been appointed, can be taken from the existing staff if they are well treated. If the staff is well treated, they will not only do this extra work which is required of them, but they will do it very efficiently and willingly. At the present moment most of them in this Department are temporary. They are discontented and do not turn out good work.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss questions like that in a supplementary demand. The Honourable Member can vote against it.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I must give my reasons.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But you cannot go into all-sorts of general questions.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am against this way of creating such appointments.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** A new method is going to be adopted for appointing Income-tax officers. This is a supernumerary kind of Income-tax officer. The Finance Department recommend that this class of people should be appointed out of persons who have passed the Indian Audit Service examination for reasons best known to them. But I say that this kind of recruitment is defective because up till now the Finance Department has required the qualification of Mathematics.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I suppose there are other officers who have been appointed like that. Is this a new departure?

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Yes, this is a new departure. Up till now this policy of the department was not . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot get into questions of policy.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** I am not going into that.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into questions of policy.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** I am confining myself particularly to the appointment of supernumerary Income-tax officers.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Even in regard to Income-tax officers, you cannot go into questions of policy.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** They should not indent out of the Indian Audit Service examination because all of them are not Mathematics graduates.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** I am opposing this demand. My reason is.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You can oppose it.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** . . . that the people who sit for the Indian Audit examination . . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a general question. It cannot be discussed now.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** I submit that this is a defective way of doing this.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can oppose the demand and vote against it.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** If the Department likes to have mathematics graduates they can appoint directly or through the Public Service Commission.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 7—STAMPS

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,96,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Stamps'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,96,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Stamps'."

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Demand No. 4 under the head "Salt" has not been brought in here. That was placed before the Standing Finance Committee.



**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** He is talking about a head with regard to which there is no supplementary demand.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I want some information on this point.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into that. It is not before the House.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,96,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 9—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** While going through the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee I see that many items were passed by the Committee under Head-C, Works 67, and many others which have not been brought up for approval before this House. They are somewhat related to this item, for example in Demand No. 67.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But they are not brought up before the House.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** The money may be found by re-appropriation or in some other way.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 10—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

\* There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Chettiar and another in the name of Mr. Deshmukh.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I do not move the amendment but I want to raise a few questions. Out of the supplementary demand moved now, about Rs. 55,28,000 is due to the grant of dearness allowance. They have fixed certain grades for amounts above Rs. 40 and below Rs. 40; amounts reaching up to Rs. 1,000 for married officers and Rs. 750 for unmarried officers. I am not bothered about the grant of allowances to the higher grades but while pointing out that the increment in the lower grades is rather poor, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the distinction they have made between three classes of areas, A, B, and C. From the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee I find that the divisions have been made on this basis:

Area A—Bombay, Calcutta and the suburbs.

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar]

Area B—Suburbs of Bombay and Calcutta, etc. and towns like Ahmedabad, Agra, etc.

Area C—Localities not specified in A and B.

On what rational grounds they have made these divisions I do not know and I am not able to see. But I am able to see that there is no rational basis for these divisions. Knowing Coimbatore as I do, the standard of life in Coimbatore and the price of things there are much more than in Madras, but I find that Coimbatore has been segregated to Class C. I say that this division of areas is on no rational ground. I would suggest to them to find some rational basis for the division of these areas, at least on a population basis or some other way that we can understand.

Now I would like to make a few representations about the lot of those very poor and ill-paid public servants who are called extra-departmental officers of this Department. I refer to the Rural Postmasters. Living in rural parts as I do and knowing some of them, I know that they are paid very badly indeed. They are paid Rs. 6.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They are not covered by this?

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: Oh, yes.

They are paid Rs. 6 and then there are instances in which they are even paid Rs. 5. The Postal Department have become worse than the  
1 P.M. bania. In reply to a supplementary question over this matter the Honourable Member said that people are available for Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 and why should they pay more. When Mr. Joshi got up and asked whether it was not exploitation, the Honourable Member tried to correct himself and said that they were issuing a circular to the effect that nobody shall be paid less than Rs. 6. I say this amount is very low indeed. I know the argument on the other side. They say that these people have other jobs also and that postal work is not their sole work. Even taking that into consideration this pay of Rs. 6 is very low indeed. They are being given now an allowance of Rs. 3 and putting that together with Rs. 6, it is a very poor sum indeed.

I would refer to another matter in this connection. Under the rules the payment of rural postmasters is to be regulated by the amount of business that passes through their post offices but in many post offices I know even when it is found that the business transacted is much more than usual, the increment is not given. I would request the Secretary for Posts and Air to go into this matter at least so far as my Province is concerned (I believe it is the same so far as other Provinces also are concerned) and see how many post offices. . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is suggesting an increase in the demand.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: . . . and see in how many post offices they are paid much less. I would ask the Honourable Member to go into this matter and do justice to these very poorly paid class of postal employees.

(At this stage, both Mr. Nauman and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar stood up.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot have a general discussion on this question. He cannot enhance the demand.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I support the demand and only press on the Honourable Member that he should come with a bigger demand in the matter of dearness allowance, so that there would have been no complaints like the ones which are being made against the department. That is the submission which I want to make on this motion.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: I shall confine myself completely to the motion. I have been a lawyer for 25 years and I know what is relevancy.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This matter has been fully discussed.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: I shall tread a new track altogether.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I know the Honourable Member is ingenious.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: I want to say just a few words on one matter. A provision has been made for the supply of foodstuffs to the servants in the Postal Department. I would like to know in what places have such shops been opened. So far as I am aware a similar shop has not been opened at Madras in spite of repeated complaints and though it has been represented to the authorities that the prices there have gone up higher than in the city of Delhi, there seems to be a partiality for the servants who are working in Delhi. I am not asking the Department to deny that facility but you must consider the needs of the servants of the Postal Department at various places from time to time. Madras is in a corner of India, it is almost the tail end. Practically it is a sort of discrimination. So far as dearness allowance is concerned and even so far as opening of grain shops is concerned I would like to know whether a difference has been made in this matter.

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor** (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): Sir, as regards Mr. Chettiar's first question, the three areas have been classified more or less on the basis of population but in some cases certain towns are well known to be more expensive, in spite of the fact that their population may not be so high. It may be that certain areas have become more expensive even though the population is small because of the location of large military establishments in their vicinity. A. Class stations are now Bombay, Calcutta and Ahmedabad. B. Class consists of a large number of towns and from time to time we review particular places in order to see whether their expensiveness has increased and if so, we upgrade them. We think, however, that the removal of the distinction between different areas would not be proper and it would be wrong to assume that the increase in the cost of living has been uniform throughout India.

I entirely share the sympathy which Mr. Chettiar has expressed with regard to the extra-departmental branch postmasters but I am afraid that he is not aware of the exact position of these extra-departmental branch postmasters. Recently in connection with a request made by one of the Members of the Assembly I collected figures to show what was the profession of the various extra-departmental branch postmasters. I have here figures to show that out of a total of roughly 20,000 extra-departmental branch postmasters over 10,000 are either school masters, pensioners of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, pensioners of other Government departments or of the Railway, village officials and Indian State officials. It must be noted that every one of these is drawing a monthly salary or pension and in addition he is doing the post office work with the permission of his original employer, because the original employer is satisfied that the amount of post office work he does will not interfere with the proper discharge of the duty for the original employer. There are in addition something like 6,000 cultivators and petty land-holders, about 1,600 traders and shop-keepers and about 1,350 unclassified persons. If these people are to be treated in the same way as salaried officers whose whole-time is at the disposal of the Government, then there will be no point in having these extra-departmental men at all.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: Treat them as you please but give them more.

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor**: We have now sanctioned for all these people a dearness allowance. You may say that it is a small allowance but these people are sometimes drawing a dearness allowance from their own employers. Some of them draw the dearness allowance from their school employers—e.g. the local boards give a dearness allowance. The railways give a dearness allowance. If the E. D. A. is a retired Government servant he gets a dearness allowance as such. I do not think these people are so badly off. At the same

[Sir Gurunath Bewoor.]

time, I entirely agree with Mr. Chettiar that the Department should observe the standards which it itself has laid down. There are standards laid down for deciding and fixing exactly how the allowances of the extra-departmental branch postmasters should be increased, as their total work increases. I would like to inform the Honourable Member that recently the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has issued definite orders to all heads of Circles requiring them first of all to raise the salary to the minimum laid down in the Rules and, secondly, to review the work done by the extra-departmental branch post offices and to raise the allowance wherever justified. In connection with the recent savings drive I am given to understand that there has been considerable increase in the amount of work done in regard to issue of cash certificates, and National Savings Certificates and in connection with National Savings Bank accounts in the village post offices, and I have no doubt that these people will get some extra remuneration.

I am grateful to Mr. Nauman for the sympathy which he has expressed for the employees of the Postal Department. What he wants is that we should spend more on dearness allowances. I may assure him that the question is at present under consideration. We had a Committee recently appointed, and the report of the Committee has been received about three or four days ago and is now under examination. I hope Government will be in a position to issue orders in the near future. Even if there is some delay, we will see that the staff will not suffer because of the delay. These orders will be made with retrospective effect, if possible.

As regards shops, Mr. Ayyangar wanted to know where they have been opened. They have been opened at present in the whole of Bengal and Assam Provinces, in certain areas such as Delhi and Simla, and in Bombay. We are finding great difficulty in organising these shops. The Postal Department has not got the necessary staff, and it is not easy to engage new staff. Legitimate post office work has increased enormously, and we find it difficult to get the necessary number of officers and the clerical staff to undertake what is in fact a new job. It is the job of a bania.

