

1st April 1946

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

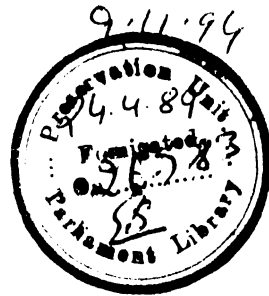
Volume V, 1946

(1st April to 15th April, 1946)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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SARDAR MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday 1st April, 1946.

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

MEMBERS SWORN :

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir Arcot Ramaswami Mudaliar, K.C.S.I (Leader of the House); and

Mr. Alfred Charles Turner (Government of India : Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

CANCELLATION OF ARM LICENCES IN DELHI

1422. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Arm Licences granted in the Province of Delhi during the year 1945;

(b) if it is a fact that any licences were cancelled at the time of their last inspection and renewal; if so, how many, and for what reasons; and

(c) who is the authority in the Province of Delhi for the granting of licences, and if his decision in the matter is final?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) 4016.

(b) Yes. At the time of the last inspection and renewal 174 licences were cancelled as the licencees had not purchased any cartridges (or had purchased less than 50) during the last five years and consequently appeared to have no need for their weapons.

(c) The District Magistrate and the Additional District Magistrate are both empowered to grant licences and an appeal against their orders lies to their immediate superior officers i.e. the Chief Commissioner and the District Magistrate, respectively.

Shri Sri Prakasa : With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is it a condition of grant of licence that a certain number of cartridges must be purchased during the year ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I am not sure whether it is a formal condition, Sir, but it is generally understood that licences which are not used are not entitled to continue.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know why Government have put this consideration on the non-purchase of cartridges. I possess a Colt since burglars visited my house. I have not purchased any ammunition for the last fourteen years, but I would still consider it a great hardship if that was taken away from me. Why do Government put what I call a very mischievous interpretation ? An arm is to be used when an occasion arises ; otherwise it is not to be used.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : An arm cannot be used unless there is ammunition to be put into it.

Mr. Manu Subedar : But if the previous stock of ammunition is there and is adequate, why should a licencee be compelled to purchase further stock unnecessarily ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : Ammunition does not last for ever. I should advise my Honourable friend to test the ammunition before he uses his Colt on burglars.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : May I know if any notice was given to these persons before cancelling their licences ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I am not sure. I have no information on that point.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it for the first time this year that this particular condition, was enforced or this particular consideration was borne in mind for the purpose of cancelling the licences ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I am not sure whether it has been applied in Delhi for the first time, but from my own district experience I can say that it is a matter which every licencing authority has for many years past in mind.

Shri Sri Prakasa : Is it necessary in the opinion of the Honourable Member that arms must be recklessly used before licences for them can be renewed ? Does he not know that arms cannot be used within municipal areas, and there are many people who keep arms for purposes of show and for use only when an occasion arises and do not believe in going about shooting without any rhyme or reason ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : So far as I could follow the part of my Honourable friend's speech.....

Shri Sri Prakasa : It is a question, not speech.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne :.....in which a question was implied, it is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is it a fact that stock of ammunition was frozen and the dealers had no cartridges ? If so, how can the Honourable Member say that the licencees have not purchased cartridges ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I think there is a question further down on the paper which relates to that.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is no distinction made between arms in respect of which licences are granted for the express purpose of self-defence and arms in respect of which licences are granted for port, in regard to the enforcement of the condition that the Honourable Member has mentioned ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : No distinction for what purpose ?

Mr. K. C. Neogy : In the case of arms which are necessary for the purpose of self-defence, there would be no occasion for using any cartridges unless there is an occasion for self-defence.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I think that consideration would be before the licensing authorities.

Mr. President : Next question.

PROSECUTION OF MR. KANDALKAR BY RAILWAY POLICE INSPECTOR, MANMAD

1423. *Sjt. B. S. Hiray : (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether one Mr. Kandalkar, the then Excise Sub-Inspector at Manmad was prosecuted in the year 1944-45, under Section 120 of Railway Act in the Court of the Resident Magistrate at Manmad ?

(b) Is it a fact that the then Railway Police Inspector of Manmad ordered the prosecution ?

(c) What was the decision of that case ? Is it a fact that the learned Magistrate passed very severe strictures against the said Police Inspector of Manmad ?

(d) Is it a fact that the said complaint was lodged after two and a half months after the happening of the alleged offence and after the said Police Inspector had learnt that Mr. Kandalkar had made written complaint against him for unmannerly behaviour to his superiors ?

(e) What expenses the Department had to incur for this trial including the Travelling Allowances of the witnesses ?

(4) What action Government have taken or propose to take against the said Railway Police Inspector?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I cannot undertake to make enquiries about a criminal case which is the concern of the Provincial Government.

REMUNERATIVE PRICES FOR PEASANTS TO PRODUCE FOOD PRODUCTS

1424. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the Government policy to assure peasants remunerative and adequate prices to encourage them to produce more and more food products, including food grains, oil seeds, roots, and fruits;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, why Government have not included it in their list of Fundamental Reforms included in their article on Better Villages published on page 24 of Speakers Digest of March 1946, published by the Field Publicity Organisation and why, when Government are prepared to exhort peasants to organise themselves for Co-operative effort on page 25, they do not exhort peasants to organise themselves to secure adequate prices and also to produce more food grains; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Field Publicity Service to help peasants to obtain remunerative and adequate prices and also to protect them from the rapacity of middle men and Food Procurement Staffs of Government?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) The question should be addressed to the Food Secretary.

(b) and (c). As the organisation is being wound up consequent on the recent vote of this House the questions hardly arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : This is rather a strange position. In regard to part (a). I have asked for information with regard to the Government policy. How am I expected to address the Food Department on this question when every Department of the Government is expected to know what the Government policy is in regard to a specific matter which is brought to the notice.....

Mr. President : Order, order. This means that it will be automatically answered by the Food Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : That is not necessary because this gentleman....

Mr. President : That has been the convention of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I am not talking about the convention of the House. Here is the Department concerned which should know what is the policy of the Government of India on this question.....

Mr. President : Any other question?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : The Honourable Member's reply relates to the present and the future. My question in regard to the particular pamphlet to which I have referred is why is it that they have not done so in the past?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Sir, I only wanted to save the time of the House by not entering into further explanation; but if my Honourable friend will read lower down the pamphlet under the heading 'Fundamental Reforms', it says:

"In addition to these, conditions must be created to enable the agriculturist to speedily market his produce at a cheaper cost."

And then again lower down it is stated:

"It will also be necessary to maintain during the coming years a certain level of price for agricultural produce, which would enable the producer to secure a fair return."

Surely that means that it is the intention that the cultivator should get remunerative prices.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : You do not give it sufficient prominence.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh : Sir I want to know one thing from you. As the Honourable Member says that the matter does not relate to his Department, why was not this question transferred in time to the Department to which it relates ?

Mr. President : The position has already been explained in this House and needs no further explanation.

STOPPAGE OF PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS FOR MIDDLE EAST AND FAR EAST COUNTRIES

1425. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state in how many non-Indian languages, other than English, broadcasts of news and commentary are being carried out by the All-India Radio?

(b) How many of them are directed to the Middle East and Far East countries?

(c) In view of the fact that India is still a subject country without any foreign policy of its own, what is the purpose of these broadcasts?

(d) Does any of the Middle East or Far East countries specifically direct any of their broadcasts to India?

(e) Are Government aware that this propaganda is being carried on for and on behalf of the British Government?

(f) Are the guidance and direction for these broadcasts being received from time to time from that Government?

(g) What is the cost of the broadcasts conducted and directed to the Middle East and Far East countries?

(h) Do the British Government pay any thing towards this expenditure? If not, why not?

(i) In view of the fact that many linguistic areas such as Bihar, Andhra Central Provinces, Sind, are not provided with radio stations, do Government propose to take immediate steps to utilise the transmitters that will become available by stopping Middle East and Far East broadcasts and erect them in these areas?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) 13.

(b) Nine to the Far East and three to the Middle East.

(c) The purpose of these broadcasts is to encourage the people of these countries to listen to India and so promote goodwill and cultural and commercial relations.

(d) Yes. ■

(e) and (f). No. During the war the broadcasts in non-Indian Languages to the Far East were conducted by the Government of India on behalf of His Majesty's Government, but since 1st February, 1946, the Government of India has assumed sole responsibility for them. The broadcasts to the Middle East have always been the responsibility of the Government of India. Information on international affairs is received from His Majesty's Government.

(g) A statement giving the figures of expenditures on Far East and Middle East broadcasts (over the last four years) is laid on the table of the House.

(h) All expenditure on broadcasts conducted by the Government of India on behalf of His Majesty's Government was met by His Majesty's Government. This arrangement was terminated on 1st February, 1946, when His Majesty's Government ceased to control these broadcasts.

(i) The transmitters used for these broadcasts are not technically suited for regional and local broadcasts. The question of expanding internal broadcasting is separately under consideration.

