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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume I, 1945

(8th February to 23rd February, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Deputy President :

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Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

CONTENTS

Volume I—8th February to 23rd February, 1945

	PAGES		PAGES
THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1945—		MONDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY 1945—contd.	
Members Sworn	1-68	Indian Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Supplementary Bill Referred to Select Committee	267-72
Starred Questions and Answers	1-30	Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Bill—Motion not moved	272
Unstarred Question and Answer	30	WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1945—	
Statements laid on the Table	31-46	Starred Questions and Answers	273-320
Deaths of Mr. Umar Aly Shah and Mr. Khedan Lal	47-48	Transferred Starred Questions and Answers	320-43
H. E. the Governor General's Assent to Bills Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Withdrawal by Government of India of Assurance to feed Calcutta—Withdrawn	48	Transferred Unstarred Question and Answer	343-46
	48-49, 77-78	Motions for Adjournment <i>re</i> —	
Declaration of Exemption under the Registration of Foreigners Act	49-50	Violation by Government of terms of Delhi Railway Station Hindu Refreshment Room Catering Contract—Disallowed	346
Amendment to the Insurance Rules	50-53	Granting War Allowance for Senior Members of Indian Civil Service—Disallowed	346-47
Indian Tea Control (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	54	Declaration directing certain Budget Heads of Expenditure open to discussion by the Legislative Assembly	347
Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	54	Appointment of the Honourable Sir Edward Benthall to perform functions of the Finance Member at Railway Budget General discussions	347
Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	54	Notifications under the Central Excise and Salt Act	348-49
Indian Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Supplementary Bill—Introduced	54	The Hindu Marriage Disabilities Removal Bill—Discussion on the motion to refer to Select Committee—Not concluded	349-80
Report of the Public Accounts Committee—Motion to consider adopted as amended	54-77, 78-85	THURSDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 1945—	
FRIDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 1945—		Starred Questions and Answers	381-402
Starred Questions and Answers	87-125	Unstarred Question and Answer	402
Unstarred Questions and Answers	125-26	Short Notice Questions and Answers	402-40
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> failure to enforce Economic Sanctions against South Africa and to recall the High Commissioner—Adopted	126-27, 150-67	Amendment to Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules	404
	127	Presentation of the Railway Budget for 1945-46	404-15
Nomination of the Panel of Chairmen Committee on Petitions	127	Statement of Business	415
Resolution <i>re</i> National War Front—Discussion not concluded	127-50	MONDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 1945—	
SATURDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 1945—		Member Sworn	417
Starred Questions and Answers	169-202	Starred Questions and Answers	417-45
Unstarred Question and Answer	202	Transferred Starred Questions and Answers	445-64
Short Notice Question and Answer	202-03	Transferred Unstarred Questions and Answers	464-67
Motions for Adjournment <i>re</i> —		Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> War Allowance for Senior Members of Indian Civil Service—Nagative	467-69, 495-513
Accident to Punjab Mail near Arrah—Disallowed	203	*General Discussion of the Railway Budget	469-95
Outrage within the Premises of Hamayun Railway Station—Disallowed	203-04	TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1945—	
Immediate need of Nutrition Research in India—Disallowed	204	Member Sworn	515
Appointment of an Army Reorganisation Committee—Disallowed	204	Starred Questions and Answers	515-39
Bombing of Pathan Villages in North Waziristan—Disallowed	204-05	Unstarred Questions and Answers	539-46
Banning of certain Public Meetings, etc., in Karachi and other Towns in Sind—Disallowed	205	Short Notice Question and Answer	546-48
Simla Deputy Commissioner's Order to Messrs. Keventers <i>re</i> sale of Eggs—Disallowed	205	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Restriction on Sale of Matches in Ahmedabad Municipal and Cantonment Limits—Disallowed	548
Misuse of Congress Flags in Delhi Courts—Not moved	205	The Railway Budget—List of Demands	548-62
Reducing Supply of Paper for Printing of Hindu Calendar in Bengali—Not moved	206	Demand No. 6-G.—Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses	549-75
Recent Racial and Religious Distinction set up by Labour Department about Allotment of Quarters—Withdrawn	206-07	Refusal to grant Funds to run Motor Lorries	549-75
Use of Unfair Means on the Public of Bihar for Purchase of National Savings Certificates—Adopted	207-08, 224-43	Demand No. 1.—Railway Board	575-82
	208-24	Paucity of Muslims in Railway Services	575-82
Demands for Excess Grants for 1942-43	208-24	WEDNESDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1945—	
The Insurance (Second Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	224	Member Sworn	583
MONDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1945—		Starred Questions and Answers	583-630
Member Sworn	245	Unstarred Questions and Answers	630-32
Starred Questions and Answers	245-61	Railway Budget—List of Demands	632-66
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Failure to apprise the Governor General about situation <i>re</i> Recruitment to Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service—Ruled out of Order	261-63	Demand No. 1.—Railway Board	632-66
Indian Tea Control (Amendment) Bill—Passed	263-64	Inconveniences to Third Class Passengers Indianization of the Higher Grades	632-60, 660-66
Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Motion to consider adopted	264-66	THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1945—	
		Starred Questions and Answers	667-82
		Unstarred Questions and Answers	682-83
		Railway Budget—List of Demands	685-719
		Demand No. 1.—Railway Board	684-719
		Financial Position of the Railways	684-704
		Inadequacy of the Scale of Dearness Allowance to Railwaymen	704-19
		Indian Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Supplementary Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	719

FRIDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1945—		PAGES	FRIDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1945— <i>contd.</i>		PAGES
Starred Questions and Answers	721—37		Demand No. 6-C.—Working Expenses—		
Postponed Questions and Answers	737		Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon		
Unstarred Question and Answer	737		Stock		784
Statements laid on the Table	738—47		Demand No. 6-D.—Working Expenses—		
Railway Budget—List of Demands	747—86		Maintenance and Working of Ferry		
Demand No. 1.—Railway Board	747—84		Steamers and Harbours		785
Hours of work for Railway Staff	747—55		Demand No. 6-E.—Working Expenses—		
Non-employment of Oriyas on Bengal			Expenses of Traffic Department		785
Nagpur Railway	755—58		Demand No. 6-F.—Working Expenses—		
Paucity of Sikhs in Railway Services	759—65		Expenses of General Departments		785
Post-War Policy <i>re</i> Ownership and			Demand No. 6-G.—Working Expenses—		
Management of Steam Vessels plying			Miscellaneous Expenses		785
in Indian Waters	765—77		Demand No. 6-H.—Working Expenses—		
Desirability of Judicial Enquiries into			Expenses of Electrical Department		785
Railway Accidents Involving Loss of			Demand No. 7.—Working Expenses—		
Human Life	777—84		Appropriation to Depreciation Fund		785
Demand No. 2.—Audit	784		Demand No. 8.—Interest Charges		785
Demand No. 3.—Miscellaneous Expendi-			Demand No. 10.—Appropriation to Re-		
ture	784		serve		785
Demand No. 5.—Payments to Indian			Demand No. 10-A.—Withdrawal from		
States and Companies	784		Reserve		786
Demand No. 6-A.—Working Expenses—			Demand No. 11.—New Construction		786
Maintenance of Structural Works	784		Demand No. 12.—Open Line Works		786
Demand No. 6-B.—Working Expenses—					
Maintenance and Supply of Locomo-					
tive Power	784				

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 19th February, 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.

MEMBER SWORN:

Colonel Henry Wynter Wagstaff, M.C., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

†290*—329*

REFUSAL TO INTERVIEW THEIR RELATIVES BY DETAINED CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

330. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Maulana Azad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other Members of the Congress Working Committee have refused to avail themselves of the privilege of having interviews with their relatives;

(b) the reasons for which they have refused to exercise this privilege, and whether it is true that to this privilege were attached humiliating conditions; and

(c) whether Government have considered the matter and resolved to remove these conditions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) I would invite attention to the answer given to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. K. S. Gupta's question No. 219 on the 14th February. No humiliating conditions were attached.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether it is true that some of the Working Committee members were forced to speak in languages other than their own and that is the reason why some of them refused these interviews?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think there is a specific question on that subject.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: There is no question coming up today and I am entitled to get an answer to this.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am quite sure there is a question on this subject. I should like to give the reply when I answer that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member said on a previous occasion that they were not asked to speak in languages other than their own?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I did say that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government of Bombay have written to the brother of Mr. Hare Krishna Mehtab, a member of the Working Committee, asking him to bring an interpreter with him as he would not be allowed to talk in his own language and as a consequence of that Mr. Mehtab has refused the interview?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: All these questions will arise on the supplementaries to the question to which I have referred. I have not the necessary papers with me today.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That member may or may not put that question.

†For these questions and answers, see pages 445—64 of these Debates.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the number of that question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I shall look up the number of the question to which I have referred, which specifically deals with this point. If I should be wrong, and there should be no question, I will accept a short notice question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is a different matter. The question is not coming up today.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As far as I remember, there is a specific question on this subject. I shall verify that in the course of the day. If I should be wrong, I shall accept a short notice question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: So far as I know, the usual system is to reply to the questions and supplementaries when they are put and when the same questions are put again on a future occasion, the Honourable Member on behalf of Government simply refers the questioner to the previous replies. But in this case, the question referred to is not coming up today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In this case, has the question been answered before?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It has not been answered. The Home Member says that he will answer on a future date when the question comes up before the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member prepared to answer that question today?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am not prepared.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the reply to part (c)?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: "Does not arise."

HEALTH OF MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD AND OTHER DETAINED CONGRESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

331. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the present state of health of Maulana Azad, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru and other Members of the Congress Working Committee including that of Babu Rajendra Prasad; and

(b) whether their cases were reviewed in January and fresh orders of detention passed on them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The Honourable member is referred to my reply to question No. 106 of Mr. Satya Narain Sinha on the 10th February, 1945.

(b) Yes. The orders were extended.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether arrangements are being made to operate Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant for hernia?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: My answer to the question is that arrangements are being made.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know whether some of these persons are being transferred to their Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether there is any truth in the report of the *Hindustan Times* that they are being transferred to the U. P.?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The matter is under consideration.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member himself reviews the case of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Was there any recommendation from the Provincial Government with regard to the extension?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No. No recommendation from the Provincial Government of any sort.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether these cases are considered on the advice of the Provincial Governments? What is the procedure adopted?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Government of India may consult the Provincial Governments or they may act themselves.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the procedure?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: In some cases they may consult. In other cases, they may not need the advice of the Provincial Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the procedure in the case of the members of the Working Committee?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is just what I have answered.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: While extending the period of detention of members of the Working Committee for another six months, what were the facts taken into consideration? Had they done something during the last six months, while still in jail, which has resulted in a further extension of the period of detention?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How is it that the period of detention is extended for another six months when they had done nothing during the previous period which necessitates such detention?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Technically the order is not extended for another six months. The order is merely extended. The position is not that the detenu should remain for another six months in jail. The position is that he cannot be released on the expiry of the previous order.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that such extension of detention, whether it is for a period of six months or less, is on the basis of certain activities of the person concerned during the previous period?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No; I have answered that question.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: In view of the fact that Mr. Govind Ballabh Pant is seriously ill, is the Government contemplating an operation early?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that question once today and once on a previous day.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the operation be performed by the doctors of his own choice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That will be arranged.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will his wife be allowed to be at the bed-side of the patient during the time of the operation and after?

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

COMPANIES REGISTERED SINCE WAR

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

(a) how many companies have been registered under the Indian Companies Act in the years after the war up-to-date with the permission of the Controller of Capital Issues;

(b) of these how many are Insurance, Industrial, Banking Commercial or Planning; and

(c) how many were refused by the Controller of Capital Issues to be registered?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The number of companies which have been permitted to make issues of capital from the 17th May, 1943, when control of capital issues was introduced, to 15th January, 1945 was 1,350.

(b) Insurance 21, Industrial 401, Banking 27, Planning (*i.e.*, Long Range Schemes) 54, Others 847.

(c) Four hundred and ninety-three.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what considerations are taken into account to refuse or to give permission for these companies?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Those considerations have been set out at some length in press *communiqués* which have been issued.

INDIAN CASUALTIES IN THEATRES OF WAR

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

- (a) the number of Indian casualties in all theatres of the war up-to-date;
 (b) how many casualties there are in the Navy, Air Forces and Land Forces;
 and
 (c) How many casualties there are in the borders of India and how many in foreign countries?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), (b) and (c). I lay a statement on the table.

Statement showing Indian casualties in the Navy, Air Forces and Land Forces inside and outside the borders of India up to the 31st December 1944

Branch of Service	Killed		Wounded		Missing		Prisoners of War		Believed Prisoners of War		Grand Total
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
Navy	45	49	2	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	196
Air Forces	142	13	173	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	345
*Land Forces	5,920	11,194	17,221	28,420	1,676†	11,850	19†	52,979	—	22,036	1,51,315
Total	6,107	11,256	17,396	28,520	1,693	11,850	19	52,979	—	22,036	1,51,856

NOTES

(A) Figures for Indian casualties inside the borders of India.

(B) Figures for Indian casualties outside the borders of India.

* Figures for casualties in the Land Forces also include casualties in the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery. Figures under (A) are approximate and represent casualties reported as having occurred while operations were in progress in India and on the Indo-Burma border.

† The figure 19 under Prisoners of War taken inside India relates only to those who are known to be Prisoners of War. It is hoped that a considerable proportion of those reported missing from within India will turn out to be Prisoners of War also.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (a) of the question? The Honourable Member can read out the statement.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I can give the total. The number of Indian casualties in all theatres of war up to the 31st December, 1944 is killed 17,363, wounded 45,916; missing 13,543; prisoners of war 52,998; believed prisoners of war 22,036; Grand Total 1,51,856.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (c)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have got a combined total for all the services and I shall have to read it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the non-combatant casualties are included in this number?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If they are enrolled non-combatants, I think they are included, but I will verify this.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member please lay the statement on the table of the House?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As I said, I am laying a statement on the table.

PASSENGERS' SEARCH BY CUSTOMS STAFF AT QUETTA AND OTHER RAILWAY STATIONS

334. *Mr. Abdul Qayum: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the allegations against the Customs staff in an article "Custom Ka Azar" published in the *Istiqal*, Quetta, dated the 31st December, 1944;

(b) whether passengers are searched at the Quetta Railway Station and, in fact, at all Railway Stations from Jacobabad to Chaman and Nokundi;

(c) whether the Customs staff searches people within the limits of the Quetta municipality and other Notified Areas in Baluchistan;

(d) whether it is a fact that the persons searched are forced to take off their clothes including *Shalwars*, i.e., trousers; and

(e) whether he will put a stop to such searches of peaceful citizens?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a). I have not seen a copy of the Article but have called for one.

(b) Searches are carried out at the Quetta and other Railway Stations on the routes thence to Persia or Afghanistan and were formerly carried out down to Jacobabad, but usually only after receipt of information indicating that the person searched is in possession of goods intended for illegal export.

(c) When necessary, searches are conducted within these limits.

(d) This only occurs when would be smugglers adopt the not uncommon practice of wearing several suits of new clothing with the object of smuggling these out of the country.

(e) In view of the reply to part (d), I regret I can give no such undertaking.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to answer to part (b), is it not a fact that wholesale searches of passengers are going on? It is not only those who are suspected or against whom information has been given who are searched but the newspaper article says that wholesale searches all along the line from Jacobabad to the Persian and Afghan frontier are being carried on.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I cannot answer off-hand, but my information is that searches are based on information and suspicion for which there is some ground.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (c) of the question, may I know where is the necessity of searching people within municipal limits and notified areas?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The necessity may arise from the same reasons as it arises in other cases. The fact that they are within municipal limits does not mean that they *ipso facto* abandon all possible intention to smuggle.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask if these searches are made on the platform openly or are they made in some room?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I must have notice of that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How many such smugglers have been caught and searched during the last six months?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have not got such figures, but the reports before me indicate that these searches have definitely been fruitful.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: In answer to part (c) the Honourable Member makes a definite allegation that they are searched in the limits of the municipality, which means in any part of the town. Does the Honourable Member mean to say that there is a chance of a man being caught in a street and searched? It cannot be so, but that is the allegation here.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My understanding of the matter is that a man can be searched. He can be seized in the main street of Bombay and hauled off to be searched in connection with smuggling just as he can be for any criminal offence.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: How do they know that the man is going from Bombay by rail? Can they simply get hold of him in the street?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They have some information on which they are proceeding.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member issue instructions that searches should be confined to the railway stations which are close to the border and not all along the line from Sind to the Iranian and Afghan border?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand that recent practice has already moved in that direction. The report which I have before me says:

"It was inevitable that in the attempt to bring this situation under control some harassment should be caused to members of the public who were not themselves involved. It is true that searches were carried on the railway at stations the whole way from Jacobabad,

which is not itself the concern of this Administration, to Chaman and Nok Kundi, but it has now been possible to restrict such searches on trains to points from Quetta onwards towards the frontier on each line."

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Would it not be a harassment to such people at railway stations from Quetta onwards, which is a distance of hundreds of miles? Why not have a custom inspection post close to the frontier?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The position, as I understand it, is that the first stage in smuggling is to get a lot of stuff near the border. When you get it there, it is beyond the wit of anybody to prevent it getting over the border. Obviously, there are no great trading markets on that side of the frontier to which these large quantities of goods should be proceeding. The technique is to assume that anybody who is taking excessive goods in that direction is taking them with the object of smuggling.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (d) of the question, having regard to the fact that similar complaints were made in the last Session regarding Dhanushkodi customs, will the Honourable Member get a mental examination made of the members of his staff, who seem to be suffering from what is called perversion in psychology, because of their intense desire to see the naked bodies of members of the public which seems to be bordering on the scandalous?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is nothing perverted in wanting a man who is wearing 12 suits of clothes to get down to one.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do you want them to get down to the twelfth set of clothes, or want them to remove the *shalwar* also after which there is nothing?

INDIAN OFFICERS (WARD ROOM RANK) ATTACHED TO ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

335. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state how many Indian officers of Ward Room rank are attached to the major warships of the Royal Indian Navy?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have shown disinclination to put Indians in such a position?

(c) What is Government's policy in this matter?

(d) Why are opportunities not given to selected Indian personnel of the Royal Indian Navy for superior work and for getting superior qualification?

(e) Is it a fact that British personnel recruited after the war are put on such duty, whereas Indian personnel recruited after the war are kept out of such duty?

(f) If the reply to the above is in the affirmative, will Government explain why this racial discrimination is introduced in the administration of the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 81.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The policy is that all Officers whether Indian or European, should have equal opportunities. There is no discrimination.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of my reply to parts (c), (d) and (e) above.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if it is not a fact that Britishers recruited to the Royal Indian Navy later than the Indian recruits are actually given superior places and better opportunities?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the percentage of Indians doing Ward Room duty as compared with the British?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The percentage of Indian officers doing ward room duty is 41.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if it is 41 per cent. of the total?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There are 116 British officers of Ward Room rank, and there are 81 Indian officers of Ward Room rank. The proportion of Indian and British officers is therefore 41:59.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps do Government propose to take to increase this proportion? Do they put it as target that some day Indians alone will do this work? What steps are Government taking towards this end?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think there is no doubt whatever that the ultimate target for the Royal Indian Navy as for every fighting service is that they should be completely Indianised.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if it is a fact that with regard to the Royal Indian Navy it is so on paper, while in practice there is always discrimination against Indians?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will he see to it that this discrimination is stopped in practice?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He says there is no discrimination. Next question.

INDIAN OFFICERS RECRUITED TO ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

336. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state how many Indians have been recruited in the Royal Indian Navy to the officer rank since 1939 September?

(b) How many Britishers have been so recruited?

(c) How many of the Indians have got promotions since their recruitment, and how many of the Britishers have got promotions since their recruitment?

(d) Is it a fact that Government appoint Britishers to ships with Indian personnel in preference to Indian officers even when they are available?

(e) Is it a fact that every attempt is being made to suppress and keep down the Indian personnel of the Royal Indian Navy as against the British personnel?

(f) Whatever the policy of Government may be during the war, will Government consider the advisability of giving an undertaking not to recruit any Britisher for the Royal Indian Navy after the war except as technical personnel?

(g) If the reply to the above is in the negative, will Government explain what their policy is, what they are doing now and what they intend to do as between British and Indian personnel?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). In the interests of security, I regret I am unable to disclose the exact numbers of Indian and British officers recruited into the Royal Indian Navy and the Reserves since September 1939, but I may state that the proportion is 46 Indian to 54 British. There is still a shortage of officers and applications for emergency commissions from suitable Indian candidates would be most welcome.

(c) 35 per cent. of the Indian officers and 50 per cent. of the British officers have been promoted since their recruitment.

(d) and (e). No, Sir.

(f) and (g). On the assumption that the Honourable Member is referring to permanent recruitment, the position is that the future policy of recruitment to the Royal Indian Navy is one which is bound up with the post-war organisation of all three Services and is at present under consideration. Until last year permanent recruitment to the Royal Indian Navy was on the basis of one Indian to two British, the total annual intake being about 8—10. During the latter half of last year it was decided, as an *ad hoc* measure, to offer up to 20 vacancies to persons of Indian domicile only and recruitment for these vacancies will, it is hoped, be completed this year.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know how long the Government will continue this practice of restricting the number of Indian recruits, while leaving it open to recruit Britishers without any limit, even when Indians are available?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As I have said, we took an *ad hoc* decision last year to recruit only persons of Indian domicile, and the whole question is at present under consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: As against how many non-Indians, is that offer of 20 vacancies to persons of Indian domicile made?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No persons of non-Indian domicile were taken last year.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance, either now or at any time during the Session—I am not urging the Honourable Member to say here and now—that in future no recruitment of non-Indians will take place for these places in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not in a position to make any announcement or any promise regarding permanent recruitment until the question, which is under consideration, is decided.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if there are any reasons to continue British recruitment?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing. Next question.

EXPENDITURE ON INDIAN PROPAGANDA ABROAD

337. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state by which Department the expenditure is incurred, and how much it is for each of the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944), in respect of (i) visitors and lecturers sent from India, both men and women, for propaganda purposes to the United States of America, (ii) papers published in languages other than Indian, such as Arabic, Persian, Pushtu, Iraqi, Turkish and Egyptian for propaganda purposes abroad, and (iii) broadcasting from the Indian Radio in languages other than Indian languages?

(b) Who takes the decision as to the propriety of the kind of propaganda and the machinery by which it is to be done?

(c) Is it a fact that all such action is taken on the initiative of the Propaganda Minister in the United Kingdom of His Majesty's Government?

(d) Had any attempt been made to recover these costs from His Majesty's Government, having regard to the fact that this is propaganda outside India for and on behalf of the Allied Governments?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) (i). I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the lecturers sent last year by the Government of India to U. S. A. If so, the expenditure on account of their passage and daily allowances amounted to Rs. 59,000 roundly and were incurred by the Information and Broadcasting Department.

(ii) The details of expenditure on the magazines, etc., published in foreign languages are not available for the years mentioned separately.

(iii) Following are the expenditure figures incurred by All India Radio on broadcasts in languages other than Indian:

Year 1940-41—Rs. 14,000.

Year 1941-42—Rs. 47,100.

Year 1942-43—Rs. 1,06,700.

Year 1943-44—Rs. 1,72,700.

Year 1944-45 (upto 31-12-44)—Rs. 1,14,900.

In addition, a broadcasting station has recently been started at Gangtok to broadcast in Tibetan. Its budget is Rs. 11,270 per annum.

(b) The Government of India.

(c) It is not a fact.

(d) In so far as the publications in foreign languages are concerned, approximately 50 per cent. of the cost of production of all material sent to the Middle East is recovered from H. M. G. The rest of the expenditure is met by the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why is the rest of the expenditure to be met by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Because a good deal of the stuff which is sent there shows the cultural advance of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a) (i) may I know if there are any persons other than those mentioned here, any visitors or propagandists sent from here to the United States of America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are there any persons of whom he is not aware?

(No answer.)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What exactly is meant by cultural advance?

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

PROPAGANDA ABOUT INDIA CARRIED ON IN AMERICA BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT

338. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether he has read the statement of Mr. G. L. Mehta, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the International Business Conference, recently held in the United States of America, that lakhs of rupees from Indian treasury were being spent on propaganda in the United States of America;

(b) if not, how much was spent thus in 1944;

(c) whether scores of paid lecturers had been engaged for the purpose; and

(d) whether large quantities of pamphlets and magazines had been distributed in the United States of America on behalf of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) The estimated expenditure on the Indian Information Services in America during the year 1944-45 is \$1,34,700 (Rs. 4,51,245).

(c) No. Last year four Indian speakers were sent to America. They have since returned. Their mission was mainly to speak about India's war effort.

(d) No. With the exception of *Indian Information*, very few pamphlets have been distributed in America. No magazine has been distributed there.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if any lecturers who are already in America are subsidised or helped by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Not that I know of.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that certain lectures are being sponsored by the Publicity Department of the Agent General in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Apart from the Department over which I have control, I do not know of any other.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the series of articles that were published in the *Hindustan Times* concerning the British publicity racket in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: My attention has been drawn to those articles, and I may say that nine-tenths of those statements are false.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Government issue a statement stating the correct position, as there is a lot of agitation on this point?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I will take the earliest opportunity of explaining the position in the House later on.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member be able to do so before the General Budget is presented?

(No answer.)

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Did I understand the Honourable Member to say a moment ago that nine-tenths of the statements appearing in the articles referred to in the *Hindustan Times* are false?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Then, is the Honourable Member going to take any action in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: To declare it false in this House is quite enough. I will give details later on during the Session.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member what he proposes to do with one-tenth of the statement which is admittedly correct? Does he take responsibility for it?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: One-tenth of the statement is correct and therefore no action will be taken.

RELATION OF "UNITED PUBLICATIONS" WITH INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

339. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether "United Publications" is a part of the External Publicity Branch of the Department run by Colonel Wheeler;

(b) the object in having an assumed unofficial name for the said Branch;

(c) whether a magazine "India To-morrow" is being subsidized or run by the Government of India in the United States of America; and

(d) whether any subsidies are being paid to any magazines in the United States of America; if so, the names of such magazines, and the total amount of subsidy?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) "United Publications" is the generic name for all magazines printed by the Publications Division of this Department. The Director of Publications Division is Col. Wheeler.

(b) The object of the name was partly for administrative convenience such as correspondence with printing presses, and partly to avoid the magazines being immediately stigmatised as "mere Government of India propaganda" when they are received in the countries to which they are directed. This is in line with practice elsewhere. Examples are afforded by the Tass Agency United News Reel, All-India Radio, etc., the names of which contain no mention of their Government connection.

(c) No.

(d) No.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the address given for the United Publications is a post box number?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I do not remember; I shall require notice.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that post box No. 166 in New Delhi is the Postal address of this "United Publications"?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I do not remember.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the publications are to be found in the Library of the House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I shall be very happy to place the whole lot of them there.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (d), did the Honourable Member say that no pamphlets and no publications are sent out by this Department to the United States of America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question was about subsidies and my answer was in the negative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are these publications sent free to many people outside this country?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: My answer was in the negative.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (a), does the "United Publications" of the External Publicity Branch send out any pamphlet or literature free?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: My answer was "No" in reply to parts (c) and (d).

ASSAULT ON MR. MAHESH BY ARMY MAN AT RAJA-KI-MANDI RAILWAY STATION

340. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if he has read a news item under the caption "Alleged assault by army man" published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 6th January, 1945;

(b) if Mr. Mahesh was assaulted by military personnel on the Raja-ki-Mandi Railway station and wounded;

(c) whether the military personnel involved were Indian, British or Foreign;

(d) whether Mahesh was brought back to the Railway station and beaten; and

(e) whether any enquiry was held, and with what result?

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

(b) No military personnel were involved in the affray.

(c) to (e). Do not arise, in view of my answer to (b).

NEXT COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the next competitive examination for the Royal Indian Navy will be held on the 2nd April, 1945 and subsequent days;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Punjab University is also holding the Intermediate and B.A. examinations on the same days;

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether he will take necessary steps to postpone the Royal Indian Navy Examination so as to enable the Punjab University candidates to take part in this competition; and

(d) whether Government will consider the advisability of asking the Federal Public Service Commission to hold all competitive examinations on dates which do not conflict with other University examinations?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Federal Public Service Commission have already examined the possibility of changing the date of the examination, but it has been found that no change is possible in view of the limits imposed by the dates of the training programme for selected candidates. The Commission take into account the dates of University examinations in fixing their own examination programme. It is, however, as this case shows, not always possible to avoid a clash of dates owing to the lack of uniformity in the arrangement of university examinations.

(d) Does not arise.

ARMY REORGANISATION COMMITTEE ENQUIRY

342. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether the Army Reorganisation Committee has issued any questionnaire, if so, what it is;

(b) how many official and non-official witnesses the committee has examined so far;

(c) when the committee is expected to finish its work and submit its report; and

(d) whether its report will be published?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir. A copy of the *questionnaire* issued to non-officials is placed on the table.

(b) Up to the 15th February, 1945, the Committee has examined 76 official and 15 non-official witnesses. I may add that the examination of non-official witnesses has started only recently.

(c) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to starred question No. 95 by my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Qaiyum on the 10th February, 1945.

List of subjects which the Re-organisation Committee, India, would like to discuss with non-officials

1. Class representation in the post-war Army—should any classes be excluded?
2. Class composition of units in the Army—should units consist of men of one class or province?
3. Representation of provinces in the Army; the importance of naming units after the province in which they are raised.
4. Possibility of forming an All India Regiment of Guards.
5. Possibility of reduction of the non-Indian element in the Army in India, including Gurkhas.
6. *Aid to Civil Power*.—Training to fight the country's external enemies (the first duty of an army) conflicts with internal security duties. Should it be the policy to rely as far as possible on the police for internal security?

7. *Indian Territorial Force and Auxiliary Force (India).*—What is value other than on military grounds of the pre-war Indian Territorial Force and Auxiliary Force (India)?

8. *Provision of officers for the fighting services.*—How can the number and standards of candidates be improved?

9. *Conscription.*—In the event of another major war could conscription be introduced in India either universally or amongst the educated classes and technicians?

10. *Recruitment of women in peace-time.*

(a) Should the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) be retained in the post-war Army?

(b) Should Indian women be recruited into the Indian Army Medical Corps as Medical Officers and Nurses?

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if one of the points in the *questionnaire* relates to the possibility of conscription in India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member said a few days ago that it is only a committee of departmental experts. How can they deal with the question of conscription in India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I said that it is a committee of experts and will deal with matters of a purely military aspect.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who are the sort of non-officials to whom the *questionnaire* has been sent?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The position is that we have asked the Provincial Governments to indicate the names of non-officials representing a wide diversity of opinion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many of them are Europeans and how many Indians?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know exactly to whom the *questionnaire* has been sent, because it has been sent by Provincial Governments. But I know the committee have so far toured the Punjab and is at present in Bombay where I know one of my Honourable friends—Sir Narayan Chandavarkar—was asked to appear before them.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that section 93 regime holds sway in most of the provinces, is the Honourable Member aware that the non-officials addressed may not be true representatives of public opinion?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The committee has issued a Press Note inviting non-official gentlemen to place their suggestions before the committee; so that there need be no fear that any non-official who wishes to place his views before the committee will not have an opportunity of doing so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I know if the Members of Legislatures of the different provinces have on principle been invited to give evidence?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. There is a general invitation to the public and any one who wishes to give evidence apart from those selected by the Provincial Governments, is welcome to do so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member see that elected Members of the Legislature in each province are invited to give evidence.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will consider that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there two sides of this *questionnaire*, one for the officials and one for the non-officials?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, it is not like that. The Committee has no regular *questionnaire* for officials, but when it calls a particular official as a witness it has questions according to his qualifications and experience.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member consider putting the *questionnaire* in the form of a *communiqué* or some such thing in the newspapers, so that non-official opinion of persons represented in the House or otherwise will be available for consideration?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will consider that.