**An Honourable Member:** How is it Railways have opened such shops all over?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** Railways are in a different position. Railway employees are living along a particular route, and Railways have their own transport. On the other hand Post Offices are scattered all over the country. We cannot have shops in small places. In view of the practical difficulties we have encountered in the way of opening shops we hope we may be able to make it up in other ways, namely, by a larger cash allowance. The whole matter is under consideration, and I hope we shall arrive at a satisfactory solution fairly soon.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 14—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 67,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 67,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Home Department'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Home Department'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Just a question. This money has been spent for the extension of the security scheme in New Delhi. What is the security scheme, Sir?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie** (Home Member): This is for the receptionists and the Home Department Police in the North Block.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What is the total cost of the scheme?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** I do not know.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** There is an amendment motion.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot move that.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I point out that in the memorandum submitted by Government explaining this excess what they say is this:

"On the other hand, efforts to secure larger supplies of paper from abroad have not so far met with success. Under these circumstances the need for enforcing stringent measures for economy in the use of paper and its equitable distribution has become all the more important. With these ends in view two Control Orders, namely, the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, and the Paper Control (Distribution) Order, 1944, have been issued. For enforcing effectively the provisions of these two Orders and for exercising control over the prices of paper which it is proposed to extend to all varieties, both indigenous and imported, a central organisation has recently been set up at Calcutta under a Paper Controller with one Joint Paper Controller, one Dy. Paper Controller, and 2 Assistant Paper Controllers, and a ministerial staff of 55 to assist him."

This extra expenditure refers to this expense. The Honourable Member knows that the money has been spent actually for appointing Control officers.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There can be no question of censuring Government generally.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** If you read the cut motion you will see it is for censuring Government for misuse of Paper Control Order.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then throw it out.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Motions have been allowed in the past on such things. May I point out that the Paper Control Order has been grossly abused in many cases. If my figures are correct—I am subject to correction—after the issue of these control orders about 20 newspapers have been allowed to be published.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque** (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): On a point of order. Newsprint is quite different from Paper Control Order, which has reference to the Controller in charge of ordinary civilian paper supplies.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member wishes to speak, he can do so after lunch hour.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: Sir, the Member for Civil Supplies was pointing out that the Paper Controller referred to here does not control newsprint. While agreeing to that, may I point out to him that there is another item in this demand which refers to newsprint—item D on page 8 of this book,—which refers to Controller of Newsprint . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque**: My objection was against the amendment, as it was put.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: Thank you: the amendment has not been moved; but the matter that we want to place before the House is this: that this control of newsprint has been used or abused in various ways. As far as I know, after these controls have been brought into existence, some twenty newspapers have been given permission to publish: the *Vanguard* has been given permission to publish—that is the paper of Mr. M. N. Roy, if I remember aright. (An Honourable Member: "Quite right.") There are many other papers, the names of which I need not mention here, that have been allowed to publish, but they have taken refuge under this order for refusing permission for two national papers. I refer to the *National Herald* of Lucknow and to the *Forward* of Calcutta. The *National Herald* was a paper published before 1942. In 1942, they themselves suspended publication and not for any mistake which the Government of India found against them; and when they wanted to restart the publication of that paper the Government refused. The Government did not give any reasons for their refusal; but we state here that the reasons for refusing permission to publish the *National Herald* are political. In this matter I ask the Honourable Member a question, and I shall be glad if he can give me a categorical answer. Were these refusals made only from the point of view of the distribution of newsprint, or was the advice of the Home Department taken in this matter? May I know whether the opinion of the United Provinces Government and of the Bengal Government was taken in this matter, and whether the opinions which they gave were given on political grounds or from the point of view of economy of newsprint? At question time he answered that as far as some of the papers were concerned, the opinions of the Local Governments were taken into consideration. I maintain that means that they took the advice of the Provincial Governments on political grounds; and when refusal is made on that ground, it is mainly on political grounds. I say it is an abuse of the powers of the Government under this Paper Control Order to refuse permission for the restarting of papers on political grounds. I can understand it if it is for want of supply of newsprint: I can understand it if the supply of newsprint does not warrant the restarting of a newspaper. But if the refusal is on grounds of politics, I say it is an abuse; and I would like the Honourable Member to give me a categorical answer whether these newspapers have been refused permission mainly on the advice of the Provincial Governments on political grounds. I do not want him to take shelter under the plea that "we do not know the reason why the Provincial Government did not advise us to give permission for the restarting of these papers." The Provincial Governments themselves have based their decisions on political grounds; and so, while twenty newspapers, many of whom are supporting the Government, have been given permission, if some of these newspapers which had an aggressively nationalist point of view are refused, there is no reason that we can see other than this. My Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Qaiyum tells me that new newspapers have appeared in his province. So have they in Madras and so have they in Calcutta. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable Member that this Paper Control Order should not be misused. I see there are whisperings going on between the two Honourable Members. (An Honourable Member:

"On a point of information only!") I know he has got such a lot of information—the whole of it from the wrong point of view. He knows how to repress people; he knows how to invent clever grounds where no grounds exist. I hope the Member for Civil Supplies will not allow himself to be influenced by anybody and make misleading statements here, in this House, that political grounds have not been taken into consideration in deciding these matters. I shall be glad to have a reply from the Honourable Member over this point.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I want to oppose this. . . . I am a reasonable man. I do not want to broadcast . . . .

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Sir, I have given notice of an amendment, a cut motion, and before the House rose for lunch I was called upon to move my cut motion.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Why did not the Honourable Member stand in his seat earlier, when the sitting was resumed? Why did he not?

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Sir, I did get up but I did not catch the eye of the Chair.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member ought to have made himself more audible.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** It is not my fault, Sir. I stood up . . .

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member may now move his cut motion and then the debate can be resumed.

#### *New Organisation Scheme*

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

There are several schemes—one is paper control, the second is drugs control and the third is expansion of the distribution scheme. For all these three schemes a sum of Rs. 7,72,000 has been asked for . . . .

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): What number is this?

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Page 8 of the book of supplementary demands—the footnote there which says:

"Mainly due to the expansion of the activities of the Department during the year which resulted in (i) the augmentation of the staff both in the Secretariat and in the subordinate offices, particularly in the office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies where a new organisation for the distribution of consumer goods has been set up, and (ii) the creation of the new offices of the Paper Controller and the Drugs Controller."

These three schemes are going to be provided for through this supplementary demand. I will confine myself to the expansion of the distribution scheme. So far as this distribution scheme is concerned, it is a very noble object no doubt; but it requires proper control and supervision and the recruitment of proper people. I find that in reply to a question of mine the Honourable Member in November last said that several retired persons were appointed in this Civil Supplies Department over the heads of qualified graduates. This kind of things should not happen. Moreover, retired people, sometimes Sub-Inspectors of Police, are put over the heads of qualified graduates. This kind of thing creates resentment in the minds of highly qualified people who come from respectable families. Retired people whose energies are already exhausted should not be employed.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is discussing the policy. It cannot be discussed in connection with a cut motion.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** This is a new demand. It is an entirely new thing. I cannot help I am giving a suggestion. I am confining myself to giving suggestions, because this affects the general public, I say the consuming public. I submit that the right type of men should be employed and persons of inferior type and qualification should not be put over the head of qualified people and in this way the department can work well. This department requires proper control and supervision of the higher officers. These are the things which I want to bring to the notice of the Department, Sir, and I also urge the claims of Muslims in appointments.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Najrang). Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande**: Sir, I want to oppose the whole demand. I am a most reasonable man. I do not beat my drums nor do I broadcast my doings. It is only necessity that drives me to opposition. I approached the Honourable Member with a request for restarting my paper which is locked up. He promised that he would look into it. Now an order from Simla comes from the Newspaper Control Branch which is more of a tyrant than the Home Member. The Home Member was reasonable with me. He told me to speak to Sir Azizul Huque. I went to him. Now one of the Assistant Secretaries of his department writes to me in reply. I addressed the letter to him and he should have had the courtesy to reply to me. He is my colleague and I protest against this action of his.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque**: On a point of order. I have not yet replied to him. Will you tell me the date of that letter?

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande**: It is dated Simla, the 20th March.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque**: Let my friend remember the date on which he gave me his letter. It was the 17th or 18th, a week back. I got the letter on the 18th. This letter has come in its usual course from Simla, without my letter being yet considered. I have not yet considered the matter. His letter is still awaiting consideration.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande**: The Honourable Member promised to look into the file. This letter came directly from Simla. It says:

"With reference to your letter addressed to the Honourable Member in charge of the department, I am directed to say that the Government of India have very carefully considered the request for the revival of the publication of the *Shakti* weekly of Almora but regret they are unable to accede to it."