The amount spent by Government of India in respect of its external broadcasts to Far East and Middle East countries during the last four years is as under:—

Year.	Middle East.	Far East.
	Rs.	Rs.
1942-43.	1,06,708	Nil.
1943-44	1,72,671	1,09,000
1944-45	1,84,391	2,59,000
1945-46 (till 31-1-46)	2,16,104	2,73,000

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has there been any reduction in the number of broadcasts put out to these countries after the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Not that I am aware of.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has there been any change since in the kind of broadcasts that are being sent out?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I should think so but I should like notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the material advantage which the Honourable Member thinks that India has derived from these broadcasts? The Government must have had knowledge of the advantage derived when they came to the decision that they should shoulder the whole of this responsibility.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The advantages are imponderable. You can find out only after a lapse of time, what advantage or disadvantage results from such broadcasts.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I enquire whether there is any other country in the world which is reciprocating the courtesy and sends out Indian broadcast except Great Britain?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Certainly. I have got here a list of such broadcasts. Daily news in Urdu from Bandoeng (Java), news broadcasts daily in Hindustani from Kabul, broadcast news and talks in Urdu from Melbourne and news round up in English. Moscow news in Bengali and news in Hindustani, Rangoon news in Hindustani and the B. B. C. have about six talks.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether we are reciprocating the Moscow broadcasts in the Russian language?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are we then reciprocating to all the other countries mentioned or have we still got the Japanese and the Chinese broadcasts and also the Iranian?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: We have all three.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why are we continuing the expenditure on these broadcasts in this country?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I am willing to place the matter before the Advisory Committee of this House so that they may consider whether these broadcasts should continue or not.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Why was not the question placed before the Standing Committee before taking over the responsibility?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Because there was no Standing Committee in existence at the time.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, may I know what non-Indian non-English languages does the Honourable Member patronise in the matter of these broadcasts?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: French, Cantonese, Cochin-Chinese, Chinese, Malay, Amoy, Tai and Japanese.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why does the Honourable Member make these broadcasts if he has to broadcast to all these countries the British material they receive on foreign affairs.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I did not say it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member said that they receive certain information or papers in regard to international and foreign affairs from the British Government and then they use that material ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I said merely that information on international affairs is received from His Majesty's Government. If my Honourable friend would like to provide me with some further information I shall be glad to have it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are we to understand that the Government of India have no information of their own at all in regard to foreign affairs ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why are we depending upon Great Britain for this information and why should we broadcast their information through the Indian radio station at the cost of the Indian taxpayer ?

(No answer was given.)

NON-ACCEPTANCE OF DIRTY SMALL NOTES AT GOVERNMENT TREASURIES

1426. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar : Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the one rupee and two rupee currency notes are not accepted at Government Treasuries, Sub-treasuries and Banks, if they are dirty ;

(b) if there is any provision to that effect ;

(c) if it is a fact that the paper on which these notes are printed easily lends itself to get dirty ; and

(d) if the Honourable Member proposes to issue necessary instructions to accept notes which are dirty ?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : (a) Government Treasuries, Sub-Treasuries and Branches of the Imperial Bank of India conducting Government business are required to and do, accept all soiled and worn notes (including Re. 1/- and Rs. 2/- notes) tendered to them by the general public for exchange. Government are not aware of the practice followed by other banks but it is to be expected that they would also accept such notes readily to maintain good relations with their constituents.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) No further instructions are necessary as the facilities already afforded for exchange are ample and have been widely circulated.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Will the Honourable Member be good enough to issue instructions to banks to accept one thousand rupee notes whether they are dirty or not ?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : That is a different question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Our peasants in the villages are not able to go to distant headquarters and present their dirty notes to the Imperial Bank of India. Will the Honourable Member issue fresh instructions if necessary to all the treasuries to pay cash for these dirty notes whenever they are presented by the rural folk ?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : Instructions were issued as recently as 20th June last year.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Did not the Honourable Member receive any complaints in regard to the non-compliance of their local treasuries with these instructions ?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : I am not aware of any specific complaints.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Have Government got adequate arrangement for the recall of dirty notes when the dirt exceeds a certain point and for their replacement with new notes ?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : I think the general condition of the small denomination notes compares very favourably with those current in any other country in the world.

Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Honourable Member make arrangements in the post offices for the issue of new notes in exchange for dirty notes in the rural areas ?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : I must have notice of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Now that we have given notice of that today will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of that ?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : That is a large question which needs thinking over.

NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF I. N. A. BRUTALITIES

1427. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate number of Indian soldiers who died as a result of torture, flogging, starvation and other brutalities inflicted by officers and other Ranks of the I. N. A. ;

(b) the number of those who were the victims of these brutalities but who survived death ;

(c) the total number of (i) Muslims, (ii) Hindus, and (iii) Sikhs who suffered in the like manner ; and

(d) the reasons for the Government's decision to bring those responsible for brutalities inflicted against prisoners of war to stand their trial in India—though the action took place chiefly in Malaya and Burma ?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) and (c) Reports received so far indicate that probably 26 Indian soldiers died as a direct result of the treatment they received at the hands of the members of the so called Indian National Army. Of these, 14 were Muslims, 5 Hindus, 3 Sikhs and 4 have not been identified.

(b) and (c). As regards the victims of starvation, it is more difficult to apportion the blame exactly but it will be recalled that one quarter of those who remained faithful died while prisoners of war.

In a similar manner the names of 338 Indian soldiers have been reported as victims of brutalities which did not have fatal results. Of these 338, 255 were Muslims, 70 were Hindus (including 30 Gurkhas) and 10 were Sikhs.

(d) Because, Sir, in view of the decision that the policy should be one of clemency except in cases of brutality, it seems preferable that the confirming authority should be the Commander-in-Chief in India rather than an officer not subject to the orders of the Government of India.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Do Government realize even at this late stage that trying these prisoners in India is amounting to a farce, and if so will they stop further prosecutions in India ?

Mr. P. Mason : The reply to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is that it is a matter of opinion. The second part does not arise out of the question put down on the paper.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : May I know from the Honourable Member whether he is aware of the fact that some persons in the I. N. A. trial in their examination-in-chief stated that they were tortured but later on admitted that they were tutored to say so ?

Mr. P. Mason : Tortured by whom, Sir ?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : By the I. N. A. officers.

Mr. P. Mason : They did make such a statement.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : But in the Cross-examination they stated that they had been tutored to say so.

Mr. P. Mason : As far as I recollect the evidence it did not amount to tutoring. What they said was that they had discussed the evidence before they came into court. That is what they said.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Is it or is it not a fact that persons who gave information of such torture were in the custody of the Britishers at the time when such statements were made ?

Mr. P. Mason : Necessarily. They had to be in custody.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member please state whether, in view of the fact that the persons who made such statements were in British custody and at their mercy, and in view of the further fact that there were revelations from them that they were tutored, he would consider the desirability of having this information examined by an expert committee ?

Mr. P. Mason : There is no use of its being discussed by an expert committee. But I would point out that this question is down for discussion later on in the day.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Is the Honourable Member in possession of any information as to how the I. N. A. people were put to similar torture by British officers ?

Mr. P. Mason : I have seen some rather wild statements, but no confirmation of them.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : In view of the feeling existing in the country will the Government consider the abandonment of these trials in India ?

Mr. P. Mason : This would be a matter for discussion in debate and not in a answer to a question.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Is the Honourable Member aware of the public opinion that the I.N.A. and connected people outside India should have been brought to India and tried ?

Mr. P. Mason : That is another point. As far as I am concerned, no I. N. A. military personnel have been tried outside India.

FRIDAY PRAYER HOLIDAY FOR MUSLIM STAFF OF H.M.I. DOCKYARD, BOMBAY

1428. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that the Muslim staff of H. M. I. Dockyard, Bombay, applied for half an hour off on Fridays only for prayers, and that their request had been turned down? If so, why?

(b) Who is responsible for interfering in the religious affairs of the Muslims, and injuring their feelings?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that some of the Muslim staff applied for leave on Fridays. Permission was not granted because Government orders on this subject were not clearly understood at that time. The officers concerned have been informed of the Government orders which enable Muslims to have adequate time for prayers, and these will be observed in future.

(b) There was no intention of interfering with the religious affairs of the Muslim employees.

NUMBER OF BRITISH AND INDIAN OFFICERS OF R.I.N.

1429. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** (a) Will the War Secretary please state, separately, the number of regular Commissioned Officers of the R. I. N. as on the 1st January 1946, the number of Reserve Officers as on the 31st July 1945, the number of European and Indian Officers in both the categories on both the dates and the number of Muslim Officers in both the categories on both the dates?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have decided to select sixty-six Indian officers and Forty European officers from amongst the Reserve officers for the post-war cadre of the R. I. N., or have Government now decided to revise this number?

(c) What is the number of Muslim officers to be appointed out of the sixty-six Indian officers?

(d) Is it a fact that, while selecting permanent officers from amongst the reservists, British officers of higher ranks are being selected in order that British officers should continue to be at the top ladder?