HEALTH OF MR. BALKRISHNA KAULA, A SECURITY PRISONER

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

(a) whether Mr. Balkrishna Kaula, a security prisoner in the Ajmer Central Jail, is suffering from Anæmia, rarification of collar bone, and pain and swelling in foot and is running a temperature; and

(b) what medical treatment has been arranged for him and with what results; (please make a full statement about his illness and his treatment)?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No. Mr. Kaula's only complaint is slight rheumatism in the foot which is due to pyorrhoea.

(b) He has been given a full course of dental treatment for the pyorrhoea.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that Colonel Kharegat, the previous Civil Surgeon of Ajmer, reported that this case was a fairly serious one and he used to take Mr. Kaula for ultra-violet treatment to the Victoria Hospital, and that since the arrival of his successor Major Hasset all this treatment given to Mr. Kaula has been stopped?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have given the Honourable Member all the information that I have with me.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I also have some information of a very reliable nature. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make further inquiries in the matter, because I have received information from Mr. Kaula's wife that his case is very bad and requires immediate treatment?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The report we have got from the medical authorities is that Mr. Kaula had pyorrhoea, which is receiving immediate treatment.

MUNSTER REPORT.

344. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) whether Lord Munster has submitted any report of his recent tour recommending a large number of comforts for the British troops only;

(b) what action has so far been taken on that report, and whether the new comforts sanctioned will be available to the Indian troops also up to the same extent; if not, why not;

(c) whether it is a fact that Lord Munster has recommended more abundant supply of Beer to the British troops, and that he has also recommended more British doctors, British nurses, British cooks and British hostesses; and

(d) whether the expenditure for these comforts will be paid out of the Indian treasury or the British?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No. 107 on the 10th February 1945 and to Lord Munster's Report, of which a copy is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Action to implement the recommendations contained in the Report to the extent they are practicable is being pursued, but it has not yet reached the stage at which a statement can be made. I will lay a statement on the table of the House as soon as I am in a position to do so.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has he made any recommendations for the benefit of Indians also?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The recommendations made by Lord Munster for the benefit of Indian troops will be found in the Report.

Mr. Abdul Qayum: Who will pay for these amenities and improvements?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered that in reply to a previous question.

MR. CHURCHILL'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WELFARE OF BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA

345. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) whether Mr. Churchill has sent any personal representative to India to look after the welfare of British troops;

(b) whether he will send his reports to the Government of India or direct to the Honourable the British Premier; and

(c) who will pay his expenses?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The Prime Minister has deputed Lt. General King to be his personal representative in India. It is not his function to determine the scale of welfare provision or amenities but to assist in the fulfilment of policies and programmes accepted by the Government of India, particularly where these depend on stores and Equipment being imported into India.

(b) He will report to the Prime Minister but he will keep the Government of India informed of what he is doing.

(c) The expenditure relating to the pay and allowances of Lt. Gen. King will be borne by H. M. G.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether this gentleman is also to report on the political conditions in India and is he in consultation with His Excellency the Viceroy as the Crown Representative in India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Most certainly not.

TO FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

346. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member collected at any time any particulars with regard to foreign investments in India including investments by companies and residents in the United Kingdom?

(b) Have Government made through their Economic Adviser any estimate of the amount of British capital invested in India and the amount of non-British foreign capital invested in India?

(c) Did Government have any negotiation with His Majesty's Government with regard to the liquidation of assets of British people in India and the payment of such assets in sterling which has accumulated?

(d) Have Government seen suggestions made in this direction amongst other people from Prof. C. N. Vakil, now Economic Adviser of the Planning Department under Government?

(e) Have Government received representations and suggestions in this direction from public bodies, Chambers of Commerce and others?

(f) What is Government's policy with regard to British assets in India as a possible means of preventing further inflation?

(g) Is it a fact that dollar assets and dollar securities from subjects in India were requisitioned?

(h) What was the total amount of such dollar securities and dollar assets taken from the people of India (including Indian States) in order to enable British to pay America before the Lease-Lend arrangements came into operation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (c). No.

(d) and (e). Yes.

(f) The Government's policy of repatriating with the assistance of His Majesty's Government such British assets in India as are suitable for and readily susceptible to requisitioning has been explained in my Budget speeches of the past few years, and has been carried out to the extent of about £375 million. The scope for further action of a like nature is small.

(g) Yes, to the limited extent of certain marketable securities and dollar balances.

(h) It is not in the public interest to give this information.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, Sir, what steps Government are taking in order at least to get an estimate of British investments in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Attempts at least have been made from time to time, but the compilation of a complete estimate could not, I think, be made without taking certain powers.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether, in view of the fact that such steps were taken with British assets in the United States, in Canada, in Argentina and other places, whether the same steps may not be taken in India in order to facilitate the repayment of moneys due from the United Kingdom.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think the Honourable Member has an exaggerated idea of the steps that were taken in these other countries. A study of those measures does not suggest that anything very useful could be done in India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that proposals are being made to scale down the sterling balances and to defer the repayment of them, would not the Honourable Member, in the interest of India, consider whether some of the British assets in this country should not be taken over and sterling paid to them by the United Kingdom Government, and whether he will not make a representation to His Majesty's Government on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I must point out that a possibility of the kind suggested by my Honourable friend is far more complicated than appears to be generally recognized. In many cases, it would be quite impossible to evaluate the interests concerned. In others it may be the Indian portion of a world business which could not possibly be separated and treated as a unit, for instance banking, insurance business and so on. And then it is hardly possible for the Government to land themselves with such investments at the public expense without knowing exactly what they would be able to do with them. Many of these businesses consist of a large amount of goodwill and so on which would vanish the moment they were taken over by the Government. I merely indicate these as aspects of the problem which have to be taken into account even if the general policy could be agreed upon.

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: I understand that

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, it is one of the most important subjects. I just want to ask only one question—whether he has represented to His Majesty's Government

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member put the next question. A matter like this can be discussed at the time of the Budget.

NEW STANDARD TIME

347. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state when the so-called Viceroy's Time was fixed, which puts the clock one hour forward beyond the standard time?

(b) What were the reasons which induced Government to do this?

(c) Which of these reasons now stand, justifying the continuance of a practice, which imposes undue strain on working classes who have to start very early in the morning and on middle class women whose husbands have to reach offices, having to work very early in the morning and having to use electric lights?

(d) Have Government received any complaints with regard to this time from any quarters since it was introduced?

(e) What is the propriety of imposing a time on all-India corresponding to the natural time of territories that are not in the possession of His Majesty's Government?

(f) When did Government last re-examine this problem?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). I deduce from his question that the Honourable member is referring to Indian Standard Time as in force since 1st September, 1942, which is 6½ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. For information regarding its enforcement and continuance I would invite his attention to the reply given to question No. 464 put by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, on the same subject on the 16th of November, 1944.

(d) Apart from some questions tabled by Honourable members and a small number of representations made to Government no other complaints have been received from any quarters since its introduction.

(e) As the question of Standard Time is one of convenience and not of allegiance, no question of impropriety arises.

(f) When an Honourable Member last raised the question on the floor of this House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Indian Standard Time has been fixed at 6½ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time instead of 5½ hours? 6½ hours is inconvenient to India.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is convenient.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What are the reasons for doing that? What is the convenience, and whose convenience?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I answered a similar question during the last Session. The real reason for the alteration of the time was to save coal.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if the Government have called for the opinion of the Provincial Governments on this question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As far as I know, Provincial Governments were consulted before the change was made.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: How is coal saved by this new system?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That was carefully gone into by those who understand coal.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How much coal has been saved?

(No answer was given.)

BAN ON ENTRY OF CERTAIN BOOKS

348. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether the entry of the following books has been prohibited into British India;

(i) the Civil War in France by Karl Mark; and

(ii) the Paris Commune by V. I. Lenin;

(b) the reasons which led to the passing of the order; and

(c) whether the entry of the above books has been prohibited into the United Kingdom or the United States of America?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) Because it was considered that the effect of these books in this country might be to encourage violent revolution.

(c) Government have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know who was the person who judged whether these books would bring about the consequences mentioned by the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It was the view of Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any special officer who is placed in charge of the task of seeing which books are to be allowed entry into British India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No special officer.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In which country these particular books were published?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think, in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if it is not considered dangerous to have these books in the United Kingdom, why a different standard is being set up for this country?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is for the United Kingdom to decide.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Member studied these books?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is his opinion?

(No answer was given.)

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, are there any other books written by Karl Marx, Lenin and others and on Soviet Russia, which have been banned by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is there any objection to a copy of these books being placed in the Library for a limited time?

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

W. R. N.'s AND W. A. A. F.'s AND A. T. S.

349. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Europeans and Indians in the officer and other ranks of W. R. N.'s and W. A. A. F.'s and A. T. S., separately;

(b) if these services are completely or partially under the control of, and paid for by, the Government of India or the British War Office;

(c) if there is any difference in the status, salaries, rights and privileges of officers and other ranks in these services and of those in W. A. C. (I.); and, if so, the reason for such difference; and

(d) the scale of rations in these four services?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I think the Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. The W. R. N. S., A. T. S. and W. A. A. F. are purely British services and are *not* recruited in India. Government have no information whether any Indians have been recruited to these services in the United Kingdom.

(b) The W. R. N. S. in this country are controlled by the Admiralty and paid by His Majesty's Government.

There are only 22 A. T. S. officers in this country, who have been lent to and are paid by the Government of India. Of these, 19 are lent for a short period only for training members of the W. A. C. (I.).

The W. A. A. F. in India are entirely controlled by the Air Ministry and are paid by His Majesty's Government.

(c) There is no difference between the status, rights and privileges. The salaries, however, payable to members of all four services are different; the main difference being that the W. A. C. (I.) receive less than the other three services. This is due to the fact that the members of the other three services have come overseas to take up service.

(d) No scale of rations has yet been laid down in this country for the W. R. N. S. who, it is understood, are fed on contract. The W. A. A. F. receive the same rations as the R. A. F. The A. T. S. and W. A. C. (I.) receive the same scale of rations, which is a slightly modified version of the corresponding troops' scales.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether in view of the stringency of paper, this would be considered a proper use of paper?

(Mr. K. C. Neogy pointed out to the Honourable Member that he was probably referring to another question.)

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My query referred to question No. 350.

BOOK ENTITLED "ABOLISH MARRIAGE"

350. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to a book named "Abolish Marriage" by S. Paul, author of novels and stories, published by Indian Printing Works, Kacheri Road, Lahore?

(b) Is the above-mentioned book printed and published with the permission and consent of the Government—either Central or Provincial?

(c) Is it a fact there are expressions such as, "Marriage has nothing to do with religion or morality"; "There is no difference between marriage and prostitution"; "Modern girl loves to be a Juliet to half a dozen Romeos"; "There is no harm in marriage with near relatives", and so forth?

(d) Do Government propose to proscribe such an objectionable book and take necessary steps to forfeit the already printed copies? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). No. I have never heard of this book or of its author.

(d) Any action that may be necessary can safely be left to the Government of the Punjab, where the book is said to have been published.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member, wide awake as he is, whether he has sent for the book to see it.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member find out whether such things are not objectionable and that the Provincial Government should be asked to abolish them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: We can trust the Punjab in this matter.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Was any attempt made, after the receipt of this question, to secure a copy of this book?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Prof. Ranga.

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

351. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that both the Bombay planners and himself have held the view that it is most essential that cottage industries ought to be protected, encouraged and further developed in post-war times;

(b) if it is also not a fact that he has advised the South Indian capitalists during his recent visit to Madras to start more Textile Weaving Mills;

(c) if he is aware of the fact that Madras Presidency holds the premier place as a handloom weaving province in India and that if more weaving mills are started, many times more handloom weavers will be put out of work than what will come to be employed by such mills; and

(d) if Government are prepared to give an assurance to the South Indian handloom weavers that Government do not propose to do anything, in the way of encouraging mills, which is likely to jeopardise their employment?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The Honourable Member will appreciate that I was referring to post-war plans. The requirements of textile goods after the war are likely to be so large that the establishment of more weaving mills will not affect the Handloom weaving industry. At other places I have also recommended the early establishment of Spinning mills to help the handloom industry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the Honourable Member mean that he is already anticipating his post-war plans in advising the South India merchants and capitalists here and now that they should go ahead with the starting of weaving mills?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I have stated that the starting of more weaving mills in the post-war period in Madras is a desirable object.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member of the opinion that by starting more weaving mills the handloom weaving industry in Southern India will not be affected?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a matter of opinion.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There will be room for both spinning and weaving.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Was the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the Government of India proposed to constitute a handloom board and that the handloom industry will get some kind of protection?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: At that particular moment I had not the question of the handloom board in my mind.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the Honourable Member the question of starting spinning mills with higher counts in his mind?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: As I have already said, the encouragement of weaving mills does not mean any discouragement of spinning mills. I have in one case recommended for the starting of a

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is production of higher counts of yarn contemplated?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I have not devoted any special attention to it.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: There are handlooms which exclusively use higher counts.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEES RELATING TO INDUSTRIES

352. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: With reference to his announcement of the proposed establishment of 29 Advisory Committees relating to the various industries established in this country, will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of such committees that have already been set up;
- (b) the method by which members of the proposed Advisory Committees are to be selected or, as the case may be, have already been selected;
- (c) whether all materials placed before the proposed Committees and all the Reports of such Committees will be made available to the Members of the Indian Legislative Assembly; and
- (d) whether the Government of India propose to act generally in accordance with the recommendations of the proposed Committees as regards the organisation and control of the industries concerned?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 10th February, 1945, to parts (a) (i) and (ii) of Question No. 116 by Mr. K. C. Neogy.

(c) The reports of the panels will be made available to the Standing Advisory Committee of this Department if constituted. If no such Committee is in existence at the time, copies will be placed in the Library.

(d) The panels being advisory, Government cannot bind themselves to accept their recommendations, but they will naturally give them very careful consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any separate committee either for cottage industry or handloom industry in order to advise Government what is to be done in post-war years in regard to this?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: With regard to the handloom industry, the handloom board will look into the matter. With regard to cottage industry, we regard that as the primary concern of the Provincial Government, and all Provincial Governments have been advised to devote special attention to the development of cottage industries.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Chapman-Mortimer.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: With reference to the reply to part (c) in the event of this House setting up an advisory body to this Department, we shall receive the information?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Otherwise the reports will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the reports be circulated to the Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. I have already answered what Government propose to do.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: If we are not to receive copies of these materials and reports individually, are these matters placed before the Secretary of State? To whom is the Department responsible?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The reports are placed with the Government of India.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: We want to know whether the reports will be placed before us.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It would involve too much labour and waste of paper to put all these reports and all the materials before all the Members of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the handloom board has not come into existence and has not had a chance to consider the handloom industry in the post-war period, will the Honourable Member be pleased to con-

sult his Honourable colleague the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies before he ventures such opinions as he has done, *viz.*, that there is further scope for more and more weaving mills without any harm coming to the handloom weaving industry?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is my opinion and I am as much entitled to my opinion as the Honourable Member is to his.

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

C. S. AND OTHER SUPERIOR OFFICERS ACCEPTING APPOINTMENTS WITH PRIVATE UNDERTAKINGS

353. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the names of all former members of the Indian Civil Service and all other superior officers employed by the Government of India who have since the 1st April, 1937, accepted appointments with financial, commercial or industrial undertakings in India together with the names of the financial, commercial and industrial undertakings concerned; and

(b) whether the Government of India have considered placing any restrictions on the acceptance of such appointments by officers employed by them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I regret that the information is not available with Government.

(b) The desirability of obtaining the consent of Government before accepting such appointments has been impressed on officers of the classes mentioned by the Honourable Member. The imposition of actual restrictions on retired officers has not been found possible for lack of effective sanctions.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Government is aware that these people are mainly appointed by the big companies for purpose of being better able to negotiate with and have influence with the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no idea why private employers employ them.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Is it a fact that certain Government officers are resigning Government service and taking up private employment long before their proper time of retirement?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: At times I only wonder why the private employers employ such people.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Do Government contemplate establishing a convention regarding the employment of pro-Consuls who have retired from service in this country?

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Are offers now pending before the Members of the Executive Council and the Government of India of a similar nature?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No offers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mrs. Subbarayan.

FACILITIES FOR CORRESPONDENCE BY NEXT OF KIN WITH INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

354. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state what facilities are provided by the Government of India to the next of kin to correspond with or have news of the welfare of Indian prisoners of war in enemy hands?

(b) Have the Government seen Reuter's report in the Press, dated December 21, that the British Red Cross have set up a machinery for sending telegrams from next of kin to prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East? Has a similar machinery been set up in India to afford such facilities to the next of kin of Indian prisoners of war and civil internees in Japanese hands?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

(b) Yes, Sir.

It is hoped to introduce a similar scheme in India very shortly.

Statement

Facilities provided are :

(i) Free surface mail by prisoners of war post.

(ii) A concessional rate of 8 annas, instead of the ordinary rate of 14 annas per half ounce, is allowed for air mail letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight sent to prisoners of war in Europe. Postage at the ordinary rate is required to be prepaid for the full weight of letters exceeding half an ounce in weight.

Air mail postcards at a concessional rate of 4 annas can be sent to prisoners of war in the Far East.

(iii) Three free surface mail envelopes with the name and address of the prisoner of war entered thereon are sent by Regimental Depots/Training Centres to the next of kin each month for the purpose of writing letters to the prisoner.

(iv) Civil Liaison Officers and their representatives off and on visit the next of kin of prisoners of war and explain the procedure for writing letters to the prisoners.

(v) A scheme, known as the International Red Cross Committee's Express Message scheme, has been introduced for the purpose of correspondence with prisoners of war in Europe. Messages received from prisoners under this scheme are on a special form with a reply portion attached to it. These are distributed to the relatives through the Civil Liaison Officers, District Soldiers' Boards, etc. The relatives can simply fill in the reply portion and return it for transmission to the Prisoner, through the same channel.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Does the Government supply the next of kin of every prisoner of war with all the information that the Honourable Member has placed on the table?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not been able to follow the Honourable Member.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Does the Government send to the next of kin of every prisoner of war all the information regarding the sending of letters and parcels to the prisoners of war?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have appointed any authority in the districts to have contact with and to supply the next of kin with information about prisoners of war?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As my Honourable friend will remember, there are various organisations, like the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in the districts and there is also the civil Liaison organisation.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

INDIAN OFFICERS AND TROOPS IN JAPANESE HANDS

355. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) the number of Indian officers and troops reported to be in Japanese hands;

(b) whether any information is available about their condition and, if it is conveyed to their next of kin; and

(c) if Government pay any maintenance allowances to their families and what other arrangements the Government have made for the welfare of their families?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 301 officers and 42,073 troops confirmed and 37 officers and 21,999 troops believed to be in Japanese hands.

(b) Conditions vary considerably in different localities. On the whole they are bad, but they are now believed to be showing signs of improvement. No information is available regarding particular individuals.

(c) Government do not pay any maintenance allowance to the families, but prisoners of war, both officers and troops, continue to receive their pay from Government which is credited to their accounts. Out of this such amount as is notified by each individual as allotment to particular member or members of his family is paid to the latter through official channels. In suitable cases Government increase these family allotments or sanction the payment of one at their discretion to provide adequate financial provision for the family when the individual concerned has left no instructions and it is not found possible to consult him. As regards other arrangements for the welfare of the families the Honourable Member is referred to the statement laid on the table of the House in reply to her question No. 223 on the 14th February 1945.

RULES FOR DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RATIONS OR COOKED FOOD IN MILITARY MESSES

356. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the War Secretary please state :

(a) if Government have prescribed any rules for the disposal of surplus rations or cooked food in military messes and, if so, when these rules were last revised and what they are;

(b) what steps the military authorities take to avoid waste or destruction of raw or cooked food in their mess kitchens;

(c) whether Government are aware that several Commanding Officers have issued instructions that surplus rations and cooked food should be destroyed or buried and not given away to the civilian poor in the locality lest the military be charged of extravagance and waste; and, if so, whether this has been done with the knowledge and approval of Government; and

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the negative, do Government propose to enquire into this matter and take steps to avoid destruction of cooked food by the military?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, the rules were last revised in November 1943 and are framed so as to impress upon Commanding Officers the necessity for ensuring that no foodstuffs are wasted and that any item which cannot be consumed on one day will subsequently be underdrawn to the extent necessary for adjustment.

(b) The following measures have been taken to avoid waste or destruction of food:

(i) Interior Economy: training of cooks in the preparation of food economically at Schools of Instruction; training of unit Messing Officers, and regular visits by specialist Catering Officers.

(ii) Re-utilization of unconsumed cooked food by the preparation of various dishes.

(iii) Periodical review of the scales of rations in consultation with nutrition experts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No instances of waste or destruction of foodstuffs have come to the notice of Government. If, however, the Honourable Member could let me have a specific case. I would gladly undertake an investigation.

REFUSAL OF INTERVIEW FACILITIES BY IMPRISONED CONGRESS LEADERS

357. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state why the Congress Leaders imprisoned in the Ahmadnagar Fort have refused interview facilities?

(b) Was there any correspondence on the subject between the Central Government and the President of the Congress, M. Abul Kalam Azad?

(c) If so, do Government propose to publish all this correspondence?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). I would invite attention to the answer given to Mr. K. S. Gupta's question No. 219 on the 14th February.

APPOINTMENT OF PROF. C. N. VAKIL AS ECONOMIC ADVISER TO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

358. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Professor C. N. Vakil has been appointed Economic Adviser to the Planning Department; and

(b) the functions proposed to be allocated to the Economic Adviser to the Planning Department?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes.

(b) As his designation indicates his functions will be to advise the Department on the economic aspects of planning and development problems.

LEGISLATION FOR REGULATING STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS

359. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Having regard to the increase in speculation during recent years and to the establishment of a number of new Stock Exchanges, will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take early steps to introduce legislation for the better regulation of Stock and Share markets; and

(b) whether Government will consider the advisability of instituting an enquiry into the operations of all existing Stock Exchanges in British India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). An enquiry into the operations of existing Stock Exchanges in British India has recently been instituted. On completion of the enquiry the question of introducing legislation to regulate Stock and Share markets will be considered.

DETENTION OF CAPTAIN B. PATNAIK

360. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Home Member state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Captain B. Patnaik, formerly employed as the Chief Pilot in the Indian National Airways, is in detention without trial since January 12, 1943;

(b) what the reasons for his detention are;

(c) whether Government are aware that Captain Patnaik led the air communication service between Calcutta and Rangoon during the dark days before the fall of Burma when the Dutch and the British airlines had stopped flying to Rangoon;

(d) whether he had earned from the Government the tribute of "unparalleled and loyal devotion to duty and unflinching courage during the Burma campaign" for keeping the service going like a clockwork in spite of heavy bombing and strafing by the enemy;

(e) whether it is a fact that after Rangoon fell, Captain Patnaik along with his colleagues volunteered and carried on the evacuation from Burma of wounded soldiers and women and children who were predominantly British;

(f) whether it is a fact that the detenu has lost about 40 lbs. in weight since his detention; and

(g) whether Government will consider the question of releasing him?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes. He was a senior pilot but not the Chief Pilot, of Indian National Airways.

(b) Because the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, was satisfied on reliable information received from a number of independent sources that his detention was necessary with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the maintenance of public order.

(c) Government are aware that he was employed on the regular Indian National Airways services to Rangoon and back between January, 8th and February 18th, 1942.

(d) Government have always acknowledged the good work done by him and other Indian National Airways pilots at that time. No tribute from the Government of India in the terms quoted by the Honourable Member can be traced but I understand that a certificate in somewhat similar terms was given by the Burma Government to all Indian National Airways pilots engaged in the evacuation operations.

(e) For one month from February 22nd to March 22nd, 1942, he and other Indian National Airways pilots were flying Indian National Airways aircraft to Magwe and other aerodromes in Burma in connection with the official evacuation scheme. No civil aircraft, however, was permitted to leave for any aerodrome in Burma unless information had been received that there was no enemy activity in or near the aerodrome.

(f) His weight, on admission was 202 lbs. At one time this had fallen by about 40 lbs., but it has recently been increasing and a medical board which

examined him twice in January, 1945, said that his weight at the moment was normal for a man of his type and age.

(g) His case has recently been reviewed and it has been decided that he cannot be released at present. Further consideration will be given to the case in due course.

CALCUTTA STREET ACCIDENTS

361. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the War Secretary please state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news of ever increasing number of Calcutta street accidents caused by special types of lorries;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the news which appeared in the Calcutta editions of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 16th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 27th and 30th January, 1945, under headings "Street accidents on increase", "Car-lorry collision", "Calcutta Street Accidents", "Boy dies on the spot", "4 accidents in one day" and "Street Accidents", respectively, and in many of the cases the accidents had been caused by lorries belonging to a special type;

(c) whether Government propose to take further steps to enforce lower speed limit for special types of lorries for Calcutta and its suburban streets and thus remove the panic created among the pedestrians; and

(d) whether Government will consider the advisability of paying compensation to the injured and the relatives of the fatal cases?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I have seen the extracts referred to by the Honourable Member in part (b) of the question. I would however point out that it is clear from these extracts that not all the accidents referred to involved military vehicles. The information available to me indicates that the number of accidents in which military vehicles are involved is decreasing rather than increasing and it should be noted that it does not follow that in every case in which a military vehicle was involved, the fault was with the driver. Indeed, statistics in my possession indicate the contrary.

With regard to (c) there is already a speed limit fixed for every type of military vehicle. Government do not consider that a lower speed limit would achieve the object desired, but military traffic patrols have been instituted to enforce compliance with the existing limits, and seem to be achieving some success.

In order to bring once more to the notice of Military Commanders the anxiety which this question is causing to the Legislature, I propose to send copies of this question and answer to Army Commanders, who are already aware of the importance which is attached to it by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

In addition, I propose to ask General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command to consider, in consultation with the Bengal Government, the question of what further measures should be taken in this matter.

(d) Compensation is paid in cases where there has been negligence on the part of a military driver. A Claims Commission has recently been started for this purpose.

PAY OF POSTS HELD BY CIVILIANS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES AND DIRECTORATE UNDER MASTER GENERAL OF ORDNANCE

362. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the rates of pay that are admissible to civilian personnel holding gazetted and non-gazetted posts in Ordnance Factories in India and in the Directorate under the Master General of Ordnance?

(b) Is it a fact that the personnel of non-Asiatic domicile are not only entitled to overseas pay, but even the basic pay in their case is on higher scales than in the case of the personnel of Asiatic domicile holding corresponding posts?

(c) If answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for such distinction between the personnel of Asiatic and non-Asiatic domicile in regard to the basic pay of the posts concerned?

(d) Were the rates of pay of these services revised during the last few years? If so, in what manner have the personnel of Asiatic and non-Asiatic domicile, respectively, been affected by such revision?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Ordnance Factories are now under the administrative control of the Supply Department and the Honourable Member should address his question to the Honourable Member for Supply on one of the days allotted to the Supply Department.

As regards the Directorate under the Master General of the Ordnance in India, I might mention that there are several Directorates under the Master General of the Ordnance in India, and if the Honourable Member would specify the Directorate in respect of which information is required, I will be glad to collect the necessary information.

NON-INDIAN BANKING CONCERNS IN BRITISH INDIA

363. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how many non-Indian banking concerns operate in British India and to which countries they belong? How many Banking concerns incorporated in Indian States operate in British India?

(b) Are there any restrictions obtaining in any foreign country, or in any foreign possession in India which may militate against the establishment of branches of any British Indian Banking company there?

(c) Do British Indian Banking companies enjoy full freedom in the matter of establishment of branches in Indian States?

(d) In case there are any disabilities attached to the operation of British Indian Banking concerns in foreign countries or in any Indian State, has the question of imposing similar disabilities on the operation of banking institutions domiciled in such countries or States in British India been examined by the Government of India? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

INCLUSION OF 'AD DHARMIS' UNDER SCHEDULED CASTES

364. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ad Dharmis of the Punjab have been recognized as a Scheduled Caste by the Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1936;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, why have they been excluded from the figures of the Scheduled Castes of the Punjab by the census of 1941; and

(c) whether the Honourable Member proposes to rectify this mistake on the part of the census authorities?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) They have not been excluded. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the first paragraph of the flyleaf to table XIII in the Punjab Census Volume, 1941, which declares them to be Scheduled Castes. The position in fact is that separate figures are given for this particular scheduled caste element in the Punjab.

(c) Does not arise.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF

365. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state the total number of Gazetted and non-Gazetted Officers in the Department of Planning and Development?

(b) How many of these posts are held by Scheduled Castes, Hindus, Muslims Sikhs and others?

(c) Is the Home Department Resolution regarding Scheduled Castes representation being followed in the matter of appointment to various posts?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(c) Yes.

Statement

	Direct Recruits	Transfers or Promotions	Scheduled castes	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total	Remarks
(a) Gazetted officers . . .	2	9	...	8*	1	...	2*	11	
(b) Non-gazetted officers—									
(i) Assistants and clerks	18	20	†2†	§21	10||	4¶	1	38	
(ii) Personal Assistants and stenographers	...	8	†	7	1	...	...	8	

NOTES.—* Only one is a direct recruit who is a specialist officer.

† Both are direct recruits.

‡ One post of Assistant and one post of stenographer, to be filled by Scheduled caste candidates, have been kept vacant and efforts are being made to secure qualified Schedule caste candidates.

§ 10 are direct recruits.

|| 4 are direct recruits.

¶ 2 are direct recruits

INDIA OFFICE STAFF

366. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state what the India Office staff is?

(b) How many of them are (i) Indians, (ii) Englishmen; and (iii) Non-English?

(c) How many of the staff are, (i) retired from Indian service, and (ii) dismissed from Indian service?

(d) Is there any condition prescribed for employment at the India Office in secretarial, administrative or clerical capacity like administrative or other experience in India?

(e) How many of them had been to India?

(f) Is it not a fact that most of them have no knowledge of practical affairs in India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (f). Expenditure on the staff of the India Office is borne by His Majesty's Government and the staff are not under the control of the Governor General in Council. The Honourable Member may, however, refer to pages 1-4 of the India Office List, 1940 a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House. No later edition has been published.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR SOLDIERS AND NON-COMBATANTS

367. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state what educational facilities Government have created for soldiers and non-combatants in the Army with regard to (i) technical training, and (ii) literacy?

(b) Has any plan been evolved and, if so, what is it, with regard to the future of combatants and non-combatants who will return from the war, for their vocational training and training in literacy?

(c) How many publications of special interest to the Army for information and instruction of the Indian Forces are being made, what are they, and how many copies are printed?

(d) What special facilities have been created by Government to impart literacy to Indian soldiers when they are in hospitals or when they are convalescent or when they are on leave?

(e) What is the progress of literacy in the Indian Army, year by year, and what is the objective of Government with regard to the Indian soldier and non-combatant in their employment in this matter and how do they propose to reach it?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I lay a statement on the table of the House.