I addressed the letter to him and he ought to have had the courtesy to reply to me. When Indians drawing high salary and holding high position try to boss over us, the position becomes intolerable. If Europeans do that, we can understand them. There is a motive behind it of subjugating the Indians. He ought to have told me 'Yes' or 'No'. The Home Member told me it is the concern of Sir Azizul Huque. The same is the case with *Azadi* and the *National Herald* for which I lodged protests. The *Shakti* is a Congress paper run since 1918. I happened to be the Managing Director. I was arrested at 12 o'clock in the night. The Editor was arrested at midnight. The Assistant Editor was arrested at 1½ o'clock. All the three were lodged in the same jail. The Press could not go on. There was no ban on the paper. There was nobody to look after it hence it could not go on and now on the release of the Editor I applied for paper ration, this reply comes. It is really tyrannical. I hear a paper called *Liberator* has been started and it is connected with some Honourable Member whom I shall not name. Dr. Krishnaswami (a voice: "Son of Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar") has started it and paper is distributed to Honourable Members' sons, friends, relatives, cousins and other 'yes' men and here we are denied even the courtesy of a reply from the Honourable Member who happens to be an Indian. The British Empire would not fall down if my request had been conceded. What for is this Press Advisory Committee attached to the Government of India, if it is not consulted on a matter like this? The Press Censor is already there. The Press Act is already there. If any Editor commits mischief he can be hauled up. I ask why paper is given to the friends and relatives of Honourable Members of the Council and not to others. So, I oppose this motion.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque**: Sir, I am learning quite a number of lessons in life, lessons which cannot be easily forgotten. But I cannot accept easily the charge that I have been discourteous to a Member of this House. The facts are that about a week back my friend told me—I do not remember the exact date—or rather handed to me a slip . . . .

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande**: My letter is dated the 19th February 1945.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque**: I am referring to the note which you gave me. You gave it to me only a week back.



**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** It was about the Gita Press.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** A note was handed to me by my friend. My friend does not know that all our offices are not located at Delhi. I sent a note down to the office to find out what the file is about and I have not yet got the file. In the meantime, if he has got other things about which he has got a reply, surely that cannot be the basis of a reply to me. Then, again, I hope my Honourable friends will realise the extraordinary pressure under which some of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches have to work. I am not going to make a boast about it, but believe me when I say that I have been working on the Insurance Bill from morning till ten o'clock and later into midnight. I have been constantly busy discussing the various questions with Honourable Members, in the midst of attending the Assembly and doing other work. If for the matter of that an individual chit comes from a Member in the midst of my work, I have also to attend to it. My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa gave me a slip ten or fifteen days ago, which I have not yet been able to attend to.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I never gave you the slip.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I got the letter about 15 days back. As soon as I get a reply, I shall show him. I have got quite a number of requests coming from Honourable Members of the Assembly, on the question of paper, newspaper, raw films or something of that nature. I have to consider each case. Many Honourable Members have brought in their requests, it is very natural that they should speak about individual cases. My Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan spoke the other day about certain woollen control: immediately I called for papers, the file is there and I will personally look into it, as I promised. Surely, it is physically impossible for any man to act on the time table of my Honourable friend who, on the ground that he has an individual grievance and belonging to the Opposition, thinks that the whole Budget should be thrown out because he has not been able to get the remedy according to his time table and at the moment.

Sir, as regards the question which my Honourable friend raised, namely about the political use of newsprint control order, my Honourable friend will remember that the principles under which the newsprint control order came into being were laid down long before I accepted office. It was an institution which was functioning from a long time before and the principles which were enunciated are still functioning. Those principles are that whenever there is an application from any person, it is the Provincial Government which is consulted and their views are always taken into consideration.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are these principles immutable laws of nature that they cannot be modified?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If my Honourable friend had not interrupted me, I was going to say that they were not immutable laws. But as I say, having done that, I cannot possibly look into the whole question as to the nature of the paper, the desirability of the paper and so on, unless I get local information in this matter. Probably this question of the *National Herald* is pending for over a year.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** The decision was arrived at after the Honourable Member came to office.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** No, just before I came.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Are you reversing it.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Then, again, I might say if it is simply a question of political consideration, we would never have given permission to a large number of papers. My Honourable friends will remember that in Delhi there was an Urdu paper belonging to the Congress. There also permission was given. You might remember last year there were a number of questions that the man was in jail and the man was suffering. There were a number of difficulties, but we gave permission. Then, we gave permission, as

[Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

I said, the other day to a number of other papers which are attached to the Congress.

**An Honourable Member:** How do you know they belonged to the Congress?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** They have been at least in favour of working on the same lines as the Congress organisation. For myself, I do not know whether a paper belongs to this community or that community, or this group or that group. It does not come to me in that shape, it comes to me in the shape of newsprint position and provincial opinion thereon, all these I have to consider.

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury** (Bengal: Landholders): What is the Provincial Government's opinion about *Forward*?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** About the paper *Forward*, I hope my Honourable friend will not ask me further questions; because there are certain investigations pending about the same gentleman who got permission to publish another paper and also wanted to publish the *Forward*. Certain investigations are going on about the misuse of newsprint and until a decision is arrived at, it is difficult to proceed one way or the other. For instance, I have got a list of papers like *Dinashari*, the *Hindustan Weekly*, Lucknow; the *Hindustan Times*, Evening edition . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** The *Hindustan Times* is owned by Mr. Birla.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If I have to investigate whether a paper belongs to the Congress and if I have to find out the bank accounts of a certain gentleman who owns a paper and so on, then, I do not think I can do any work. As I was saying, there is the press like the *Hindustan Weekly*, Lucknow; the *Hindustan Times* Evening edition, the daily *Dinashari* of Madras—I can give quite a long number of lists. In the same way, there was no paper, for example in Calcutta, of some groups like the Hindu Mahasabha and we have to take into consideration all political parties. Unfortunately at a time when things are most restricted, there is the greatest demand for those things. For instance, if the production of film in normal times was 100, today it is 500. If normally the production of newspapers, as, say 200 in a Province, just now there is a demand for about 300 or 400. My difficulty is that I cannot give to all of them at the present time. After all, I shall be the most happy man if I can comply with the requests of all, and if I can take away those controls. No, we have to pass through the most difficult times. For instance, take the Universities, quite a number of them were not able to get papers from the ordinary market for printing their question papers and I had to make special arrangements to give them a quota from the Government allotment in order to tide over the difficulties. Does my Honourable friend know that text-books were practically out of print?—Does my Honourable friend know that distinguished scholars could not get their books printed in India?

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What does the Honourable Member want?—We do not say that paper is not scarce.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I was only referring to the circumstances under which the paper control had to be brought into force.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** All these are admitted facts.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am glad at least that something is admitted. We are now gradually trying to give greater supply to those who have come under restrictions.

As regards newsprint, we began with a restricted quota, and as soon as the paper position improved, we are giving more to the older papers and partly to such concerns as might come in. After all, they can say, look here, you restrict my quota of paper and therefore you have no right to give permission to a new man. But we know and we feel if we shut out the publication of a new concern, it will not be in the best interests of the country. Therefore we are gradually increasing the quota to newspapers which are already receiving and also trying to help a few more really good and new concerns.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Eliminate politics and Provincial Governments.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** My Honourable friend asks me how provincial opinion is got. Frankly I do not know, because I have no right to enquire into as to whether their opinion reflects political views or not.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): What are the points that are touched in the opinion which is offered by the Provincial Government?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have seen in one particular case a paper was wanted for a particular organisation and the Provincial Government said, look here, the same organisation has at least about a number of papers in the province, and therefore, as against an additional one, there is also a demand from such and such an organization in such and such a town of another party and it is only desirable that that party should get first instead of that other party.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** In other words, party refers to political party.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** No, party refers to all interests in the country, for example in the matter of trade, industry and commerce, in the matter of special interests of the country, we have tried to be fair as much as possible and when giving quota, wherever we can we gave to new interests which are coming into being. After all war is the time for creating new incentive, new aspiration, new ideal in the country and it is our duty to help them by giving some place where they can put their own views and ideas. It is from that point of view that we are doing. After all as I say, I do not know how the political opinion of the provinces is guided. I do not think it is fair for me to ask them.

Then again I know that in one area we have asked for their figures quite a few months ago but we do not get them, for example, sometimes  
 3 P.M. in two or three months. We have got to wait for all that because they have to consider it from various points of view. In one particular province I was anxious that a particular paper should be given permission. I had a talk with the provincial authorities and they told me that I would be making their position in the province intolerable if permission was given, if it went abroad that it was done with the sanction of the Provincial Government, because there were four other parties who were interested in the starting of new journals. So they said that if I could give it to all the parties I could do it by all means; but they could not give it to just this one party. Even though I was anxious to give it to that paper I felt that it was a point of view which did merit consideration.

With reference to what was said by my Honourable friend Maulvi Abdul Ghani, I could not exactly catch what he meant. If he meant that it is a communal percentage I can assure him that in the department, and specially in the new departments, I am keeping a very watchful eye on the percentage of Muslims. But there are sometimes difficulties. My Honourable friend says that there the cases where non-graduates have been placed over graduates. I think many of us would not have been in our places if the highest educational qualifications had been the standard. Most of us would probably have to leave our places in favour of others who have done better in the university examinations. It happens sometimes like this. We had to select twenty inspectors; we had to select a certain number of persons. We cannot just bring in a mob and say that these twenty will do. They have to do responsible duties; they are placed in charge in places where they can upset the whole of our control orders, and we have got to be very careful. If there is case in which a graduate is an assistant inspector and a non-graduate is an inspector, I think that is due to the fact that that man is more capable than the other. In any case I do not think there is any instance of a Dupety Controller General who, in keeping due regard to the communal proportion, would give preference to an undergraduate simply because he is an undergraduate and another is a graduate. That is not the consideration.

Again our difficulty has been to get experienced staff. Take for instance court cases. My Honourable friend hands over to me a young graduate, and I

{Sir M. Azizul Huque.}

have in the enforcement section to see that these court cases reach the magistrate and from the magistrate they are properly taken care of. Surely it will take six months to train that gentleman; instead of that if you find a retired Government officer, in the police line or the judicial line or the magisterial line, he will certainly be better qualified for that important work. What I can say is that these control orders cannot be places for giving training to young people, except a very few at the bottom. A control order cannot be a subject of experiments for training a certain number of people and promoting them later on. If that is so the very control order will fail. That is why we have to specially select them, and I take credit in the fact that on the whole our selection has stood a fair test. As I said the other day, we had to ask a man to leave the department, not because we found anything in substance against him but because people were talking about him; and we thought that a man like that should not be in the department. And if my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa will give me the name of that fat gentleman, I will start an immediate inquiry about him.