(e) What is the number, rankwise, of British and Indian officers of the regular R. I. N. Cadre?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) Yes, Sir. A detailed statement is placed on the table which gives the number of officers, Europeans, Asiatics, and Muslims (Muslims being included in the Asiatic total numbers) for the 31st July, 1945, the 1st of January 1946, and the 1st of March, 1946, for R.I.N. officers, and for R. I. N. R. and R. I. N. V. R. officers.

(b) Yes, Sir. Proposals for a revision of these numbers are now being considered.

(c) As I have previously said no account of caste or creed is taken in selecting officers for the R.I.N. Up to the 15th of March four Muslim officers are amongst those who have been selected.

(d) No, Sir. Up to the 15th of March nine British officers have been selected for permanent commissions compared with 35 Indian officers.

In the senior ranks the proportion of officers transferring in the rank of Lieut. Commander is Europeans 5 out of 9, and Indians 6 out of 35. Rank on transfer is determined by age and length of service.

(e) Details of the regular R.I.N. cadre of officers on the 1st of March, 1946, are given in a second statement placed on the table.

Statement I.

	On 31st July 1945			On 1st January 1946			On 1st March 1946		
	European	Asiatic	Muslim	European	Asiatic	Muslim	European	Asiatic	Muslim
(i) R. I. N. Officers.	164	66	9	160	68	10	158	77	10
(ii) RINR/VR Officers.	1271	1278	232	927	1242	229	564	1169	219

NOTE.—Asiatic Column includes Muslim figures.

Statement II.

(e) Regular R. I. N. Cadre on 1st March 1946.

	Rear Admiral	Commodore	Captain	Commander	Lt. Commander	Lieut.	S/Lieut.	Midshipman	Cadet	Totals
Europeans	1	5	15	28	30	65	4	9	1	158
Asiatics	..			4	10	37	8	1	17	77
Totals	1	5	15	32	40	102	12	10	18	235

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know whether it is not true that a large number of Indian officers of the R.I.N. have been sent away after 4½ years of good work.

and that a considerable number of British officers are being taken in their place ; if that is so why Government do not stop this practice of taking in further British officers from the reserve of the British Navy ; and why they do not take the more outstanding Indians from among those whom they are going to send away ?

Mr. P. Mason : I feel an apology is due from me, if not from the Honourable Member, to this House for repeating so often what I have said. I have spoken a considerable length on a number of occasions on this. The first part of the Honourable Member's question is whether a large number of British officers are not being taken in. As I just explained, nine British officers have been selected for permanent commissions. As I also said we have asked for 270 and not 500 or 600, as is often said, officers on secondment from the Royal Navy. That is actually to the advantage of the junior Indian officers coming into the R. I. N. because those who come from the R. N. will go back again to the Royal Navy after a short time and will not therefore block the promotion of their juniors. As I also explained, naval officers have to be specialized very considerably. Some of them are trained in communications, navigation and many other branches, and it is necessary to fill the various branches with men who have had the training. It was therefore necessary to try to get certain British officers in certain of the high ranks. This is partly on account of the specialization and partly because so many of the Indian officers are very young. It was therefore necessary to get a certain number of slightly older British officers. As I say, help is given by this to the promotion of the junior Indian officers who have come in by the regular course, in future.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Notwithstanding the frequent explanations of the Honourable Member—he has repeated today what he said before—does he not realize the intense feeling in the country that we do not want the British officers in the Royal Indian Navy ; did not this Government give an assurance categorically to the effect that no further recruitment of British officers or non-Indians will take place in the Royal Indian Navy ; and in view of the great feeling on this subject will he not put this to the Defence Consultative Committee or any other Committee of this House in order to see in what manner those Indians who are being sent away now could be fitted for the positions for which British officers are being taken ?

Mr. P. Mason : As regards (a) the feeling in the country, I do recognize it ; as regards (b) the categorical assurance, no categorical assurance was given. What we said was that no permanent commissions will be given in the R.I.A.F. or in the Indian Army, but in the Royal Indian Navy up to 40 commissions would be given. Nine have been so far given and the position is being considered. As regards (c)—I think that is the final question—whether this question will not be put to the Defence Consultative Committee, I quite agree. It can be considered.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh : Are these British officers who are going to be appointed not the rejects from the British Navy ?

Mr. P. Mason : No, none of them are from the British Navy at all. They are all members of the R.I.N.R. and R.I.N.V.R. None are to be appointed from the British Navy. They are at present serving in the reserves. Those who come from the Royal Navy, if they do come, will be seconded, but I think it very doubtful whether the Admiralty will let them go.

RECOVERY FROM U. K. AND ALLIED GOVERNMENTS OF COMPENSATION PAID FOR BOMBAY EXPLOSIONS

1430. ***Mr. Manu Subedar :** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the final figure of the amount paid out as compensation to (i) private parties, (ii) Bombay Port Trust, and (iii) Bombay Municipality, in respect of the Bombay explosion which took place on the 14th April 1944?

(b) Were representations received by Government from public bodies that the amounts paid out by the Government of India should be recovered from (i) the United Kingdom and or (ii) the Allied Governments?

(c) What progress has been made in the representations, which the late Finance Member promised to make to His Majesty's Government on this subject, and what reply has been received?

(d) Has the money been already recovered? If not, why not?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : (a) There are still some claims which have not yet been disposed of and the final figures are not therefore available. The latest figures are as follows :

(i) payments to private parties—Rs. 15,86 lakhs,

(ii) the Bombay Port Trust's claim is still under expert investigation by a firm of Indian architects and surveyors. A provisional sum of Rs. 2 crores has been included in this year's estimates for this payment,

(iii) payment to the Bombay Municipality—Rs. 14,75 lakhs.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The matter is under the active consideration of His Majesty's Government and an early decision is expected.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know how long these active considerations will continue, because this was exactly the reply given to us one year ago, and the explosion is now two years old, whereas the responsibility of the allied arms through whose mistakes this explosion took place is so obvious to us? May I know how long Government propose to take in active consideration of this matter?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : It is not entirely in our hands; but we have heard recently that we may expect a decision soon.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know why the Finance Department are so slow in collecting what is due to India from the Allied Nations as well as from the United Kingdom, when the United Kingdom and America and others have already settle most of the accounts outstanding between them? May I know why this poor country is kept behind in this very obvious claim?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : It is a very complicated matter: it has very difficult legal issues.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Will the Honourable Member then inform this House what is the reply of His Majesty's Government on this representation which has been sent to them?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : That will be considered when the reply is received.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Do I take it that no reply has been vouchsafed by His Majesty's Government and that this Government is sitting tight and idle and not reminding His Majesty's Government to give a reply on this subject?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : We have had an interim reply.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know the gist of that interim reply?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : That efforts are being made to expedite a decision.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : On a point of order, Sir: the other day I raised a point of order in this House that when the Honourable Member in charge is a Member of this House, he should answer questions, and you were kind to the Treasury Bench by saying that the secretary may answer. But now when there are important questions the Honourable Finance Member who happens to be a Member of this House is not even present at question time, although previously the practice in this House was that Members responsible to the Department—it was the convention—were answering the questions. Afterwards, another practice was laid down that dates were allotted to different Departments, so that Members may not be present in the House at all and for their convenience different dates were given for different Departments for asking questions; but now we find this morning that Finance Member is not even present in the House although there are important questions and decisions of importance have to be taken.

Mr. President : I think I have to say the same thing as I said last time. In order to be able to supply the information or reply to the question, it is not this or that Member or his importance or status in the service that we should be guided by, but we must look to the Member who possesses the best information to be given. All

subjects obviously cannot, I believe, be fully studied by one and the same Member and he will have to rely upon his subordinates for getting the information. But that is a different matter. In the present case, the question that has arisen was not a question of the policy of Government, which the Honourable Member was asking for, but information as to whether the Government of India was merely expediting the disposal and settlement of a debt, and he was asking for the gist of the correspondence between different Governments, a number of Allied Governments being indebted to the Government of India : that is common ground for both the questioner and the person who answered. Under the rules, the Chair cannot compel a particular Member of Government to remain present to answer all replies : he has got the power of delegation under the rules.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I respectfully submit that the Leader of the House should make a note that when Honourable Members are Members of this House they should not treat the House with contempt ; they should resign and go away and let others take their place ; but if they are Members of this House they should at least treat this House with a little more courtesy ; and let me request through you, Sir, the Honourable Leader of the House that Members responsible for their Departments should at least be present when questions are put : the secretaries may answer the questions, but let them be present.

Mr. President : I am afraid I am not able to see eye to eye with the Honourable Member, that absence necessarily implies want of courtesy or no courtesy. It does not imply that at all, because if that were to be the standing rule of interpretation, I am afraid many Members of the opposition can be charged with the same thing. That should not be our point of view at all. Even in Parliament, I believe, there is a practice of parliamentary secretaries answering questions.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : But they are responsible to some one.