Statement

Recruits to the different branches of the Defence Services are given training as below :—

I. Recruits for the Indian Engineers are trained at one of the following training establishments according to the type of unit for which they are destined :—

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>(a) K.G.V's. O. Bengal S. & M. Group I.E., Roorkee.</p> <p>(b) Q.V.O. Madras S. & M. Group I.E., Bangalore.</p> <p>(c) Royal Bombay S. & M. Group I.E., Kirkee.</p> <p>(d) No. 1-WS(E & M) Group I.E., Lahore.</p> <p>(e) No. 3 (Cons.) Group I.E., Lahore.</p> <p>(f) No. 4 Engineer Group I.E., Sialkot.</p> <p>(g) No. 6-Mechanical Equipment Group I.E., Lahore.</p> | } | <p>All these recruits are given 16 weeks training. 30 per cent. are selected for advanced trades training varying in duration from 26 to 39 weeks.</p> |
|---|---|--|

All recruits trained at (d) and (g) above are given training in a trade varying in duration from 12 weeks upwards.

75 per cent. of recruits trained at (e) are given trades training for a period of 13 weeks, the remaining 25 per cent. are trained as motor drivers.

25 per cent. of recruits trained at (f) are given trades training and 5 per cent. in motor driving.

II. *I.A.O.C.*

(a) *Military Ranks.*—Pre-recruit training in the duties of clerical staff and artificers is given in Technical Training Centres under the organisation of the Recruiting Directorate. Facilities exist in Schools and Training Centres of the I.A.O.C. for the technical training of all categories of Indian Ranks, as under :—

<p><i>Sepoys.</i></p> <p>Painters.</p> <p>Packers.</p> <p>Carpenters.</p> <p>Saddlers.</p> <p>Bootmakers.</p> <p>Boot Machine Operators.</p> <p>Tentmenders.</p> <p>Tailors.</p> <p>Tinsmiths.</p>	<p>Drivers of Motor Lorries.</p> <p>Drivers of Mechanical Trucks.</p> <p>Drivers of Cranes.</p> <p>Drivers of Armoured Vehicles and Heavy Vehicles.</p> <p>Laundry Operators.</p> <p>Laundry Boiler Attendants.</p> <p><i>Havildars.</i></p> <p>Storeman's duties in specialist groups of stores.</p> <p>Office duties.</p>
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V.C.Os.

Storekeepers duties in specialist groups of stores.

(b) *Non-Combatant Personnel.*—Facilities for the Technical training of civilian clerks and storemen exist in all Ordnance Depots, which have been allotted special training staffs. Armies/Commands are arranging to have recruit training schools for civilian clerks and storemen, and Specialist Training in Storemen's duties is also being organised for Havildar clerks (stores). The War Department have sanctioned Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance for temporary civilian personnel for training purposes, who are receiving training in the operation of Mechanical Calculating Machines (Comptometers).

III. *I.E.M.E.*

The craftsmen of the I.E.M.E. are trained in the following thirty-five technical trades :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Wireless Mechanic.</p> <p>2. Radio Mechanic.</p> <p>3. Fitter (Armoured Fighting Vehicle).</p> <p>4. Electrician (Armoured Fighting Vehicle).</p> <p>5. Armourer.</p> <p>6. Draughtsman.</p> <p>7. Electrician (Motor Vehicle).</p> <p>8. Fitter (Motor Vehicle).</p> <p>9. Fitter (Armament).</p> <p>10. Fitter (Bench).</p> <p>11. Instrument Mechanic.</p> <p>12. Machinist.</p> <p>13. Pattern Maker.</p> <p>14. Toolmaker.</p> <p>15. Turner.</p> <p>16. Typewriter Mechanic.</p> <p>17. Watchmaker.</p> | <p>18. Welder.</p> <p>19. Grinder (Precision).</p> <p>20. Blacksmith.</p> <p>21. Carpenter.</p> <p>22. Coppersmith.</p> <p>23. Electroplater.</p> <p>24. Moulder.</p> <p>25. Riveter.</p> <p>26. Sheetmetal Worker.</p> <p>27. Tyre Repair Plant Operator.</p> <p>28. Vulcanist.</p> <p>29. Painter.</p> <p>30. Upholsterer.</p> <p>31. Saddler & Harness Maker.</p> <p>32. Cycle Repairer.</p> <p>33. Boiler Attendant.</p> <p>34. Motor Mechanic.</p> <p>35. Driver Mechanic.</p> |
|---|---|

The average number of craftsmen under training in I.E.M.E. Training Centre at any one time in all the above trades is approximately 10,000, the total number trained since the commencement of the present war being approximately 1,00,000.

In order to replace the British Armament Artificer, a higher technical grade of Indian Armament Artificer has recently been introduced, which consists of highly skilled and

especially trained non-commissioned engineering officers ranking next only to K.C.Os. in technical ability. The number accepted for training to date is 360 and further candidates are being accepted at the rate of 30 per month.

Question (a) (ii). Literacy

All soldiers receive education calculated to enable them to read, write and understand Urdu in the Roman Script. Instruction is given in units by specially trained unit personnel under unit arrangements.

Question (b)

Technical training centres controlled by the Department of Labour are now fully occupied with the training of services personnel and civilian war workers, and a good proportion of the present capacity will be retained for peace time vocational training of services personnel on demobilization. This capacity estimated at the moment at 30,000 seats for technical courses of 8 months duration is expected to become available for post-war vocational training of services personnel on demobilization.

The Provincial Governments are being asked to supply information about large post-war projects capable of absorbing considerable numbers of skilled and semi-skilled personnel. Upon the collation of data from Provinces, the extent and nature of vocational training which can profitably be given will be further worked out. Meanwhile action has been taken to cater for the large percentage of agriculturists serving in the Indian Army, the majority of whom will probably wish to return to the land. For this purpose visual and practical demonstrations of the improved village conditions and the increased productivity of the soil, made possible by the use of scientific methods and devices, are being arranged in Exhibition Rooms and Agricultural Demonstration Plots at 59 regimental training centres and 7 major military stations. Courses of agricultural training have been introduced by some Provincial Governments in which military personnel are receiving training as potential agricultural instructors. To enable men to take advantage of this training, authority has been given to provide for a quota of 20 extra men to each establishment of Indian Infantry, Indian Artillery and Indian Armoured Corps training centre, and the various other training centres where Agricultural Demonstration Plots have been authorised.

These courses of training are normally of three months duration, and are designed to instruct the students in only one subject or aspect of agriculture. The more proficient students are eligible for selection for a more intensive course of 10 months training at Civil Agricultural Colleges.

Question (c).

The following publications are, or have been, issued in connection with the educational training of Indian troops :—

- (1) Current Affairs (English & Roman Urdu).—50,000 copies p.m.
- (2) Winning the Peace (Tarraqqi-ke-Usul) (English & Roman Urdu).—50,000 copies p.m.
- (3) Illustrated Review (published in English, Urdu, Tamil, Telegu & Hindi).—26,000 copies p.m.
- (4) Map Review (English & Roman Urdu).—20,000 copies p.m.
- (5) Wartime Education Handbook for Indian troops (English & Roman Urdu).—40,000 copies.
- (6) The Basic Wartime Education Handbook for use in Training Centres.—7,600 copies.
- (7) The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Roman Urdu textbooks.
- (8) Mathematics Instructors' Book Nos. 1, 2 and 3.
- (9) The Student's Mathematics Book Nos. 2 and 3.
- (10) In conjunction with the Orthological Institute four textbooks in English for Indian soldiers on B.A.S.I.C. lines are now being issued. Some 15,000 copies will be printed.
- (11) Educational Training (Indian Army) 1939 (English & Roman Urdu).
- (12) "Notes on Instructional Method" (English and Roman Urdu).
- (13) "How the Mind Works" (English and Roman Urdu).
- (14) Textbook of Geography (Roman Urdu).
- (15) Textbook of Hygiene (Roman Urdu).
- (16) The Teaching of English to Indian soldiers (English).

Except in cases where figures of monthly issues are given, it is not possible to give the number of copies printed because their issue extends over some years and re-prints are made when necessary.

Question (d).

In hospitals and convalescent depots special attention is paid to wartime education based on the "Current Affairs" and "Tarraqqi-ke-Usul" pamphlets with a view to facilitating mental rehabilitation of the patients. Patients enjoying greater degree of health are eligible for normal educational training which includes training in literacy such as is given to fit men in the units. No special facilities exist for the educational training of men on leave.

Question (e).

The rapid expansion of the Indian Army makes it impossible to give figures to indicate the progress of literacy in the Indian Army. But the bulk of recruits leave their Training Centres after having passed the "Recruit's Test", which is the minimum standard of literacy (in Roman Urdu) in the Indian Army.

The objective during wartime, as regards literacy, is that every man should be able to read, write and speak Urdu sufficiently for all Army purposes. In addition as many men as possible should be taught English. The ultimate objective, after the conclusion of hostilities, is to make every man literate in his own vernacular. The Army Educational Corps, consisting of trained unit personnel with the assistance of a large number of civilian schoolmasters, are looking after this need during wartime; and steps have been taken to secure a large number of additional instructors in all vernaculars for postwar period.

In every case enrolled non-combatants are entitled to the same privileges and opportunities for educational training in all its aspects as combatants.

CONSTRUCTION OR RECONDITIONING OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER 'DENIAL POLICY'

368. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to refer to starred question No. 136 of the 7th November, 1944, on the subject of construction or reconditioning of boats removed from the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial Policy, and make a statement indicating the number of boats that were either reconditioned, or constructed anew and supplied to the persons concerned before the last rains, as also the progress made in that matter since the last rains?

(b) Is the Honourable Member in a position to state what has been the cost of reconditioning or reconstruction of these boats, and to what head the expenditure involved is to be charged?

(c) Is the Honourable Member in a position to state the extent of unemployment created by the Denial measures in this behalf, giving the approximate number of persons thus affected and the extent of compensation, if any, that the Government have paid or propose to pay for such unemployment and resulting hardship, to the people thus affected, apart from the return of a proportion of the boats?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Information is being collected from the Government of Bengal, and a statement will be placed on the table of the House, when it is received.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With regard to the supplementaries to Question No. 330 which was asked today regarding the language which the Congress Working Committee members are allowed to use at interviews, a question to this effect is already in the name of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum for the 22nd.

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.†

(a) Written ANSWERS

PERMITS FOR NEWSPAPERS UNDER PAPER CONTROL ORDER

290. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) how many newspapers have applied for permission to publish under the Paper Control Order;

(b) how many were given permission, and how many were refused;

(c) whether the decision of the Government in the case of any papers was on political grounds; and

(d) whether any of them were asked to give an undertaking in writing that they would support war effort?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Collection of the information asked for will involve an expenditure of time and labour which Government do not consider justified in present conditions.

(b) Eighteen periodicals were permitted to be brought out under the Paper Control Order, 1942. and seven under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944.

(c) and (d). No.

EVACUEES IN INDIA MAINTAINED BY GOVERNMENT

291. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

†The meeting of the Assembly that was to be held on the 16th February, 1945, having been cancelled, the answers to Starred Questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House to-day.—*Ed. of D.*

- (a) how many evacuees of all nationalities are now in India and maintained by the Government of India;
- (b) how many of them are Greeks and French and of such other countries which have been regained from Germany; and
- (c) when the Government propose to repatriate these evacuees to their respective countries?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The number of evacuees of all nationalities in India is 4,05,093. The number of evacuees and dependants of persons stranded in enemy occupied territories maintained in Camps or assisted financially is about 1½ lakhs.

(b) There are no French evacuees in India. The number of Greeks is about half a dozen and that of evacuees from countries regained from Germany is 5,757.

(c) As soon as conditions permit.

EXPENDITURE ON FOREIGN EVACUEES.

292. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

- (a) the total amount of money spent up-to-date over the foreign evacuees in India;
- (b) if it is true that His Majesty's Government made themselves responsible for the expenditure on them, but now refuse to pay; and
- (c) what steps the Government are taking to get this expenditure accepted by His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) Broadly speaking His Majesty's Government have accepted liability for European British subjects. They have never repudiated this liability. The following statement shows the exact extent to which His Majesty's Government and other Governments have made themselves responsible for the expenditure on evacuees.

Government to which cost is debttable	Classes of evacuees
I. His Majesty's Government	<p>(a) European British evacuees and other evacuees of non-Indian domicile who are British subjects from Hong ong Kand Malaya.</p> <p>(b) Evacuees from Middle East, the Balkans, Malta and Siam.</p> <p>(c) Greek and Czech evacuees irrespective of the country from which they may have been evacuated to India provided that they belong to parties whose evacuation to India has been sponsored by their own Governments.</p> <p>(d) All British subjects not covered by III and IV below.</p>
II. Polish Government	All Poles evacuated to India.
III. Government of Burma	<p>(a) All Burmans, Anglo-Burmans, European British subjects and all other evacuees who are British subjects other than Indians and Anglo-Indians, evacuated from Burma to India.</p> <p>(b) All Burma Governments servants irrespective of their nationality whose services have not been terminated by that Government.</p>
IV. Government of India	All Indians and Anglo-Indians irrespective of domicile and all British subjects ordinarily resident in India.

(c) The expenditure as and when incurred is debited to the Governments concerned and recoveries are made.

MEAT DEHYDRATION FACTORY AT NOWSHERA

293. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the date on which the Meat Dehydration Factory was set up at Nowshera, North-West Frontier Province;

- (b) the number of animals which are being slaughtered daily there;
- (c) whether the meat prices at Peshawar have shot up in consequence;
- (d) whether this factory constitutes a serious encroachment on the food of the Pathans; and
- (e) the steps he proposes to take to bring down the meat prices in the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The factory commenced working in April, 1943.

- (b) About 600 goats.
- (c) Meat prices in Peshawar have increased in proportion to general rise in the cost of living.
- (d) No; the demand has been reduced since last year by one half of it being placed on the neighbouring Punjab districts.
- (e) The Central Government has established co-ordination committees to reduce prices by eliminating competition between Defence and Civil Purchases.

NEW MACHINERY REQUIRED

294. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member invited particulars of new machinery required from (i) Government Departments, (ii) Provincial Governments, (iii) Indian States, and (iv) factory owners and industrialists in India?

- (b) How many replies have been received?
- (c) What is the policy of Government with regard to the placing of orders?
- (d) How many orders have been negotiated and how many have Government undertaken to negotiate?
- (e) Who fixes the price at which these machineries are to be received?
- (f) In which country are these orders being placed?
- (g) Are these orders being placed by Government's Purchase Mission or by His Majesty's Government through the British Chambers of Commerce or other bodies?

(h) To which class of companies or firms are priorities given in respect of these machineries and on what principle?

(i) Have Government adopted the proposed Road Plan and placed any orders in respect of machinery for road making? If so, for how much and in which country?

(j) Is it proposed to place all the orders now, or to wait till the relative inflation in U. S. A. and U. K. and other countries is checked?

(k) Have Government considered the alternative of giving special facilities to concerns capable of manufacturing machineries in India? If so, what are the arrangements contemplated?

(l) How many orders for electrical generating plant have been placed in (i) U. K., and (ii) U. S. A. in

(i) 1942-43.

(ii) 1943-44, and

(iii) 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member has in mind capital goods that will be required after the cessation of hostilities. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) 198.

(c) In the matter of the placing of an order it is for the importer himself to decide the various points that may be involved. Requirements of Provincial or Central Government Departments will be placed through the normal procurement channels.

(d) Government have no information as to the number of orders negotiated by private industrialists. Nor have they undertaken to negotiate such orders on behalf of private industrialists.

(e) This is a matter for settlement between the importer and his supplier.

(f) This is a matter for the importer to decide.

(g) Government are not placing any orders on behalf of private individuals.

(h) No priorities have yet been accorded in any case. A priority grading will be given where considered necessary on the merits of the case and where arrangements with the manufacturing country make this possible.

(i) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Road Plan prepared by Chief Engineers of Provinces and States at the meeting held in Nagpur in December 1943 proposing an expenditure of Rs. 450 crores in ten years, of which about Rs. 320 crores would fall for expenditure in British India. Government have not accepted that plan, but are examining the project estimates prepared by Provincial Governments against that general outline. The second part of this question does not therefore arise.

(j) This is a matter within the importer's own discretion.

(k) It is the intention of Government to encourage the manufacture of machinery in this country to the fullest extent possible. In order to advise Government on the lines on which this can be done, three separate Panels have been constituted for Electrical machinery, heavy industrial plant and machinery and light engineering industries.

(l) The following orders were placed on the United Kingdom and the United States of America during the years indicated:

	From U. K.		
	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45 (April to December)
Boilers	12	8	9
Turbo Alternators	7	2	6
Water wheel Alternators	5	...	4
Diesel generators sets . . . . .	...	...	8
		From U. S. A.	
Boilers	2	...	...
Turbo Alternator	2	...	...
Diesel generator sets	25	...	...

These orders were placed by Public Electricity Undertakings, Steel producers and the Cement Industry. Information in regard to orders placed by other industries is not readily available.

✓ BHORE COMMITTEE REPORT

295. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state why a copy of the Bhoire Committee's report has not been circulated to Members of the Assembly?

(b) What steps are Government taking on the recommendations of this report?

(c) Pending other steps, what plan have Government got for increasing facilities for medical training in India?

(d) Are Government aware of the enormous difficulty of getting admission to medical colleges all over the country and how numerous parents who are willing to spend money for their children's medical education, cannot find the facilities?

(e) Do Government propose to open half a dozen more colleges at important centres where there are full-fledged hospitals? If not, why not?

(f) Is it a fact that Government have recently tried to engage English doctors as full-time professors, thus discouraging the salutary procedure hitherto adopted of engaging honorary professors from amongst distinguished doctors practising in the cities?

(g) What stage has been reached in Government's enquiry into the method for reducing the time for acquiring a medical degree, or for simplifying the teaching into two parts: (i) full-fledged doctor, and (ii) the licentiate who would

be good enough for most of the ordinary ailments, and who would be put in charge of public health of small localities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Health Survey and Development Committee have not yet submitted their report.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The question of increasing facilities for medical training will be considered in consultation with Provincial Governments when the report of the Committee is received.

(d) Yes.

(e) The opening of medical colleges in the Provinces is the concern of the Provincial Governments. As regards the centrally administered areas the Government of India are awaiting the report of the Committee.

(f) No.

(g) The Government of India are awaiting the recommendations of the Health Survey and Development Committee on Medical Education.

BUTLER REPORT ON FOODGRAINS PROCUREMENT

296. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

whether any steps have been taken or are about to be taken to implement the Butler Report:—

(i) in the matter of monopoly procurement of foodgrains;

(ii) elimination of corruption from the food control administration; and

(iii) petty harassment by minor officials; and

if so, the nature of the steps taken or proposed to be taken?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (i) The monopoly procurement of foodgrains, was discussed, with special reference to the Honourable Somerset Butler's Report, at the recent Fifth All-India Food Conference. A copy of the recommendation passed by the Conference is placed on the table of the House. The Government of India will encourage the study and development of monopoly procurement systems by Local Governments, as therein recommended.

(ii) and (iii). The question of bribery and corruption within Food Administrations and that of petty harassment by minor officers has been referred to all Administrations for their closest consideration and examination. The introduction of a Vigilance branch or section into the Administration, and the close association of non-officials have been recommended as the best means of reducing bribery, corruption and petty harassment.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD FIFTH ALL-INDIA FOOD CONFERENCE *Resolution on Procurement*

It is recommended that:

The results so far obtained in the working of monopoly procurement systems justify their further study, and their development so far as the circumstances of each Province and State permit.

Where monopoly procurement is in operation in respect of any particular grain, Government should, in the interest of producers, accept all such grain as is offered, subject to considerations of quality. Acceptance should be at notified centres, at the appropriate stage of the marketing process, and at prices fixed in accordance with the all-India policy after consultation, wherever necessary, with the Central Government.

The development of monopoly procurement should be in the direction of the acquisition by Government of grain offered for sale voluntarily. Nevertheless, in those areas where it is deemed advisable, monopoly procurement may be extended by:

(1) a compulsory levy and the acquisition, in addition, of any balance that any producer may desire to sell; or

(2) assessment of the surpluses of individual producers and the compulsory acquisition of such surpluses.

The Conference in making this recommendation recognises that the financial consequences of implementing the policy may necessitate assistance to the Provinces by the Central Government.

✓ BUTLER REPORT ON FOODGRAINS PROCUREMENT

297. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether the Butler Report on Foodgrains procurement has been published; and

(b) whether copies of it will be supplied to the members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Two copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

PRIVY COUNCIL JUDGMENT RE BEQUEST TO UNBORN PERSONS

298. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Law Member seen the Privy Council decision, setting aside the bequest to unborn persons, contrary to the practice and understanding of High Court decisions in India from nearly every centre?

(b) Have Government seen the leading article in the *Times of India* of the 16th January, 1945, on this subject, in which it is pointed out that thousands of wills which are made on the basis of the old law, would be upset?

(c) In view of the Privy Council judgment, will Government consider the advisability of introducing a Bill in the Legislature at an early date in order to confirm that gifts to unborn children could be given, reserving life interest to certain individuals, where the donor parts with the whole interest in the property?

(d) Will Government ascertain the views of the Legislature on this subject at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Subject to the views of Provincial Governments and High Courts, to whom a reference has already been made as to the expediency of legislating in this matter with retrospective effect, I hope to introduce a Bill in the course of the next Session.

(d) I see no advantage in ascertaining the views of this Legislature in advance of the introduction of the contemplated Bill.

SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC IN CALCUTTA

299. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware of the tragic condition prevailing in Calcutta due to the epidemic of small-pox intensely raging?

(b) What are the steps taken by the Government of India to stem the tide of the epidemic?

(c) What is the total number of deaths due to small-pox in Calcutta in the months of December, 1944, and January, 1945?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The Government are aware that there is an epidemic of small-pox in Calcutta. The Government of India have not been asked to render any assistance in the matter.

(c) 550 for the four weeks ending the 30th December, 1944 and 1,077 for a similar period ending the 27th January, 1945.

EXTENSION OF UNITED KINGDOM COMMERCIAL CORPORATION ACTIVITIES TO LIBERATED BURMA

300. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation has been extending its sphere of influence and activities and that civil supplies are being scheduled to the liberated parts of Burma by this Body;

(b) whether any Indian firm approached Government for obtaining similar facilities to trade with the liberated parts of Burma;

(c) whether Government have prepared any plan to give facilities to the Indian commercial community for both export and import with the liberated parts of Burma;

(d) whether the Indian firms which were trading with Burma before her occupation by Japan will be given previous facilities to trade with the liberated parts of Burma; if not, why not; and

(e) whether the Government of India's representative with the Government of Burma has submitted any such plans for giving trading facilities to the Indian commercial firms?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, so far as trading in India is concerned. As regards the latter part of the question the procurement and distribution of all civil supplies for Burma during the period of Military Administration is in the hands of the Military authorities and no private trading whether by United Kingdom Commercial Corporation or by other firms is contemplated.

(b) Representations have been received by the Government of India for the grant of facilities to trade with the liberated parts of Burma.

(c) and (d). Proposals relating to trade with Burma after the period of military administration are under consideration.

(e) The representative is seized of the matter and will submit his proposals in due course.

EXPORT OF FINER CLOTH

301. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Having regard to the shortage of finer cloth in India, will the Honourable the Commerce Member please give reasons for the continued export of finer cloth outside India?

(b) Have Government received complaints about the shortage of finer cloth in India?

(c) Have they noticed queues near cloth shops everywhere in large cities and criticisms in the press?

(d) What was the total quantity of fine cloth allowed to be exported from India in 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

(e) To what destinations has this cloth gone and to what countries?

(f) What class of people were the licences, i.e., how many of the export licences were given to non-Indians or purchasing agents of foreign firms or foreign Governments?

(g) Having regard to the difficulties in India, will Government consider the present position and modify their policy?

(h) What was the view expressed by the Textile Control Board on the subject of export of finer cloth from India?

(i) In any case whatever the view may be of people interested in the textile trade, have Government, looking at this problem from the point of view of the general consumer in India, any reorientation of their policy or do they propose to permit export of finer cloth, when it is needed in India itself?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) to (c) and (g) to (i). The question of restricting export of cloth of fine counts has been engaging the attention of the Government of India for some time past. The Textile Control Board have also recently recommended the immediate prohibition of export of all cloth containing 48's and higher counts. As announced in a Press Note published on the 7th February, Government have now decided that cloth in which the count of warp yarn is 36's or finer should be allowed to be exported only to the extent of a very small percentage of the production and that within this limit, a further restriction should be imposed on exports of cloth in which the count of warp yarn is 48's and over.

(d) and (e). Separate statistics have not been maintained for exports of fine cloth.

(f) Export licences are issued to firms established in the trade in India with reference to a basic period. Information regarding the quantities for which licences were given to non-Indians and others is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in wartime.

CONFERENCE FOR FIXATION OF JUTE ACREAGE IN BENGAL

302. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether a conference took place at New Delhi recently between representatives of the Government of India and of the Government of Bengal in connection with the fixation of the acreage for jute in Bengal during the current year? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the trend of the discussions that took place?

(b) Is it a fact that the jute mill-owners favour the fixation of acreage at -/12/- annas, while the Government of India and the Government of Bengal are in favour of -/10/- annas and -/6/- annas, respectively?

(c) What part do the Government of India play in the final fixation of jute acreage in the jute-growing Provinces, and what are the considerations that have determined the attitude of the Government of India in this matter in recent years?

(d) Is it a fact that while the supply of the jute fabrics from India to America during recent years has been understood to be primarily intended for war purposes, a proportion thereof has been supplied by the United States of America authorities to commercial bodies outside United States of America, such as sugar manufacturers in Cuba and Puerto Rico, as reported by Reuter from Washington on March 24, 1944? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to explain the exact nature of the understanding in this matter between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: (a) and (b). A Conference took place in New Delhi but no final conclusions were reached. The matter is still under consideration and a Press Note will be issued as soon as possible.

(c) The Government of India discuss with the Bengal Government the question of the fixation of jute acreage with a view to examining whether sufficient quantities of raw jute and jute goods can be made available to the United Nations for their needs without affecting the acreage under food crops necessary for the requirements of Bengal.

(d) Supplies are not restricted to war purposes. The United States of America have been purchasing raw jute and jute goods in India through commercial channels and are not precluded from making purchases on behalf of other countries. The Government of India have not entered into any agreement with the Government of the United States of America in this matter.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI MISSION

303. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) With reference to a recently announced Mission to be shortly undertaken by Sir Akbar Hydari and other officials of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies to the United Kingdom with a view to helping in devising methods for relieving the strain of war demands on Indian production, will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to make a detailed statement explaining (i) the objects of the Mission, (ii) the instructions given by the Government of India to it, and (iii) the extent of authority of the Mission to commit the Government of India in any question of policy or important agreement with His Majesty's Government or trade interests in the United Kingdom?

(b) In so far as the activities of the Mission may relate to an acceleration of the importation of consumer goods from the United Kingdom and the enlargement of the list of such goods, will the Honourable Member be pleased to declare the latest policy of the Government of India in this matter with particular reference to its repercussion, if any, on the position of indigenous industries in India?

(c) Is it any part of the duty of the Mission to study the various measures that are being undertaken in the United Kingdom for the purpose of helping the British industries, with a view to their adoption in India for the benefit of Indian industries?

(d) Has the Mission been instructed particularly to find out whether dumping methods are resorted to by any British industry that may be engaged in exporting goods to India?

(e) Is the question of protection of Indian industries generally or any thorough investigation into the case for such protection with the help of a Tariff Board under consideration in relation to the present policy of encouragement of the importation of consumer goods from abroad?

(f) What progress has been made in the matter of obtaining complete statistics of production in respect of Indian industries? Has any effort been made for determining separately in the case of each such industry, its likelihood of being prejudicially affected by the importation of consumer goods from abroad, and is this factor taken into consideration before deciding upon the importation of competing goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) The object of the Mission, as stated in the opening sentence of the question itself, is to devise methods for relieving the strain of war demands on Indian production. This was fully explained in Sir Akbar Hydari's statement to the Press on the 18th January, 1945.

(ii) and (iii). It is not in the interest of the discussion which the Mission is having in the U. K. to divulge the actual terms of Instructions given to it by Government. It may be explained, however, that the Mission is not a policy Mission, nor will it explore or formulate policy. It is merely an administrative instrument for dealing with a very intricate and detailed subject which could have been dealt with by correspondence but only with delay and waste of effort.

(b) The policy is to import such goods as are available and necessary to meet the requirements of the country with due regard to the position of indigenous industries and to their ability to meet that demand.

(c) and (d). The answer is in the negative.

(e) In view of the answer to (b) this question does not arise. The question of protection to Indian Industries in the post-war period is under consideration.

(f) *First part.*—Steps are being taken to improve the position. It is proposed to enforce the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, as early as may be practicable. The industries to be covered by this Act will be gradually extended.

Second part.—The statistics that are available are utilised in determining imports in accordance with the policy stated in reply to part (b) of the question.

BOOKLET "A TREATY BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM"

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the booklet entitled "A Treaty between India and the United Kingdom" by Sir Sultan Ahmad Khan;

(b) whether the Government of India have drawn the attention of His Majesty's Government to this booklet and proposals contained therein for the future constitution of India; and

(c) whether the Government of India have commented upon this booklet and submitted the same for consideration of His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No.

SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS TO LIBERATED BURMA

305. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether there is any understanding that, as the process of re-conquest of Burma progresses, the civilian population thus liberated will be supplied with foodstuffs from India as a temporary measure of relief?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a detailed statement explaining the nature and extent of the responsibility thus undertaken by the

Government of India with reference to the civil population of Burma, indicating at the same time the nature of help that may already have been given to the people of Burma in this matter, as also the reaction that the said policy may have on the position of supplies available for the civilian population in India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

CONSTRUCTION OR RECONDITIONING OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER DENIAL POLICY

306. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to refer to starred question No. 136 of the 7th November, 1944, on the subject of construction or reconditioning of boats removed from the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial Policy, and make a statement indicating the number of boats that were either reconditioned, or constructed anew and supplied to the persons concerned before the last rains, as also the progress made in that matter since the last rains?

(b) Is the Honourable Member in a position to state what has been the cost of reconditioning or reconstruction of these boats, and to what head the expenditure involved is to be charged?

(c) Is the Honourable Member in a position to state the extent of unemployment created by the Denial measures in this behalf, giving the approximate number of persons thus affected and the extent of compensation, if any, that the Government have paid or propose to pay for such unemployment and resulting hardship, to the people thus affected, apart from the return of a proportion of the boats?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This question should have been addressed to the Defence Department.

POSSIBILITY OF ARMY IN BENGAL SUPPLYING VEGETABLES FOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN REQUIREMENTS

307. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to refer to the supplementary questions and answers in connection with starred question No. 49 of the 2nd November, 1944, dealing with the possibility of the Army in Bengal becoming self-supporting in vegetables, including potatoes and being able even to supply such stuff to the civilian population?

(b) Is the Honourable Member in a position to state the results of the efforts made by the military authorities in this direction, and the extent of help derived therefrom, either directly or indirectly, by the civilian population of Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). The Army in Bengal is self-supporting in respect of vegetables and potatoes.

During January 1945, 92 tons of vegetables were supplied by the Army to the Civil Administration in Bengal. A large proportion of this supply was for consumption in the Calcutta Area.