Sir, I feel I have nothing more to say on these points.

**Sardar Sant Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate, but I think I will take a few minutes of the House in explaining the grievances of the public against this particular department.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque**: Sir, does that arise?

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is not in order in putting forward grievances on a supplementary demand.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: Very well, Sir, I will not talk of grievances then.

Sir, I am glad that my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque has denied the charge of discourtesy against the Members of this House. I can bear personal testimony to the fact that he is very courteous whenever Members ask him to investigate into some matter. But the point that requires looking into, is that what has happened to my Honourable friend Mr. Pande also happened to my Honourable friend Sir Yamin Khan. The Honourable Members do not seem to know what their department writes in reply to letters of the Members of this House—I think he should issue instructions to the different heads of departments that in these cases where letters are addressed to the Honourable Member no reply should be sent without bringing it to his notice.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque**: That would be redundant; that is always the instruction.

**Sardar Sant Singh**: That I think it is followed more in its breach than in the observance.

Then, Sir, the position is that there is newsprint order. There are various consumers belonging to various communities that come to ask for quota for their requirements. The department has arbitrarily fixed a year and demand the consumption of paper in that year. Now it does happen in many cases that in a particular year newsprint was not consumed by the applicant—I have at this moment a particular instance in mind which I will ask the department to go into, and that is the printing of the Holy Granth of the Sikhs,—the bigger edition. This bigger edition is printed sometimes once in a couple of years, sometimes once in three years, because it is a very big volume. For printing the Holy Granth—a special class of paper is required. One cannot know when the edition of one thousand or two thousand that is generally published will be exhausted. The department now asks for the consumption of paper for this purpose in the year 1943. The fact is that the Granth Sahib was printed last in December 1942. The Department, therefore is hesitating to grant the quota. That is not the way to fix an arbitrary year without reference to the class of the book, without reference to the class of the publication, and to base their quota on any particular year. In this particular case the demand is that the Holy Granth was printed in December 1942. The order fixed by the depart-

ment is from January 1943 to December 1943. There is difference of a few days, and yet the Department declines to allot the quota unless consumers give the consumption of the paper during 1942. That is impossible. I hope the department does not like wrong and incorrect data to be given for the purpose. Therefore the department should look into each case on its merits and then decide whether paper is necessary or not. They should not stand upon formalities. This department has been created due to the exigencies of the war. It is an extraordinary procedure to control articles of consumption, it is an extraordinary procedure to ask people to take licenses, it is an extraordinary procedure to ask people to come to them for a quota of paper. Should the exigency of the war require it the country can tolerate it. But it should be worked more sympathetically than any other department. It is then and then alone that the department can succeed in impressing its importance and its need upon the mind of the consumer. Therefore I request the Honourable Member to approach all these questions from a different angle and see that being an extraordinary department the whole question is treated not from an arbitrary point of view but from a sympathetic point of view.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 17.—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Sir, this Department makes appointments piecemeal and certain interests always suffer . . .

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is not in order in talking of grievances.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** I am opposing the Demand, Sir.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): You can oppose the Demand but don't talk of grievances.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** My reason for opposing the demand is that Biharis do not get a fair treatment in the matter of appointments. Though the Honourable Member in charge of this Department is a Bihari himself, he fights shy of taking up the cases of Biharis; he is afraid lest he be accused of partiality. The same is the case with my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, who happens to be a Bihari Civilian, but if you look at his Department, you will find that the proportion of Biharis in Departments under him is almost zero. Therefore, I thought it proper to raise my voice so that he may consider the claims of Biharis, and particularly of Muslims.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Sir, I had a cut motion with regard to this Demand.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is not moving his cut motion.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I am not. When the whole demand for this Department has once been rejected, I think that it will not make much difference if this supplementary demand is reduced by Rs. 100.

There are two items of expenditure which are covered by this supplementary demand: the research scheme, and the American Publicity Scheme. May I tell my Honourable friend that this matter of American publicity has proved

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

such a scandal and it has become so nauseating—the establishment of American Publicity Branch is really a matter which has come before this House many times during the question hour and otherwise—that it is high time they mend matters.

The Honourable Member mentioned the other day with some sort of excitement when something was said against his broadcasting, that Lord Reilly came to him running and congratulated him on the excellence of the broadcasting station. He congratulated him for what? For the way in which the buildings are erected and the way in which the engineering section is working, not for the way in which the department is working. The congratulation must go to the engineers—the radio engineers concerned and the engineers of other departments concerned. He has done nothing to be congratulated for. If he had been congratulated for the way in which his Broadcasting Department is working then it would have been proper for him to come before this House and congratulate himself and quote Lord Reilly. I would suggest to him—I hope he won't wait for another censure motion and another defeat—to really mend matters and see that this department is not made to do false propaganda against this country. It is a department of the Government of India but if it is to do any propaganda, let it be to enhance the prestige of the people of this country and not to propagate all the differences that exist in this country.

Before I close, I would like to refer to one thing to which my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque referred. He said, if qualifications are the consideration many of us won't be here. I was reminded of a story in Madras. One applicant for a job went to—I don't want to name any person—a high-placed Government servant who asked him 'What is your qualification'. The applicant replied, 'Sir, I have no qualification'. The reply was, 'Then you are eligible only for the Viceroy's or Governor's Executive Councillorship. That is the only job which does not ask for any qualification'. For getting any job in any Government office, you must have some qualifications,—you must be at least a Matric, you must know good English and so on—but this is the only job which does not require any qualifications. And I was surprised when he said that people with lower qualifications were placed above in his department. Sir, I hope such things won't occur again. Coming to the Honourable Member for Broadcasting, he will really make an attempt to see that we have less of this American publicity.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed** (Member for Information and Broadcasting): I will not take more than a minute. This question has been discussed on the floor of this House twice during this Session and all that could be said by the Honourable Members has been said and all that I could say has been said. There is nothing new that I have heard today and there is nothing new that I can give.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum** (North-West Frontier Province: General): All that you can do has not been done.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed**: That is another matter, because all that you want can be done only when we go out. As long as we are here, we put our hands on our conscience and do all that we can. All that I can say is, we try our best.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande**: Do a graceful thing before going.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 19—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman**: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during

the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Sir, I am glad that Government have at least decided to place some more money at the disposal of this All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, but when we come to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Institute, I don't feel quite satisfied. There must be something wrong with the working of this Institute, because although it was established to satisfy the three purposes:—firstly, to carry on fundamental research in agriculture; secondly, to help in co-ordinating researches of agricultural science throughout the country; and, thirdly, to impart post-graduate training in the different agricultural sciences—, so far as my information goes it has done precious little so far in the way of co-ordinating researches of agricultural science throughout the country.

Secondly . . . .

**Mr. J. D. Tyson** (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): My friend is going to refer to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The proper place is under Demand No. 47.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: All right, Sir. I will wait a little.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman**: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 78,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 78,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman**: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Finance Department'."

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Finance Department'."

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani**: I am moving the second cut motion in my name against this demand. Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,000 in respect of 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The purpose of this cut motion is to ventilate the grievances of the public in the matter of the hardships being caused to them in connection with the National Savings Certificates.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is not in order in placing a cut motion to ventilate grievances. That is not allowed.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani**: I am just going to refer the authority for which the money. . . .

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): If the Honourable Member wants merely to spend one or two minutes, he can.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani**: If you will refer to page 11 of the booklet, footnote (e), you will find that the money is asked for additional staff for the National Savings Central Bureau in connection with the intensification of the savings movement.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The wording of the Honourable Member's cut motion is unfortunate. That puts him out of order—"to ventilate the grievances". That is what he cannot do.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani**: Grievances of the public in the matter of the purchase of national savings certificates.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Whatever it may be, there is a clear ruling of the Chair that grievances cannot be ventilated in a supplementary grant. It is out of order. You may oppose the demand.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani**: In opposing the demand I wish to submit to the House that on 10th February an adjournment motion was moved in the House and the Honourable the Finance Member promised to issue instructions to the various provinces, particularly Bihar, to stop the authorities from causing hardship to the public. I put a question on the subject and it was answered on the 22nd March 1945. The question number is 1251. In reply to that the Honourable Member said that it is proposed to issue instructions to various Governments, particularly Bihar. Just after 1½ months the Honourable the Finance Member comes forward and says that it is proposed, and yet on the 10th February he made a definite promise that instructions would be issued to the authorities to see that no hardship was caused to the public in regard to the purchase of national savings certificates. I have received a letter addressed to the Members of this House as well as to the Deputy Leader of my Party. He has handed it over to me. It comes from the Aruria sub-division, district Purnea. They say that the people are being whipped and flogged to pay for the national savings certificates. Their hardships are beyond words to describe. They say that they are ready to purchase these certificates according to their financial condition. When they approached the head of the local National War Front, the District Officer of Purnea, he paid no attention. Their condition is getting worse and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will take action.

**Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty** (Madras: Indian Commerce): I desire to ask some information with regard to note (c) under Demand No. 21 which reads:

"Created during the course of the year. To stimulate the production of mica for War requirements, a Bonus Scheme was instituted, the expenditure being debited to His Majesty's Government. The post of Finance Officer with some staff for him was necessary for assessing and checking claims for bonus. It is proposed to recover the entire cost from His Majesty's Government in due course."