Mr. President : Here also they are responsible to some one. This point is sufficiently debated now and we will not take further time from the question hour.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I ask why Government in a year in which they are carrying such a heavy deficit, continue to neglect the collection of 20 crores of rupees from the Allied Governments whose responsibility in this matter is very obvious ?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : I can assure the Honourable Member that we are doing our very best.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : May I invite your attention, Sir, to rule 42 at page 9 of the Manual where it is said ;

" If any question placed on the list of questions for answer on any day is not called for answer within the time available for answering questions on that day, the member to whom the question is addressed shall forthwith lay, etc."

And in another circular, Members are advised as to whom to address a particular question. This seems to imply that in such a case the member to whom the question is addressed should reply ; this is a matter for which specific provision is made and so it appears from the rules that the particular Member to whom the question is addressed should reply.

Mr. President : I may invite the Honourable Member's attention to the definition in rule 2, which says " Member of the Government " means a Member of the Governor General's Executive Council, and includes any Member to whom such Member may delegate any function assigned to him under these rules.

UTILISATION OF DEFENCE FORCES IN FIGHTING FOOD FAMINE

1431. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if he has read the booklet called " Food Problem " published by the Institute of International Affairs through the Oxford Press on India's Food problem ;

(b) whether he has noticed that the pamphlet refers to a number of activities of the Defence Services calculated to help rural reconstruction activities such as anti-erosion fighting malaria, distribution of food, organising rural people for production and distribution of food ;

(c) whether he has also noticed Mahatma Gandhi's suggestion to the private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy that the Defence Services should be placed at the disposal of the public in tackling and solving the food famine and the reply given to him by the Private Secretary;

(d) whether Government have considered, since that correspondence has taken place, how best to utilize the military for this purpose; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of making available the services of the Defence Forces for the Civilian authorities both official and non-official in tackling this food famine?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) No Sir. I have been unable to obtain it.

(b) I am afraid does not therefore arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Yes Sir.

I do not however wish to take advantage of the way the question has been drafted to refuse information. But I will give my friend the following information as to the steps which have been taken to increase food :

(i) All units have been told to grow as much food as possible. Troops may work on the cultivation of crops for three days a week, even at the expense of training.

(ii) All suitable military land will be cultivated.

(iii) Military camping grounds will be handed over for cultivation to anyone who will take them.

(iv) Produce of Military Farms Department is being increased.

(v) Storage space is being placed at the disposal of the Provincial Governments.

(vi) Stocks of food have been released for Provincial administration.

(vii) Stores and plants are being released for anti-famine measures and will be moved from point to point by Army arrangements.

In addition to the measures above, which are designed to increase food stocks, the following steps have been taken to reduce consumption.

(i) Reduction of the basic ration.

(ii) Reduction of the animal ration.

(iii) More attention to cooking.

(iv) Steps for the prevention of waste. Commanders have been instructed to visit food stores, depots and installations more frequently.

(v) Austerity in entertaining.

(vi) Reduction of the export of foodstuffs.

(vii) Export of food parcels has been stopped.

(viii) And finally a cut of 25 per cent of the flour ration and 50 per cent of the sugar ration which is supplied to contractors has been made.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : May I know what instructions have been issued about the leasing of camping grounds ?

Mr. P. Mason : They are to be handed over to cultivators who wish to cultivate them themselves under their own arrangements.

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I know whether the prisoners of war located in India are being sent away.

Mr. P. Mason : I am not quite sure whether it arises out of the question. We are sending them away as fast as we can.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Has the ration of these prisoners of war been reduced in conformity with the revision of the ration for the whole population of India ?

Mr. P. Mason : The ration of prisoners of war is governed by the Geneva Convention. They are bound to get the same ration as the troops of the holding country and as I have explained several times the ration of the troops has been reduced.

Sardar Mangal Singh : There are tube wells in the aerodromes which have been temporarily constructed. I am informed that these tube wells are being dismantled. Will the Honourable Member direct that these tube wells should be used for the grow more food campaign.

Mr. P. Mason : That is an entirely new point. I will look into the question. The probability is that if any one desires to use those tube wells and if they are so situated that they could be used for growing food, they will be handed over.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What facilities will Government provide to make water supply available to those who are willing to take over their lands in the cantonment areas for producing vegetables and other products.

Mr. P. Mason : That will depend upon the locality.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Where water is available, will the military authorities in the concerned area take the necessary steps to make water supply available to these producers?

Mr. P. Mason : If there is water under military control in the neighbourhood this arrangement may be possible but camping grounds generally are at a distance from cantonments when troops used to camp while marching from one cantonment to another.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What steps are being taken to bring this fact to the notice of the local producers so that the vacant lands in cantonment and military areas will be made available to them for cultivation?

Mr. P. Mason : Local arrangements are made. That is notices are made in the local papers. It may also be by beat of drum. I cannot say exactly what the steps are.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : What will be the condition of the leases? Will it be for a number of years or for a short period only?

Mr. P. Mason : I should require notice of that.

Seth Govind Das : Will the Government see that these camping grounds are made fit for cultivation and then given on lease?

Mr. P. Mason : I don't think so.

CANCELLATION OF WARRANTS AGAINST MR. PRATIVADA V. BHAYANKAVACHARI

1432. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state :

(a) if it is a fact that Mr. Prativada V. Bhayankavachari was arrested on the occasion of the Madras Governor's visit to Guntur on the 11th December, 1942, and that after that the Madras Government had imposed on him an internment orders;

(b) whether it is a fact that he went out of internment thereafter and a warrant has been issued for his arrest;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all warrants except the one against Mr. P. V. Bhayankavachari have been cancelled by the Madras Government;

(d) why this warrant against Mr. P. V. Bhayankavachari is not withdrawn; and

(e) the policy of the Government of India in regard to these matters of issuing and cancelling warrants against the so-called underground workers since 1942 August?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) to (d). I have no information.

(e) So far as the Central Government and Chief Commissioners are concerned there are no warrants of arrest pending in respect of offences connected with the 1942 disturbances.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are we to understand that whatever warrants there were have been withdrawn so far as the Centrally administered areas are concerned ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government bring this particular fact to the notice of the Provincial Governments also so that they may also take the same action ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I have already explained that after the war the policy in regard to political prisoners was reconsidered by the various Provincial Governments concerned and the same applies to persons who were not prisoners but against whom warrants were pending.

Shri Sri Prakasa : In view of the fact that the Provincial Governments took action originally at the desire or the order of the Central Government who made these laws and passed those orders, would not the Honourable Member consider the desirability of informing the Provincial Governments that the policy of the Central Government has changed and that they should take the same action as the Central Government ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : Without admitting the assumption made in the first part of the question I will repeat that the Provincial Governments have been informed of the change of policy.

REPATRIATION AND TRIAL OF I. N. A. OFFICERS IN SINGAPORE CAMP

1433. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact—

(i) that Col. Chatterjee, Major Alvi and other officers of the I. N. A. in the Singapore camp are not allowed tooth paste, brush, soap, oil, clothing and other necessities of everyday life;

(ii) that even their own clothing has been taken away; and

(iii) that their personal belongings such as watch, ring, etc., have been taken away from them and that no receipt was granted to them;

(b) why they are not given any allowances, even though they are men of the Indian Army; and

(c) why they are not repatriated and tried here, if not released?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) I have called for a report with regard to minor luxuries and shall lay a statement on the table in due course. Clothing and necessities such as soap are of course supplied.

(b) Subsistence allowances equivalent to 19 dollars a month are paid in kind to each.

(c) Lt.-Col. Chatterjee is now back in India and Lt. Alvi is on the way. The delay in sending them back to India was due to lack of shipping space.

ARREST OF COMMANDERS OF CONGRESS SEVA DAL, DELHI

1434. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. Radha Raman and some commanders and instructors of the Congress Seva Dal, Delhi, were arrested in February 1946? If so, on what grounds?

(b) Is he aware that the Congress Seva Dal Volunteers do not wear any distinctive uniform resembling military and police uniform; nor do they perform any military drill?

(c) Is he aware that such action by the Delhi Authorities has been greatly resented by the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee and is regarded as unwarranted interference with day to day activities of the Congress as well as the civil liberties and elementary rights of the people?

(d) Does he propose to consider the advisability of withdrawing the order or orders under which action is being taken?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) to (c). Mr. Radha Ramn and some others were arrested and are being prosecuted for contravention of the Camps and Parades (Control) Order, 1944. The case is *sub judice* and it would not be proper for me to make any statement on it.

(d) No.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : When was this order passed and for what reasons? Have not the grounds on which those orders were passed already expired?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : In 1944. It cannot be said that the reasons which led to the passing of that order have ceased to exist.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : What were the reasons?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : They were fully explained at the time. Briefly there was a tendency to raise what can be called private armies for political parties.

Shri Sri Prakasa : In view of the fact that the war is over today even officially, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of withdrawing those orders under which action has been taken against these men?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I do not think that this matter can be very closely related to the termination of the war.