EXAMINATION OF COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF INDIAN SPRING-WATERS

308. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to refer to unstarred question No. 50 of the 5th August, 1943, and the reply thereto, and make a statement indicating the results of the examination of the commercial aspects of Indian spring-waters, and the trial given thereto, the location of the different springs where trials have been made and the composition and properties of the respective waters?

(b) Have Government any scheme for the working of any of these sources of spring-water through State agency or through the agency of any private enterprise? If so, what are the details of such schemes?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). Waters of certain thermal mineral springs in Bihar were investigated by the Geological Survey of India and after examination of the chemical properties of these waters it was decided that there would be no advantage in Government undertaking during war time the commercial exploitation of these waters.

MYSORE GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION RE ANIMAL SLAUGHTER

309. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether he had seen the Notification issued by the Government of Mysore completely stopping animal slaughter during the 24 hours between sunset on Sunday and sunset on Monday and then again between sunset on Wednesday and sunset on Thursday in a week?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether Government propose to have some such rule promulgated in British India also?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No, but Government are aware of the fact that two meatless days have been introduced in Mysore.

(b) The advisability of prescribing some meatless days every week was commended to the consideration of Provincial Governments and Administrations on the 14th July, 1944. "Meatless days" are already being observed in Bengal, Assam, Sind and Ajmer-Merwara.

DAMODAR RIVER TRANSPORT FOR COAL IN BENGAL

310. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that in the last century a proposal was considered by the Government of India for providing river transport to the movement of coal from the Bengal coal fields to Calcutta by rendering the river Damodar as an all weather navigable channel? If not, will Government consider the advisability of re-examining such a proposal in connection with the proposed multi-purpose Damodar River project? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not aware of any such proposal but there was a proposal to take out a canal from the Damodar river from Raniganj to Calcutta.

The enquiry now being made is examining the possibility of a multi-purpose scheme for the control of the Damodar—this examination will extend to the possibilities of encouraging navigation.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVINCES FOR CONTROL OF ANIMAL SLAUGHTER

311. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether Provincial Governments have been instructed to control animal slaughter, conduct inspection of butcher-houses by veterinary staff and punish those who slaughter such animals whose slaughtering is prohibited in pursuance of Notification No. 1607, dated the 12th September, 1944, under section 81 of the Defence of India Rules?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state—

(i) the number of Provincial Governments with their names who have immediately adopted the instructions referred to above in their Provinces; and

(ii) which Provinces have refused to do so and what reasons are given by them to the Government for their inability to do so?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the notification referred to above?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (c). I have been unable to trace any such notification issued by the Government of India under the Defence of India Rules but suggestions were made to the Provincial Governments to restrict the slaughter of useful cattle.

(b) (i). Nine Provincial Government, *viz.*, Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Bombay, C. P. and Berar, Madras, Orissa, Sind and the United Provinces have issued orders restricting the slaughter of useful cattle, while the Government of the Punjab have the matter under consideration.

(ii) The Government of N.-W. F. P. have intimated that they do not consider it necessary in the circumstances of that province to take any action.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI MISSION

312. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the purpose of the Mission of Sir Akbar Hydari to England in so far as it affects his Department; and

(b) whether the Mission would enter into commitments in regard to imports of consumer goods unwanted in this country without any reference to the interests concerned in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The object of the Mission is to devise methods for relieving the strain of war demands on Indian economy. This was fully explained in Sir Akbar Hydari's statement to the Press on the 18th January, 1945.

(b) No, it will not enter into commitments to import unwanted goods.

IMPORT LICENSES TO INDIAN IMPORTERS OF CHEMICALS

313. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the policy pursued by his Department in regard to the grant of import licenses to Indian importers of chemicals;

(b) whether licenses to the Indian importers have been refused on the ground that in the view of his Department these importers cannot obtain the goods from the manufacturers or shippers;

(c) how many instances there had been of this nature; and

(d) whether he is aware that, in instances where import licenses have been granted to the Imperial Chemical Industries, they have also not been in a position to obtain the goods over a period ranging from six months to a year?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The policy pursued in regard to the grant of licences for the import of chemicals is generally the same as in the case of other articles, namely, all regular established importers are given a fair and equitable share of such supplies as may be available for import under war-time conditions.

(b) Yes, in the case of a few items.

(c) The items concerned are Caustic Soda, Soda Ash and Bleaching Powder. For these chemicals the Imperial Chemical Industries in the United Kingdom are the sole manufacturers and imports are canalised through their subsidiary firm in India, namely, the Imperial Industries (India) Limited.

(d) This has come to notice in the case of certain articles other than the chemicals mentioned above. In any case the position referred to is not peculiar to the Imperial Chemical Industries, as owing to circumstances beyond their control licence-holders are frequently unable to arrange supplies from other countries for some considerable time.

DISCOVERY OF PETROLEUM NEAR RAWALPINDI

314. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the reports appearing in the newspapers about the discovery of petroleum near Rawalpindi and the Punjab; and

(b) whether the monopoly for exploiting this petroleum has been given to a foreign concern?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes, Government have seen the reports referred to.

(b) The matter is the concern of the Provincial Government and Government of India have no information.

ORGANIZATION FOR CONTROLLING TRADE WITH LIBERATED BURMA

315. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether the Government of India had at any time thought of setting up an organization for controlling and managing the trade with the liberated Burma;

(b) whether such ideas are now being dropped in favour of the U.K.C.C. doing this work;

(c) whether he is aware that representatives of European commercial interests are being sent back to Burma as Military Officers;

(d) whether he is aware that such Military Officers are actually engaged in transactions which are of a commercial nature; and

(e) what steps the Government of India propose to take in order to safeguard Indian interests in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a), (b) and (e). The procurement and distribution of all civil supplies for Burma during the period of Military Administration is in the hands of Military authorities and no private trading whether by the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation or by other firms is contemplated. Questions regarding trade with Burma after the period of Military Administration are under consideration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. Military officers are entirely precluded by military regulations from any private trading.

INDIA'S REPRESENTATION IN MIDDLE EAST SUPPLY COUNCIL.

316. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether the Government of India had taken any steps to obtain representation for India in the Middle East Supply Council? If so, with what success?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The matter is under consideration and a final decision is expected to be reached shortly.

EXPENDITURE ON GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

317. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state what amount of money has been spent for the "Grow more food campaign" since its inception, giving the details of the heads of expenditure in different Provinces?

(b) What amount has been spent for giving agricultural loan to the cultivators in different Provinces?

(c) What amount has been granted to the cultivators for the purchase of plough and cattle in different Provinces?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). A statement showing loans and grants given by the Government of India for food production schemes to the various Provinces and Indian States during the years 1943-44 and 1944-45 is placed on the table of the House.

(c) A loan of Rs. 48,000 was given by the Government of India to the Government of Orissa during 1944-45 for this purpose.

Statement showing the details of Loans and Grants to Provincial Governments out of Central Revenues and Cotton Fund during 1943-44 & 1944-45.

Name of the Province or State	Irrigation facilities		Land clearance & improvement		Manure for distribution		Seed Multiplicates and distribution.	
	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Ajmer-Merwara	7,250	3,000	2,27,000	1,33,718
2. Assam	...	2,35,500	...	...	2,10,300	43,417	4,29,900	1,77,067
3. Baluchistan	...	38,148	...	...	...	11,000	1,66,400	1,77,016
4. Bengal	...	5,67,289	...	...	6,16,000	89,700	79,14,000	13,98,850
5. Bihar	...	11,09,000	...	5,76,970	1,92,900	11,00,000	7,71,200	3,06,100
6. Bombay	8,22,500	13,24,830	3,00,000	16,00,000	...	8,22,927	...	9,14,719
7. C. P. & Berar	29,34,000	8,99,000	3,48,970	1,47,985	22,86,000	8,21,000	15,00,000	4,62,166
8. Coorg	41,250	...	6,000	...	...
9. Madras	...	9,76,250	16,25,000	2,62,466	19,00,000	6,66,836	26,00,000	7,75,626
10. N. W. F. P.	...	10,21,000	...	...	...	...	12,74,000	1,60,500
11. Orissa	3,73,500	2,45,600	8,22,000	1,33,900	1,39,300	1,14,250	6,62,100	1,61,667
12. Punjab	...	7,00,000	...	9,00,000	...	15,000	...	...
13. Sind	3,49,335
14. U. P.	...	29,83,500	...	1,01,000	...	2,15,000	...	1,71,050
15. I. C. A. E.	75,000
16. Baroda State	...	4,02,000	...	82,900	...	33,750	...	2,000
17. Kashmir State	16,800
18. Kutch State
19. Rampur State
Total	41,90,000	1,05,02,117	30,95,970	37,85,571	53,51,650	29,46,877	1,68,92,367	55,52,44

Statement showing the details of Loans and Grants to Provincial Governments out of Central Revenues and Cotton Fund during 1943-44 & 1944-45.

1943-44 & 1944-45.

Name of the Province or State	Compost making		Bonus to cultivators for diverting areas from S/S cotton to food crops		Fish production		Miscellaneous Schemes		Total	
	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Ajmer-Merwara	...	3,900	...	51,181	...	...	...	...	2,34,950	1,01,797
2. Assam	1,76,668	19,87,987	8,90,485
3. Baluchistan	...	6,938	...	...	...	...	...	19,153	1,66,400	1,92,255
4. Bengal	...	1,37,512	...	...	...	58,450	...	2,76,000	85,30,000	25,22,801
5. Bihar	2,37,952	9,64,000	23,30,022
6. Bombay	...	25,000	...	1,17,500	...	...	...	...	11,22,500	48,04,976
7. C. P. & Berar	50,000	70,68,970	23,80,151
8. Coorg	...	300	...	...	...	...	...	7,200	...	54,750
9. Madras	3,18,466	...	77,200	...	3,40,571	61,25,000	33,57,412
10. N. W. F. P.	9,668	12,74,000	11,91,168
11. Orissa	24,138	48,000	4,43,336	20,44,900	11,22,891
12. Punjab	...	1,99,860	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,08,860
13. Sind	2,24,000	...	5,73,335
14. U. P.	...	1,67,140	...	...	...	40,000	...	16,800	...	36,94,490
15. I. C. A. B.	...	2,22,200	...	...	...	...	...	1,37,226	...	4,34,426
16. Baroda State	5,53,000	...	...	...	62,000	...	12,12,750
17. Kashmir State	16,800
18. Kutch State	8,677	...	...	...	...	...	8,677
19. Rampur State	8,698	...	...	...	...	...	8,698
Total	...	7,56,850	...	10,57,522	...	1,04,788	48,000	20,00,574	2,95,17,937	2,67,96,744

N. B.—During 1942-43 grants from the Cotton Fund amounting to Rs. 23,83,721 were sanctioned to Provinces and Indian States.

BUTLER REPORT ON FOODGRAINS PROCUREMENT

318. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state what action has been taken by the Government of India on the report of Mr. S. Butler, Officer on Special Duty, in connection with the Government Grain Purchases Scheme?

(b) If action has been taken, how many offenders were already detected and punished Province-wise? If not, why not?

(c) Are there any orders issued by the Central Government to the Provincial Governments to investigate into the offences of bribery, corruption and harassment by the Government Officials in Food Department working in the Provinces?

(d) If so, what are the results of their investigation, province-wise?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given by me this morning to Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's question No. 296.

(b) and (d). It is premature to call for a report from the Provinces on the action taken by them in this connection.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS AND PULSES

319. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the quantity of the following foodgrains and pulses produced in India in the year 1944, province-wise, in tons (i) Paddy, (ii) Wheat, (iii) Jawar, (iv) Ragi, (v) Bajra, and (vi) Makkai (Maize); and

Pulses: (i) Rew Gram, (ii) Green Gram, (iii) Bengal Gram, (iv) Black Gram, and (v) Horse Gram?

(b) What quantities of the above commodities were exported to countries outside India, province-wise, in tons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Two statements giving the necessary information are laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I
PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS
(Rabi grains relate to 1943-44 crops and Kharif grains and pulses relate to 1944-45 crops)
 (In '000 tons)

Province/State	Rice	Wheat	Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Ragi	*Red Gram	*Green Gram	Bengal Gram	*Black Gram	Horse Gram
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Ajmer-Merwara	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Assam	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Baluchistan	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Bengal	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Bihar	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Bombay	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
C. P. & Berar	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Coorg	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Delhi	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Madras	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
N. W. F. P.	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Orissa	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Punjab	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Sind	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
U. P.	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Total Br. Provinces	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Total Indian States	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
GRAND TOTAL	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·

N. A. = Not available.
 * = These estimates are supplied by areas concerned and are incomplete.
 (a) = Incomplete.

STATEMENT II

Showing Exports of Food Grains by Sea outside India during January to November 1944.

(IN TONS).

Maritime Province	Rice	Wheat	Wheat Flour	Pulses
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Bengal	31	Nil	Nil	2
Bombay	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,908
Sind	3	450	622	1,855
Madras	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not known . . . . .	..	..	..	7,158
Total	34	450	622	10,923

NOTE.—Figures for October and November 1944 are estimated published figures being not yet available.

TREATY OF NAVIGATION AND COMMERCE WITH UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

320. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations for treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States of America and India were postponed in 1939 for the duration of war at the instance of the Government of India;

(b) whether Government will reconsider this question and start talks for the negotiations of this treaty as large purchases are likely to be made in the United States of America after the termination of the war; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Government will inform this House what those difficulties are which make it impossible to complete the negotiations during the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a), (b) and (c). Honourable Member's attention is invited to my replies on the 9th February, 1945 to the Starred question No. 55 by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum and the supplementary questions and answers.

FALL IN AREA AND YIELD OF PADDY IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

321. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the area under and yield of paddy in Madras Presidency has come down during the last two years;

(b) the percentages of fall in area and yield;

(c) the reasons attributed by Madras Government for this reduction in area and yield in spite of all the "Grow More Food Campaign" of the Government; and

(d) whether Government have taken necessary steps to enquire to what extent the continued low levels of prices of paddy and rice, maintained by Government as compared to prices for the same qualities of paddy and rice, have been responsible for this fall in the production of food in the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). A statement showing the area and yield of rice for the years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 is laid on the Table of the House. It will be seen therefrom that there was an increase in area by 5.2 per cent. and in yield by 6.9 per cent. in 1943-44 as compared with the previous year.

So far as the 1944-45 crop is concerned, only the second (Provincial) forecast is available, and it shows, when compared with the corresponding forecast of 1942-43, an increase of 1.8 per cent. in area and 5.7 per cent. in yield. Compared with the corresponding forecast of 1943-44, however, there is a decrease of 2.2 and 4.5 per cent. in area and yield respectively.

(c) The decrease, this year, is attributed by the Madras Government to the late arrival of the North East Monsoon rains and the insufficient rainfall and consequent inadequate supply of water in irrigating sources in the South West Monsoon period.

(d) In view of reply to part (c) of the question, the need for such an enquiry does not arise.

Statement showing area and yield of rice in Madras

(Figures in thousands)

Year	Area (acres)	Yield (Tons)
1942-43	10,382	4,614
1943-44	10,925	4,932
1944-45 (Second forecast)	9,313	4,427

HOLDINGS BASIS FOR DELIVERY OF GRAIN BY PEASANTS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

322. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware of the fact that in Madras Presidency peasants are forced to deliver certain specified quantities of grain, whether paddy or millets, calculated on the basis of the holdings and not on the actual acreages under the specified foodgrains; and

(b) whether this procedure obtains in other Provinces also?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). As regards Madras the system referred to by the Honourable Member is no longer in force. Details of the systems in force elsewhere will be found in the Honourable Somerset Butler's report which is available in the Library.

OVER-ESTIMATION OF CROP YIELDS AND UNDER-ESTIMATION OF FOOD NEEDS IN DISTRICTS

323. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to prevent the over-estimation of the productive capacity and actual yields of different crops of different districts and the underestimation of the total population and their food needs of different districts by Government officials; and

(b) whether Government propose to see that their Regional Food Commissioners are authorised and instructed to study the food needs, food supply capacity and actual food production and distribution in every District in co-operation with the local authorities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I have no information about steps taken in particular districts, but crop cutting surveys are being conducted in certain provinces for the purpose of ensuring a greater accuracy in the estimation of the production of rice and wheat. Regarding the estimation of the total population and their food needs, the formula stated in the Foodgrains Policy Committee Report is applied for ascertaining provincial requirements with appropriate adjustments for estimated increase in population over the last census figure.

(b) Regional Food Commissioners are officers of the Central Government and as such their duties require them to be in the closest touch with the food position in their Regions and to report on the position with a view to improvement, wherever necessary, both to the Provincial and Central Governments.

RICE AND WHEAT RATIONS IN RATIONED TOWNS AND NON-RATIONED AREAS

324. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of daily rations of rice plus wheat allotted and distributed to the people of the rationed towns and non-rationed areas;

- (b) if there is any difference in the rations thus allotted, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is not a fact that in the non-rationed areas, black markets prevail;
- (d) whether under-nourishment is increasing;
- (e) whether the incidence of diseases due to under-nourishment and malnutrition is not increasing;
- (f) whether Government are contemplating the introduction of complete District-wise rationing in the whole of North Vizagapatam District including rural areas; if not, why not;
- (g) if such District-wise rationing is being contemplated, by about what month it may come to be introduced; and
- (h) in view of the heavy death-roll experienced during last year's Summer, whether Government propose to introduce rationing before Summer sets in?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Assuming that this question relates to the Madras Province, the daily basic rations in the rationed towns range from 0.78 lbs. to 1.06 lbs. per adult per day, 1/6th of which is in wheat.

No rationed foods on a fixed scale are issued in non-rationed areas, but in certain areas, under informal schemes the rates vary from place to place at the discretion of the local authorities, depending upon the local supply position.

(c) Black markets do occur in non-rationed areas.

(d) and (e). I have received no reports to this effect.

(f), (g) and (h). Arrangements for the introduction of informal rationing in the rural areas of the deficit districts, are in progress and will be completed as early as possible. Informal rationing in the Vizagapatam District has already been introduced and as a matter of course will be made formal.

CHANGE IN POWERS OF SUPERINTENDENCE, ETC., BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA

325. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state whether as a result of legislation enacted by Parliament since 1939 and change has been made in the powers of superintendence, direction and control exercised by the Secretary of State for India by virtue of section 314 and other relative sections of the Government of India Act, 1935?

(b) If the answer to (a) of the question is in the negative, what are the methods by which, in practice, such superintendence, direction and control are exercised?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No.

(b) I am not quite clear as to the intention of the Honourable Member. If his intention is to ascertain the manner in which the control of the Secretary of State over the Governor General in Council is exercised, the position is that in respect of certain matters the Governor General in Council is required by the provisions of the Constitution Act itself or by direction issued by the Secretary of State to obtain his approval. In respect of other matters consultation with the Secretary of State depends upon the intrinsic importance of the question involved.

CONFERENCE FOR DISCUSSING POLICY OF IMPORT OF CONSUMER GOODS

326. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: With reference to the proposed Conference to be held in Delhi during the second week of February, with commercial and industrial leaders to discuss the policy of import of consumer goods, will the Honourable Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the names of all persons invited to attend the Conference;

- (b) the agenda placed before it; and
 (c) whether any report of its proceedings will be presented to the Legislative Assembly?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the meeting held on the 12th February, between the representatives of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the representatives of the various Departments of the Government of India. The Federation had submitted a memorandum covering several questions relating to the import policy of Government. It was felt that a personal discussion would be more convenient than entering into long correspondence. The Federation was accordingly invited, if it agreed, to send representatives to the proposed discussion. No invitations were sent to any particular individual. No agenda was placed before the meeting. The question of reporting the proceedings to the Legislative Assembly does not arise.

WOMEN WORKERS IN MILLS AND FACTORIES OF DELHI PROVINCE

327. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

- (a) the total number of women workers in the year, 1944, in the mills and factories in Delhi Province to which the Factories Act is applied;
 (b) whether action under the Factories Act was taken against any of these concerns for failure to conform to the provisions of Acts for safeguarding the interests of women workers; and
 (c) whether a women Labour Welfare Officer has been appointed for Delhi Province; and, if so, what her duties are?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply together to question Nos. 327 and 328.

I have made enquiries and will lay a report on the table in due course.

WOMEN WORKERS IN BALL THREAD FACTORIES IN DELHI

+328. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

- (a) if Government have made any investigation about the condition of women workers in ball thread factories in Delhi; and, if so, whether Government will place a copy of the report on the table of the House for the information of the Members;
 (b) the number of ball thread factories in Delhi to which the provisions of the Factories Act have been applied, and the number of women workers in them; and
 (c) whether the workers in these factories receive any dearness allowances and, if so, at what rate?

HEAVY PRICES CHARGED TO THE PUBLIC BY MONOPOLISTIC CONCERNS, ETC.

329. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether there is any law under which Government can interfere with the prices charged to the public by monopolistic concerns, trusts, cartels, pools, price fixation arrangements, etc.?

(b) Are Government aware that India is paying excessively for cement part from the fact that much of it is not being released for public use?

(c) Of how many articles have Government fixed the prices?

(d) Have Government considered the possibility that, owing to scarcity conditions, heavy prices have to be paid by the public for many goods and that increased supply and competitive sale are the only safeguards for the interests of the public?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 327.

(e) What was intended by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar when he said that Government proposed to take up the question of safeguarding the public against trusts, cartels and monopolies?

(f) Do Government propose to introduce an anti-Trust Act or revise the provisions of law against combinations in restraint of trade?

(g) Have Government ever taken any action against high monopoly prices charged to the public? If so, on what occasions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes. The Defence of India Rules, various Control Orders, and the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance give Government the necessary powers.

(b) No. Government are satisfied that controlled prices have been reasonable in the present circumstances and are justified by the actual costs of production figures obtained by costing investigation.

(c) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Starred Question No. 260 on the 10th November, 1944, by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar. Since then prices of 12 articles have been fixed.

(d) It is correct that if supplies are short prices would tend to rise in the absence of any effective measures for controlling the prices and that the price control measures have a greater chance of success if supplies are larger rather than smaller. Government are not satisfied that so long as supplies are inadequate competitive sale would constitute any safeguard for the interests of the public.

(e) The Honourable the Supply Member did not make the statement ascribed to him by the Honourable Member. The Honourable the Supply Member while speaking of trusts etc., at the Convocation of the Osmania University on the 25th January, 1945 suggested an aspect of the question of post-war reconstruction which he thought ought to be considered by Government in framing its policy.

(f) No, but Government will certainly consider as part of their post-war plans for the industrial and other general development measures that may be necessary to protect the public from any malpractices by trusts, cartels and monopolies.

(g) Government have taken action against high prices in regard to a large number of commodities, whether they were high because of monopoly conditions or because of short supply or because of any other reasons. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement in the answer to (c).

TRANSFERRED UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.†

CEILING PRICES OF RICE AND CERTAIN INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES.

8. Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the ceiling prices of common qualities of rice prevailing in Madras, Sind, Punjab, Central Provinces, Bombay, Orissa, Bengal and Assam in any one or two months, say, February and September, during 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945;

(b) the index number of prices and costs of working class living for the same periods as recorded by authorised Government agencies; and

(c) the index number of prices of manufactured goods during the same periods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a), (b) and (c). Statements are laid on the table containing such information as is available.

†The meeting of the Assembly that was to be held on the 16th February, 1945, having been cancelled the answers to Unstarred Questions for the day were in pursuance of convention laid on the table of the House today —*Ed. of D.*

STATEMENT I

Statement showing prices of common qualities of rice, at certain Centres in certain Provinces (In Rupees per maund).

Province	Centre	1940			1941			1942			1943			1944			1945			Remarks
		Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.			
Madras	Madras City	4-15-5	5-12-0	6-12-6	6-1-2	6-0-2	8-6-1	...	9-7-0	9-8-0	9-8-0	...	...	...	...	...	...	Market price.
Sind	Karachi	4-3-4*	4-3-4*	4-7-1*	6-6-5*	5-1-0	7-0-0	7-4-0	9-4-0	9-4-0	9-4-0	9-4-0	9-4-0	9-4-0	9-4-0	9-4-0	9-4-0	From Sept. '42 statutory prices have been shown.		
	Larkana	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8-9-0†	8-8-0	8-8-0	8-8-0	8-8-0	8-8-0	8-8-0	8-8-0	8-8-0	From Sept. '43 statutory prices have been shown.
Punjab	Amritsar	3-12-11*	4-6-2*	4-10-2*	4-5-2*	7-9-11	8-9-0	13-2-0	18-4-0	18-9-0	18-12-0	18-12-0	18-12-0	18-12-0	18-12-0	18-12-0	18-12-0	From Sept. '44 statutory prices have been shown.		
	Quila Shikhpura	...	...	...	...	...	...	13-4-0	13-0-0	13-0-0	13-8-0	13-8-0	13-8-0	13-8-0	13-8-0	13-8-0	13-8-0	From Sept. '44 statutory prices have been shown.
C. P. & Berar	Jaipur	3-5-7*	4-8-1*	4-8-1*	5-5-4*	5-9-0	6-10-0	8-4-0	9-12-3	9-2-9	8-13-0	8-11-0	8-11-0	8-11-0	8-11-0	8-11-0	8-11-0	Market price.		
	Nagpur	3-18-8*	4-12-5*	4-12-5*	5-9-10*	5-15-0	7-15-0	7-15-0	10-8-6	10-13-3	9-8-2	9-1-3	9-1-3	9-1-3	9-1-3	9-1-3	9-1-3	Market price.		
Bombay	Bombay City	5-12-3*	4-8-4	5-11-5	5-7-7	6-14-6	...	8-11-10	11-9-0	9-2-6	9-2-6	9-2-6	9-2-6	9-2-6	9-2-6	9-2-6	9-2-6	From Feb. '44 rate in Rationed area has been shown.		
Orissa	Cuttack	3-8-11*	4-3-4*	4-1-3*	4-10-9*	4-5-3*	5-13-1*	5-0-0	11-3-0	9-0-0	9-0-0	9-0-0	9-0-0	9-0-0	9-0-0	9-0-0	9-0-0	From Feb. '44 statutory prices for Producers has been shown.		
Bengal	Calcutta	4-2-0	4-14-0	5-5-0	6-3-6	5-4-0	7-4-0	7-4-0	30-0-0(e)	15-0-0	15-0-0	15-0-0	15-0-0	15-0-0	15-0-0	15-0-0	15-0-0	Statutory prices from Sept. '43. (e) Up to 9th Sept. '43.		
	Dacca	4-9-2*	4-12-5*	4-7-1*	5-5-4*	5-6-1*	7-4-4*	...	Do.	15-0-0	14-12-0	14-12-0	14-12-0	14-12-0	14-12-0	14-12-0	14-12-0	(b) From 9th to 24th Sept. '43. (c) From 25th Sept. '43.		
Assam	Dibrugarh	4-2-6	4-11-6	4-13-6	6-3-0	5-5-6	9-8-0	26-10-0	16-0-0	14-12-0	14-8-0	14-8-0	14-8-0	14-8-0	14-8-0	14-8-0	14-8-0	From Feb. 1944 statutory prices have been shown. The prices supplied for Dibrugarh from 1940 to 1942 are averages for April and October, instead of February and September		

* Retail rates.

† (Forbinder Kasgriff).

STATEMENT II

(A) *Index Numbers wholesale prices for Madras, Karachi, Bombay and Calcutta and the Economic Adviser's All-India Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices. (No such index numbers are available for Punjab, Central Provinces, Orissa and Assam).*

Centre	Base	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
		Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.
Madras—Madras	Week ending 21st August, 1939 = 100.	121	115	121	145	155	213	262	C	..	..	..	..
Sind—Karachi	July 1914=100	119	114	116	123	123	C	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bombay—Bombay	July 1914=100	124	113	116	145	194	239	255	244	C	..	..	..
Bengal—Calcutta	July 1914=100	126	119	119	149	153	198	253	349	300	301	N. A.	..
All-India	19th Aug. 1939=100	130.4	110.5	112.1	149.8	145.0	164.3	197.6	236.4	236.7	242.3	250.0*	..

C=Discontinued. N. A. = Not available.

* Relates to the week ending the 3rd February, 1945.

(B) *Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Madras, Lahore, Nagpur, Bombay and Cuttuck. (No such index numbers are available for Sind, Bengal, and Assam).*

Centre	Base	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
		Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.	Feb.	Sept.
Madras—Madras	Year ending June 1936=100	104	108	108	115	115	146	163	180	199	204	..	..
Punjab—Lahore	1931—1935=100	129	129	133	150	176	220	306	355	363	322	..	..
Central Provinces—Nagpur	August 1939=100	105	111	109	125	134	183	234	356	289	263	..	..
Bombay—Bombay	Year ending June 1934=100	112	112	119	129	135	170	205	245	230	239	..	..
Orissa—Cuttack	Average Cost of Living for 5 years preceding 1914=100.	108	117	115	148	162	203	237.	387	340	361	..	..

Not available

STATEMENT III

Economic Adviser's All-India Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices of manufactured articles. (No figures are available for individual centres).

(Base : 19th August 1939 = 100).

Year	Months	
	February	September
1940	136.6	111.6
1941	121.0	166.3
1942	162.3	179.1
1943	225.5	251.3
1944	251.0	259.0
1945	255.5	..

Relates to the week ending the 3rd February, 1945.

HANDLOOM BOARD

9. Prof. N. G. Banga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) why the proposed Handloom Board has not yet been constituted;

(b) whether the All-India Textile Board has supported the Government's proposal;

(c) whether the Merchants Chamber has disapproved of it; and, so, why;

(d) whether the Madras Government as well as the Madras Presidency Handloom Weavers' Association have asked for a higher quota of representation for weavers than what had been originally proposed; and

(e) when Government propose to reach a final decision in the matter and constitute the Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Honourable Member's attention is invited to my answer to question No. 49 of the 9th February.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. I take it that Honourable Member refers to the Indian Merchant's Chamber, Bombay.

(d) Yes. The Madras Government proposed 16 representatives of the handloom industry, and the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers' Association proposed 19. Provision has actually been made for 8 representatives of handloom industry, as it was desired to keep the Board to only 30 members in all.

(e) Government has already reached a final decision and the Board is being constituted.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

WAR ALLOWANCE FOR SENIOR MEMBERS OF INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a motion of adjournment from Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the proposal to grant by the Government of India war allowance for senior members of the Indian Civil Service drawing salaries between one thousand and two thousand rupees per mensem and the refusal of the Government to disclose any details to the Assembly until the whole matter becomes a *fait accompli*.