What is the *quid pro quo* that you give to His Majesty's Government for debiting to them the cost, of this investigation and the appointment of a Finance Officer? Would further exploitation of the mica fields be entrusted to His Majesty's Government or would it be limited only to stimulation of the production of the mica for war requirements, and that the Government of India would stand to gain by it?

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: In clause (c) I want to ask for an explanation. The expenditure has been debited to revenue. If it has been an amount to be recovered from His Majesty's Government, it ought to be debited to His Majesty's Government's account. But it has been debited to revenue account. When they receive it, how will they credit it? This will be written off this year and therefore there will not be any outstanding shown against His Majesty's Government. I want to know why it has been debited to revenue under this account.

Coming to clause (e) of the Explanation, here I want to reinforce what my Honourable friend Mr. Ghani has said. I have received a letter, a copy of



which I have forwarded to the Honourable the Finance Member, about certain circulars having been issued by revenue authorities in the Provinces saying that if these national savings amounts were not collected, the headmen in the villages will be dismissed. I have sent to the Finance Member a copy of the original with the signatures, names, etc., properly authenticated. I would like to know whether he has received complaints like that from other people also and what steps he has taken to avoid this sort of thing in the future.

The Honourable the Finance Member referred the other day to the tenor of the speeches in this House about these national savings certificates. May I ask him whether any other country will tolerate such oppression.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** A number of countries have made them compulsory.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** That is because they made the people feel that the sacrifices they were making were for themselves. Here it is a dishonest way of compelling people. The honest way will be to concede political power to the people and make them feel that it is their war.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** You do that in a few weeks' time.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Let us have it and you will see that people will come forward to subscribe to these certificates much more willingly and in much greater amounts.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I hope so.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** You will realise your hopes if that comes about. Instead of doing that, to make it a regime of oppression is not the proper way. I hope the Honourable Member will take some steps to put down this oppression.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I also find that these circulars seem to be sent out as a part of either a provincial or an all-India plan. I have myself communicated to the Honourable Member the translation of an order issued by a tahsildar in Guntur district. The letter is signed by a number of our colleagues requesting him to see that such things anyhow are put an end to. It is possible that because the Honourable Member has been preoccupied with the work in this House and outside he is not able to give us any answer yet. But what I take objection to is this: his reluctance to make it public through newspapers, through gazette publications and various other means in which Government communications can be made public throughout the country, that it is not the intention of the Government to make these savings certificates collections compulsory. I have made that suggestion at question time one of these days. The Honourable Member said that the assurance that he had given on the floor of the House would be enough, that there were plenty of channels for Government's intentions to percolate to the public and that it would not be necessary for him to take any special measures. I wish to express my protest against such an attitude. I would like the Honourable Member before he leaves this country to take the most definite steps possible to make it clear to all the officials as well as the public in this country that subscriptions to these national savings certificates are intended to be real subscriptions and not extortions, not impositions, not things that are simply collected from them, because they must yield these collections. Sometime ago, I think it was during the last Session, the Honourable Member said that the two annas additional price that was being given to the sugarcane growers for every pound were being set apart for war loans. We asked him why he did so. He said this was additional money going into their pockets.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** This does not arise out of this. There is nothing in the supplementary demand about this.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** If it is not here it is in your pockets.

**Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang):** The Honourable Member should keep himself strictly within the limits of the motion.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I want him to give that assurance. I want now on the floor of this House that such methods will not be used hereafter by these

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

officials. They have made it clear that every official is expected to collect at the rate of 3s. 6p. per head.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** As regards sugarcane, that has been dropped now.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It is still being dropped. When it is going to be dropped, I do not know: whether he has issued orders that it should be dropped, the House would like to know.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Yes. It is a tragedy but it is true. It had to be dropped.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The Honourable Member thinks it is a tragedy, I welcome it. I have no objection if people contribute to your war loans, to your savings certificates, etc. I certainly take objection to your going to my people and forcing them to contribute to these things. That is why, whether you consider it as a tragedy and whether we consider it as a welcome feature, I am glad that you are dropping it. I hope you will say so on the floor of the House categorically and issue instructions to all your officials to drop this pernicious method.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** If my Honourable friends opposite think that I have changed my mind about what should be done in regard to matters of this kind or that I have undertaken, for instance, to give rewards to talsildars in whose areas no savings whatever are produced or to encourage those who are deliberately avoiding the savings drive, then they are very much mistaken. All I am proposing to do is to consider in what way certain types of excess of zeal may be to be discouraged. It is a matter on which, in writing to Provincial Governments, it is not easy to strike the correct balance and therefore it is not a matter on which one could dash off a few lines the morning after the debate had taken place in this House. Prof. Ranga is quite right in thinking that I have not yet had time to give my personal attention to it. But I do not want to be misunderstood. I would say to my friend Mr. Abdul Ghani that rarely in the history of this House has so much damage been done by so unassuming an individual as he did when he moved his adjournment motion. That is my personal belief. However, a country gets the economic policy which it deserves and if the price level in this country should be doubled by this time next year, then my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga and some of his friends will have themselves to thank. But so far as I am concerned. . .

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** No, no. You will be in our company.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** You do that in your time. As far as I am concerned, as long as I have any responsibility for the economic welfare of this country, you will not get me to say that I am sorry, when I attempt to maximise the savings in this country or maximise the scale of loans to the Government in time of war.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I am afraid the Honourable Member is going off at a tangent.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I am going directly opposite.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What steps are you taking to stop the oppression?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** My Honourable friend is confusing the issue. He thinks that the way to stop the oppression is to drop the whole thing. If he will say categorically that he is entirely in favour of small savings and of this method of counteracting inflation, I will immediately now draft with him a letter whereby I shall ensure that excesses do not occur. If he and his friends will make it quite clear to the country that they support this type of savings drive, then I shall have no difficulty in five minutes in issuing such instructions as are necessary to counteract a few excesses. But what I cannot do is to leave any ambiguity in the minds of those who are responsible for this matter as to whether the Government of India wish them to continue with the savings drive or not. That I cannot do. As regards item (c) it is a technical matter.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I tell him that we are certainly for fighting inflation, but what we are against is the use of oppression.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** If my Honourable friend, as I have said, will assure me and give publicity to his view and his friends' view that this is essential and salutary and is necessary for the benefit of the country as a whole, then I shall have much less difficulty in dealing drastically with cases in which the proper limits have been overstepped. But what I cannot do is to make those who are pursuing this matter in a legitimate way, feel that they are being called off so to speak, because that in my opinion would do great damage to the country.

As regards item (c) the position is this. The steps that have been taken to stimulate production of mica including the bonus scheme were for improving production for purposes of the Allied War Effort. In so far as that increase of production in war time is being stimulated specifically for the benefit of H. M. G. and U. S. A., the cost of these measures will be debited to H. M. G.

My friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar asks why it was charged to revenue. Well, that is a perfectly legitimate method of accounting. Receipts will be taken as revenue receipts. There is no need to take this to suspense.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** This will not be shown next year. This will not be taken over to the next year and shown, as a debit to H. M. G.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Since the expenditure has actually been incurred, and rupees have been paid out, it must be accounted for. The receipts will be credited to the Indian Revenues. All this will be watched by the Auditor General.

**Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang):** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Finance Department'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

**Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang):** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

**Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty:** Sir, the original demand was: voted Rs. 16,87,000; Non-voted Rs. 5,20,000. The supplementary demand is for about Rs. 4 lakhs. The duties enumerated, which seem to have been undertaken during the course of the year, do not warrant employment of as much staff as would cost Rs. 4 lakhs in excess. One would notice from an analysis of the expenditure for Civil Departments that many of the Departments have increased their staff on the ground that additional duties have devolved on them. I am afraid the Honourable the Finance Member has not taken steps to find out whether this additional staff is really essential or not. I am sure Government has been reluctant to consult the commerce and trade to find out whether actually these duties would require such a big staff. I find two or three Departments which have expanded beyond limits of recognition or beyond possibilities of retrenchment within the next decade. These are the three Departments—the Broadcasting and Information Department, the Supply Department, and the Commerce Department. The reasons given are: (i) appointment of additional officers and staff in connection with the registration of capital goods, import and distribution of Egyptian and Sudanese cotton, and introduction of price control on exports of textiles; (ii) grant of various new allowances and enhanced rate of dearness allowance; and (iii) increased expenditure on service stamps and telegrams. The last two are incidental. With regard to (i) registration of capital goods, I think this is a new service which

[Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty.]

has been added in the course of the year, and it requires a supplementary grant. With regard to import and distribution of Egyptian and Sudanese cotton, it seems to me that this business could be managed with the existing staff without any further addition. I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member would not be in a position to examine these matters in detail, and it should be placed before the Standing Committee of the Commerce Department. If this expenditure is not scrutinised even in the earlier stages, then it would be difficult for the Retirement Committee to do anything later.

The Honourable the Finance Member waxed eloquent over the question of National Savings and the desirability of non-officials exhorting people to put their money in the National Savings. I suppose the same exhortation applies to the Departments of Government itself. They seem to waste too much money. I make the exhortation to the Departments of Government to save money and put it in the National Savings.