MAINTENANCE OF ORGANISATION FOR ENTERTAINING MILITARY PERSONNEL

1435. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether there is an organisation by the name of "Fouji Dilkhush Sabha" or the like in India maintained to entertain military personnel by dances and other kinds of amusements;

(b) the monthly expenditure involved in each of such troupes or groups of entertainers;

(c) the number of such organisations functioning to entertain military personnel now, and the total cost per month; and

(d) the reason for maintaining such organisations at such expense at these times after the war conditions are over?

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

(b) Varying costs from Rs. 1,500/- a month to Rs. 8,000/- a month according to size and quality of the party and whether performing in India or overseas.

(c) Forty six. Their cost per month is Rs. 4,26,800.

(d) Although active service conditions have generally ceased a number of R.I.N. Indian Army and R.I.A.F. Units are still located in isolated stations in India or overseas where there are little or no facilities for recreation and amusement. It is necessary to provide for the entertainment of Indian troops in the same way as for British troops. The scale of the "Fouji Dilkhush Sabha" is being reduced as troops become concentrated and can make use of local entertainments.

Shri Sri Prakasa : In view of the fact that in the British method of dancing men and women concerned dance themselves and in the Indian system other women are commandeered to dance for men, will the Government consider the advisability of stopping this system according to which women are thus brought and made to dance before these men.

Mr. P. Mason : I am not quite sure of the relevance of the early part of the question as regards the latter part, there is no question of constraint whatever. These are professional artists, professional dancers and they are brought and paid for by the army instead of being hired and paid by somebody else.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know whether any method is adopted by the army authorities to ascertain from the soldiers themselves what form of entertainment they would want and whether this particular form selected by the higher commands was imposed on the soldiers for their amusement?

Mr. P. Mason : We have welfare officers who are continually touring round and they are continuously making enquiries and it is always a question of balancing the various kinds of entertainments, some prefer cinemas, others prefer this dancing.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Will the Honourable Member arrange shows by the Hindu Mahasabha for Members of this House in which case I can assure my Honourable friend that he will not be bothered by such questions ?

Mr. President : Order, order. Next question ?

APPOINTMENT OF DOCTORS IN THE I.M.S. AND I.A.M.C.

1436. *Seth Govind Das : Will the War Secretary kindly state :

(a) the number of doctors who were given Emergency Commissions in the Indian Medical Service and Indian Army Medical Corps since the War started ;

(b) the number of doctors released up to the end of February 1946 ;

(c) the number of doctors, Indians and Europeans, who were granted Emergency Commissions and who are due for release in accordance with their service and age groups, but who have not yet been released and have been provided with jobs ;

(d) whether it is a fact that Europeans are being provided with jobs in preference to Indians and Muslims in preference to Hindus ;

(e) the number of Royal Army Medical Corps officers imported into India after the defeat of Japan and cessation of hostilities ;

(f) the number of Indians in the Indian Medical Service and Indian Army Medical Corps who are holding Staff jobs, and also the number of the Royal Army Medical Corps officers holding Staff jobs ; and

(g) whether it is a fact that the Indian Army Medical Corps officers are being transferred to provide staff appointments for the Royal Army Medical Corps officers ?

On account of a certain slip, certain portion of Question No. 1436, which I did not want to put has remained. I want to delete in part (d) the words " and Muslims in preference to Hindus."

Mr. President : The House is in possession of this question.

Mr. P. Mason : The answer is the same in either case.

(a) 3,504 doctors have been given emergency commissions in the I.M.S. seconded I.A.M. and 2,796 in the I.A.M.C. since the war began.

(b) 678 doctors were released up to end of February 1946.

(c) The number of doctors who were granted emergency commissions and are ordinarily due for release in accordance with their service and age groups (1 to 28) but have not yet been released is 1,714. Out of this number 1,542 are Indians and 172 are Europeans. I am not clear what the Honourable Member means by " provided with jobs ". All these officers I have mentioned are employed.

(d) The answer to this whether the second part is included or not is : "No, Sir".

(e) 467 R.A.M.C. officers have arrived in India since the defeat of Japan. I may, however, mention that 1,324 R.A.M.C. officers have returned to the U.K. during the same period.

(f) The number of Indian I.M.S. seconded I.A.M.C. and I.A.M.C. officers holding staff appointments in the India Command is 54. The number of R.A.M.C. officers holding staff appointments in the India Command is 42.

(g) No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask what is the policy of the Government in respect of these 467 R.A.M.C. officers who have returned to India since the defeat of Japan ?

Mr. P. Mason : As long as there are British troops in this country these R.A.M.C. officers would be necessary to be employed.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is there any policy of employing R.A.M.C. officers in preference to these men ?

Mr. P. Mason : No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar : What steps are being taken to reduce the number of British troops in this country so that R.A.M.C. officers would automatically be reduced in numbers ?

Mr. P. Mason : I submit that that question does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The Honourable Member said that so long as British troops are in India, these R.A.M.C. officers would be required. I am asking what steps are being taken to reduce the number of British troops in this country in order that medical officers attached to them may also be automatically reduced ?

Mr. P. Mason : I do submit that the rule is plain which says that supplementary questions should be asked to elucidate facts. The facts I gave were that 467 R.A.M.C. officers have returned. I then gave the reasons for their remaining in India and I do not think any supplementary question will arise out of those reasons.

Mr. Manu Subedar : What steps are being taken to reduce the number of R.A.M.C. officers who are being employed after their return to this country from Japan ?

Mr. P. Mason : I suggest that is a new question.

Mr. Manu Subedar : That arises out of this part (e) that 467 R.A.M.C. officers^s have arrived in India. The Honourable Member then said that they will continue to be employed while British troops are here. I say what steps are being taken to reduce this number of 467 R.A.M.C. officers ?

Mr. P. Mason : It is not possible to reduce the number of persons who have come into this country. That they have come in is a fact.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I know whether it is not possible to reduce their number by employing Indian doctors from the Indian Medical Service in place of these 467 R.A.M.C. officers ?

Mr. P. Mason : I take it what the Honourable Member means is not how I can reduce the number of men who have actually come into this country. That such a number has come into this country is a fact. What he wants is that I should endeavour to reduce the total number of R.A.M.C. officers employed in the country. That will gradually be done. It does not arise out of this question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it or is it not a fact that 467 R.A.M.C. officers who have come back to this country from Japan are being employed for British troops here and is it not a fact that their services can be dispensed with by the employment of Indian personnel of I.M.S.

Mr. P. Mason : No, Sir. There are not enough I.M.S. men for one thing.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that 678 I.M.S. officers have already been released ?

Mr. P. Mason : Yes, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall : How does my Honourable friend then say that there are not enough men to be employed ?

Mr. P. Mason : It is a process of movement one way and the other. As I already explained there has been a considerable reduction in the number of R.A.M.C. officers. 1,324 R.A.M.C. officers have returned to the U.K. and 467 are coming in. This is a gradual process which is continuing.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The usual reply of Government regarding every service is that Indians are being sent away and Britishers are being taken, either retained or freshly taken. Will the Honourable Member consider the feeling of this House that such a process should not go on and that Indians should not be sent away.

Mr. P. Mason : This question seems to be somewhat irrelevant to the original question asked. I, would, however, like Honourable Members to consider for a moment what their attitude would be if we fail to release any doctors from the army for the civil population whose need I am informed is much greater than the army. I certainly know that every British doctor in the army is anxious to get

away into private practice. That is also the case with a large number of Indian doctors. I have not got available the figures as to the number of those who were released who wished to go into private practice but I think it was quite considerable and I think they ought to be realised.

Mr. President : Next question.

CANCELLATION OF FIREARM LICENCES IN DELHI

1437. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar : Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 15th March, 1946, regarding the cancellation of firearm licences in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of firearm licences have been cancelled by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi on the ground that the licences have not purchased any ammunition for the last five years; if so, what the number is;

(c) whether it is a fact that ammunition was not readily available during the war, and that the authorities had made an appeal to the general public to use ammunition sparingly; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to restore the licences thus cancelled?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) I have seen the article.

(b) Yes : 174.

(c) No : Not altogether. Until 1942 ammunition was available in sufficient quantity. No appeal was made by the authorities requesting the general public to use ammunition sparingly.

(d) None.

Shri Sri Prakasa : A large number of licences are taken out only for display purposes. Would the Honourable Member insist on such licences to purchase ammunitions? 'Display' is distinctly mentioned in the arms licences.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I think the measures taken by the Delhi Administration would apply to those licences as well as to others.

Shri Sri Prakasa : In view of the fact that a person like myself who uses his gun only to shoot snakes when they appear in my garden and in view of the further fact that snakes appear only four or five times in a year, would the Honourable Member insist on taking away my arms simply because I do not purchase 200 cartridges every year?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I should not myself interfere with my friends hobby of shooting snakes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : What was the object in taking away these licences? Was it to push the sales of munitions or to have the arms for auction for some other officers or persons wanting them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I do not think for either of these purposes. But it is generally recognised that so long as there is control of arms and ammunition in India, so long as that necessity continues, it is necessary to scrutinise licences yearly as has been the practice for very many years to keep the number of these licences down and to give them where really required.