I have gone through the questions and answers on this subject and I should like to know from the Honourable Member if he proposes to consult the Standing Finance Committee before any decision is arrived at on the matter.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): The question raised is the pay of the Indian Civil Service. I am informed by the Honourable the Finance Member that that does not come within the purview of the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I submit that this matter was raised by me in a short notice question the other day on your advice and the question was very exhaustive. The question

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Your adjournment motion now confines itself to the members of the Indian Civil Service. The Home Member says that does not come within the purview of the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The second part of my adjournment motion is in regard to the reply furnished by the Honourable the Home Member to my short notice question the other day. My short notice question was very exhaustive. It dealt also with those members of the services who are under the control of the Governor General in Council and who will be qualified to get a similar allowance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The difficulty has been created by the Honourable Member himself in that his adjournment motion is confined to the proposal to grant war allowance to members of the Indian Civil Service. As regards that I understand that the Standing Finance Committee has no say in the matter at all.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: That is not the whole question. I have not raised this issue because the Standing Finance Committee is not likely to be consulted. I have raised the issue because if this House expresses its view on this motion, it is quite possible

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's proposal is that this House should be consulted?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: That is my proposal, Sir. If the House expresses its view, it is quite possible that the Secretary of State may not sanction the proposal. But if the matter becomes a *fait accompli* and comes before the House as part of the Budget, it will come in the Non-voted part. So there is a possibility that if this House expresses itself definitely against the proposal for reasons which it will adduce, it is just possible that the Secretary of State may not accept the suggestion of the Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that the Honourable the Home Member has already said on a previous occasion that he did not propose to consult this House at all before a decision is taken in the matter. Does that apply to this motion also?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: My difficulty is, as I have previously stated, that these proposals are not yet complete. The Honourable Member wishes to raise the whole question of the proposals which we have still under consideration. I do not see how that is possible so long as the proposals are not yet complete.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is whether the House will be consulted before any final decision is taken.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir: that is not the intention.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I take it that there is objection to this motion being moved. Will Honourable Members who are in favour of leave being granted to this motion rise in their seats.

(Not less than 25 Members stood up.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As not less than 25 Members have risen in their places, leave is granted and the motion will be taken up at 4 O'Clock.

The next item is the General Discussion of the Railway Budget and there may not be enough time if the motion is taken up at 4 O'Clock today. Under the circumstances I think the House might prefer to take up the motion tomorrow.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Tomorrow is the day given to our Party and I think it would suit the convenience

of the House if the motion is taken up on an official day after the close of the Railway Budget.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow that. It must then be taken up today. Honourable Members will have to regulate their speeches on the Railway Budget accordingly.

THE RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

FIRST STAGE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before the General Discussion of the Railway Budget commences, I have to announce to the House that under Rule 46, I fix the time limit for speeches as 15 minutes for each Honourable Member excepting the Government Member for whom 45 minutes or more will be allowed, if necessary.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated: Non-Official): Sir, this is the Honourable the War Transport Member's third Budget, and whilst it is a common belief that the third venture in anything is usually lucky I would like, at the same time as I offer him our congratulations, to suggest for his serious consideration that his luck may not always hold. So that in tendering our views on what is, on the whole, a good budget, I will none the less put forward certain criticisms which we feel are valid in the present situation, and which I know the Honourable Member will accept in a friendly spirit for the practical consideration of his Department.

Many of us in this House are disposed to judge the propositions which come before us from a business man's point of view and in the case of a vast undertaking such as the country's railways, which are so closely bound up with our trade and commerce, this is not a bad standard from which to pass our verdict upon their performance. Looking at the matter from that point of view, I could wish that the statement of accounts which the Honourable Member gave the House last Thursday was capable of some simplification. The form in which the annual railway accounts are presented is a tribute to the care and attention which the Railway Board devote to the subject; but even to the most experienced eye these accounts constitute a most complicated picture, and I very much doubt if they are really intelligible to the vast majority of India's inhabitants who are now the shareholders in a gigantic state-owned enterprise, which is in fact a tremendous essay in socialisation. The railway business which the people of India now own has grown rapidly in recent years by the acquisition of fresh assets, taken out of the hands of private individuals, as well as by the steadily increased trading turnover which has been so prominent a feature of railway development during the war. One wonders whether this is fully realised—whether in fact, when there is so much talk of state-ownership, in the air, the man in the street understands that he has already made a beginning with one of the chief assets which a community can own and operate on its own account.

Certainly no one who, by training and temperament, is in a position to appreciate the trend of things can fail to be impressed with the colossal figures which the Honourable Member put forward in his Budget speech. Only ten years ago, in 1934-35, the railways showed a loss of over Rs. 5 crores which for the current year, according to the revised estimates, has been turned into a handsome profit of Rs. 42.01 crores. Not all of this is due to the fortuitous circumstances of the war—and I would remind the House that some part of this remarkable change is due to the energy, the foresight and prudence and devotion to their work of the present railway administration and its predecessors. On that they are entitled to our gratitude and congratulations. At the same time, there are certain features in the situation which must set a limit to our rejoicing. I hope that for the purposes of this debate, and ensuing discussions on the railway budget, Honourable Members will separate in their minds the two quite distinct things which are represented by Rehabilitation and Development—for they are quite separate and distinct functions, and the more I consider them, the less disposed I am to think that, from the purely

[Sir Henry Richardson]

financial point of view, everything in the War Transport Member's garden is quite as lovely as it looked last Thursday morning.

Rehabilitation merely means restoring the railways to the *status quo*—to the condition in which they were before the demands of war took such a heavy toll of their physical assets. Development is something quite different, and I take it to mean a programme for enlarging the scope of the post-war services which the railways are able to render the country—something which represents a considerable addition to the mere *status quo*. How are we situated to embark upon these two most necessary activities? What are the resources with which we will begin? The Second Report on Reconstruction Planning gives us a glimpse of the magnitude of the job that will eventually have to be put in hand. The authors of that report estimate the cost of a post-war programme of rehabilitation and development at some Rs. 319 crores, out of which it is hoped to find Rs. 125 crores from the depreciation fund in the first seven years of the post-war period. The same report also gives us warning that in the succeeding seven or eight years we may expect expenditure from the Depreciation Fund to be more, rather than less, than the figure I have just quoted. No wonder that the Honourable War Transport Member has felt that prudence should be the watchword in disposing of his surpluses. No doubt, it would have been easy for him to secure the approbation of his critics by adopting a policy of easy generosity in the disposal of his surpluses. He has however chosen the harder way, and in our opinion, Sir, he has made the right choice in maintaining the Depreciation Reserve and at the same time debiting a substantial proportion of new capital expenditure to current working expenses. This is sound finance, particularly when we remember, as the Honourable Member himself has reminded us, that whilst a drop in the revenue in the post-war years is inevitable and to be expected, it is most unlikely that there can be any commensurate drop in working expenses. Not all expenditure described as due to the war will be retrenched—some of it has come to stay. In fact, when I contemplate the disparity that there must necessarily be between falling revenue on the one hand and high replacement costs, combined with the working expenses that will obstinately refuse to come down, I seriously wonder whether even now the Honourable Member has gone to the full length of what a prudent assessment of the future demands. Sir, we listened to what the Honourable Member had to say about road transport with very great interest indeed—not only because of its immediate significance in the hard pressed transport condition of India, but because we realise the importance of getting the relationship between the railway authorities and the owners of road transport on to a proper basis from the very beginning. From that point of view, I consider that the Honourable Member might have told us more in his opening speech and might have dealt more explicitly with some of the basic principles which are to govern the development of road transport in India after the war—a development which I, for one, consider will be as inevitable as it will be rapid. Perhaps the Honourable Member will take an opportunity later in the debate to take us still further into his confidence upon this important matter. It is in nobody's true interests to permit a road *versus* rail controversy to develop in this country as it has in others; but it is as well to bear in mind that the situation in India is rather more complicated than elsewhere, by the fact that provincial administrations demand, and rightly demand, a hand in the development of road transportation. When the long distance bus first came on the road in Great Britain it was regarded as something of a curiosity, but it was not very long before the railways were squealing, and in order to protect themselves were obliged to organise a large scale political and publicity campaign which went under the name of "A Square Deal for the Railways". I do not envisage quite the same thing occurring here, because no other agency but our railways can adequately cover the great distances of this sub-continent. But we in this Group have never been in favour of any monopoly of transport and we want to be sure that there is going

to be "A Square Deal for the enterprising Road transport carrier", if only because we feel that road transport offers considerable new avenues of employment and a very sound ancillary means of opening up many parts of the countryside. In a word, Sir, we believe that road transport will itself be solicitous of the consumers interests in the matter of transportation, and will compel the railways themselves to be more solicitous also.

And that brings me to the real gravamen of such criticism as I have to offer of the present railway budget. Honourable Members well know, for I have stated the fact many times in this House, that we on these Benches, put the successful prosecution of the war before everything else. I do not need to labour the point again. But I have read and re-read the Honourable Member's speech and I have looked in vain for any promise or hint of any kind of mitigation of the great difficulties under which the user of railway transport labours today. After all, this is a total war and a very great part of the country's economy is directly geared to the war effort. Trade and Industry, and the goods and services and personnel associated with it, are all in some way or another supporting the fighting forces in the field, and I must confess I view with alarm the Honourable Member's prognostication that we are to suffer still further shortages of coaching, wagon and locomotive power. The programme for the supply of new wagon and locomotive power is, on the Honourable Member's own admission, far in arrears of what was contemplated, and whilst we do not want these things for our own purely selfish reasons, I am bound to tell the Honourable Member that as long as transportation is deficient, Government cannot expect trade and industry to pull its full weight if they are kept short of essential services and supplies. That is the merest common sense, but I sometimes wonder if it is fully appreciated by those who at present are making the greatest demands upon the railways of the country. I hope I shall not be misunderstood, but I am bound to say that we cannot view with equanimity a situation in which the supply of new rolling stock and locomotive power is as far behind schedule as the Honourable Member's statistics disclose, and I would like to assure him that he will have our fullest support in pressing for the arrears to be made up as speedily as possible by those who are responsible for the delay. The provision of adequate Rolling Stock without question is one of the most important factors of Railway life. Insufficient engines and wagons mean loss of income and inability to take the fullest advantage of the opportunity to earn the money which will obviously be so necessary in the post-war years. The Honourable Member gave us figures of the total stock ordered for use in India since 1942 and the House will have noticed that only some 27 per cent of the broad gauge engines and less than 10 per cent of the broad gauge wagons ordered were in service by the middle of January last. Although we realise that the appalling demands on account of the War must primarily be responsible for this disappointing situation, it is evident that we are faced with a very bad wagon shortage and everything possible ought to be done to speed up supplies. The other day Mr. Neogy remarked that when wagons were available, coal was not available and when coal was available, wagons were not. I am afraid it looks as if it will be the latter predicament with which we shall be faced unless considerable improvement in wagon supplies is effected.

Sir, the War Transport Member and his colleagues have seen us through another year of considerable difficulty, and one in which the railways have been called upon to shoulder heavy and increasing burdens. I have necessarily confined my observations to general principles but I would like to say in conclusion that I hope the Honourable Member and his Department will go forward with their good work and that the general effect of this debate will be to encourage and reinforce them in the noble efforts which they are putting forth for India and the Allied cause as a whole.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Krishnamachari.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor): Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to a point of order. I represent the

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar].

largest group and the main opposition in this Assembly. I am the spokesman set up by my Party and instead of calling me first you have called

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not a point of order.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, I shall confine myself to only one aspect of this Budget that has been presented to us, which in my view is an all important one. This is a budget which perhaps merits congratulation for the person who presented it. At any rate it has the compensating factor that even if several adventitious advantages have gone to make it, it is a prosperous budget; but in my opinion it has got this great defect that in its make up it is a departure from conventions, from rules, which no amount of eloquence and no amount of persuasion on the part of the War Transport Member will convince us is the right thing to do. In recording my objection to the financial arrangements that have been outlined in the War Transport Member's speech, I feel that this House is in this disadvantageous position that certain aspects of the General Budget have been anticipated in this Budget, with which we cannot adequately deal because the whole picture is not now before us. Sir, I take exception to the methods which those people who have advised the War Transport Member have considered it proper and have made him debit to revenue not only this year but also in succeeding years certain large sums which if they were not so done would reflect on the net surplus available and perhaps go to augment the contribution of the railways to the general revenues.

In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the War Transport Member to one serious defect. The Convention Committee appointed by this House two years back in order to revise the Convention of 1924 had undoubtedly produced an interim report and the interim report covers two recommendations, both the recommendations being in regard to enquiries to be instituted and the reports to be submitted to them. What has happened to this Convention Committee? It looks as though, from the speech of the War Transport Member, that that Convention Committee has been dissolved.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): No.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Reading the Report of the Railway Board, it looks as though it is still in a state of suspended animation. That being so, my first objection is to this *ad hoc* arrangement between the Finance Department and the War Transport Department of accepting a sum of Rs. 32 crores contribution for this year and also giving it a certain amount of permanency given to it by the Finance Department agreeing to receive the same sum of money next year, with the proviso that if the conditions change next year the amount will be altered. I cannot understand why at all the sum must be fixed for the next year, if it is to be hedged by so many conditions. Does it mean that if the prosperity of the Railways continues, as it has continued during the last few years, the general revenues will not benefit to any extent more than Rs. 32 crores but on the other hand if the income of the railways drops, the Finance Member under this convention will agree to a reduction of that amount?

Apart from this, what I should like to say is in regard to the purchases of locomotives and wagons and the allocation of the cost of these rolling stock. The Budget speech anticipates a sum of Rs. 94½ crores to be spent on this item. The actual figures given in the Honourable Member's speech do not exactly tally with the figures furnished in the latest report of the Railway Standing Finance Committee. In para. 9, page 5 of that report, 24 crores which is to be debited to revenue this year is made up of one crore fifty lakhs in regard to the writing off of 50 per cent of the cost of certain works constructed by the Railways at their own expenses, the railway's share in the cost of military sidings being 3 crores—and the share of the cost of wagons and locomotives is

19 50 crores. But in the speech of the Honourable Member in working out the figures it is revealed that the sum that will be debited will be 24 crores, which will be exclusively the cost of the purchase of wagons and locomotives. On the question of the purchase of locomotives I have one remark to make. How has the purchase been made? I understand by reading a book by Mr. Edward Stettinius who was in the past the lease-lend administrator of the United States and who now happens to be the Foreign Secretary, that the need of India in regard to locomotives has been very serious, partly because India has supplied a number of locomotives to the Middle East. America had therefore felt that in order to keep up the war morale of this country and to help it to face the Japanese war, she would have to be supplied with locomotives. I, therefore, think that this matter of locomotives must have come under lease-lend aid. Therefore, the debit is a book debit, which has been made by the Finance Department on to the War Transport Department. Nowhere either in the report of the Railway Board or in any other statement of figures supplied to us has the cost of these locomotives been indicated. Probably, the cost has not been indicated yet either to the Indian Government or to the War Transport Department because perhaps they have been supplied free. I would therefore like to have the information as to how this 94 crores odd, in so far as the portion which relates to the purchase of locomotives, is accounted for. I would also like to know what has happened to the debit to the War Department or to the general revenues, as the case may be, in regard to locomotives sent to the Middle East. My Honourable friend on my left has, by reading the report of the Railway Board, arrived at an estimate of the number of locomotives sent to the Middle East which he expects to be somewhere in the region of 221. No figures have been furnished to us in regard to the credit that should have been given to the War Transport Department.

I now come to the question of some portion of the cost of these items to be debited to working expenses. The reasons furnished in the Honourable Member's speech are for every Member to read but I would like to ask if these reasons are based on an astrological presumption that the prices at which these locomotives and wagons have now been purchased will not be the prices near about which the prices of such goods will be stabilised in the near future. What is the authority for the Honourable the War Transport Member and his financial advisers to assume that the prices are going to be lowered considerably within the next two or three years and that the prices will be stabilised at a considerably lower level approximating to pre-war base. Secondly, the Honourable the War Transport Member has taken shelter under a constant cry that has been raised inside this House and outside that the railway assets have been over-capitalised. I agree that that might have been a correct charge if it could have been proved in relation to conditions existing in the past. But today what is the capital value of these assets? It is well known that a bank in country which de-values its currency, is permitted to re-value its gold holdings. If it is a question of assessing the value of the capital, should not the War Transport Member assess the value today and find out whether it is over-capitalised or under-capitalised. I say with all the emphasis at my command that if the capital assets of the railways are assessed today, they will show a considerable augmentation of their value and the cry, therefore, that nothing should be added to the capital so as to increase the capital of a concern which is already over-capitalised is right.

Sir, there are a number of other points to be considered in regard to this particular matter of allocation of expenditure. Take the question of military sidings. One half share is being undertaken by the War Department in the matter of new works like military sidings and the other half is accepted by the railways, but actually the railway share is also sought to be debited to the revenue accounts. Are these assets completely wasted assets? I would like to ask the War Transport Member and his colleague the Finance Member if they will jointly recommend to the Income-tax Department that they will

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

agree to private enterprise also not debiting to capital such capital expenditure and debiting it to working expenses and to give private enterprise the benefit of this method of accounting that the Honourable Member has now followed in regard to the assessment of Excess Profits tax. The whole scheme has been that by some means or other the general revenues should be denied 24 crores that would be due to it this year, 30 crores that would be due to it next year and 34 crores that would be due to it in the year following. The cost of locomotives cannot be assessed because no figures are given, these locomotives having been supplied under lease-lend. In regard to other items there are assets which can be valued and they are not taken into account as assets. They are merely put down to the working expenses. It is all a question of reducing the surplus by one method or the other.

In this connection, before I sit down, I would like to ask this: What is the contribution of the War Department in regard to Military Traffic carried by the Railways? What has been the contribution of the Finance Department in respect of the American traffic carried for which they took the responsibility as part of the mutual aid scheme with U. S. A.? I understand that by means of certain questions raised by an Honourable friend on my right certain figures were given but I cannot vouchsafe to their correctness. It is said that a sum of 17 crores was mentioned as being the contribution in regard to Military traffic and a sum of 3 crores was mentioned in regard to the contribution as against the American traffic carried. If these figures are correct, then this was paid by the Finance Department to the War Transport Department and to that extent the general revenues suffer. They have to find 20 crores to pay the Railways. But on the other side whatever return is due to the general revenues is attempted to be limited by all manner of unorthodox accounting methods. We know of only one method in accounting which is the right method and that is the orthodox method. Orthodox accounting is correct accounting and unorthodox accounting cannot be correct accounting but a species of falsification. Where is the justification now to make a departure unless it be that the general revenues must not benefit to that extent, and I think we have a right to ask why this country should be saddled with taxation or other devices to the extent of 24 crores during the current year and 30 crores during the next year when the possibility seems to be now, according to a report which appeared two weeks back in the *Capital*, the editor of which happens to be an Honourable Member of this House, that it is anticipated that there will be deficit in the general budget of 400 crores during the current year. It may be less or it may be more, but why should the tax-payer suffer to the extent of a deficit which can be lessened by 24 crores. All the accounts furnished are done in an unorthodox manner and they cannot be supported by any orthodox accounting procedure which is the only procedure that can be accepted anywhere. I, therefore, say with all the emphasis I can command that this is a fraud on the intelligence of this House to present us with a budget of this type. That is the fundamental defect in this Budget and I would personally not merely be satisfied with a reply to this point from the War Transport Member but I should like the Finance Member also who is ultimately responsible for the finances of this country to tell us how and why he became a party to this Budget.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, let me say at the outset that it is an unusual procedure for a business gentleman who is a Member of the Executive Council to bring forward a Budget only to be supported and seconded immediately thereafter by another business gentleman, without giving a chance to the Opposition to fight it out. Let that practice continue, I have no objection. Let me be heard, I am entitled to be heard at least in the end when my protest will be recorded. Sir, my first and foremost objection to this Budget is that it is not presented by a National Government to a National Assembly nor even by an Indian Member to an Assembly, solely composed of

Indians, but it is presented by an exploiting Government to an Assembly composed of Members of its own choice. Sir, in the concluding portion of the Honourable Member's speech, he says that this country is justly to be proud of this asset, which is almost 100 per cent Indian owned and 99½ per cent operated by Indians. Let me take the last first, that it is operated by 99½ per cent Indians. Is the Honourable Member himself an Indian? Let him quit first, let him give place to an Indian and then I shall be proud of it. (Interruption.) Yes, I shall be proud at least if he is an Indian in charge of this Department. An Indian Member, even if he is not true to India now, I have every hope, will become true later on. That is why I want an Indian Member. Today, Sir, the next link of importance is the Railway Board. Is the Honourable Member in a position to say that the Railway Board is cent per cent Indian? There are two Indian Members on the Railway Board—the Financial Commissioner and one other gentleman—who are there by courtesy. One of them before he was brought here was the General Manager of Assam Bengal Railway—I do not know whether I am correct—evidently he could not be trusted in that position at the time of war and that is why he has been brought over to the Railway Board and some other man placed there. That is how this gentleman happens to be a Member of the Railway Board. I ask, why does not the Honourable Member have complete Indianisation of the Railway Board.

Now, Sir, let me come to the other branches of administration in the Railways. Am I in a position to be proud of a single department in any branch of administration of the Railways? Is there a single Indian who is a General Manager of any Railway. I presume there is none.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is one. On the E. I. R.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, there is one. But I want the tables to be turned. Let there be only one Englishman as the General Manager of a single Railway and let all other Railways be in charge of Indian General Managers. When you, Sir, were a Member of the Public Services Commission, you remarked that it was strange that in this country alone, we are talking of Indianisation. I say, Sir, we are entitled to be Indians in all the services and the Englishmen must try to creep in somehow by the backdoor. But unfortunately the tables are reversed and Indians are in this unfortunate position that they are allowed to remain in the services of their own country only by sufferance from Englishmen.

Now, Sir, let me take up the Engineering Department. All the heads of Departments in this Branch are Europeans. Go to any workshop. Every one of the superior posts is held by Europeans and here and there, there are some Anglo-Indians, but no Indians. I do admit that the brain is European, the nerve is European, the nerve centre is European, the joint is European, possibly the hip and the extremities are Indians. I am ashamed of this state of affairs. Do you want me to be proud of this? You may be proud of your stranglehold on India. Do you want me to be proud of my Railways because the pointsman is an Indian, the station master is an Indian and some other smaller posts are held by Indians? I say they are there by your courtesy because your population in U. K. is small and you cannot bring pointsmen and station masters from there. That is why you have put a smattering of Indians here and there in the Railways. I challenge you to fill up all the 99½ per cent of which you ask me to be proud of today by Europeans, give me only ½ per cent Indians. I shall be satisfied if all the top men are Indians. Let all the low paid servants on the Railways be Europeans. I wish you adopt my suggestion and leave me only ½ per cent Indians. You ask me to be proud of the present position. Are you honest in your suggestion? Will you be proud of this position, if you were in my place?

Another point on which I am invited to be proud is that the Railways are cent per cent state-owned. What is there for me to be proud of? The railway lines are rotting and worn out, the sleepers are all being crushed by constant

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar].

wear and tear, the wagons are all old, some engines are older still. Therefore I have nothing to be proud of. I am to be ashamed of this asset of 800 crores over which I am paying 24 crores by way of interest. Is this an asset? Far from it. It is a liability and not an asset. Mother earth is mine, the sleeper is not mine, the railway line is not mine, the engine is not mine, the wagon is not mine. I see the Honourable Member is staring at me. When I say that the engine and the wagon are not mine, true they are mine in the sense that I paid for them, but am I to be proud of a single engine? Did I manufacture even a single one in this country? I shall be proud of my engines if I manufactured them in this country, not when I purchase them by paying exorbitant prices abroad. Even during the stress and strain of war, the Government of India have not thought it worth while to manufacture engines in this country. Tiny Australia—no doubt it is large in area, but it is very small in population barely a few millions—Australia is able to manufacture aeroplanes, it is able to manufacture motor cars, engines and other machinery. Still, poor India with a population of 400 millions is kept merely as the milch cow for European exploiters, Indians are to be mere hewers of wood and drawers of water. We are kept as servants and you boss over us as masters. You ask me to be proud of this. I have to hang down my head in shame. Only Mother earth is mine, and you have loaded all these liabilities on my head. Today I cannot be proud of the one thing or other. You have committed my country for thirty long years. For what? For all the engines to be brought from abroad. Neither the Honourable Member for War Transport nor the Honourable Member who supported him just now in his speech has done a single act which should make me proud of it. They have planned together to import all the engines and all the wagons and all the necessary materials from abroad so that for the next two or three generations, there may be no chance for India to manufacture any of these articles. For how many wagons, for how many engines did the Honourable Member for War Transport give orders in 1942? The articles which he has ordered will serve not only myself, but my son, my grandson and great grandson. He has bound this country hand and foot for all times to come by not giving any opportunity for this country to manufacture any one of these articles. Am I to be proud of this? On the other hand he must be proud because he has placed orders in his own country for such large quantity of materials to be imported into India. What is the position? We have ordered for nearly 1,300 engines and in addition to these another 1,500 odd engines which have been taken to the theatres of war will come to India at the end of the war. These engines have a long life. For the next 30 or 35 years, not a single new engine need be manufactured in India, because there will be no necessity for any new ones. Am I to be proud of this position? Well, Sir, my Honourable friend might say he has selected the place in India for manufacture of engines. In this huge continent of India, he has after all, like another Columbus, discovered Kancharapara for manufacture of engines. Evidently it has taken more than 100 years to find out a single spot in India suitable for the manufacture of locomotives. I am glad that after all he has discovered this place. But what are the handicaps? The war must be over, plant and machinery must be released for manufacture of engines, the workshop must be remodelled for which also materials can be released only after the war and the greatest handicap of all, we must find money. I am glad that he does not say, weather permitting. At least, he has no control over elements, otherwise he would have made the elements subserve his own interests. We are at least free with the elements. If he could help it, he would have made the fire not burn in India and the steel not to melt in India. There may be so many other difficulties, so many obstacles put in our way before taking up actually the manufacture of locomotives. All these are meant only to help his own country and to keep India down for all time to be at the mercy of his country in the matter of locomotives. Do you want me to be proud of this state of affairs? I am ashamed of my plight.

Let me now take up the wagon position. Most of the wagons are rotten. They will be scrapped over night, if it suits the interest of the Britisher. Am I in a position to keep a wagon going or to scrap it? Am I entrusted with this task of scrapping it or retaining a single wagon? I may not scrap a single wagon, I may not retain a single wagon, I may not replace a single wagon. It may be that the wagons at present in stock are useful and therefore it may be superfluous to order for more today. But since I have no say in the matter of scrapping or replacing, if you order for more, it may be that to some extent it will impede the manufacture of wagons in this country. The Honourable Member himself admits that this does to some extent retard the manufacture of wagons in this country. Why then has he placed orders? He says the remedy is this. Hitherto 480 wagons per year have been scrapped; hereafter he is scrapping 5,400; that will make it easy. It is beautiful logic and we as dumb millions have merely to take this advice from the other side. If I had only the capacity I would ask him to quit, go beyond six thousand miles. I, like dumb driven cattle, am unfortunate enough and unable to protest against this injustice that is being perpetrated in the name of justice and in the name of law and order in this country. That is the tale of woe with respect to wagons.

Next I come to stores. There are 20 crores worth of stores here. A young friend of mine who has just come out of the university wanted me to get him a job somewhere in the Supply Department. I told him that I am in the Opposition and no one will care for what I say. He said, "I do not want any salary; I will make enough money there". What about your stores? We do not know how much there is; and during the war the 20 crores may have become half. I do not know.

As regards grain depots, they are purchasing rice and other things which they themselves do not eat. Even so, has there been any economy in this? Is it economical work? What am I to be proud of? Let me proceed. The Honourable Member has said that this has been State-owned, all operated by the State, and therefore he has now sought, cleverly and ingeniously, a new method of acquiring profit in this country. There are small stragglers on the road. Britisher is the Nawab here and the Governor General. Already it has been planned by him that 400 crores are to be laid on road. Are we worried about roads first? I have not got food to eat; why waste this 400 crores? I did not understand it then, but today I am able to understand it. The Honourable Member says: I am going to form companies here with motor lorries, stifling all small owners and small drivers, and put them on the road for you, and you as the taxpayer will pay 400 crores; you will enjoy a ride in the third class and I will enjoy a ride in the first class. So that on the one hand you are operating the huge asset, according to you, of the railways and you also want to monopolise the road. That is my complaint. Until an automobile industry is started in this country and until there is a national Government

The President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Lastly, as regards rates and fares and amenities for third-class passengers. The Honourable Member in his speech has said, "I have cut down the railway lines, I have cut down passenger trains by 33 per cent, I have cut down vehicles, I have removed the bulbs"—he did not remove the bulbs, though, others did it for him. There is no light, there is no water, there is no sweeping, there is nothing—"I have increased the passenger rates, the goods rates, the parcel rates, and still money is fowing in". These are the amenities given. And lastly he says he is going to have an exhibition,—an exhibition of my disgrace and my shame and an exhibition of his superiority and skill. I know the difficulties. You first-class passengers may not know but I have travelled again and again and I know. What is this exhibition for? It is an exhibition of our disgrace.

Sir, in conclusion I will say, let this bureaucratic machine roll on and on, crushing me and the toiling millions of my countrymen. We shall be there, but God will be our witness. One day I will be the master and the owner of

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar].

my assets, not today by camouflage. I assert once again that this will not continue for long. I will suffer and suffer; I will suffer patiently, but God will come to my rescue one day. I am not proud of this asset I am not going to congratulate the Honourable Member on the budget that he has placed before us; it is mere exploitation.

Mr. Frank B. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I do not propose to deal with the rather baffling array of colossal figures that have been put before us by the Honourable War Transport Member. But it appears to me to be a very impressive account of not only massive but a vital achievement of the Indian railways. In assessing the achievements or the contributions of Indians to the war effort we are apt to lose sight of this most vital contribution by Indians on our railways. Literally our Indian railways have been the wheels on which India's war machine and India's fighting men have been carried forward to victory. And while my Honourable friends opposite may not be disposed to congratulate the European officials, I feel that they must join with me in congratulating the overwhelming majority of Indian personnel, because it is their achievement, an achievement which is an essential part of the war effort of this country. Not only as a representative but as one who is in close touch with tens of thousands of railwaymen I appreciate more than others the tremendous handicaps and difficulties under which Indian railwaymen have had to work and continue to work; and it has only been possible by almost superhuman effort that in spite of inadequate and outworn rolling stock, in spite of outworn and over-age engines, these railways have been maintained and kept running. And I feel that we must offer them—the railways as a whole—our congratulations for doing a stupendous job of work under almost incredible handicaps and difficulties. I am not suggesting for one moment that everything in the garden of railway administration is perfect or near perfect. It is a huge machine and as such humanly it must have its imperfections. But some of us who are unaware of the difficulties under which the railwaymen have to work are inclined to be over-ready and over-facile in directing criticism against the work of the railways, over-ready in condemning the lateness of the trains, because we are not aware of the tremendous difficulties under which those who operate these railways have to work, over-ready to complain against the attitude of the railway servants whom we are only too ready to criticise without appreciating their difficulties.

In his Budget speech the Honourable Member referred to the agreement which is about to be completed in respect of handing over to Messrs. Tata's of the site and works at Singhbhum for the manufacture of boilers. I fail to understand why this measure was necessary. I yield to no one in my regard for Messrs. Tata's as an enterprising and progressive Indian business concern; but when you propose to retain the prospective locomotive manufacturing works at Kanchrapara, when you propose to retain that under State management, I fail to see why you have found it necessary to contemplate handing over the manufacture of boilers to Messrs. Tata's. And I have a very serious complaint to make in this respect. The railways have a very definite policy and a very legitimate policy. They recognise the vital contributions which have been made by certain sections of the people of this country to railway working and railway administration. The Anglo-Indian community has been largely, if not entirely, responsible for building and developing the railways; and in recognition of these services we have a certain quota of employment on the railways. That is recognised and properly recognised railway policy. By handing over an essential railway activity like the manufacture of boilers to a private business concern, what guarantee is there that this recognised policy will be accepted, will be recognised, will be implemented, by a private business concern, such as Messrs. Tata's?