I do not know if it would be the Finance Member, or the Commerce Member who will explain how many officers have got to be appointed, but for the mere purpose of import and distribution of Egyptian and Sudanese cotton, I do not think it would require so much staff for that purpose—or that as much as 25 per cent. of the original demand should now form the amount of the supplementary demand.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Sir, I have bitter experience of the Muslim position in matters of appointments in the Commerce Department: Out of 188 appointments only 19 are Muslims.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): I take it that the Honourable Member is not moving the cut motion.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** No. I am opposing the demand. Out of 188, only 19 are Muslims—the percentage works out to 10.16 per cent.

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): I am afraid the Honourable Member is treading on forbidden ground.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** I thought it proper to draw the attention of the Honourable Member for Commerce to see that Muslims should get the right proportion in such appointments. When these appointments are made, the Muslims are usually the worst sufferers.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Just a word, Sir. As far as we understood during question hour, there were only four people who were supplied with capital goods in this country. He will correct me if I am wrong. Only four items of capital goods were imported into this country by his department and distributed to the industrialists of this country. If that is so, why do you want so much of more staff? After all the imports have been very little—I do not know whether he expects that the imports will be much greater in the years to come. Secondly, there is the introduction of price control on export of textiles. I hope you have seen the cartoon in the *Hindustan Times*—he was complaining that the paper did not care for him—it cared very much for him that day!

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I always try and look at the cartoon of others.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** He figured very prominently in that cartoon where he was himself dressed in leaves and there were a whole lot of people behind—naked men and women looking on, and he was making a present of a big parcel of clothes to a man with Turkey cap—I think it was an Egyptian, who was already having a lot of clothes on and was bent down on receiving these things. What I mean is, when people are going without clothes here, the Commerce Department has thought it fit to export large amounts of cloth to Egypt and other places; and what I find is that these exports are under price control.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque.** On a point of order: I think the Commerce Department cannot be responsible for the export: it is the Industries Department which ought to be responsible.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Very well; what I say is that the price control on exports of textiles is in his department—it is in the foot note. . .

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Not in the Commerce Department.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** He has forgotten for which department he is speaking now. I ask what is the *quid pro quo* from the other side that he is receiving for sending out these textiles at controlled rates. Another point which I raise—and which I hope to raise in another place also—is this. This purchase of Sudanese cotton and South African cotton is for an industry: it is in the nature of a commercial undertaking. If it is in the nature of a commercial undertaking, why should you not debit the expenses connected with this purchase to the expenses of the commercial undertaking and recover it from the industries? That is more proper than to debit it to revenue and to the general taxpayer.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Sir, I am afraid my friend is under a misapprehension; and much mischief is done by confusing the fact that I hold both the portfolios of Commerce and Industry. I hope my friends will realise that the Industries Member is responsible for the export, not the Commerce Member. His duty is merely to regulate the export and regulate the import; and if these people are anxious to import or export, it is his duty to distribute it rationally either among the industries or among the concerns. Technically, therefore I am not free to reply to this point, but I will try to reply.

My friend gave a very graphic description of a cartoon. That is our trouble in this country. There would be many more naked people in this country if I am not to get Egyptian and African cotton. Let me tell you that. I would emphasise that the industries in Ahmedabad and Bombay, where my friends draw so much from, will go away if African cotton is not supplied. (Interruption.) I am not sending cloth to Egypt only. Why does Egypt come so much into the picture? All the cloth does not go to Egypt. . .

**An Honourable Member:** To what countries do you send it then?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** All the Middle East countries—Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, and the East African countries. During the food crisis of last year, I gave also an explanation that things had to be sent to Saudi Arabia. As I said, it is a very small quantity of our total production which is sent to these countries. Let me say again that this quota was fixed at a time when the cloth situation was not what it is today. Let my friends remember that so far as export is concerned the cloth control was imposed and settled six months before. The time has now come for us to consider what should be done for the future; and if in the future I do not try to reduce the quota, then my friends can complain. But my difficulty is that I am criticised today for a thing which took place some six months before just as the Muslim rule in India is criticised considering the standard of 1945! They do not look at the age in which the Muslims ruled in this country; they want to bring in those standards which are ruling today with all their implications. That is my difficulty today. These export and import quotas are settled six and eight months and sometimes one year beforehand. Surely one year before I did not do very much wrong if out of 4,800 million yards we allowed only 600 million yards to be exported, knowing full well . . .

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** That is one-eighth: is one-eighth a small amount?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I could not help it, because if I did not do that, then I would not have got that amount of commodities which I was getting from outside. Our shoe industry, the hides and skins industry would have to be stopped; our textile industry would be stopped if I did not give these things. It is no use telling me today "Try to develop your industry" without getting our capital goods. In spite of this war burden, the Allied powers have given us something over a million pounds worth: and we cannot say "No; you must send me capital goods and machinery but on my part I

[Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

will not send you anything." That is not a reasonable attitude on the part of any Government.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Did you get any capital goods at all in return?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Certainly, we have been getting. In fact in spite of the most terrible difficulties, His Majesty's Government at a time when every bit of shipping space was required there, did not hesitate to send hundreds of thousands of tons of food grains, medicines and other consumer goods which are so necessary for the people of this country. So far as capital goods are concerned for the last two or three years we have been getting a number of things which have kept our industries going. Do you mean to say that the textile industry could have gone on without some of the imported goods from abroad? As I was saying, it would have been impossible.

My friend says "You have imported only four capital goods and therefore why do you want so much staff for it?" If my friend will take the trouble of going over to the Secretariat and see the work being done there and the hundreds and thousands of commodities for which export and import sections have to be kept, I do not think anything more is needed. So far as this work is concerned, the Commerce Department was one of the original departments of Government, and all the little things are in the Commerce Department. Take this new work of the registration of capital goods. That is for post war planning and we are immediately starting a new section for this work, in order to register its needs and then it will be for the different departments

4 P.M. to consider what they think necessary. I think I need not say anything more.

As regards exports of textiles, we have imposed a cess. For the first time we propose to have adequate facilities not only for textile research but also for India's export policy being publicised abroad with a view to help India's export in later years. (*An Honourable Member:* "Meanwhile you will allow people to go naked?") My friend spoke about Muslims. I will give him one illustration. In this department eleven additional officers have been appointed during the last year of which six have gone to Muslims four to other minority communities and one only to a Hindu in order to strike a balance.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Rightly or wrongly?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If Mr. Lalchand Navalrai reads his own life, he will see that he has done himself many many wrong things, always claiming the right things. For my part, I have done the right thing.

**Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang):** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

**Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang):** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, there is an item here called 'Setting up of the office of the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner during the year'. We would like to know the functions of this office and what benefit the Honourable Member expects to come from it for the women in the coal mines in particular. Then there is the establishment of a Central Labour Commissioner's Organisation for settlement of disputes in 'Central Sphere' undertakings. Does this mean that these undertakings belong to the Government of India and this particular officer is to look after these and the activities of labour there or

does it mean that the Central Labour Commissioner's Organisation will have control over all these various labour welfare officers who are appointed in different provinces by the Provincial Governments also? Then there is the appointment of a Labour Investigation Committee to investigate into questions of wages and earning, employment, and housing and social conditions of labour. I welcome this but I would like to know whether this committee will have jurisdiction to carry on investigations in different provinces also. Then there is the creation of the Directorate of Unskilled Labour Supply for co-ordination of the work of the Provincial and Regional Labour Supply Committees and the Labour Supply Depots. The House would like to have more information about this. What sort of unskilled labour is the Government of India going to recruit and for what purpose. Does this cover unskilled labour that is being recruited for private enterprises also or only for Government enterprises?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** (Labour Member): As my friend Prof. Ranga probably knows, last year the Government of India imposed a cess on coal, called the Coal Mines Welfare Cess which is levied at the rate of 4 annas per ton on coal produced. It was with regard to the administration of this coal fund that the Coal Mines Welfare Officer was appointed. The Coal Mines Welfare Fund is administered by a committee. The committee is constituted of equal representatives of employers, equal representatives of workers in coal mines, representatives of the Provincial Governments, namely, of Bihar and Bengal and is presided over by the Secretary of the Labour Department, as the Chairman. The Committee is more or less an autonomous body. It has its own budget which is prepared by the Coal Commissioner. It is submitted to the Committee and the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner is the executive authority over this expenditure. All questions of welfare, for instance, such as malaria, water supply, medicine and other matters relating to coal welfare are considered by this Committee.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra**: Do you exercise any control over it in any way?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**: Oh, yes. I exercise control, because the Secretary of the Labour Department is the Chairman. The budget comes to us for purposes of consideration. When it is passed, it is sent back and referred to the committee for further amendment.

With regard to the question of the Labour Commissioner, I think my friend Professor Ranga will know that all Provincial Governments have got Labour Commissioners. Under them, they have their own conciliation officers and other officers looking after labour. It was felt in the Government of India that as the Government of India has also got certain undertakings for which it is responsible, it was desirable that the Government of India should also have a similar organisation under its control to look after the welfare of workers engaged in these Central undertakings and consequently quite recently we have established this organisation. At the head of the organisation is an officer called the Chief Labour Commissioner with the Government of India. The rest of India is divided into three different areas and for each area there will be one Deputy Labour Commissioner. Prof. Ranga, I think, would like to know that we have taken advantage of this new organisation in order to amalgamate the work of Central undertakings along with the work which was originally done separately by the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and the Supervisor of Railway labour. All this has now been amalgamated and centralised. The Labour Welfare officers who were working individually in different areas and were reporting directly to the Government of India will now be under these different Labour Commissioners. Similarly, the Railway Inspectors who were also working separately under the Railway Conciliation Officer and doing the work of checking up the Payment of Wages Act and the hours of labour are also now being brought under the new scheme and we have made a consolidated scheme.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

With regard to the point relating to the Labour Investigation Committee, I think it will be recalled that last year or rather the year before that, in 1943, the Tripartite Labour Conference passed a resolution that the Government of India should undertake social security measures on the lines of the Beveridge report. It was then felt that before any such scheme could be formulated, it would be necessary to have a fact finding committee which would investigate all questions, such as housing, wages, sanitary conditions and other data affecting the welfare of the workers, and that after the facts were found by the Committee, the Government of India should have another Committee in order to formulate such social security measures as can be based upon the data that were found by this Investigation Committee. This Investigation Committee has now been working for nearly six or seven months and its report is promised sometime in June or July next. After the report is received, measures will be taken to constitute the second part of the enquiry and these facts will be placed before them according to the decision of the Tripartite Conference. The second counter-part of this Investigation Committee would be a committee represented by employers, employees and members of Provincial Governments.