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

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE FOR ORDNANCE INSPECTION DEPOT STAFF

1438. *Diwan Chaman Lal : Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the staff of the Master General of the Ordnance Branch of the General Headquarters, New Delhi, are allowed to draw a monthly

conveyance allowance of Rs. 5, Rs. 10, and Rs. 15 for residing between 3-4, 4-5 and beyond five miles, respectively;

(b) if it is also a fact that the Ordnance Inspection Depot, at present situated at Anand Prabat, Karol Bagh, Delhi, is directly under the Master General of the Ordnance Branch;

(c) whether he is aware that the Ordnance Inspection Depot draws the conveyance allowance only for those clerks who reside beyond five miles, and not for those who reside within 3-4 and 4-5 miles;

(d) if the reply to (c) be in the affirmative, why this differential treatment exists between the staff who are virtually under the same Master General of the Ordnance Branch; and

(e) whether Government now propose to issue suitable instructions to enable the staff of the Ordnance Inspection Depot, to draw the monthly conveyance allowance, with retrospective effect; if not, the reasons therefor?

Mr. P. Mason : With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 1438 and 1439 together.

My Honourable friend has drawn attention to differences in the conditions of service of clerks employed in establishments under the Master General of the Ordnance in Delhi and those employed in the M. G.O. Branch of G. H. Q. in the matter of compensatory house-rent and conveyance allowances. The reason for these differences is that irrespective of the Branch in which they are employed, the clerks of G.H.Q. are subject to terms and conditions of service which are related to those for civil departments of the Government of India and are different from those for clerks employed in establishments under the M. G. O. which are scattered all over India. In respect of accommodation, the clerks of the Ordnance Depot are not entitled to Government accommodation and therefore no question arises of compensation in lieu.

Government do not propose to extend the same terms of pay and allowances to two different categories of clerks.

This answers parts (d) and (e) of Question No. 1438 and parts (b) and (d) of Question No. 1439. The reply to the remaining parts of the two questions is in the affirmative.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE FOR ORDNANCE INSPECTION DEPOT STAFF

†1439. ***Diwan Chaman Lal:** (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that the persons working in the Master General of the Ordnance Branch of the General Headquarters, New Delhi, who have not been allotted any Government accommodation, draw the compensatory house-rent allowance in lieu thereof?

(b) Is he aware that the compensatory house-rent allowance is admissible to all those Government servants whom Government cannot provide with any residential accommodation?

(c) Is he also aware that no house-rent allowance has ever been given to the staff of the Ordnance Inspection Depot, Karol Bagh, Delhi, although that office is under the Control of the Master General of the Ordnance Branch?

(d) Do Government now propose to issue instructions in order to give the benefit of the compensatory house-rent allowance with retrospective effect, to the staff of the Ordnance Inspection Depot, Delhi? If not, why not?

PUBLICATION OF ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF DELHI PROVINCE

1440. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly state:

(a) the year for which the last Administration Report for the Province of Delhi was published;

(b) why full details of the working of the various Departments and statistical figures are not given in the Delhi Province Administration Reports; and

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1438.

(c) whether Government propose to publish the Administration Report for the Delhi Province for the last few years for which no report has been published by incorporating the same in the report of the last year; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) 1939-40.

(b) Statistics were omitted from reports after that for the year 1915-16 with the object of rendering the report more readable and attracting more public attention.

(c) No. Detailed annual reports were not compiled during the war in order that effort might be concentrated on the immediate problem of winning the war.

PERMISSION FOR SALE OF SHARES TO BANK OF BIHAR

1441. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a large number of Banks of India have been given sanctions for sale of fresh shares?

(b) What are the conditions required for such sanctions?

(c) Why was not sanction given to the Bank of Bihar which is one of the oldest Banks of India and the premier Bank in Bihar with good reputation and credit?

(d) Does he propose to reconsider this matter and give sanction to this Bank? If not, why not?

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

(b) and (c). The governing consideration in this particular case was the adequacy or otherwise of the capital of the bank in relation to its deposits.

(d) The Bank's fresh application has been referred to the Reserve Bank of India for advice.

WITHDRAWAL OF BAN ON 'FORWARD BLOC'

1442. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) how long the 'Forward Bloc' has been under ban;

(b) why the ban has been continuing;

(c) when the ban is likely to be withdrawn;

(d) what stands in the way of withdrawal of the ban; and

(e) whether Government are aware of the feeling in the country that such withdrawal of the ban will be conducive to a peaceful atmosphere in the country at a time when the British Cabinet Mission are exploring the possibilities of a peaceful settlement between India and Great Britain on the basis of transfer of power?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) Since 22nd June, 1942.

(b) and (d). Its continuance has been necessary in the interests of the public safety and maintenance of public order.

(c) The necessity for continuing the ban is under consideration, but I cannot undertake to give any date for its withdrawal.

(e) I am not aware of any unanimous or general feeling of the kind.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF EMPLOYEES OF AUXILIARY FIRE SERVICE, CALCUTTA

1443. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware that about one thousand employees of the Auxiliary Fire Service of the Calcutta Fire Brigade who were subjected to strenuous work and responsibility during the War period have been served with notice terminating their tenure of service with effect from the afternoon of the 31st March, 1946;

(b) if such termination is due to the fact that the Government of India have omitted to make any provisions for grant to the Government of Bengal in the next year's budget; and

(c) the needs of the public which these employees were supposed to be fulfilling while they have been in service?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a), (b) and (c). The Auxiliary Fire Service was organised to supplement the regular services in view of the increased danger of fire resulting from liability to hostile attack. It was one of the Civil Defence Services which, when the threat to India of air attack from the East was removed, were to be withdrawn by 31st August, 1945. The Government of India's contribution has naturally ceased with the closing down of the service, and although I have no information on the point it is to be expected that the staff employed will be reduced in numbers. The strength to be retained is a matter exclusively of Provincial concern.

DECISION OF LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD RE JAIN TEMPLE

1444. *Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state whether it is a fact that the Cantonment Board of Lahore in its meeting held on the 31st January, 1946, on the motion of Captain Mohammad Ashraf, Military Estates Officer, Lahore Cantonment, upset the unanimous decision of the Bazar Committee, and has refused sanction for the construction of steps of the Jain Temple in R. A. Bazar?

(b) Is it a fact that all the elected Members present in the Cantonment Board meeting mentioned in (a) above voted against the motion of Captain Mohammad Ashraf?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) Yes, because the steps of the Jain Temple were to be constructed on B. 4 land (i.e., vacant Government land) and it would have been irregular to permit its use without a lease. If application is made for lease, it will be granted.

(b) Yes, it is a fact.

DEFENCE OF INDIANS CHARGED WITH COLLABORATION WITH JAPANESE IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

1445. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over a dozen Indians are being tried in the Andaman Islands for alleged offences of collaboration with Japanese; and

(b) whether, in view of the fact that there are no lawyers easily available in the Andaman Islands, these Indians will be tried in India or whether Government propose to make arrangements for their defence at Government expense?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) No, but 16 persons are being prosecuted for charges of offences against the ordinary criminal law committed during the Japanese occupation.

(b) There is one law graduate in the Andamans who will be engaged if necessary for the defence as Crown counsel. Upon production of each accused before the court he will be asked whether he wishes to engage counsel or to be defended by counsel provided by the Crown: in the first alternative, an adjournment will be allowed to secure the attendance of the lawyer selected by the accused who, if willing to accept the case, will be given facilities to proceed to the Islands and conduct the defence.

RETENTION OF TEMPORARY PERSONNEL OF WAR DEPARTMENT

1446. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad : (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether Government are aware of the discontent prevailing among the temporary staff of the offices of the War Department on account of Government's silence as regards their (temporary personnel's) retention for the post-war establishment, while the retrenchment is in progress?

(b) What are the considerations for retaining certain members of the present temporary staff of the War Department for post-war establishment? Are higher educational qualifications given no weight for that purpose?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of taking similar steps as is done in the Army to select suitable candidates from the present temporary staff whose services have also been declared as "War Service" for retention in the post-war establishment of the various offices of the War Department?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) Yes, Sir. Wide publicity has, however, been given in Defence Headquarters to the method of selection of temporary personnel for retrenchment from temporary posts. All temporary personnel are being informed of their position for retrenchment.

(b) The order in which temporary staff will be retrenched and the filling of post-war vacancies are separate questions. The order in which temporary staff will be retrenched was decided as far as Defence Headquarters is concerned after very full discussions, at which every branch in the Headquarters and the main clerical interest were represented. The system is based on a combination of efficiency and length of service. It was decided not to give special marks for the mere possession of academic educational qualifications, because if a man had made good use of his education, he should receive higher grading for efficiency.