Sir, I feel—although many of my Honourable friends opposite may not agree with me—that I ought to express some gratitude to the Honourable War Transport Member for having pleaded—as I am sure he must have pleaded, the cause

of railwaymen for dearness allowance. This 10 per cent. dearness allowance granted to employees drawing up to Rs. 1,000 has given a long overdue and much-needed relief to the economically hard-pressed and very deserving railwaymen. But there is one particular aspect of this grant of dearness allowance to which I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Member, and I hope he will consider it favourably and, above all, urgently. It is with regard to the overtime earned by railway employees. This 10 per cent. of dearness allowance does not extend to and cover over-time. On the G. I. P. Railway, for instance, only 6½ per cent. dearness allowance is granted in respect of overtime, yet for all other purposes—for the deduction of income-tax, for the deduction of house rent—overtime is regarded as a kind of basic wage or emolument.

In his speech, the Honourable the War Transport Member envisaged an even greater strain not only on the railways but more particularly, as I see it, on railway personnel. This strain, as I see it, is going to reach almost intolerable lengths and while I make an appeal to the Honourable the War Transport Member, I want to sound a warning. Speaking for those whom I represent and who represent the backbone of the railway administration, I assure you that we feel that we must contribute to the maximum in the war effort irrespective of political and other considerations and you will get our wholehearted response, but there is the danger of certain railway officials implementing inconsiderate policies in an effort to squeeze the maximum of effort from the railway employees, and because of this the Honourable Member for War Transport may be faced with gravest difficulties. As I see it, if this policy is inconsiderate—not his policy, but the policy of some railway officials—you will be likely to alienate and to drive away from you your best and most reliable workers. By inconsiderate policies, you will be exposing yourself to the danger of driving your best workers into the fold or into the arms of mushroom and extremist unions. And that is a very grave danger. That is why I would ask the Honourable the War Transport Member that when requests or even demands are made by responsible and sober leaders, people who speak admittedly for tens of thousands of railway employees, I would ask him to accept those demands and to implement those requests. I realize more than any one the need for discipline, but there is a very real tendency today in certain railways and in certain sections of certain railways to misinterpret and to abuse the meaning of discipline. Certain railway officials believe that if they crack or even use the whip, they will cow the railwaymen into accepting conditions which are intolerable. This is a dangerous policy and if you allow your officials, whoever they may be, to carry out this policy, as I have said, you will expose yourself to the danger of alienating your best and your hardest and your most reliable workers.

Probably one of the main sources of discontent today is the question of over-work on the railways. I appreciate, as I have already said, the difficulty which the railway administration has to face in meeting the unprecedented strain placed on it by military and civilian traffic but, where you can do, please try and resolve this very serious problem of under-rest and over-work. The rules are not consistent. There is no uniformity of policy. There is some vague rule that the railwayman is entitled to rest after 12 hours of continuous duty, but this rule today is being honoured in certain parts more in the breach than in the observance. Only recently I made an appeal to the General Manager of the E. I. R. pointing out to him that at a certain place—Mughalsarai—drivers are being required to bring in their trains after 12 or 14 hours of work under the most difficult conditions and that in addition to that they were required to turn their engines which duty was formerly done by shunters and which turning often takes another hour. But the General Manager did not appreciate the fact that a man who has worked for 12 to 14 hours has reached the limit of human endurance and that another half an hour of work is just about the last straw. It is in the case of these difficulties that I would ask the Honourable Member to apply his mind personally and where you can help to give them some relief from over-work to which they are being widely subjected. Please do try and give them some relief.

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony].

Then again some Railways think that they are going to extract or extort a maximum of effort from their running staff by holding out to them all kinds of threats of arbitrary and drastic punishment. For instance, today fines are being imposed for the most petty things. If a driver drops what is known as the lead plug, the E. I. R. went to the extent of putting out a special circular that he would be summarily dismissed and, more than that, that no appeal would lie from this summary dismissal. A man with an unblemished record, with 25 to 30 years service, because a lead plug is dropped and dropped in the circumstances which the driver will tell you were beyond his control, is liable to summary dismissal, and worse than that, he has no right of appeal. Before the war even if he was guilty of this, he was fined Rs. 10. This is the nature of the drastic and unnecessary punishment to which you are subjecting your men. This is not the way in which you should get from them the maximum effort which they have always been willing to give you, as they are giving you today.

I think the Honourable the War Transport Member appreciates the fact that the coal and oil which are used by Railways today are of a very inferior quality and yet on the B. N. Railway and the E. I. R., men are being fined, not merely fined but having it put down on their records

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: fined, for instance, for the alleged excessive consumption of coal.

Sir, there are many other matters with which I would like to have dealt if time had permitted. I will only very briefly refer to them. One is the very widespread discontent and resentment which is being caused, particularly among your oldest and most loyal staff, by the abuse of the principle of selection. Under the cloak of this principle, the likes and dislikes of the officials are being used to select men, and this principle has, I am convinced, in certain parts of the N. W. R. and on the G. I. P., opened the flood gates to favouritism and to nepotism.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I will conclude by just asking the Honourable the War Transport Member that when any demand is made and made by responsible leaders, due consideration should be given to those demands.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): I am glad that by virtue of the circumstances, Government has been able to produce a satisfactory Budget for Railways for the year under reference. Sir, I do not want to go into the details of the financial allocations made in the Budget as having been in the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, I am a party to that to some extent. I do not see that there is much to criticise on that aspect of the matter when there is a surplus budget. I will just make my comments on the general policy of administration. It certainly goes to the credit of the guardians of the so-called "utility service organisation" that they have produced a satisfactory position on the budget. The Honourable Member for Railways has mentioned in his speech about the excess in the passenger traffic as compared with other years, but he has made no mention of the casualties and deaths which have resulted on the railways due to Railway accidents and negligence in the matter of allowing people either to travel on footboards or in some other dangerous ways. When reviewing the working of the railways in India, the stewards of this "national organisation" cannot shirk their responsibility for safety to lives of Indian passengers. That is one very important and material thing for which the House was anxious to have the report of the Honourable the Transport Member and that the administration should not assume a bureaucratic attitude and look upon the Indian passengers as their subjects and slaves and not as their customers or clients. As a matter of fact,

they should look upon Indian passengers as sharers and partners of "this great national asset of railway organisation" in India. I do not want to talk in those terms as the Honourable Member from the Congress Group has talked just before me. I do not agree with all what he has said. I do not want to criticise Railway administrations for the sake of criticism as Congress Group is doing but I would certainly ask this House to consider whether in any country, where there is a responsibility attached to the Government of the people, would there be such a thing and whether such accidents would have been allowed to continue without any effort on the part of the administrations to check them?

Recently the casualties for railway accidents have assumed a proportion which is unparalleled in the history of this country for the last two decades and probably unparalleled even if compared to the figures of accidents in England where even accidents are due to some direct action of the enemy by bombing. The Railway Member has not probably cared to collect the figures of such casualties in the year under review. This only shows what sense of values the railway administrations have for the lives of the travelling public who are customers, clients, and the sharers of this enterprise.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On what ground did the Honourable Member make that suggestion?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: That the railway accidents have been on the increase—and what I will say is that whatever accidents have been reported, they have been mostly to passenger trains. No accidents have been reported of any importance to military specials and in spite of this usual plea has been made that there was always sabotage. If that were so, there would have been far more military specials sabotaged than Indian passenger trains. My complaint is that the Honourable Member did not mention in his speech any figures of the casualties that have been taking place on the railways, either as a result of accidents or as consequence to many passengers being allowed to travel on the footboard, which only meant allowing them to commit suicide.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member suggested that we were callous and did not attempt to collect those figures. I would like to make it clear that we do go into that very carefully.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: You have not given the figures or any statement on this. At least now the Members of the House will judge for themselves how the stewards of this Railway organisation have managed affairs so far as safety to passengers is concerned.

Now the Honourable Member says in his speech that "in the case of many major commodities, there has been progress both in distribution and collection of raw materials combined with economy in transport by means of zoning and rationalisation".

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Sir, I was referring to the Honourable Member's Budget speech, where he had said that "in the case of many other major commodities, there has been progress both in distribution and in collection of raw materials combined with economy in transport by means of zoning and rationalisation". I must confess to a feeling of surprise at this, coming as it does from a member who is himself a great businessman and who has wide and varied association with business. As such, I think his information must be on the lines of the feeling of the different merchants in the matter of arrivals and despatches of many essential commodities. Speaking for one of the major raw materials in this country, I would like to refer to the movement of raw

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]
 cow hides and buffalo hides from different centres in their own zones. The movement of raw hides to Calcutta has been far from satisfactory. In my capacity as President of the Hides and Skins Traders Association, Calcutta, myself and other members of this Association and Madras Buyers Association waited on the Honourable the Transport Member last year and discussed with him the difficulties which we found and explained to him as also to other Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, including the Honourable the Supply Member, the position to which this trade has been reduced and impressed upon them the fact that the trade was facing ruin and destruction because of transport difficulties. I discussed this question with few heads of Railway administration as well. I mean General Manager of different Railways in Calcutta zone and although much lip sympathy was shown nothing of material importance has come out as yet. The Calcutta market which is within the supply line to Madras has suffered miserably and the Madras kip tanners were also made to suffer on this account. Imports of raw hides into Calcutta market have shrunk to about 1/20th or 1/25th of what it used to be during pre-war time. I would ask the Honourable the Transport Member if hides are not a major commodity of this country? Unless facilities for small bookings are provided there is no possibility or chance of improvement in this trade or necessary movement in the zone. My Hide and Skin Traders Association at Calcutta wrote to all priority officers, zonal officers and regional officers, General Managers and heads of Railway administrations on these lines about eight months ago. We outlined even a programme suggesting what best could be done to conserve their coal and give us even limited facilities but nothing has been done so far. Facilities for small bookings for raw hides practically do not exist except on a very limited scale.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Send by passenger trains.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I wish I could do it but that is also not permitted. This has brought ruin to the hide trade, which consists mostly of Muslims and a few of the depressed classes. This is the only trade towards which the greatest apathy has been shown, and non-Muslim officers are anxious to break the back of this trade. I am sorry to make this observations but I am compelled by circumstances to do so when I find that inspite of our representation nothing has been done.

Another point which I want to bring to your notice is that my association has asked its agents and representatives in the different mofussil localities in Calcutta zone not to pay bribes on any account and not to encourage corruption and the result is this impediment to the movement of the trade, a trade which has tried to co-operate with the Government in its efforts on lines of sanctity, purity and honesty. In the end, I would just like to impress upon the Government that this hide trade and its movement is of great importance to 100 millions Muslims as the ruin of the hide trade would mean the ruin of the community which is engaged in it, viz., the Muslims mostly and depressed classes also to some extent. It is a matter of great national anxiety and concern to the Muslim nation as a whole.

I come now to the question of corruptions. The Honourable the Chief Commissioner mentioned about corruption and said that out of about 250 cases launched about 100 convictions were secured. Probably that is the highest satisfaction that he could have and he tried to impress on the Indian representatives that the responsibility of offering bribes lies on the public as well. Probably he forgot that his administration was also responsible. It was his administration which used all sorts of ingenuity in making orders for restrictions, rules of priority giving preference to one community over the other, etc. with the result that so much corruption is prevailing. We all know the scandal which has been going on in the matter of the procurement of wagons and probably in this, officers of high rank and position getting thousand of rupees and more have at least been as much responsible for corruption as the smaller employees.

I want to say a few words regarding the conditions of Muslims in the services. I do not want to develop argument on this as there is no time but I want to say that from your own Railway Board report it is evident that the position has been deteriorating for Muslims. In spite of the fact that the Honourable the Transport Member has given a chit to his officials for the good work that they have done, we have seen that the Divisional Superintendent of Multan, a Muslim, was invalidated without any ceremony and without reference to Railway Board.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is over.

Sir Abdul Halim Guznavi Dacca *cum* Mymensingh: **Muhammadan Rural:** Mr. Deputy President, when I listened to my Honourable friend, the Member for Railways and War Transport, when he delivered his Budget speech, I was reminded of a shareholders' meeting of a prosperous company, the chairman of the company addressing the shareholders and trying to convey to them that under his stewardship the company has prospered and that all was right with the world. I am sure, he did not forget that the prosperity of the railways, over which he presides, as a great commercial magnate of Clive Street, is apparently an illusion. Nevertheless I must extend to him my warm congratulations as he is not making the mistake that was made during the last war, when the huge surplus that was made and the enormous income that was then earned was dissipated and was not conserved.

Before I proceed with my speech, Mr. Deputy President, I wish to give a reply to my Honourable friend on the opposite bench who said that when Sir Edward Benthall observed that Indian Railways are now almost one hundred per cent. Indian-owned, he was ashamed of owning them because the rails were out of date, the wagons were out of date and so on and so forth. But these very Benches, during the last twenty years that I have been a Member of the Assembly, had been advocating, day in and day out, to purchase on behalf of the Government all the Indian railways that were existing in India and since this has been done. . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: (Nominated Non-Official): They wanted the Government to change also.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Please do not interrupt me—I have got only 15 minutes. Now that this is done, the criticism comes in saying "We are ashamed of owning these railways"—a very funny statement indeed. If we had more Englishmen of the type of Sir Edward Benthall in this country, much more than what we have today, things would have been different. I know him for the last twenty-five years (interruption)—you know him only recently: he has worked with Indians and for India, that is my experience.

Now, my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony made certain remarks about the East India Railway. Let me tell this Honourable House that the East India Railway is 90 per cent. Indianised—I will give you the names. The General Manager is an Indian; the Deputy General Manager is an Indian; the Chief Engineer is an Indian; the Chief Mechanical Engineer is an Indian; the Chief Controller of Stores is an Indian; the Chief Accounts Officer is an Indian and many more. If Mr. Anthony felt certain grievances, he had only to tell the members of the local advisory committee of the East India Railway and these would have been set right. He could have told me—I take great interest in the local advisory committee of E. I. Railway of which I am a member. I would have seen that justice was done.

My time is very short and I shall only mention two or three matters. I was surprised to find in my Honourable friend's long speech that he delivered the other day that it did not mention at any stage any plans to give any amenities to the lower class passengers. Last year he came out with a proposal to increase the passenger fares by 25 per cent. which he wanted to place at the disposal of Government for the amenities of third class passengers. . . .

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: You are proposing it this year?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: You proposed it and we opposed it. We did not oppose your idea of providing funds for the amenities of the lower class

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.]

passengers but your increasing the fares. Why have you not provided any money, with the prosperous budget that you have shown this year, for that purpose? Is it because you are still angry with us that we turned down the increase in fares you wanted to impose in order to provide for amenities for the third class passengers? I hope it is not. The Standing Finance Committee have unanimously recommended that provision must be made from 1946 and onwards on as large a scale as possible by appropriation of railway surpluses for a comprehensive programme for amenities to the lower class passengers after the war. I hope my Honourable friend will, in reply to this debate make some sort of announcement that he will accept the proposal made by the Standing Finance Committee. It is long overdue, and it was for the Government to have considered it long long ago; but in spite of this surplus budget, it is amazing that no provision has been made for the amenities of the lower class passengers.

I will now refer to that accident of the 6 Down Punjab Mail train. Unfair criticism has been made of the authorities of that railway. During the twenty years that I have been in this House I have known of many accidents that have happened on this very Railway and many accidents have been debated here. This is the first time, if I may say so, when such prompt action was taken by the East India Railway authorities and they deserve our congratulations. Not only that the head of the Railway Board, my Honourable friend Sir Edward Benthall mentioned.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He is not the head of the Railway Board—he is the Member of Government incharge of Railways.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: He took personal care to see what was being done by the East India Railway authorities so as to give as much relief as possible to the people concerned. (Interruption.) You do not know; your colossal ignorance of the matter

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It equally applies to you.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I will give you complete reply—but after I have finished my speech. I got into touch with the Railway authorities on the 25th November—the accident took place on the 23rd November. As a member of the local advisory committee I kept myself in constant touch with the General Manager by letters, by telephone and by personal interviews and I have the authority of the General Manager. . . .

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Did you go on the spot?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: It was not necessary; and on the authority of the General Manager I say that everything was done to these poor fellows who had to be looked after. The accident took place, as I say, on the 23rd November, but he wrote to me in the beginning of December and gave me full information of the number of killed, the number of seriously wounded and the number that merely needed attention. I have not the time to read this statement, but he gave me a full statement; and what was the result? By the first week of December everyone was discharged from hospital, barring eight who were seriously injured. Not only that. He had made arrangements for quick payment of claims as they came in and still we hear criticism about the administration of the East India Railway and the way in which they managed their affairs after the accident. A reference was made to the Mayor of Karachi. My friend the Mayor of Calcutta met that gentleman in Calcutta when they were having a conference of Mayors there. He was full of praise but what do we hear—that he did not even have a cup of tea.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Praise for what?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Praise for the way in which the accident was managed by the Railway authorities—I mean for the way in which they dealt with the casualties.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad asked the Honourable Member about the cause of the accident and he got a complete reply.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: One reply—sabotage.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: That is a fact. There is no use denying that. That has been found out by the Inspector after inquiry.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: You do not want judicial inquiry?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: That is not necessary in this case. (Interruption). Every one of you will be replied to in the course of the Finance Bill discussion when there is no time limit. I will note down all your questions and give a complete reply. I have no time at my disposal now.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have got one minute more.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I will mention only one matter very briefly. We heard from the Honourable Member that Government have ordered 987 broad gauge engines and so forth. My point is this. He is going on ordering from year to year huge quantities of wagons and also engines, forgetting that he is getting nothing in shape of deliveries.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am a very small man and cannot throw big words on this subject. Others have ventilated many grievances but I have a very serious grievance. Mr. Cuffe the other day in a speech referred to the Railways which have been handed over to the Americans in Assam and are being run by them. This is what he said: They have set up a new standard of keenness, determination and cheerfulness which, I am glad to say, is proving infectious. I think it would be better if we copy this American standard of cheerfulness, determination and keenness. Everything is wanting in our railways. We have no cheerfulness, no amenities, no determination. Our first and second class is worse than third class. Recently I tried to enter a first class compartment at Moradabad and an officer probably military, there said 'I will shoot you if you enter this compartment'. This is the treatment that is being meted out to us. We cannot congratulate the Railway Member on the working of the Railways these days. It has been a complete failure and a complete breakdown. We have been advocating that locomotives should be manufactured in this country. Nothing was done. We said that wagons should be manufactured and nothing has been done. There are no engines, no wagons, no coal, in spite of the Coal Commissioner getting such a fat salary and being imported from England. There are no bogies, no lights, no doors, no bathroom, no bulbs, no water. There are so many complaints and still there are some who congratulate the Honourable the Railway Member. (*An Honourable Member:* "They are first and second class passengers"). Although not a rich man yet I have to travel first and second class but the conditions there are terrible. Now, the O. and T. Railway is a big railway purchased from the company in 1943. There was a big strike of the menial staff from Katihar to Kathgodam for four days. I wanted to move an adjournment motion but it was crowded out and so I did not move. The Railway Member ought to know that they have been promised relief by the local officers. They have called off the strike and it is now up to the Railway Member to see that their pay is standardised according to the scale in State-managed railways. This has not been done in spite of his assurance. The officers are those who were there in the company management days and they bully the clerks. This should be put a stop to. The underdog is very much pressed these days. You talk of high salaries of 1,000 and 2,000 being given further allowances but the underdog is heavily pressed these days. So, I say that this big strike of the menial staff from Katihar to Kathgodam ought to be inquired into and remedied. With these few words I resume my seat, as I got only five minutes with difficulty.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable War Transport Member is clearly possessed of large amounts of surplus and it does not require deep study of the Budget papers for us to know that he does not know what to do with the money which he has got. He therefore disposes of many crores of rupees for purposes for which he is not entitled to do. He charges to the working expenses money which ought to be charged to capital or money which ought to be charged to the

[Mr. N. M. Joshi]

depreciation fund. The Honourable Member's explanation for the prosperity of the Indian Railways is that large amounts of money are available in the country and therefore the railways are prosperous. Sir, there is no doubt about it. The Honourable Member says, therefore, people are travelling by second class and first class. That is what the Honourable Member has said. The Honourable Member is right in saying that there is a large amount of money available in the country, but that money is not with the general population of the country. That money is concentrated in the hands of a few landlords who have got surplus agricultural production to sell and in the hands of big merchants and industrialists. Therefore, he is wrong in saying that the general user of the railway, the general tax-payer in this country, is able to bear the burdens of the Indian transport in this country. He says that more people are travelling by second class and first class and that shows that the general user in the country has got more money to spend. But he does not realise that people who generally travel by third class sometimes go by second class and people who travel by second class sometimes go by first class because travelling under the present circumstances by third class has become very difficult, if not impossible. Similarly, those who travel by second class sometimes have to travel by first class because they do not get second class seats. When, therefore, the Honourable Member has got large amounts of money as surplus, I feel that the first party which should have benefited by it was the general user of the railway, which is equivalent to the general tax-payer of this country. But he fixes what should be given to the general tax-payer at 32 crores and he disposes of his surplus by charging to the working expenses which should have been charged to the Capital and which should have been charged to the Depreciation Fund. I feel that the users of the Indian railways and the general tax-payers deserve better treatment at the hands of the Honourable War Transport Member. They are generally contributing to the Indian railways at the expense of toil, harassment and lot of trouble. At present, the third class traveller and even the second class traveller suffers a great deal of trouble, inconvenience and harassment and out of these troubles and harassment the Honourable the War Transport Member has secured his prosperity. I, therefore, feel that a good part of his surplus should have gone to the general tax-payer when he has got a surplus to dispose of. Instead of that, he gives 24 crores for the current financial year to the working expenses and 30 crores also for the next year to the working expenses instead of charging those items to the Capital and the Depreciation Fund.

I do see that there is room for increasing the working expenses in certain items and if the Honourable Member had real sympathy with the employees of the Indian railways, he should have certainly charged more to the working expenses in improving the conditions of life and work of the railway employees. The railway employee under the present circumstances has to bear much larger responsibilities and has to put forth greater labour than he used to do before. I, therefore, feel that there is room for charging more to the working expenses in improving the conditions of life and work of the railway employees. The railway employees' responsibilities have increased a great deal and the Honourable Member has not yet improved their conditions of life. If the railway employees have to bear larger strain under the present circumstances, I think they deserve to be paid better. That the Honourable Member has not done. It was time that the Honourable Member should have taken step to revise the salaries of the railway employees and paid them better salaries. He has not yet done that. He is waiting, I do not know for what period, to do that. But he must remember that the work of the railway employee has increased; his responsibility has increased; and therefore the salaries of the railway employee should have been increased. He must also remember that when the railway employee deserves to be paid more on account of the greater responsibilities which he has to bear and on account of the greater strain which he has to bear,

the Honourable Member does not pay him well, he simply gives them the temptation for malpractices. As a War Transport Member he must know that the malpractices and bribery on railways have increased and it is due to the fact that the railway man, while his responsibility has increased and while the strain on him has increased, is not paid proportionately. It is the experience of many people now that to secure a third class ticket is not an easy job and the man has to pay a little more, sometimes much more, for the ticket than what is due. This is due to the fact that whilst the railway employee's responsibility has increased, his pay has not increased. I, therefore, feel that the Honourable the War Transport Member should immediately revise the salaries of the railway employees and pay them more because their responsibilities have increased.

Sir, the Honourable Member has not only not revised the salaries of the railway employees but, in spite of what the Honourable the War Transport Member says, even the increased cost of living is not met fully except perhaps in the case of those people who are paid paltry sums of Rs. 10 or Rs. 15. Those who get Rs. 20 do not get their increased cost of living met. I shall not deal with this more fully now because there would be another opportunity to do so, but I should like to tell the War Transport Member that not only has he not revised the salaries of the railway employees but he does not meet even the increased cost of living of the largest number of the railway employees.

Then, the Honourable the War Transport Member should also have improved the conditions of the railway employees on account of their greater strain by reducing the hours of work. In India there are many stations where a railway employee has to work for 12 hours in a day and sometimes an Assistant Station Master for the whole of the night. For years together he has to spend all his nights on railway stations. He could have certainly reduced the hours of work of the railway employees and brought them to the level of the hours of work in other countries by introducing an eight hours day, if not a lower day. I hope the Honourable the War Transport Member will take an opportunity of this surplus to do that. On that subject also I shall not speak at greater length because I may have another opportunity to speak on that.

Then, I would like to suggest to the Honourable the War Transport Member that under his management the Trade Unions of the railway employees which are to protect the interests of the railway employees under these difficult times are not sometimes recognised. There is a Union on the Bengal Assam Railway which has got at present more than 8,000 members. The Union has been asking for recognition. The question of recognition is before the Railway Management as well as the Railway Board for a long time. The Honourable Member has not yet found time to give recognition to this Union. I should like the Honourable Member to consider this question expeditiously because especially on the Bengal and Assam Railway where the Union is not yet recognised, the difficulties of the employees are much greater than elsewhere at present. A number of people are being discharged for very paltry—what is commonly called—offence and these people have got very little opportunity of relief unless the trade union of the employees is recognised. I should like to ask the Honourable Member for War Transport to realise the increased difficulties of railway men in Assam and give their request a sympathetic consideration. There are various questions on which the Honourable Member's department does not take speedy decisions. I have recently got a complaint from certain guards in Bombay working at the Victoria Terminus station. These electric section guards first complained about the smallness of their pay to the Railway Agent and then they sent an appeal to the Railway Board. It is now two long years and the Railway Board has not yet found time to take any decision on this question. These guards have got to discharge very responsible duties on account of the fact that the lines near V. T. are very important, there are a large number of trains running over them, there are a large number of lines put together and the work of these guards is very responsible. Although these men represented their grievances to the management and to the Railway Board, and

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

although two years have now elapsed, the Department has not yet found time to remove those grievances. Whenever the Government of India have got to consider grievances their general policy is to ignore the claims of the lowest paid staff. I have several times protested against this policy of the Government of India, but they still continue to follow that policy. Recently the railwaymen in Delhi represented to the Railway Board their grievances. In considering their grievances, the Railway Board, to some extent met the grievances of the better paid employees, while in the case of inferior servants, they gave very little relief, at least much less relief. I should like the Honourable Member to consider the claims of inferior servants at Delhi, because in their case the need for relief is greater, while the relief given by the War Transport Member is much smaller.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I shall conclude within that time. There is one point which I should like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member for War Transport. The Honourable Member has given provident fund to those people who were not entitled to provident fund before on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member must conclude now. He has exhausted his time.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I shall in one sentence. When the Honourable Member has got such a large surplus, I should like him to consider the question of giving benefits of the provident fund to the lowest paid employees of the Railways on a compulsory basis. I hope the Honourable Member will give sympathetic consideration to the points which I have placed before him relating to the claims of railway men all over the country.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Mr. Rangiah Naidu. I must ask the Honourable Member to finish his speech within ten minutes.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I am sorry, Sir, you have curtailed my time limit by five minutes. However, I will try to finish my speech within ten minutes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member should finish his speech within ten minutes and not merely *try*.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: All right, Sir. Sir, after my advent to this House, this is the second Railway Budget on which I am taking part in the discussion. Last year, in February, when the Railway Budget was under discussion, I was one of those who opposed the Budget tooth and nail, because it contained many controversial items, the most important of which was increase in passenger fares by 25 per cent. Every Honourable Member of this House was tempted to oppose that increase, and in the end it was eliminated from the Budget. On that item we defeated the Government thrice and when it was brought for a fourth time in this House, it was eliminated. Now coming to the Budget speech delivered by the Honourable Member on the 15th instant. I see the Honourable Member is not present in the House now, he must be here when his Budget speech is criticised

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member was here all the time.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I am glad the Honourable Member has now come to the House. I was referring to the Honourable Member's Budget speech. No doubt it is sweet and delicious, but it is an over ripe plantain fruit. I have completely read the speech. Can we pass this Railway Budget without any criticism? There are so many items in the Budget, and so many controversial points in the Budget speech which can be criticised. The Railway Budget is not beyond criticism. The Honourable Member began his speech by saying that there was plenty of money in the country and that was why people were travelling in higher classes, people who were accustomed to travel only in third class are now travelling in first and second class. Why? People like myself

do not draw fat salaries from public funds like the Members of Government. What is paid for us is not even sufficient to make both ends meet, to meet our daily expenses in Delhi. There is no money in the country, people are poor and there is no money which they can afford to waste in higher class travelling. People who cannot afford to travel in higher classes are forced by circumstances to travel in first and second class for want of accommodation in the lower classes. The other day, Prof. Ranga and myself went to Lahore to attend the University Students conference held at Lahore. We returned to Delhi on the night of 11th February. We could not find any accommodation in the third class or even second class and so we were obliged to travel in first class. On account of the enormous restrictions placed by the Government on railway travel by withdrawing the number of trains and so on, there is too much congestion on railways.

Now, Sir, with regard to the Budget, I must say at the outset that if a man speaks or writes about something, he must have practical knowledge of the subject. Without practical knowledge nobody should speak or write. The Budget speech is not an ordinary one. Here it is said:

"The railways can claim with satisfaction that in 1944 nobody in India went short of the necessities of life because of the failure of railway transport."

Is this a practical statement of facts? I have been, as a Member of this Assembly, touring throughout the country, particularly in my own province. I have seen that with regard to the necessities of life there is grave complaint, in every village, in every taluk and everywhere. Nowadays charcoal and fire wood are necessities of life. I have seen railway stations where these things are lying in lots because there are no supply wagons. No wagons are being supplied for months together and so they have been lying there.

Sir, I have no time to deal with all these questions but I made notes of all the controversial points in the Honourable Member's speech.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Place them on the table.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I will; I will certainly deal with them on the cut motions.

Sir, I am glad that the railway authorities have finally decided that the road transport service should be taken by the railways. But I think this move has come only for westernising the industries of India. There are so many complaints already from the Indian companies in the road transport service that the Government has already started cancelling their licenses and permits and European companies have been asked to take cut permits and licenses in their place and run the motor buses. These companies have hitherto been only selling their goods and not running the motor services in any way. Now they are going to be encouraged.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Sir, my Honourable friend the Leader of the European Group said that this budget is on the whole a good one. It is a good one for Europeans but not for Indians.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I cannot on the whole but be gratified by the reception which the speakers in the debate have accorded to the proposals of Government in the Railway Budget. In fact I cannot recall any previous occasion, even in the most prosperous times, of a Member in charge of a prosaic subject like the railways being told that his proposals were "very sweet and delicious". I seem to find that the proposals this year on the whole commend themselves to the House better than the proposals which I placed before them last year. On this occasion there certainly is no pill in the jam.

With regard to the subjects which have been raised by various Honourable Members on the floor of the House, I will try and deal first with the main features, and if time permits, will pass on to the subsidiary points. I think the House will agree that the main features of the Budget are really the rolling stock programme and our method of financing that programme. The first

[Sir Edward Benthall.]

speaker this morning said that in spite of the steps we had taken we still admitted that there was likely to be a shortage of capacity, a shortage of engines and wagons. That to a certain extent is true; but I should like to point out that though it may be true it is *not* the fault of the railways. In so far as it is true it applies to the period immediately in front of us. I indicated in my Budget speech that so far as the movement of goods was concerned we are likely to be in difficulties for the next six or nine months. I indicated too that in the middle of this year we should be getting substantial reinforcements of wagons and that in the meantime locomotives were coming in nicely and being erected on arrival. I anticipate, therefore, that towards the end of the year we shall find that there will begin to be a relief to the goods traffic position; but until we get those reinforcements of wagons I am afraid the position will continue to be extremely tight, as it is at the moment. The Honourable Member suggested that our difficulties were due to the late deliveries of the rolling stock—engines and wagons—which we had on order. In so far as locomotives are concerned I do not think that that is a correct statement of the position. It is true that we placed our first locomotive orders as far back as the early part or the middle of 1942; but nevertheless they have been coming with reasonable punctuality, and I have no complaints on that score.