With regard to the other question, namely, unskilled labour supply, the position is this. It was found out that various contractors were competing among themselves and paying much higher wages than what the market rate permitted in order to snatch away labour to their own contracts and to leave other contractors high and dry. The result was that while there was a superfluity of labour in some parts, there was great scarcity of labour in other parts where military works found it extremely difficult to find the necessary amount of labour. Consequently the Government of India decided that it was necessary to ration man-power and therefore the first step that they took was to appoint this Committee which is known as Unskilled Labour Supply Committee. To this Committee, every contractor has to make an application, if he wants to take away labour from an area where he is not working and it is only on the certificate given by the supply committee that he can go to some other area to tap labour from that area. There are various stations where these labour depots are kept. At the head is a contractor who manages this scheme. I cannot at this stage give my Honourable friend all the details under the scheme. But if he is more interested in the matter, he can put down a short notice question which I am prepared to accept and give information on this subject.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan** (Madura and Ramnad cum Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I should like first to thank my Honourable friend for the long statement he has made and the information he has supplied to Prof. Ranga and his colleagues. But I think he has missed one essential question and that is whether the Coal Commissioner will consider the question of reimposing the ban on employment of women underground.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am sure that is not his function.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** I should like to know whether the Coal Commissioner or the Committee will consider whether under labour conditions prevailing now in mines, women should be permitted to continue to work underground any longer and whether it is not injurious to the health of women to do such work in mines.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** That will not be a matter within their purview.

**Mr. Abdul Qayyum:** Then, what is the use of having them?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-official): As I envisage, the function of this Committee, when it was appointed, was to find out facts and certainly the Committee will find out facts regarding the question of employing women underground, and every question.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I understood Shrimati Radha Bai Subbarayan to refer to the Coal Commissioner and his work.



**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** And also to the Committee to which my Honourable friend referred.

**The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar:** Yes, they might.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** That is the view I take that the Committee will consider every question.

**The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar:** I thought she was referring only to the Coal Commissioner.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Including the removal of the ban on the employment of women and all questions concerning labour in all fields. I therefore feel that this money should be voted.

**Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang):** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

**Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang):** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Sir, we find in Demand 10 it is Posts and Telegraphs Department. Now it is the Department of Posts and Air. What is the difference between the two Departments?

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** We find under item (c) the explanation given is: "represents sterling overseas pay and one month's pay of an officer and expenditure incurred in connection with the international conferences". May I know from the Honourable the Finance Member, what is the rate of conversion for the purpose of sterling overseas pay? Is it 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d.? I saw sometime ago a Press note and I wanted to table a motion for adjournment saying that salaries of military officers and other ranks should not be paid in sterling pay.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** May I interrupt and say that my Honourable friend was not in the House this morning when I answered a question on that. That matter has already been dealt with.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I am sorry I was absent. If so, I shall read the answer.

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** Sir, this Demand relates to the Secretariat Branch of the Posts and Air Department. The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department is an independent department which comes under this Department for administration and control. But this demand is for the Secretariat portion of it. As the Honourable Member will see, the original Grant was only one lakh and ten thousand, representing the principal Secretariat.

**Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang):** The question is: -

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Food Department'."

**Mr. Chairman** (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Food Department'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: Sir, this supplementary grant refers particularly to the expansion of the Department in general and in particular the expansion of the purchase organisation; the creation of the Storage and Rationing Directorates and four more provincial organisations, more frequent meetings of the committees and councils, increase in the rate of dearness allowance and grant of new allowances, etc.

What I should like to point out is that the Honourable the Food Member was not prepared to accept the other day that food rationing was bad. Evidently he gets good rice, good wheat and everything else good stuff and that is why he is not prepared to believe what other people say about the bad quality of ration supplied to ordinary folk. Let me tell him that 75 to 80 per cent. of the people from my part of the country are suffering from scabies. This is not my discovery, but this is what medical opinion has discovered that those scabies are due to the bad quality of food. I know rice for Coimbatore comes from Tanjore as well as from Bezvada. The Tanjore rice is a good rice normally, but from the way in which it is stored and it is exposed it becomes so rotten and so bad that when it reaches us it is thoroughly bad. We have eaten that rice and we know how thoroughly bad it is. Let not the Food Member stand up and say that the rice is good, because if he says that I will have to repeat what the Honourable Member for Broadcasting said the other day, "It is a lie". I do not think that is the experience of Madras alone; and there is another aspect of the food that he gives us. Part of it is mud and stones. I do not know whether it is done in order to make it a larger quantity, or give greater weight. It is really a question of asking for bread and getting stones instead.

Then there is another thing about rationing. One-tenth of this country is being rationed today. In other parts of the country they have got other types of rationing. Statutory rationing exists for about 40 million people, but in my district and six other districts in Madras what is called informal rationing has been introduced, under which they want to take off all the surplus grain from the people but they do not guarantee giving anything back to the people. The result is that even people who produce the grain are not sure of getting food throughout the year.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

And now I am getting reports from my district that the rationing there is not at all efficient. The quality of the grain that is given is very bad and the enforcement of procurement is also not satisfactory. While procuring the grain I want him to see that the producer of grain has provision for food throughout the year. Unless you guarantee that, there will be a lot of hiding and producers will not be willing to part with the grain. Therefore I should like the Food Member to go through some of these facts. That there are abuses in many of these items is well known and I do not want him to say that they do not exist. I want him to learn and face them.

**Mr. Sami Venkatchelam Chetty**: Sir, but for the frequent comic poses of the Honourable Food Member the story of the food situation is a very grim tragedy. Unfortunately the department has become far too bloated even for the Food Member. There is no return either to the department or to the public in general. There does not seem to be a well organised and laid down policy with regard to the procurement, distribution and movement of these foodstuffs from one place to another. Instances have occurred where the procurement policy has been too costly and storage facilities were such as to result in deterioration of large stocks of foodstuffs

while people were hungering for food. More than all these, orders have been issued by the Central Government and by the Provincial Governments, by the local magistrates and by small authorities of such a conflicting nature that heavy stocks of foodgrains could not be moved from one place to another or were seized under the anti-hoarding and profiteering provisions of the Defence of India Rules and not allowed to be taken over either by the Governmental authority or the traders concerned. The result was that many lakhs of tons of foodstuffs got deteriorated. And I think much of the trouble of the food shortage was due to the most unscientific and stupid arrangements of Government with regard to storage, movement and transport policy. That is very confusing to the subordinate officials of Government. I am afraid the Food Member must become a little more serious in dealing with the situation. He may be a contented man so far as he himself is concerned—I congratulate him on that pose—but the tragedy behind the department is too great for any person to feel complacent over the situation. I am sure he would feel immensely glad if he gets into the subject and works at it, tries to find out where the defects lie and how to regulate the whole procurement, distribution, transport and storage. All these arrangements should be made so as to make it possible for the poorest consumer to get his morsel of food. If without doing that he merely asks or worries the Finance Member to grant him money in large amounts for mere increase of establishment I am afraid he is doing far more injury than good.

The present supplementary demand is for 12 lakhs as against the original demand of 21 lakhs. It seems to be a very large proportion indeed of even the essential original allotment. Of course I have a mind to oppose this demand but it is a matter of money that has already been spent. Still it will not be a proper and justifiable expenditure unless the Food Member takes his duties far more seriously than he is at present disposed to do.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Sir, the country was expecting eagerly an early abolition of the Food Department but I am surprised to find that this department has found a novel plea for lavish expenditure of money. They put forward the plea that a storage scheme should be had and godowns should be constructed. I say that the money which has been asked for has not been spent yet. Most of the money will be spent after the sanction. On page 18 of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee we read that even in normal pre-war conditions very large quantities of foodgrains—(one estimate being 3 million tons) were lost. I do not know who the expert is who has stated this figure to the Food Member. I read this only to draw the attention of the House as I say that it is a plea to perpetuate the department. Sir, we had bitter experience of the department in giving princely salaries, and here we find a Director, one Deputy Director, three Assistant Directors, four Entomologists and the necessary ministerial staff at every place. It will not be 12 lakhs only but later on it will multiply into a huge amount. We should be cautious in sanctioning this amount and I hope the House will reject it. It is a mere waste and nothing else. I urge the claims of Muslims in appointments.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I think the Food Member is thinking that everything is going on properly in the country with regard to his department. Sir, I have toured all over the country in the Madras Presidency and I have noted many defects in regard to the procurement of food articles and their storage. The arrangements of storing the food which is procured by Government is simply miserable. There has been a lot of deterioration in the food articles which the Government have been storing during the last year.