The filling of post-war vacancies is a matter for the Home Department. I understand that the position is that temporary Government servants in the ministerial subordinate and inferior services are being given special facilities to compete for post-1945 vacancies by being allowed to deduct their temporary service from their age for purpose of satisfying the maximum age limit. Orders have also been issued providing for the registration of retrenched Government employees in the Employment Exchanges set up by the Labour Department and directing that recruitment to all posts not filled through the Federal Public Service Commission or as a result of a competitive examination should be made through the Exchanges.

(c) The final method of selection has not yet been decided.

COST AND NUMBER OF HINDI AND OTHER BROADCASTS

1447. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state if it is a fact:

- (i) that the number of school going boys and girls who read Hindi is far in excess of those reading other languages;
- (ii) that in the United Provinces 83 per cent. of the boys and girls read Hindi, in Bihar 81 per cent., in the Central Provinces 76 per cent., in Ajmer 93 per cent. and in Delhi 45 per cent.; and
- (iii) that the population of the United Provinces exceeds the population of Delhi, the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province?

(b) What is the number of Hindi programmes, and the number of programmes of other languages broadcast from day-to-day?

(c) What amount is spent every month over these programmes?

(d) During the last twelve months, how much money was paid for Hindi programmes and how much for programmes in other languages?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) (i) and (ii). The information is being collected from the provinces and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(iii) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). No separate statistics are kept which enable me to give the information asked for. The collection of such information will involve an amount of time and labour which will not be commensurate with the usefulness of the results.

**NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS OF URDU AND HINDI PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS
IN ALL INDIA RADIO**

1448. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state how many persons out of the persons appointed as Programme Assistants know Hindi, and how many know other languages giving the number of persons and the languages they know and use?

(b) What is the maximum and minimum amount paid per talk? Is there any difference in remuneration paid to an English, Urdu and Hindi writer? If so, what, and why?

(c) What is the total number of persons employed in this Department, and from which Provinces have they been recruited, giving their list province-wise?

(d) Has the All India Radio a panel of literateurs? If so, who are the persons on it, and what qualifications do they possess? How many of these persons know Hindi?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

**APPEALS PENDING WITH APPELLATE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF
INCOME-TAX**

1449. *Sri T. V. Satakopa Chari: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the number of appeals pending with the Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax for one year and over one year, giving the name of each Appellate Assistant Commissioner and the places from which these appeals arise?

(b) What is the strength of the present staff of the Income-tax Directorate, and the number of Directors of Inspection (Income-tax), Assistant Directors and Deputy Directors of Inspection (Income-tax)?

(c) How many inspections have these officers made during the last two years? Have they been able to discover any concealed incomes? If so, in how many cases, and of what amounts?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information. It is not possible, without an examination of the relevant appellate records, to indicate the particular places from which these appeals arose. The number pending has, therefore, been shown by Appellate Assistant Commissioners' Ranges in which they were filed.

(b) I lay another statement on the table showing the strength of the staff referred to by the Honourable Member.

(c) Inspection of assessment records is done mainly by the Headquarter Office of the Directorate which, in addition, also controls and directs the investigation and collation work done by the branch offices. In all about 930 assessments and 109 inspection reports have been examined. In the majority of cases examined, instructions were issued by the Directorate for the enhancement of the income to be assessed to tax; but the amount of 'concealed income' cannot be readily ascertained partly for the reason that it is not known whether these assessments have yet been finally accepted by the assesses and partly because in a large number of cases the income had to be estimated (in the absence of reliable accounts) and the question of discovering 'concealed incomes' did not arise.

The investigation and collation branches of the Directorate were instituted with the sole object of enabling the assessing officers to detect concealment of profits at the assessment stage, i.e., before the Inspection stage.

I. Statement showing the number of appeals pending with the Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax for one year and over one year on the 1st January 1946

Appellate Assistant Commissioners Ranges	Name of the Appellate Asst. Commissioner	Appeals pending for more than one year, i.e., filed in				Total	Appeals pending for one year, i.e., filed in 1944
		1940	1941	1942	1945		
<i>Madras</i>							
1. Madras 'A'	Mr. J. S. A. Raju	..	..	2	47	49	80
2. Madras 'B'	Mr. T. L. Shastri	..	4	17	67	88	28
3. Bezwada	Mr. T. Arumukham	..	..	..	5	5	19
4. Trichinopoly	Mr. P. D. Swaminathan	..	5	18	37	60	21
	Total	..	9	37	156	202	148
<i>Bombay</i>							
5. Bombay 'A'	Mr. P. D. Deshpande	1	1	14	14	29	96
6. Bombay 'B'	Mr. H. P. Singh	..	3	50	106	160	158
7. Bombay 'C'	Mr. C. D. Amin	..	1	1	22	24	122
8. Bombay 'D'	Mr. V. M. Kaikini	..	2	24	31	57	148
9. Belgaum	Mr. C. A. Entee	..	..	..	..	..	13
10. Ahmedabad	Mr. M. H. Variava	..	2	4	13	19	140
11. Ahmedabad Additional.	Rao Sahib V. T. Shah	..	..	..	..	..	9
12. Karachi	Mr. R. U. Alim	..	2	6	44	52	62
	Total	1	11	99	230	341	748
<i>Bengal</i>							
13. Calcutta 'A'	Mr. M. Ameen	..	1	26	39	66	102
14. Calcutta 'B'	Mr. S. C. Chaudhuri	..	..	..	..	..	1
15. Dacca	Mr. N. K. Paul	..	..	4	1	5	9
	Total	..	1	30	40	71	112
<i>U. P., C. P. & Berar</i>							
16. Lucknow	Mr. Sudarshan Dayal	..	..	3	7	10	226
17. Agra	Mr. Avtar Krishna	..	..	2	28	30	201
18. Cawnpore	Mr. B. L. Vaish	..	1	16	18	35	81
19. Nagpur	Mr. B. M. Pandit	..	..	..	9	9	34
20. Nagpur Addl.	Mr. K. C. Avshia	..	..	..	1	1	41
	Total	..	1	21	63	85	583
<i>Punjab, N.W.F. and Delhi Provinces</i>							
21. Lahore	Mr. Sardar Bahadur	16	4	4	14	38	81
22. Lahore Addl.	Mr. Kishan Singh	..	..	..	18	18	74
23. Lahore 2nd Addl.	Mr. M. Aslam	6	2	2	11	21	69
24. Amritsar	Mr. Dalip Singh	..	..	..	13	13	62
25. Amritsar Addl.	Mr. Chand Singh	..	..	..	3	3	52
26. Rawalpindi	Mr. Bakhshi Chanan Shah	..	..	1	18	19	71
27. Rawalpindi Addl.	Mr. U. C. Khanna	..	1	..	12	13	38
28. Delhi	Mr. S. P. Jain	..	4	..	43	47	3
29. Delhi Addl.	Mr. A. Hasan	..	..	..	45	45	7
30. Delhi 2nd Addl.	Mr. Balwant Rai Bahad	..	..	..	2	2	74
	Total	22	11	7	179	219	531
<i>Bihar & Orissa</i>							
31. Patna	Mr. H. M. Pattanik	..	..	..	1	1	24
32. Patna Addl.	Mr. K. P. Sinha	..	..	..	..	..	9
33. Muzaffarpore	Mr. P. K. Sen Gupta	..	..	..	1	1	20
34. Purulia	Mr. Shambhu Dayal	..	..	1	1	2	5
	Total	..	..	1	3	4	58
	GRAND TOTAL	23	33	195	671	922	2,180

II. Strength of Staff of the Income-tax Directorate

Designation	Headquarter office	Investigation and collation branches	Total
Director	1	..	1
Senior Deputy Director	1	..	1
Deputy Director	..	2	2
Assistant Directors	1	2	3
Assistants	3	5	8
Clerks	5	54	59
Stenographers	2	3	5

NUMBER OF EXCESS PROFITS TAX ADVISEES

1450. *Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many Excess Profit Tax Advisers have been imported from abroad? What was the original term of appointment of the first Excess Profit Tax Adviser? Has it been extended since then? If so, why was an Indian officer not appointed in his place after the expiry of the first term?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : An excess Profits Tax Adviser was first recruited from the United Kingdom for a period of three years from July 1940. His services have been extended twice by two years on each occasion and will now be available till July 1947. A Deputy Excess Profits Tax Adviser has recently been recruited from the United Kingdom on a three year contract commencing from November 1945. No officer was available who was considered to possess the ability and the necessary experience equal to the British Officer appointed.

SUPERSESSIONS OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX

1451. *Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that numerous Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax have been superseded by junior officers in making the recent appointments of Commissioners? If so, is it true that the present Commissioner of Income-tax in the Province of Bihar is junior to some Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax in the Bihar Province? If so, why were the claims of the latter not considered?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook : It is correct to say that some of the officers, who have been selected for appointment as Commissioners, have not put in the length of service that others not so selected have put in and that the present Commissioner in Bihar has put in less service than some of the Assistant Commissioners in that Province. Appointments to posts of Commissioner are, however, not made on a provincial basis or on the basis of seniority. They are made on the basis of selections, the most suitable officer from amongst the senior Assistant Commissioners all over British India being selected.