So far as the wagons are concerned the position is rather different. We started by placing large orders for B. G. wagons on the Indian wagon industry. That was in the middle of 1942; the order was for something like 2,084 wagons,—if I remember the figure correctly,—and we followed it up by a further order for 6,300 wagons later on in that year. It is those wagons for which we are still waiting. We shall not get the last of those orders until the third quarter of 1945 and, as I explained in my Budget speech, that is really the reason why we had to start placing orders so heavily overseas.

Now I came prepared with a long statement to explain the various reasons why the Indian wagon industry was not able to meet the demands of the railways. But other Honourable Members have not expressed a great deal of interest in the reasons and therefore I do not think it necessary to go into details. It would perhaps be sufficient to say that the industry met with grave difficulties, first of all in getting the component parts—the wheels and the axles and the castings—and subsequently in the later stages in getting the necessary labour—the extra riveters—required to keep up or accelerate the programme. But I would like it to be clearly understood that there was no fault of the railways in placing the orders and that the railways do not themselves build the wagons. The Honourable Member who spoke on this subject indicated that he would be very glad to throw all the weight of the interests which he represents behind any efforts to get the programme accelerated and we are most grateful for that assurance.

As regards the question of carriages, I appreciate that more coaching stock is a most urgent necessity for the Indian Railways. But here again we have been up against great difficulties. It is not simply a question, when you want to get rolling stock, of placing the order and expecting it to materialize, but of making complicated arrangements for the underframes, the timber, the lighting apparatus and so on. And in war time it just has not been possible, in view of other priorities to secure all the necessary component parts for making as many coaches as we should have liked to have made. It is true of course that we might have put the manufacture of coaches in front of the manufacture of wagons, but I think that on careful consideration the House will agree that the prime necessity in war time is really to move the goods not only for the army but also for the civil population—the foodstuffs, the other necessities of life and the raw materials and products of industry—and so Government decided to give the priority, in the first instance, to the movements of goods and therefore to the construction of wagons. But even if priority had been given to, for

instance, the steel for making the underframes, there was immediately a difficulty, again on priority grounds, for the manufacture of those underframes. The works which were originally making underframes were turned over to the making of armoured fighting vehicles and at that stage of the war it was absolutely necessary that the maximum possible outturn of armoured fighting vehicles should be achieved. We have, in fact, tried to meet the situation by importation and we have ordered underframes from the only place we could get them at the present time—Australia. We have about 200 broad gauge underframes coming from Australia; we have 100 metre gauge, and one way or another we have in this country about 83 underframes which we are trying to convert into coaches.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How is it possible for Australia to manufacture all that?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot tell you that, but

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Because she has a national Government.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Having got your underframes, the next question is to get the timber for building the coaches. The Railway Board is getting about 30 per cent. of the timber which it requires for its purposes and obviously you must give priority first of all to keeping the coaches which you have got in operation rather than to building new ones. There is not much hope, I am afraid, of getting the extra timber that we require, but again we have been forced to ask the mission now in London to see if they can find any external sources of timber so that we can expedite the manufacture of coaches.

Even when you have got your coaches, we are up against yet another difficulty, and that is the coal position. I need not elaborate very much on that, but, as the House knows, we have had to cut out halts at stations for the conservation of coal and last year we had to cut out some services in certain parts of India on account of the shortage of coal. Just recently we have been on the verge of having to do that again, but so far that has been avoided. It is obviously no good building more carriages unless you can get the coal to put in the engines, but we are ensured that the steps which have been taken to raise more coal are likely to be effective and by the end of the year we hope to get, if we are lucky, another 4 per cent. on our existing stock of coaches. We recognize that this question of providing more coaching stock is one of the greatest urgency and we will do what we can to remedy it, but I have explained the difficulties with which we are meeting.

Turning to certain financial aspects of the Budget to which Honourable Members referred, one Member said that he wished for a simplification of the Budget and the Budget statement. I quite agree with him. It is a most complex statement, but it is a complex subject and it is rather inevitable that it should be presented in a complex way. For myself, when I am trying to present the Budget, I always try to present it in the simplest way and to eliminate figures as far as possible, but it is a Budget and it has to deal with figures, and it is almost impossible to avoid dealing with it in a complex way.

I understood Mr. Krishnamachari to say that he disagreed with the financial arrangements which Government proposed. One of the reasons he gave was that the proposals were a departure from the recognized rules of Government finance in dealing with the Railway Budget. Well, I myself said that these proposals were somewhat unorthodox but by that I meant merely that they were a deviation from the standard doctrine, not that they were in any way unsound. Quite the reverse. I consider that had we not attempted to deal with this big financial problem of the rolling stock now, we should have been justly subject to criticism. My Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, suggested, if I heard him aright that the way in which we presented these figures was a fraud on the public. I think those were the words he used. Well; they may not have been very clearly put forward. As I say it is difficult to deal with complicated matters of this sort but there has been no

[Sir Edward Benthall.] attempt to conceal the facts. As a matter of fact we have dealt most fully with them and tried to explain them to the best of our ability. The facts are all there and if the Honourable Member will really study them he will see that there is no attempt whatever to hide anything. We wanted them to be discussed and understood as fully as possible and if there is any doubt about that I think the Honourable Member should recollect that the whole of these discussions have been before the Standing Finance Committee of the House on two or three occasions and the verdict of the Standing Finance Committee was that the Committee considers that the proposals of Government are based on principles of sound and prudent finance, and in view of this the Committee approves of them. So that the Standing Finance Committee of the House has had the fullest opportunity to examine these proposals and I think their verdict is pretty clear.

Some Honourable Member drew attention to the further recommendation of the Standing Finance Committee that from 1946 onwards after providing for the special liabilities arising out of the excessive costs of works, wagons and locomotives, special provision should be made each year on as large a scale as possible, with due regard to the needs of general revenues, for appropriation of surplus until the total provision is adequate for the execution of a programme for such amenities in the shortest possible time.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why did the Honourable Member not call a meeting of the Convention Committee which has been specially appointed for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Frankly it did not occur to me but that is not a very good reason. It does, however, fall within the function of the Standing Finance Committee which examines these figures every year and it does not strictly fall within the function of the Convention Committee, because there is no proposal to alter the convention. If the Honourable Member will recollect, the surpluses of each particular year are to be distributed in accordance with the circumstances of that year.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That is why the Convention Committee was appointed. When that statement was made by the Honourable Member it was suggested that it should be properly examined.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Every year.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, not every year. The Convention Committee considers the convention and having considered it makes proposals for a new convention. The Convention Resolution of 1943 lays down that "for subsequent years, until a new convention is adopted by the Assembly, the allocation of the surplus on commercial lines between the railway reserves and general revenues shall be decided each year on consideration of the needs of the railway and general revenues". That having been laid down, we followed the normal procedure of placing the full figures before three meetings of the Standing Finance Committee in order that they may be fully seized of the facts.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The appointment of the new Convention Committee was due to the Resolution that the Honourable Member has read out.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: You cannot have too many Committees of the House considering the same thing. The Convention Committee was appointed to consider the convention, and it has been the proper function for many years of the Standing Finance Committee to consider the Budget.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Honourable Member

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I cannot give way.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was saying that with regard to the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee their recommendation is not very different from my own comments in paragraph 15 of my

speech, in which I said that from the point of view of sound railway finance and post-war railway development, with particular reference to the amenities position, determined efforts should be made during years of good surpluses thereafter to build up the reserve to a far higher figure.

Mr. Krishnamachari made interesting remarks about the valuation of assets. I understand there is likely to be a cut motion on railway finance generally, and I think that that would be a more appropriate time to deal with these remarks. He also asked what had happened to the Convention Committee. As I understand the position, the Convention Committee continues to exist and will in due course take up its duties again. That is what I referred to when I said, in connection with the Depreciation Fund, that the examination being carried out by Mr. Sankara Iyer could not be completed in war time, but that the subject would be taken up again at a more convenient time.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: You mean to say that the Convention Committee will meet after the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There may be other questions. I do not regard the Committee as dead, but we cannot proceed with that investigation.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: In the meantime you can make any allocation you like between capital and revenue and between the general revenues and the railway revenues!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The proposals come before the Standing Finance Committee. In this case they unanimously approved them as being sound. They subsequently come to the House.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I am not contesting the soundness of them. I am contesting the way in which they are done. The Finance Member and the Transport Member get together and dish up a revision for the edification of the Honourable House.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Somebody has to get together and dish up a revision. That is placed before the Standing Finance Committee of the House, in this case on three occasions, and subsequently it is thrown open to debate in the House.

Proceeding, I understand that to-morrow there is to be a debate on a cut motion on the road-rail problem. I wish to say one or two things about that in advance. I would urge speakers, if they possibly can, to read before-hand a considered statement which I made before the Post-War Policy Committee on January 15 and which was published in the press on the following morning.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is it the General Policy Committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, the Post-war Transport Policy Committee the proceedings of which were published in the press on the 16th January. In that there is a carefully considered statement of the Government's policy and I would like that the debate tomorrow should be conducted on the basis of what is actually Government's policy and not what some people are afraid it is going to be. I think it would help a great deal if we start off in that way.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muham-madan Rural): Will you please supply a copy?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I made the speech on the 15th January, 1945 and it was published in the papers on the 16th January.

I would also remind my Honourable friends that road transport policy very largely rests in the hands of the Provinces. It is the Provinces which control licenses under the Motor Vehicles Act and it is the Provinces who are now determining whether they themselves should go in for state-ownership—by "state-ownership" I mean ownership of transport by the Provinces—or alternatively whether they should or should not take a financial interest in it themselves.

I would also point out what I stressed in the course of the Post-war policy discussions that the railways are not seeking any monopoly on the roads. They are certainly seeking the preservation of a national asset, the Railways, and

[Sir Edward Benthall.]

they are also seeking the creation of a new national asset, that is a sound road transport system. How that is to be built up is the subject of discussions between ourselves and the Provincial Governments, always bearing in mind that it is the Provinces which, under the Motor Vehicles Act, have the control of motor transport. We are faced with the problem of deciding between a policy of coordination or of competition. Government have plumped for coordination and all their plans are based on that assumption.

Sir, I must make a few remarks in reply to points arising on staff questions.

Mr. Anthony, who speaks with experience of railway men, rightly stressed the enormous strain and correctly I must admit on some occasions the overwork, which falls on railway staff, particularly the running staff. I am very glad to hear some Members of the House recognising what a burden does fall upon railway men at the present time. It is not however quite accurate to say that we are attempting to squeeze the maximum out of the staff: far from it. Nor is it correct to say that men who lose their lead plugs are subject to dismissal with no right of appeal. If any circular, such as he said, has gone out, there is no question that it is wrong. I cannot believe it but I will look into the point.

One of our difficulties in staff matters at the present time is to get an adequacy of recruitment. We cannot get enough men and that includes Mr. Anthony's own community. I can assure him, however, that all these staff questions do receive our most sympathetic consideration and I will examine the question which he raised of dearness allowance on overtime.

The Honourable Member, who first spoke for the Congress Party, complained about the number of Europeans still in Railway service. I desired particularly to bring home to Honourable Members the extent to which India possessed the ownership and the responsibility for her Railways, and it transpires that it was very necessary that I should do so, because the Honourable Member displayed an ignorance, which my Honourable friend Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi corrected, about the extent of Indianisation in the higher services of the Railways. I am sure Honourable Members will forgive me if I say, in this connection, that the particular railway to which he referred is the one railway in India, on which Honourable Members should, for the reasons given by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, back up the staff and yet it is most strange that when there is the Punjab Mail accident and when the enquiry report shows with the utmost clarity that this was due to sabotage, Honourable Members could not get out of the old habit of accusing the Government and the administration for the accident, although this Railway is run to a larger extent than any other railway in India by their own countrymen. Sir, the speaker of the Congress Party appeared to suggest that he was proud of the earth work of the railways but not of the rest! Railwaymen are very proud of the Indian Railways as a whole and very proud of their last year's work.

I am very glad to have an opportunity, before I sit down, once again of paying a tribute to the work they have done in the last year and I would like to close my remarks with a word of tribute to the late Chief Commissioner, Sir Leonard Wilson, whose sound judgment had been at the service of the country for four of the most difficult years ever experienced on the Indian Railways. Only those who are closely associated with the problem can know how heavy is the burden of the Chief Commissionership in time of war and I should like to pay tribute to the ability and loyalty with which he carried out his duties.

We are also, in the course of the next few days, to lose another very valued officer, who, during these four difficult years, shared with Sir Leonard Wilson the burden of railway work under war conditions. I refer to Sir Hugh Raper, who retires from the service of the Indian Railways at the end of the week. He has been a Member of this House and is known to most of you. Throughout the war he has never spared himself: he has given of his best to the Indian Railways. He has been a faithful servant of India and has made a notable contribution to the war effort.

I am very glad that on the whole the House has accepted the financial arrangements proposed. I am, however, glad also to hear more than one speaker suggest that the present prosperity is illusory. I think that those are wise words and that Members will look back on them with satisfaction in five or ten years, because these times of prosperity cannot last for ever and we must prepare our finances for a time when we shall not meet with the same margins that we do at the present time. The Railways in this matter are not complacent. We recognise that we have got an exceedingly heavy year in front of us, the heaviest we have ever had, particularly in the next six months. All I can say is that we will do our best to improve the conditions to the best of our ability.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

WAR ALLOWANCE FOR SENIOR MEMBERS OF INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Adjournment Motion: Mr. Krishnamachari.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, I move:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

The provocation for my moving this adjournment motion is very well known to the House. It arises out of an item of news in the *Hindustan Times* (Evening News) of Tuesday last—13th February—which stated that the Government were contemplating the grant of war allowance to senior officers of the Indian Civil Service drawing salaries between one thousand and two thousand rupees; and it went on to say that the rate of allowance to be granted is 17½ per cent. on the salaries drawn; and it appears according to that news item that the genesis of that proposal was at a very salubrious and nice place—Dehra Dun—where the Honourable Home Member met the Chief Secretaries of the various provinces and it was they that pressed for war allowance for senior I.C.S. officers; and it was also said that the percentage they wanted was 20 per cent. One might therefore draw the inevitable conclusion that this Government, however partial it might be to members of the Indian Civil Service, would not be so blatantly invidious in their actions, and any allowance granted to I.C.S. officers, drawing between one thousand and two thousand rupees, will also be given to similarly placed officers who are under the Governor General's service.

I would like to tell the House or such Members as have not perused the reports of the Standing Finance Committee that on the 31st October last a proposal was brought before that committee which had actually taken effect in anticipation of the Standing Finance Committee's approval, by which certain allowances were proposed to be given to married officers drawing up to a thousand rupees—adjustments being made up to 1100 because the allowance is given on the basis of 10 per cent—and to single officers drawing up to Rs. 750 on the basis of 5 per cent. There again we had the old story of representation from Provincial Governments in regard to the difficulties felt by these officers, the sanction of the Secretary of State having been obtained, and that the Government had considered the whole question in all its aspects and felt, notwithstanding the inflationary effect it may have, that such allowances were necessary. The amount to be paid was fairly modest; but when a question was asked as to what were the financial commitments, the Government was not in a position to reply. Anyway, it was an *ex post facto* division placed before the Standing Finance Committee, and I suppose they made the best of a bad bargain and agreed to the proposal.

Less than five months after that proposal, comes the proposal to grant allowances on a much higher scale, to officers drawing between a thousand and

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

two thousand; and if the figure of 17½ per cent. is at all true, one can take it that officers who draw up to 2,300 rupees will benefit by it. When we in this House raised this question we wanted some further information, because it was not denied that this proposal was true, and the Honourable Home Member admitted that the proposals were there; we would have amongst other things liked to have known how the proposals affected people drawing lower salaries. When the first attempt was made by me to move the adjournment of the Assembly, the Honourable Home Member stated that the Government contemplated the grant of some increase in the scale of dearness allowances then current and these proposals also were part of the proposals to grant war allowances to senior officers and that the proposals can be published only when the entire scheme was complete.

So far as the proposal to grant war allowances to senior officers is concerned, I would like the House to consider it from three aspects. The first thing is whether we can, in all conscience, agree to any augmentation of the salaries of officers drawing above a thousand rupees at this stage and up to two thousand. If only people of your experience, Sir, who have served on commissions like the Islington Commission can speak today, you would be able to tell the House of the intensity of the protest that Indians in public life have managed to muster on every occasion an attempt was made to bolster up the salaries of this heaven-born service. The country has never reconciled itself to the high salaries that are being paid; and on the very basis of that fact that no justification can be found to make the poor taxpayer of this country shoulder the burden of so many officers in Government service drawing between a thousand and two thousand, that now exist I think we can condemn the proposal. I shall say a few more words about it later.

My second objection is this, and I think it will be difficult for my Honourable friend the Finance Member, whatever he may have done in regard to this proposal when it was placed before him or when he considered it as a Member of the Executive Council, to get up and say that a proposal of this nature will have no effect on the inflationary trends at present existing in this country. If he proposes to speak at all, as I would very much wish that he does speak and not reserve all his energies for the next month, I would like to draw his attention again to what my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy drew his attention a few days back, to the answer furnished by him to a supplementary question by me in regard to compulsion being put on Government officials drawing lower salaries to invest in national savings certificates; and in that instance my Honourable friend felt that compulsion was necessary. I had in mind definitely those non-gazetted officers or gazetted officers of the lower ranks drawing up to Rs. 250 or Rs. 300, who were compelled by Provincial Governments to subscribe 10 per cent. of their salary to the national savings certificates. I do not know if the knowledge of inflationary economics of my Honourable friend has undergone such a big change between November 1943 and February 1944 or January 1944 as the case may be, to enable him with a clear conscience to allow a proposal like this to be passed through his Department, or to be supported by himself in the Executive Council.

My third grievance against the Government is this, that the manner in which the Honourable the Home Member sought to treat this House, sought to evade the issue, and also the manner in which he dealt with the House when short notice questions were asked, admittedly because he was agreeable to those questions being asked. If the Honourable Member did not want to answer, he could very well have said "I will not accept a short notice question." But having accepted a short notice question I believe, he had not even read this short notice question because when I ask him a question about part (d)—which was I admit, a trap, the Honourable Member did not have the question before him and he did not know what it was and he said the answer covered everything. That is my third reason.

I have not got much time left and I would like to say what I have to say very briefly. I would like the House in making up its mind to take into consideration another fact also: there has been a move of a like nature some time back which ultimately was put into operation about which the House may not be aware, unless it reads proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, of certain benefits to these higher services, benefits which were somewhat concealed. This concealed benefit was in the shape of travelling allowances for officers for travelling on holidays, because these people were working so hard and they have got brain fag and therefore they must be offered inducements to go out on a holiday. As an inducement for them to travel, a maximum of Rs. 300 per year was allowed to them.

Apart from all this, could the Honourable the Home Member or the Honourable the Finance Member say that they have made a scientific calculation of the cost of living of these high placed officers and have come to the conclusion that the salaries paid to them are so inelastic that they cannot make both ends meet and therefore they must be given a subsidy. It is not a fact. It certainly is not a fact that a person drawing more than Rs. 1,000 cannot make both ends meet. It is not impossible for anybody, at any rate an Indian in this country, to live on Rs. 1,000. The Honourable the Home Member and the Honourable the Finance Member who know so much about England, at any rate they ought to, ought to have realised that in England most of the upper middle class people go without the elementary necessities of life. They go without servants, without most of the things they have been accustomed to and they really want. Even if they have the money they cannot purchase anything as there is very little to buy outside the necessities of life. That was the story that was told to us the other day by the Honourable the Finance Member and what do the Honourable the Home Member and the Finance Member expect these members of the Civil Service and other servants to do with these increased salaries? Are they going to put on the market more goods that can be sold to these people, so that the extra money put in the hands of these civil servants will not impinge on an economy affected with a stationary supply, in fact a diminishing supply of goods? Am I to understand, is this House to understand that this increase has been given in order that these officers may spend the extra money on whisky and toilet goods that are being imported into this country under the guise of consumer goods? The Honourable the Finance Member told us some time back that the import of whisky had an anti-inflationary effect. I now understand the truth of that. The truth of the matter is that these higher salaries are given so that they can help that basic trade of Scotland. I see the Honourable the Home Member appreciates the comment. I am sure that his capacity to appreciate it must be very great indeed. What then is the meaning of all this price control? The Government might as well leave these things to take their own course if they propose to indulge in squandering mania of giving these high salaried Government servants more money. Today they come up before us and say that they are going to give allowances for officers drawing from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000. I am sure they would have already started a file for giving war allowances to people drawing between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000 and even Rs. 4,000. Why should not these people also be given something? They are equally good people. They are also spending their money on whisky and other goods that are being imported into this country. The one benefit that has come over to this country—because of the higher prices, because of higher taxation for which the Honourable the Finance Member is responsible—is a degree of equalisation of incomes in this country and it is this that the Government is seeking to neutralise. What then is the use of people in high places pleading that there should be more austerity in the life of well-to-do people in this country. So far as Delhi life is concerned, we know that these Government servants still have their cocktail parties and evening parties, which certainly detract from their ability to do their work conscientiously and in all earnestness at a time like this I would take another opportunity to say something more on this. I will now only say this. Granting that the Government have considered the matter in all its

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

aspects, is it because they find that these Civil servants cannot meet the obligations which they have incurred by way of life insurance and other commitments? Surely all those commitments can be postponed. Have they even considered what is being done in the case of British other ranks where the higher bonus and extra pay are paid as deferred pay? Lastly, may I ask what is the use of placing more money in the hands of a class whose propensity to spend is notoriously great? If there are people who save, it would not matter so far the effect of this move on inflation is concerned. Therefore, I say that this is a very unholy proposal and the proposal ought to be condemned by the House straightaway now. While condemning the proposal, I do hope that the House will take into account the fact that the House has been treated very scurvily by the Treasury Benches and if I had not had this opportunity to speak on this subject, I would have moved a cut motion under the head 'Executive Council', during the Budget debate to indicate our resentment in regard to this attitude of the Treasury Benches. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:
"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): As I explained, these proposals are not yet complete. I am quite unable to let the cat out of the bag for the simple reason that so far it is only a little kitten quite unfit to stand this rough and rather unkind world. But I will give you one or perhaps more than one peep at the kitten. For one thing, it is not a Heaven born cat. The allowances are not exclusively meant for the Indian Civil Service. In fact they bear no relation to the Indian Civil Service whatever. I do not know whether my Honourable friend thought that that was what the proposal was. That is not the case. It was also suggested that these proposals originated at some secret meeting at Dehra Dun. That also is not the case. What happened was this. It is fairly simple. Certain proposals which have been referred to and which were later on laid before the Standing Finance Committee were made for the granting of war allowance to certain classes of officers who are not entitled to dearness allowance. The rate was 10 per cent. for married officers up to a maximum salary limit of Rs. 1,000 and 5 per cent. for unmarried officers up to a limit of Rs. 750. That was the decision of the Government of India and it was given effect to. That decision applied not only to servants of the Government of India but, by agreement, to the servants of Provincial Governments who have agreed in this matter to consult the Government of India and to be consulted by the Government of India. These allowances applied therefore to the servants of the Provincial Governments as well as the servants of the Government of India and also, of course, the servants of the Secretary of State. As soon as these allowances were announced, there was a general outcry from all Provincial Governments that they were inadequate. There were letters and memorials received and that sort of thing. What the Government of India did was this. They wrote round to all Provincial Governments and said—"do you consider these allowances inadequate and, if so, what is your idea of what the allowance should be." We received their proposals. That is to say, we received 11 proposals from the Provincial Governments and certain proposals from the departments of the Government of India. That is 12 in all—12 separate kittens. What we did then was to examine these proposals and see what was reasonable—not only what we thought reasonable but what would be accepted by the Provincial Governments. That is the process which is now going on. It would be quite impossible, while these negotiations are going on with the Provincial Governments, for us to come out with a half-baked scheme. The position is rather a delicate one. The Honourable Member who moved this adjournment motion talked of inflation. It is only by convention really that we can control the allowances that the Provincial Governments give to their employees. Their employees get angry with them if they do not give them more money. They are responsible for their own administration and it is very difficult for us to interfere with them unless the proposal is so outrageous as to be

dangerous to the whole country. Unless that is the case, it is impossible for the Government of India to stop them. All we can do is to ask them to be reasonable; to argue with them and arrive at a solution that will satisfy them all.

Now, one thing that is very remarkable about the proposal of the Provincial Governments is this. The proposals made by the Ministerial Governments were far higher than the proposals made by the section 93 Governments. I will read from one letter:

"This Government are aware that the sanction of the Government of India is not prerequisite to the issue of such orders for a compensatory allowance, but they wish, as far as possible, to act with the approval of the Government of India in a matter which is likely to have repercussions in other Provinces. Nevertheless, they are constrained to emphasise that they are not prepared to wait indefinitely for such approval."

Other Governments say that our previous proposals were "quite inadequate" or "totally inadequate." That is the position. They press for an increase in allowances. They cannot wait longer and they say they are not going to wait longer. They have sent telegrams. If we delay the thing unduly, the Provincial Governments will give allowances probably in some cases far in excess of what they would give in agreement with us.

We are told that we should put these proposals,—perhaps all the Governments proposals, I do not know,—before the Standing Finance Committee. What will be the position? We have our Standing Finance Committee before which we put our proposals. In Bengal also, there is a Standing Finance Committee; and the same is the case with the Punjab, Sind, North-West Frontier Province and Assam. All these provinces have their Standing Finance Committees. Are the Governments of these provinces and the Government of India to be trusted in a matter like this of negotiations, or is it expected that at every stage each of these Governments should put these proposals before its own Standing Finance Committee? In the meantime, what happens? There is a great demand for an increase in pay and there is dissatisfaction not only in the services but also on the part of Provincial Governments. This thing has got to be done with reasonable speed, efficiency and in agreement with the provinces. If Honourable Members admit that Government servants on the same pay should be treated similarly in all provinces, whether they are the employees of the Government of India or of Provincial Governments, then, if a certain Ministerial Government after hearing the views of the Government of India is prepared to give a certain rate of allowance and is prepared to defend its proposals before its own Legislature, is this House prepared to censure that Government? Are you prepared to usurp the powers of the Provincial Legislatures? That is what it amounts to. In the alternative; assume that the Ministerial Governments accept the proposals agreed in with the Government of India. Then the terms of this motion would mean that, this House censures the Government of India for paying to their own servants what other Ministerial Governments are prepared to pay to theirs. Is that the Honourable Member's position? That would certainly be the technical position.

Sir, every vote which is given for this motion today simply means this. That even the Government of India are in agreement with other Provincial Governments as to what they should pay and these Provincial Governments are going to pay these amounts to their servants, yet in the opinion of this House the Government of India employees should not be paid at the same scale as the servants of Provincial Governments. That will be the meaning of every vote cast for this adjournment motion today. I hope Mr. Joshi won't vote for this adjournment motion. If he does vote for it, he will be voting in exact contradiction to what he said about an hour ago. I was very pleased to hear him demand higher wages from the Railways. If Mr. Joshi votes for this motion, he is voting for the proposition that what is done for the services of the Provincial Governments should not be done for the railways. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Mr. President, Sir, I listened to the speech of the Honourable the Home Member and

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

one thing which he was trying to make out was that the Government of India was absolutely helpless in this matter. Here were thirteen Provincial Governments which were very anxious to increase the allowances or salaries of the officials concerned and the Government of India had absolutely no alternative but to fall in line with them, otherwise we would be face to face with a very difficult situation where members of the same service serving in the provinces were receiving one measure of pay and a lower measure of pay while serving the Central Government. This argument would have carried conviction with the Opposition if the Provincial Governments were really autonomous Provincial Governments, which was the desire of the people of this country and which it was intended should be set up in this country. Now, what is the position. Eight out of these thirteen Provincial Governments are the creatures of the Government of India. And when the Honourable the Home Member says that these Provincial Governments are pressing for the increase in the pay and that the Government of India is helpless, I assure him that this argument is not going to carry conviction on this side of the House.

Now, let me tell him something about the other five provincial autonomous Governments. I know something about the Government in my own province

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Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will not be justified in casting reflection on the Provincial Governments.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I am not going to do that. What I do want to say is that because the Defence of India Rules and the Defence of India Act the Provincial Governments are absolutely helpless. In my province a certain zamindar went to the Chief Minister and told him that for his tractors he required a certain number of kerosene oil tins and he allowed him 8 kerosene oil tins. The application was sent to a member of this heaven-born service for compliance and he had the cheek and effrontery to reject it and sent a copy of it to the Prime Minister of an autonomous Provincial Government. This Indian Civil Service and all the other heaven-born services are much too powerful and with the Defence of India Rules and the Defence of India Act we are not prepared to believe that the Provincial Governments can stand the onslaught of these services. The services are much too strongly entrenched. The Honourable the Home Member was very evasive in his replies on the question of the Indian Civil Service, the composition of the Indian Civil Service and the increase in allowances of the Indian Civil Service. He was as slippery as an eel and he tried to avoid answering questions. Now, Sir, he comes forward and says that he will only permit us to have a peep at this kitten. This kitten seems to be a very old fashioned kitten. It is a kitten in *burqa*. We are very grateful to the Honourable the Home Member for allowing us to have a peep at the kitten. We are no more enlightened now than we were when the discussion on this adjournment motion started.

Let us examine the position of these services. What is the present position? We are told that at the end of the war, we are going to have a government of our own choice. In fact, we were told not long ago that the present Government of India is a national Government. Now, Sir, if this is so, and we all know that the war is drawing to a close, one would expect some change of attitude on the part of this so-called national Government, some change in their behaviour, some attempt to take the Opposition into confidence, some attempt to appreciate the point of view of the Opposition, an Opposition which can claim to be the representatives of the voters of this country, a claim which cannot be advanced even by this national Government of India as at present constituted. Where is that change of heart? Where is that change of attitude? It is not the intention of the adjournment motion, we are not going to prejudge any issues, we are not going to say that we do not countenance any increase in the allowances of this service or that service, all that we ask for is this: place all your cards on the table, take the Opposition into confidence, put the case

for these services before us and it will be judged on its merits; and who knows that if the case is very properly put, if it is really a good case that we will not agree to it. There is absolutely no reason for the Government to resort to these secret, hush-hush tactics and not take the Opposition into confidence. Why are the Government afraid of consulting this House? After all a discussion in this House, even a censure motion carried against the Government in this House does not lead to any conclusion. Nothing ever happens. After all we have a right to be heard, we demand that the Home Member of the Government of India will take and must take this House into confidence in regard to whatever proposals he may have for increase of the salaries of these officials. We have no voice in the selection of the members of these services, we have no voice in fixing the salaries of members of these services, we have no voice, Sir, in the matter of composition of these services. Even in the matter of composition of these services, the ratio was fixed something like 20 years ago and the matter is entirely within the discretion of the Governor General and not even the Governor General in Council. Then, Sir, when the services are so very strongly entrenched what are we to do? We are not even to discuss, we have no say in all these matters. Why do you deny us this right? After all we represent the taxpayers in this country. You cannot deny that it is the taxpayer who has to foot the bill. We, who represent the taxpayer, can as a matter of right demand that all proposals for increasing the salaries of any service in India should be brought before this House and the House be given an opportunity to discuss the proposition on its merits.