Sir, I toured in Cuddapah district during last January. I was in Cuddapah on the 6th of January 1945 when a group of agriculturists came there and while I was talking to Mr. Koti Reddy, at his house, they approached him and made a complaint that two agriculturists—producers of food—were arrested by the Police.

**An Honourable Member:** Who is Mr. Koti Reddy?

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** He is Bar-at-Law; he is a prominent citizen of Cuddapah and a distinguished leader.

They also complained that *jowar* which was procured by Government from the Nizam State had been stored in a place for one year without distributing it, and that it had deteriorated. Sir, the Government officials do not know how to store the articles that are procured by them. It is the agriculturist—the producer—who knows how to produce it and how to maintain the grain produced by him. The Government officials have got academic qualifications, but they do not know the art of agriculture, the art of producing food, the art of storing food. If it were known to the higher authorities that the food articles which were procured by these officers in Madras had deteriorated, action would have been taken against them. So they went to the market and compelled the people to buy those articles of food. They went there and said, 'you take 4 bags, you take 3 bags and so on at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  measures to a rupee'. One or two persons who were present in the market said, 'We have got a good crop of *jowar* in our lands, are you going to take it? You are offering deteriorated *jowar* at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  measures to a rupee'. They refused to take. Then these officials reported these persons to the police with the result that they were arrested. Congressmen have been arrested there and threats are given to them. Then, Sir, after those people were arrested, this group of agriculturists ran to the House of Mr. Koti Reddy and narrated the whole story. I was not alone; my grandson was also with me—he had accompanied me, he is a landlord and producer.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All this is very interesting, but it is not relevant to this motion.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** I will take only two minutes, Sir.

They were arrested and kept in custody. Mr. Koti Reddy interfered in the matter and requested the Collector to release them. They were afterwards released. This is what happening in the Food organisation. In the Food Department there are many defects.

There is another defect. In the city of Madras no firewood is available. I have received numerous complaints—letters from the public, from my home, from my grandson I have received a complaint that firewood is not supplied by Government. Why should Government undertake to supply firewood.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made that point quite clear.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Sir, I request my Honourable friend to go into the working of his department personally, and then come here and propose something. Without doing that, he should not come forward with these Supplementary Demands. He cannot have it.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I will not repeat what has already been said by my Honourable friend. I endorse every word that fell from my Honourable friend's mouth, because it is all based on actual experience and truth.

Sir, I am not opposed to the Food Department asking for more money and for more officers. My complaint is that it does not seem to give satisfaction to anybody. Sir, this is a peculiar demand. It is not for any one special office or officer. It is for the general growth of the department—an expansion of the Department in general and in particular the expansion of the purchase organisation. It is in regard to this purchase organisation that I have a few remarks to offer. Then it is also for the creation of the Storage and Rationing Directorates. Sir, in answer to my question, the Honourable Member said that informal rationing is going to be introduced in Vizagapatnam district. But four months ago when one of his own officers visited that place, he said that informal rationing would be introduced. Later on, we were informed publicly that informal rationing was introduced only a few days ago. But the Honourable Member said only a few days ago that informal rationing was going to be introduced. Which

statement is correct, we do not know. I am afraid this Department really does not seem to be taking itself seriously. It is growing so fast that it does not know on which day it gives one answer and on which other day it gives a contrary answer.

There is too much of corruption in the purchase organisation. I do not propose to substantiate these things now because there is not enough time. There is corruption. Your own officer has given testimony of it. You have not taken sufficient action to put down corruption. There is any amount of harassment. You do not seem to be taking action to prevent it. The stuff you are selling is bad. It is purposely spoilt by the contractors you are employing. You do not seem to be taking any steps to prevent that spoilation. In purchasing it from our people, whether purposely or not, in our districts over-estimation is being made by your officers as regards the quantities of foodgrains that we are supposed to be raising and then you under-estimate our own consumption needs and naturally you over-estimate the possible surplus of foodgrains that we are to place at your disposal. Then you requisition it. We are obliged to place at your disposal at prices fixed by yourself with the result that we are left with foodgrains to suffice for our own family consumption for less than six months. I have placed documentary complaints before the Honourable Member. Today I have placed another complaint that I have received from Vizagapatam district, a district suffering from food shortage, the district to which he is supposed to have imported thousands of tons of food. No action seems to be taken. Our trouble is that we go on making complaints on the floor of this House for two months and yet no satisfaction is given to any section of the people in this country.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is repeating what has been repeatedly said.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In spite of this repetition this gentleman does not seem to be taking action while we are in session.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think there should be an end to this.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When we rise for the recess, the Honourable Member and his Department are likely to go to sleep again. They are having more and more officers, more and more staff and more and more money. What is the result? The Honourable Member should heed the advice given by my Honourable friend Mr. Venkatachalam Chetty and take up the cudgels with the various departments and the Provincial Governments to the extent that they make them co-operate with him and see that satisfaction is given not only to the consumers but to the producers: not only to the towns but also to the villages. See that corruption is put down, harassment and under-estimation of our village needs are put down, and that we have proper and pure stuff and that reasonable rates are paid to our producers.

(At this stage The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava and Mr. Sri Prakasa rose in their seats.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir, Jwala Prasad Srivastava.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The Honourable Member does not wish to hear any more complaints!

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava** (Food Member): I have listened to what has generally degenerated into a food debate. I use the word 'degenerated' because we have had any amount of talk about food.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, I take objection to this word 'degenerated'.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member proceed.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I thought my friends here were a little tired of talk. I have no objection to listening to the complaints which emanate from my friends. In fact I have been answering questions at the rate of about twelve each day.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Giving no information and no satisfaction;

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I have been giving all the information at my disposal. Most of the points made today emanate from Members from Madras. These points have also been raised in questions and I wish to assure the Honourable Members that I have taken up all those matters with the Provincial Governments concerned. Honourable Members doubtless know that the primary responsibility for those matters rests with the Provincial Governments.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Then why should we pay for the provincial organisation? That is one of the sub-heads under this section.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** That provincial organisation is our organisation in the province. It is not the Provincial Government's organisation. We have a very small nucleus in the provinces. The House ought to appreciate that tackling a problem like food for 400 millions of people of India we need a staff and I am surprised at the fact that so much has been done with so few men. I have not got the comparative figures of staff for Great Britain here. I will some day supply them to this Honourable House. I believe that there are 33,000 men and women working in the Food Office in London.

This demand relates mainly to the new directorates that we have established, namely that of rationing and that of storage. The House doubtless knows how important these directorates are. The House has been complaining and rightly so in many cases. I admit that there is room for improvement in those directions. I do not want to say that the organisation of the Food Department is perfect. Far from it. It is a marvel that we have reached the stage we are in today. But I think, Sir, that we have still a long way to go. Without staff, nothing can be done. I will attend to the points that have been made by my Honourable friends and I wish to assure them that I am not complacent or oblivious of my responsibility. I have taken to them very seriously.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Look after the corn in the Government store houses. Lots of food is being spoilt there.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am quite aware of the deterioration which is taking place and, Sir, for that reason we require storage. There has been a good deal of loss because in the past there were no large godowns in the country. The loss that the small man has suffered could not be estimated.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** He did not suffer. He took care of his grain and never allowed it to spoil.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** It may be that he took care. But when you are dealing with large quantities you have to make large arrangements consistent with those quantities. It is very important to my mind that we should have, if we are to tackle the food problem of India, adequate storage accommodation all over the country. Without that it will not be possible to procure foodgrains or to keep them. And so, Sir, I hope the House will vote the supplementary demand which we have asked for.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Food Department'."

\* The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 28—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What is this loss by exchange? I would like to know how it has happened.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I understand that that is the difference between the statutory rate of 1/6 on which all budget provision is based and the actual rate of a shade under that, which actually prevailed, *vis.*, 1s. and 5 31/32d.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 29—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 30—AUDIT

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Audit'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND No. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 33—POLICE

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Police'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Police'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What is the non-agency police referred to here?

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** I think it means the police employed by Provincial Governments when not acting as our agents. We contribute also to the Provincial police, principally in Madras.

**Some Honourable Members:** That is not non-agency police.

**The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie:** I do not know why they call it non-agency police. I did not prepare it.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Then let the matter stand over till tomorrow.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How much is it?

**Some Honourable Members:** Six lakhs.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well, let it stand over.

## DEMAND NO. 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** We want information on only two matters. The supplementary grant arises out of ten items. I refer to item (iv) "Expansion of the Office of the Controller of Indian Shipping" May I know what is the work of this Controller? Does it mean that arrangements are being made to increase facilities for building ships. What is the reason for the expansion of his office?

Item (vi) is "contribution to the U. P. Government towards expenditure on experiments in connection with Power Barges Scheme on the Gogra and the Ganges". May I know the result of those experiments?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** So far as the office of the Controller of Indian Shipping is concerned it has to be expanded. This shipping is now controlled both for coastal purposes and for foreign purposes and a certain



amount of expansion goes on on behalf of Indian shipping. We have to keep a constant watch as to how Indian shipping is being treated, what are their difficulties and so on. And now in connection with the post-war development certain other problems are coming in such as to what extent we shall expand and so forth.

This was originally done as part of the War Transport Ministry scheme. We are trying to help Indian shipping.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What is the result—(6)?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If the question is what has been the result of the scheme, I cannot say.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Under this demand, a scheme for giving amenities to seamen is going to be added. I find from the report  
5 P. M. than 5 special officers are going to be appointed for that purpose. Having regard to the miserable condition of the men in the ports I will suggest to the Member that he should consider the claims of these men.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** My only answer to that is. "God save me from my friends".

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 28th March, 1945.