Now, Sir, the Honourable the Home Member said in reply to supplementaries put in this House that he was not even prepared to put the matter before the Standing Finance Committee. That is a very strange position indeed. After all, we know that the salaries of these services are a charge on the revenues of the Central Government. We also know that under the present Government of India Act, these are non-votable grants. The practice has always been that even though the grants are non-votable, this House is allowed by the Governor General to discuss these matters. If the salaries which are non-votable can be discussed and are being discussed year after year, by this House, there is absolutely no reason why proposals for increase of allowances to these services should not be brought before this House or before the Standing Finance Committee of this House. It is no use taking refuge behind Provincial Governments. It will serve no purpose. The Government of India have been tampering with the composition of Provincial Legislatures. The Government of India and their agents in the provinces have not had the least hesitation in putting behind prison bars the elected representatives of the people, the members of the Legislature, even without a trial, even without bringing formal charges against them. Under the Defence of India Rules, these people have been detained without trial for years on end. We are told that every six months their cases are being reviewed and the reviews are very mechanical. Nothing happens. Detention is continued and these unfortunate people are not even brought before a court of law.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All this has no bearing on the subject-matter of the adjournment motion.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I submit, Sir, that my reference to this has a bearing on the motion, because the whole case of the Honourable the Home Member was built on this bogus plea of provincial autonomy. It exists nowhere except in the imagination of the Honourable the Home Member. It has got absolutely no foundation. I want to make this declaration once and for all that there is no such thing as provincial autonomy even in the five provinces where the Governments of the choice of the people are supposed to be working, because of the continued and persistent interference, in season and out of season, by the Government of India. Sir, I support the adjournment motion and censure the Government of India for the attitude they have taken up.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the chief object of moving this adjournment

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan]

motion was to get some information from the Government about certain allowances that are intended to be given to certain classes of Government servants. It is a tragedy that in this country the non-official members come to know about matters only from newspapers and not direct from this Government. In any other country, it would be the Government that would take the people of the country into their confidence before they take action in any important direction. But this supposedly democratic Government—it is in fact a bureaucratic Government—always does what it likes and goes on doing in the same manner as it has been doing during the last 150 years. Sir, the chief argument that has been advanced by the Honourable the Home Member is that the Government of India have no control with regard to the question of giving allowances to the people who are serving under the Provincial Governments, and it is for the Provincial Governments to do what they like in the matter. Well, Sir, if that is so, then I would say leave the Provincial Governments alone and let them do what they like. But you and the services know fully well that no Provincial Government, in spite of what they may have written to you on paper which was read out, no Provincial Government will have the audacity to give any allowance to any of its employees unless it has had the blessing and the support of the Government of India

That Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is not the fact.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Therefore it is that they want the Government of India to take a decision in this matter with regard to the services that are under their control so that the Provincial Governments may put that forward as a plea to their own people in their various Legislatures where such Legislatures are functioning. Don't you realise, Mr. President, that this is a clever device adopted by those directly interested in this matter to make the suggestion to the Government of India that this must be done and asking the Government of India that you should take a decision. If the Government of India take a decision it will be a support for their decision in the Provincial Governments before their Legislatures. And that is why they want that the Government of India should take a decision.

Now, Sir, I come to the servants of the Government of India. My Honourable friend may have a technical plea with regard to the services under the Provincial Governments, but what is his excuse for not taking this House into confidence with regard to any steps that the Government of India intend to take in respect of services under their control? My Honourable friend has not said a word about it. Leave the Provincial Governments alone; we are not concerned with that. Let us assume for the sake of argument that you have no control over them; but you certainly have control over your own services. Whatever allowances you are going to give will be given from the Central revenues and to the services that are under the Government of India. Why do you object to taking the non-official Members of this House into your confidence before you finally arrive at a certain decision? My Honourable friend has not said a word about it.

Now, Sir, this question whether the employees of Government drawing salaries between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 should get any extra allowance or not is a matter for argument and I do not think that that is really the object of this adjournment motion. We have no proposal before us and therefore it is not right to offer at this stage any criticism of this proposition whether they should get any allowance or not. If Government feel that these people are entitled to receive some relief, it will be for them to make out a case for giving such relief to these services. Every one has sympathy with the people of this country, whether they are or are not in the services; but it will be recognised by every fair-minded person that the services under the Government of India are the best paid services in any part of the world under any Government. I think Government would have a good case if they could show us by example of various other free countries as to what treatment has been meted out to their

servants by their respective governments. The conditions, for instance, in England are far worse than they are in this country, and I would suggest to my Honourable friend there that if they feel that certain allowances and certain relief should be given to these people who are drawing salaries between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000, they should make out a case and show by comparison with the conditions in other parts of the empire whether the servants of this Government here are worse off or better off. On this point I do not think there could be two opinions, and I do not think any Honourable Member of this House can say that it is not necessary for Government to take this House into confidence before they finally decide their action in this matter; and I would request Government to reconsider their decision. I do not want, at least at this stage, to express any opinion as to whether these people should be given any extra allowance or not, although—let me tell you—there is a general feeling that these people do not deserve any extra allowance. But I should not like to express any definite opinion on that point. Still, I would certainly request that before Government take any decision on this matter it is their duty to place their proposals before this House; and I assure them that if they can make out a case that the people drawing salaries between one and two thousand and who are in Government service deserve certain relief and certain special allowances to be given, I for one would be only too glad to support such a proposal. But we cannot give you the responsibility and the power to decide for yourself whatever you in your great wisdom consider to be good for the people who are under you and for the country at large.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend the Home Member has described the position of the Provincial Governments. I do not want to say anything as to the degree in which provincial autonomy is working in these provinces; but there at least the decision is taken by the people who are responsible to the Legislature. Here you are not responsible; the present Members of Government are not responsible to the legislature; and therefore we cannot give them this authority and this power to decide what should be the best in this respect. Therefore so far as the object of this adjournment motion is to condemn this attitude of the Government, that they would not put their proposals before this House before coming finally to a decision in regard to the matter of giving allowances to their servants drawing salaries between one and two thousand, to that extent we will join in condemning the action of Government. I appeal to my Honourable friends over there to reconsider their position and take this House into confidence before a final decision is taken. I do not want my Honourable friend the Home Member to expose his kittens until they are in a position to be placed before the world at large. But when the kitten is no longer a kitten but a ferocious cat, before that cat is let loose I want them to have my views as to whether that cat should be let loose or not. That really is the object of this motion, and I hope Government will reconsider their position. And if they cannot accept this proposition that they should put their proposals before this House before a final decision is made, we on this side of the House will support this adjournment motion which is intended to condemn the action of Government in this respect.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, this is rather a peculiar adjournment motion. Adjournment motions are generally supposed to be censures on Government. Here we are asked to censure Government but we are not told very clearly what the purpose of the censure is. One Honourable Member read in a newspaper that Government were considering giving certain allowances to—I think—the Indian Civil Service he said, and therefore for considering that question he wanted this House to censure Government. Now I also read in the newspapers that certain Honourable Members like myself—elected non-officials—were also considering, in consultation with Government, an increase of their daily allowances. Am I to move a motion of adjournment in this House and ask Honourable Members on this side and on that side as to what

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

increase we are to get in our allowances? The point that I desire to make is that we are not quite certain of what we are discussing; we are not quite certain as to what we are going to censure Government for. Some of my Honourable friends have pointed out that the Provinces are the creatures of the Government of India. That criticism was made in reply to the Honourable the Home Member's statement with regard to the demands made on the Government of India by the Provincial Governments. Now, I can remember a debate in which, so far as I can recollect, I took part myself

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Must have.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: in which we strongly protested at the Government of India's weakness towards the provinces. That was on the Food debate and I can very well recollect many instances given of the defiance showed by the Provincial Governments to the orders of the Government of India about the distribution of food, and if I mistake not, whether it was here or in another place, I urged upon the Government of India then to take strong measures against such Provincial Governments that defy their orders.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Must have been in another place.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: No, that was here and it was some time ago. Therefore I can quite believe that some Provincial Governments are quite capable of defying the Government of India when they choose to do so, whether they be under Ministers or whether they be under Governors. Not so long ago, I think it was only last week, an acting Governor of Bihar got up and told the Finance Member in this Honourable House that the Governor was not prepared to accept the decision of the Finance Member of the Government of India and was prepared to reject it and did reject it, and the Finance Member then tamely got up and said, 'What can I do; here is the ex-Governor of Bihar saying that he would not accept the advice of the Government of India'. I only give a few examples that come to my mind, and I have many more which I can relate where the Provincial Governments can very well defy the Government of India. Therefore, I am prepared to accept what the Honourable the Home Member says with regard to the letters he has received from the Provincial Governments.

Then, Sir, one of my Honourable friends opposite complained—and rightly complained—that we the elected representatives of the people are responsible to the people who elected us for moneys we allow to be spent, but, Mr. President, I can claim, and some of my Honourable friends here can claim with greater justification; of being the guardians of the public purse, because we have attended this Honourable House, so far as I can recollect, every Session and have not absented ourselves for two years and more

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): And you have fattened yourselves at the cost of the people.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: You have fattened yourself at the cost of many people and you are doing so yet.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You are making millions

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: And may I say that I am very glad indeed now to hear my Honourable friends say that they do represent the people and they will insist on representing the people and they will insist on telling Government that they are to be consulted, should be consulted and will be consulted. I am very glad to hear that and I fully endorse what my Honourable friend has said. If we take the trouble of coming here to attend this Session for two or three months at a time, we do expect to be consulted, we do expect to be taken into the confidence of the Government of India. (Interruptions.)

Sir, as I said in the beginning, it is not quite clear as to what we are censuring the Government for. My Honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the

Muslim League Party, said that he was joining in this motion because Government were not going to consult this House and that he resented it and that is why his Party would support in censuring the Government. But, Sir, there are no proposals as he admitted before us

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): There are. It was on this point that the adjournment motion was accepted.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Where are the proposals?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: He will never place those proposals before us.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I maintain that there are no proposals before us.

An Honourable Member: There are.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member proceed with his argument.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Mr. President, if I am to be interrupted, let at least the interruptions be intelligent and such that I can understand.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Do you think that intelligence is the monopoly of capitalists?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have not been able to follow the Honourable Member. Perhaps he would be clear if he had more teeth!

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: The Honourable Member can mince the matter even without his teeth!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, as I have said, there are no proposals

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir I rise on a point of order. The Honourable Member is speaking irrelevant. He is proceeding on the assumption and he is under the impression, which is evidently wrong, that no proposals have been completed and that we are trying to fight the Government in the air. Therefore all the remarks which he has made about it are thoroughly irrelevant.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is no point of order. It may be the Honourable Member's view is otherwise.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: These are the examples of relevant interruptions. At any rate, I still maintain that there are no definite proposals before us, and the complaint is that an assertion was made by

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Honourable Member said that the matter is not definite because there are no proposals, whereas an adjournment motion is only accepted if the matter is definite and of urgent public importance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is entitled to state what he considers to be the position and therefore there is no point of order.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have been endeavouring to say something, but I have not yet succeeded. The point is that we have heard that Government are considering this question and it seems that some Honourable Member has said that this House is not to be consulted and we are now censuring Government on that. Is that the position?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Home Member said that.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I may point out that if salaries or allowances of Government servants are to be increased, those salaries being votable, the expenditure involved must appear in the Budget. So far as I know, Government cannot give allowances to servants whose salaries are votable without making a provision for that in the Budget.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That may be done next year.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: They will provide that in the supplementary grants.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The money must be budgeted; without the money being budgeted it cannot be spent. Or, it has to be brought before the Finance Committee and their sanction has to be taken.

An Honourable Member: No, that is wrong.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That is the procedure. Therefore I maintain that Government cannot increase the salaries or the allowances of servants whose salaries are votable without the knowledge of this House. It is possible that in respect of non-votable salaries, Government may be able to make the increase without the knowledge of this House, but I say that it would be advisable for Government to take the House into its confidence.

As the Honourable Member, the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party, said, we do not wish to pre-judge this issue. I know the hardships which

Government servants are undergoing in making both ends meet. 5 P.M. When eggs cost four annas each,—whether that be the fault of the Finance Member or anyone else I do not know,—when fowls cost Rs. 5 each, a Government servant, even with a salary of Rs. 1,000 p.m., is hard put to it to make both ends meet

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: What about the necessities?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. There is too much noise.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: and if he is a patriotic servant of this country having five or six children, it is possible that under these circumstances we ourselves will agree to increase his salary. Therefore, let us not prejudge this issue. Let us hope that we will be taken into consultation.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He says no.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The time to censure is when the proposals have been put into effect. To censure now is, I think, not in order. I do think that after all this debate has led us nowhere. We have not expressed any definite opinion, nor has any Honourable Member thought any increase should be made, nor have Honourable Members definitely expressed the opinion that the increase should be made up to any limit. We cannot express such opinion and we must await proposals and the time for censure comes when Government put into effect any proposals of which we do not approve.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Then it will be too late.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: If it is too late then it is too late now. If this Government is an irresponsible Government that it is, you may censure them at any time you like. It will be just the same thing. You can censure them now or then, but you will have a better case for censure after they have acted.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I am afraid my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, did less than justice to himself by making a fighting speech on the strength of certain misapprehensions. In the first place, my Honourable friend was quite incorrect in assuming that this motion does not seek to raise a specific issue. I am afraid my Honourable friend was not present in the House this morning, because if he were, he would have remembered that in the first place this motion seeks to raise an issue as regards the proposal to grant certain allowances to senior members of the Indian Civil Service drawing salaries of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000; secondly, it refers to the refusal of the Government to disclose any details to the Assembly until the whole matter becomes an accomplished fact. Sir, these are two distinct issues. My Honourable friend may have his sympathies with the demand for the granting of a war allowance to the category of officers mentioned in this motion. I have no quarrel with him there. He is entitled to have his own views. But I am more concerned with the second issue, and I entirely agree with the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party that in so far as the scheme is not before us at the present moment we had better keep our judgment in reserve regarding the merits of the proposals about which we do not know anything. But I am more concerned about the attitude of the Government of India towards this House. Are we or are we not to expect an opportunity to express our opinions on the proposals before they are transformed into action and before they materialise into budget grants? My Honourable friend the Home Member made it quite clear this morning that he is not prepared to give this House any chance at any time whatsoever to have its say in regard to these

proposals. Moreover, Sir, as far as I understand, the allowances admissible to the category of officers which are specifically mentioned in this motion are likely to be treated as non-voted, and the Assembly will, therefore, have no chance of voting upon the question even in connection with the Budget.

I have been long enough associated with the Central Legislature to be able to claim that the present Home Member is the eighth Home Member of the Government of India with whom I have had occasion to deal; and I hope the House will take it from me that Sir Francis Mudie is the least communicative of all the Home Members that have occupied that exalted office ever since 1921.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: He wants a little persuasion!

Mr. K. C. Neogy: A week ago my Honourable friend to my right tried to move an adjournment motion for the purpose of discussing the first out of the two points involved in this motion which I have read out; and we did not get any information from the Honourable Member on the point beside an admission that certain proposals were under consideration. It was at your instance, Sir, that my Honourable friend put certain short-notice questions just for the purpose of eliciting information on certain specific points, and there again my Honourable friend would not give any helpful reply to any of the clauses of that question. As a matter of fact he did not remember what one particular clause of that question was about. That is the kind of regard that my Honourable friend has for the business of this House.

If my Honourable friend had been a little more communicative on that occasion, perhaps my Honourable friend to my right would not have thought it necessary to occupy the attention of the House on the third occasion for the purpose of getting more information out of the Honourable Member, and after that information did prove to be unsatisfactory to press the motion to a division.

What have we got after all? The Honourable Member told us a lot about the procedure that has to be observed in a matter like this by one carrying on negotiations of a delicate character between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments. He asked, what would happen if this Legislature expressed an opinion which is not the same as that expressed by the Provincial Legislatures? I ask what would happen if the opinion of the Government of India were to be not in accord with the opinion of a few of the Provincial Governments? There must be a general measure of agreement before any proposal of this character can go through. I want to know whether after the negotiations have proceeded far enough to enable the Honourable Member to find that there is a concrete proposal which has received a certain measure of agreement, which will be placed before the House for discussion. I want, once again, to ask the Honourable the Home Member categorically whether he is going to give this House a chance to consider the proposal at some stage. It is not sufficient for the Honourable Member to suggest that the matter is very delicate and the proposals are yet half-baked. My point is when the proposals are fully baked, are they or are they not going to be placed before this House before they are communicated finally to the Secretary of State.

I am afraid there is some amount of misapprehension in regard to the scope of this particular motion. The motion specifically mentions members of the Indian Civil Service getting certain rates of pay. I dare say Provincial Governments have not much concern with the members of the heaven-born service who are controlled by the Secretary of State; and I cannot imagine a Provincial Government to be over-anxious to grant war allowances to this category of officers unless the Central Government themselves take the initiative in the matter. The Honourable Member told us a lot about what has taken place in regard to the grant of war allowances to other categories of officers who are already enjoying them, but he said precious little on what is actually

[Mr. K. C. Neogy]

the proposal in regard to this particular class of officers and whether the initiative was proceeded from the Government of India or from the Provincial Governments.

My honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, pleaded for a change of attitude, and he said that he was surprised that when we were told that we were going to have a National Government in the near future, the Government should refuse to take us into their confidence in a matter of this character. I want to tell my honourable friend, however, that there has been a change of attitude—a change for the worse. I make that statement deliberately, because I am thinking of the procedure that the Government of India followed in the year 1923 in giving the Legislature of the day an opportunity to consider the proposals of the Lee Commission, that epoch-making Commission. I remember very well the day, when we were discussing amendments to certain clauses of the Code of Criminal Procedure on the 25th of January, when the proceedings of the House were interrupted, just when a particular clause of an Amending Bill had been dealt with, by the then Home Member, Sir Malcolm Hailey, for the purpose of reading out to the House an announcement which had been made by the Secretary of State in England regarding the appointment of the Lee Commission. And after reading out that announcement he himself suggested, "Might I suggest that a discussion on this matter might suitably be raised either by question or by motion"—discussion of the desirability of such a Commission coming out to investigate the service conditions. That was what took place in the year 1923, and in pursuance of that suggestion the whole matter was debated by way of an adjournment motion on the 26th January of that year.

When the Lee Commission had made their report what was the procedure that the Government of India followed? The Honourable the Home Member might do worse than read some of those proceedings, in which his predecessor took such lively interest and made such valuable contributions.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I take it that those proceedings were held after the proposals of the Lee Commission were made.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: First of all, the Assembly was given the chance of discussing the very appointment, the proposed appointment of the Commission, as envisaged by the announcement made by the Secretary of State. That was the first stage. The second stage was the report of the Lee Commission, not the Government of India's decisions on that report. My Honourable friend would do well to read up the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly dated the 27th May, 1924. There he will find what the Honourable the Home Member, Sir Alexander Muddiman, said. This is what he said:

"While the Government are anxious to obtain the views of the Assembly at the earliest possible date, it may be necessary" (*he qualified the statement*) "for the Secretary of State to take decisions on matters of urgency."

He himself took the initiative in making the suggestion and placing the proposals for the consideration of the Legislature, subject, of course, to the reservation that in cases of urgency, the Secretary of State might find it necessary to take immediate action.

Then, Sir, there was a Resolution on the subject which was moved on the 9th June, 1924, dealing with the principal features of the Lee Commission's Report. Then again on the 9th June in the course of a statement made by Sir Alexander Muddiman he stated this.

"I am prepared to give (*He pleaded for an adjournment of the debate till the next Session*) "on behalf of the Government of India and also of the Secretary of State, a pledge that no decision on any question or principle or policy shall be arrived at till this House has had an opportunity in the September Session of examining the matter."

Then, of course, in pursuance of that undertaking the discussion took place on the 26th January, 1925. I am not concerned with the merits of the Lee Commission's proposals, nor about the criticisms made by the Legislature. All that is beside the point. I want to know from the Honourable the Home Member whether in February, 1945, he is going to justify the attitude that he has

taken up in the light of what I have placed before this House. I do not want to take up any more time of the House, but I should like him to get up in his seat and repeat that statement categorically that he is not prepared to let this House have an opportunity of discussing the proposals at any stage whatsoever. That is the request that I make to him.

Several Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. President, I am sorry that we have not had the opportunity of hearing the views of the Honourable the Finance Member on this question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): You can never hear the views of the Finance Member while this sort of thing goes on.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: It is very unfortunate that the Honourable the Finance Member did not stand up.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): He did stand up.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid the Honourable the Home Member has not helped the House to understand the position and he brought up the usual smoke-screen of the Provincial Governments to hide whatever action the Government of India contemplate taking in this matter. Sir, I have been told of a story that when Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai went to Burma to negotiate the Burma Agreement the Minister concerned in Burma did not understand what the proposition of Sir Girja Shankar's was, nor did he want to understand but went on interrupting Sir Girja Shankar every five minutes with the words, "I no agree". This Government, likewise, has one answer to every question: The Provincial Government can act on their own initiative and we cannot poach into their preserves.

Sir, the Honourable the Home Member has been clever or, at any rate, thought that he was clever. He has been clever enough to confuse Sir Cowasjee Jehangir but I am afraid he has not been clever enough to hoodwink everybody else. Perhaps he thinks that none of us in this House know anything about a Provincial Government and the knowledge that is vouchsafed to a Chief Secretary of a Province is a thing which is denied to every Member of this Assembly. I would like to tell him that I have experience of what the Provincial Government can do and what it cannot do. I would like to tell him that the posts under the Provincial Government which carry salaries of 1,000 to Rs. 2,000, posts in which it can regulate the salaries, are precious few. The Provincial Government cannot do anything with the posts that are now occupied by the I.C.S., officers, nor can they do anything with regard to the listed posts held by provincial civil servants. And when the Honourable the Home Member says that the Provincial Governments insist on an increase in the allowances to this class of officers, I am afraid it convinces nobody. On the other hand it looked as though he was trying to tell us, taking shelter under some vestige of truth, that the Provincial Governments were not satisfied with the increase in allowances granted to officers drawing up to a thousand rupees. If it is a confusion of issues—I put it that it is a deliberate confusion of issues, it is a deliberate attempt to mislead this House into believing that the Provincial Governments have powers in regard to a large body of officers drawing salaries of a thousand to two thousand, about whose salaries the Government of India cannot interfere. The Government of India is not so helpless. Times without number, members of this House have drawn attention of the Government to the powers vested in the head of this Government under section 126A of the Government of India Act. If the Provincial Governments do rebel and give extra war allowances to officers drawing more than a thousand, the Honourable Finance Member if he so chooses, if he is really concerned about inflation, can get it mopped up by taxation. Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy pointed out very rightly that the Secretary of State's permission is very necessary in

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

regard to an increase of the salary or payment of war allowances to all officers who are in the Indian Civil Service and who hold listed posts. The initiative in the matter of recommendation to the Secretary of State must come from the Government of India. Surely the Secretary of State is not going to say that merely because one province recommends, he is going to accept the recommendation of that province on the head of the Government of India; the responsibility, however much my Honourable friend may deny it, is with the Government of India. The Government of India initiates all these proposals and it is no good taking shelter under the plea that provinces can do what they like.

Once again, I repeat what the Honourable Deputy President of the Muslim League Party said, that this House should protest against this attitude of the Government of India not to take the elected Members of this House into confidence and tell them what their proposals are, because the proposals have undoubtedly emanated from them, otherwise they will never reach the Secretary of State.

The second thing is this: I do not know if after the House records its verdict—I am sure it will be an adverse verdict—if then the Government will have the honesty to cable it to the Secretary of State immediately. Sir, I press my motion.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): What about the first part of the motion which comes under the grant of allowances?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question that has been raised does not relate only to the Home Member's Department—I think it also relates to the Finance Member's Department, if the Finance Member wishes to reply—as a question has been raised about the financial aspect of the matter—I think he can reply.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I had hoped to speak at an earlier stage and I must say that I was somewhat surprised to find that the Opposition did not wish to hear what I wanted to say on the matter.

Honourable Members: No, no.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Opposition insisted that the question be now put, at a stage when I had just managed to get on my feet.

Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I did not notice that the Honourable Finance Member had risen and so I put the question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What I wished to say was this: I did not wish to say much by way of traversing the merits of the case. I only wished to remind the Honourable Member who moved this motion and who, I believe, belongs to the commercial classes, that it has not been unknown in other sections of the community that employees receiving salaries between the limits mentioned should have received some compensation for the economic changes that have taken place in the last few years. If the Honourable Member himself has anything to do with the control of a business, I should like to have asked him how his employees felt and what he has done about it.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: If you had spoken earlier, I would have answered you.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It must be recognised that the developments that have taken place in the last few years during the course of the war have exercised the utmost pressure upon the fixed income classes. It is precisely the fixed income classes who have suffered the maximum hardship. Whatever I may have said on the subject of inflation and whatever I may have said upon the necessity of increasing savings at the present time, I have always had in mind that it is particularly in relation to those large classes of the population whose monetary income has actually increased as a result of the

war. Now, in dealing with Government servants, we are dealing with classes, broadly speaking, whose incomes have remained stationary throughout this time; and I do not see how the Honourable Member can make it a matter calling for protest that the Government should have under consideration steps to provide a remedy for this state of affairs. As my Honourable Colleague the Home Member pointed out, the proposals which the Government have under consideration are not restricted to the classes which the Mover of this Motion has mentioned. In fact, I should be surprised if the cost of the proposals in relation to that class were more than a minute fraction of the total cost of the remedies which the Government of India have in mind. Therefore, I cannot acquit the Honourable the Mover of a desire to import some prejudice into the matter by seizing on what he thought would be an aspect that was most likely to appeal to the Opposition, and would lend itself most to exploitation in this sort of connection.

Now, my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, took a different line. He was not prepared, I understood him to say, to censure the Government because they had under consideration proposals for granting relief to certain classes of their servants. His objection was that the Government were not prepared to take this House into confidence. It was on that matter that I particularly wished to say something before the Mover replied to the debate. It has been pointed out in relation to the functions of the Standing Finance Committee, that that committee normally deals with proposals for voted expenditure. I am quite aware that in many cases where proposals involve both voted and non-voted expenditure they are put before the committee, and in a matter of this kind, I am quite prepared to put these proposals, when they have reached a sufficiently mature stage, before the Standing Finance Committee in order to obtain their views on the proposals. As Sir Cowasjee Jehangir pointed out, in so far as these proposals deal with votable expenditure they will come before this House in the form of Demands for Grants. . . .

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Next year.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No; in this very next Budget, if decisions have been taken before the Budget is voted. Alternatively in the proposals have not matured by the time that the demands for grants are before the House then they will have to be at some stage the subject of demands, and they will have to be voted by this House. However, in view of the emphasis which has been laid on this aspect of the matter, I am quite prepared to endeavour to arrange that the Standing Finance Committee shall have an opportunity of discussing the proposals before orders are finally issued by the Government. It will still be the position that the expenditure resulting from those proposals will, in relation to votable items, have to be put before this House and have to be voted upon. I suggest, Sir, that that would be a reasonable compliance with everything that the Honourable Member could expect. We cannot put proposals before this House or before any committee of this House before they have actually matured and before we can say what they finally will be. We are prepared to put them before the Standing Finance Committee—and I trust that the members of that Committee, having regard to the pressure of business during this Session, will be prepared to meet at any time when I can call it together and will not object to being called at some unusual hour—but subject to that, if that is the desire of the House, I am prepared to have these proposals put before that Committee.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The Honourable Member said that he would put proposals before the Standing Finance Committee before the Government take any action in the matter. If those proposals are ready before the Budget is presented, they will be embodied in the Budget but supposing that by that time the Government are not ready with their proposals, then what would be the position? I just want to know. Would it be possible for this House to consider those proposals either in the form of Budget or some other method, whatever the Finance Member may suggest, during the course

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan] of this Session, because I believe that whatever relief is intended to be given will be given from the 1st of April.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Having regard to the stage which the Budget proposals have reached, I do not anticipate that it will now be possible to include the provision which will result from these decisions in the Demands for Grants which will be put before this House in about a fortnight's time. But I did contemplate that the Standing Finance Committee at any rate would be consulted and the votable items would obviously have to come before this House in the form of supplementary demands at a later stage.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: During the course of this Session?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They would not normally come during the course of this Session.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Then, it would be very difficult for this House to do anything after some payments have already been made to the members of the services. Supposing that the next Session is held in November, I do not think that any discussion by the House at that stage would serve any useful purpose. We on this side would be quite willing to accept the assurance of the Honourable the Finance Member if this House could be given an opportunity of expressing its view during the course of this Session or before the proposals are finally put into effect, whatever the proposals may be. After six or seven months, it may not be possible even for the Government to tell its servants—"Now, what you were receiving will be discontinued." What we want is that before the thing is put into effect this House should be given an opportunity of expressing its views on the proposals of the Government.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a very difficult matter. We have a Budget Session at a certain time. The Session ends at a certain time. If proposals for expenditure mature at a stage too late to be put before this House, the best thing we can do is to lay the expenditure before the House to be voted at a later stage. The Honourable Member may not like to be in the position of having to refuse that type of expenditure or to take the responsibility of suggesting that henceforth allowances which have already been granted should be reduced but I do not see how consistently with the reasonable despatch of business that position can be avoided or what exactly the Honourable Member could expect me to do.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I think what the Honourable Member could do is to give a day for the discussion of these proposals later on during the course of this Session after he has consulted the Standing Finance Committee, if he so desires. Then, of course, it would be open to the Government to come forward with their supplementary estimates later on and before the Government finally arrive at a decision they will be in possession of the opinions of this House. All that we desire is that the Government, before finally arriving at their decision, should be in possession of the views of this House. That is all that we on this side of the House want.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am quite prepared to take that matter into consideration but I would remind the Honourable Member that Provincial Governments who are very much concerned have been pressing for an early decision and once the proposals have been agreed upon with the Provincial Governments we could not hold them up indefinitely. I am quite prepared to consider whether we can fit in an opportunity for this House to consider the matter but after the Standing Finance Committee have seen what the proposals are, the House will perhaps not feel, in view of the pressure of other business, that it will want a day for the discussion.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: We will want a day all right.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Will it not be possible for this item to be brought forward in the form of supplementary grants early in April and to give retrospective effect to the proposals? In that case the Provincial Governments will have no grievance.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Is it not possible that the matter may be laid before the Standing Finance Committee and then brought up in the form of supplementary grants?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is what I have been suggesting.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How can the supplementary grants be brought up unless the Budget has been passed and the expenditure has been met? There is no question of supplementary grant until the next Session. But the definite proposals that you have may be placed before this House to express its opinion upon—whether they are acceptable or not. But if you place supplementary grants, the grants can be rejected by the House if it so desires. That we do not want.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall consider what is practicable. It is obviously a matter which is not easy to settle but I think I know what the general desire is, at least of the Party for which the Honourable Member has spoken. I shall consider what I can do to meet that desire.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In view of the Honourable the Finance Member's statement, does the Mover wish to withdraw his motion.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir.

(After the Division Bell rang.)

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 20th February, 1945.