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS AND COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX.

1452. *Sri T. V. Satakopachari: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many Assistant Commissioners and Commissioners of Income-tax have been granted extension of service after superannuation? What is the period of extension in each case? Are Government aware that this policy is creating a serious discontent among the junior officers?

(b) Is it a fact that some Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax were made to retire without granting to them any extension of service? If so, why this invidious distinction?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Four Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax and one Commissioner of Income-tax have been granted extensions of service for periods of four years nine months, one year eleven months, two years, two years and one year

eleven months respectively. Government are not aware of any serious discontent among junior officers. Considering the large expansion that has taken place in the Income-tax Departments in recent years and the vastly increased opportunities for promotion that have arisen in consequence that and extensions of service have been granted only in exceptional cases where the retention in service of the officers concerned has been essential in the public interest, there being no officers with the requisite ability and experience readily available to replace them, there are no grounds for discontent.

(b) Yes; this is inevitable, for, as I said in reply to part (a), extensions of service are granted only in exceptional cases, after taking into consideration the qualifications of the officer and the administrative needs of the Department.

TRANSFER OF APPELLATE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF C. B. R.

1453. *Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether any representation was made by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce or any other body requesting the Government of India to transfer Appellate Assistant Commissioners from the administrative control of the Central Board of Revenue to the Law Department of the Government of India? If so, what action have Government taken thereon? If none, why? Are Government aware that there is a widespread discontent among the assesseses? If so, do the Government of India propose to consider the advisability of taking prompt action in the matter?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: Yes, representations to this effect have been received from some commercial bodies.

On a careful consideration of these representations Government came to the conclusion that no case had been made out for placing the Appellate Assistant Commissioners under the Legislative Department. Although the Appellate Assistant Commissioners are officers of the Income-tax Department their independence of the Central Board of Revenue is adequately secured by the proviso to section 5 (8) of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922. The Board have also categorically announced that the Appellate Assistant Commissioners should make their decisions to the best of their judgment and that their promotion and prospects will not depend on whether their decisions go against the revenue or not. I am not aware that there is any widespread discontent among the assesseses on this score but having regard to the legal and the factual position there is hardly any justification for taking any action in the matter.

INCREASED DEARNESS ALLOWANCE OR PENSIONS TO PENSIONERS

1454. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether any representation has been made to the Government by the Pensioner's Associations in the Punjab etc. for increase in dearness allowances or pensions, in view of the prevailing high prices of foodgrains and other necessaries of life? If so, what action have Government taken or propose to take on the aforesaid representations?

(b) Do Government propose to grant the dearness allowance and increase in pensions to one and all the pensioners (and not only to those drawing pension up to Rs. 100 as done at present) and on the same scale as sanctioned for the present Government servants?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes. But Government are unable to grant any further increase in pensions beyond the scales already sanctioned.

(b) Attention is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 481, given on the 16th November, 1944, to which I have nothing to add.

R. T. O. OFFICERS' RUDE BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS PASSENGERS ON RAILWAY STATIONS

1455. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is the War Secretary aware that Sergeants and other officers employed by the R. T. O. at Railway stations are rude to ordinary passengers including Indian women?

(b) Do Government propose to take suitable action against such conduct and behaviour of their military personnel on the platform when specific complaints are made to them regarding such behaviour?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Certainly, Sir. If any specific case is brought to my notice, I will see that enquiries are made.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SECRET SERVICE EXPENDITURE

168. Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state on what items the secret service expenditure of nearly seven lakhs was spent during the current year, and for what purposes the present budget of nearly five lakhs has been made?

(b) Is it a fact that any portion of the amount has been given as subsidy to any newspapers or to any private individuals?

(c) Was an Employment Selection Bureau constituted as also a Civil Selection Board?

(d) What are their functions? Why cannot those functions be discharged by the Federal Public Service Commission, and have they been approved by the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to give any information on secret service expenditure.

(c) and (d). The Civil Selection Boards have been set up to conduct the preliminary testing of candidates for recruitment to war-reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police and in the Central and Provincial Services. The Employment Selection Bureau has been constituted to perform the following functions:

(a) To investigate and advise the Government of India, the Federal Public Service Commission and Provincial Governments on the application of technical methods of selection for the purposes of recruitment to the various branches of the public service and for more general employment purposes such as suitability for industrial and vocational training or for any particular form of employment.

(b) To train and maintain a Selection staff for the purpose of carrying out these methods of selection.

(c) To superintend the technical work of the selection boards set up by the Government of India for the testing of candidates for war-reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Police, the Central and Provincial Services.

The functions which are being performed by the Civil Selection Boards could not be undertaken by the Federal Public Service Commission because of the very large number of candidates involved. A written examination of an academic nature having been ruled out, it was necessary to adopt some form of preliminary test before final selection by the Commission. The Presidents of the Selection Boards have been appointed additional members of the Commission.

As regards the Employment Selection Bureau its function in broad terms is the application of these modern methods of selection to civil needs generally. The Commission could not itself use these methods without technical staff. Moreover, the Commission is concerned with recruitment to the All-India and Central Public Services but the Bureau's functions cover a wider field.

The Standing Finance Committee has recommended the acceptance of expenditure on the Bureau and Boards.

CANCELLATION OF REVOLVER LICENCE OF SAHU RAMESHWAR NATH OF
PILIBHIT

160. Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop : (a) With reference to his answer to my starred questions Nos. 523 and 524, dated February 26th, 1946, will the Honourable the Home Member please state if he has received the necessary report regarding the cancellation of revolver licence of Sahu Rameshwar Nath of Pilibhit ?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please lay a copy of the report on the table of the House as promised ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) and (b). The information called for has been obtained and the statement promised is laid on the table.

Statement

Circular letters appealing for investments in war loans were issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate who, however, has neither any record nor recollection of having written individually to Sahu Rameshwar Nath.

No subscription to the loan was received from him but no communication indicating his grounds for not subscribing is in the Collector's Office.

His arms licences were cancelled ; but his refusal to subscribe to the war loan was not a ground for cancellation of his revolver licence.

The revolver was forfeited under section 16 (2) of the Indian Arms Act as transfer had not been made or intimated within the prescribed period. He informed the District Magistrate that he had transferred his other arms but, though they have not been forfeited, transferees have not appeared to take delivery or produced their licences.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 1595, asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, on the 4th April, 1945

EXCESSIVE REQUISITION OF FOODGRAINS FROM CULTIVATORS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

(a) The Madras Government has reported that apart from some stray cases of criticism against minor matters connected with procurement which were raised at the District Food Council meetings and fully discussed, there had been no press agitation worth the name.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 158, asked by Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar, on the 11th February, 1946

MANUFACTURE OF TRACTORS AND FERTILIZERS

Three factories for the manufacture of bonemeal were started in the Central Provinces and Berar and six in Madras.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 162, asked by Seth Govind Das, on the 11th February, 1946

FREEZING ACT VIS-A-VIS PEGGING ACT

(a) Separate statistics about Indians and the names of persons who have acquired and occupied property under the Pegging Act are not available. The provision with regard to permits issued since the Pegging Act came into force upto 31st January, 1946 is as follows :—

- (i) Under Section 5 (1) (a) (acquisition)—304 applications were approved and 91 refused.
- (ii) Under Section 6 (1) (occupation)—72 applications were approved and 69 refused.
- (iii) Under Section 6 (2) (new buildings)—16 applications were approved and 4 refused.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 556, asked by Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, on the 27th February, 1946

PERSONS CONVICTED OF HOARDING AND PROFITTEERING OFFENCES

	(a)	b (i)	b (ii)
	Number of persons convicted in connection with the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance during 1943, 1944 and 1945.	Number of officials proceeded against during 1943, 1944 and 1945 in connection with Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance and for corruption generally	Number of officials [from b (i)] convicted
Delhi	376	14	6*
Ajmer-Merwara	10	Nil	Nil
Baluchistan	19	Nil	Nil
Coorg	4	Nil	Nil
Panth Piploda	Nil	Nil	Nil

*NOTE.—3 cases of corruption in connection with offences relating to Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance are under trial in court.

Information promised in reply to Part (b) of Starred Question No. 798, asked by Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, on the 8th March, 1946

TREATMENT OF CIVIL MEMBERS OF AZAD HIND MOVEMENT IN BRITISH JAILS IN EUROPE

Government of India have made enquiries and are informed that 9 Indian Civilian collaborators are now in detention in Germany. They are being held for security reasons at a civil internment Camp in the British Zone in Germany. The Camp is not a prison but a large enclosed area where the inmates live together with complete freedom of association and with ample opportunity for exercise. They are not kept in cells and they receive rations on exactly the same scale as other detenus in the Camp who are mostly Germans. There have been no complaints of ill-treatment.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 925, asked by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, on the 13th March, 1946

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

(a) No. Mrs. Khin Zaw is employed as News Editor and as the senior News Editor working in the Africa and East Asia Section of the External Services, is given some of the responsibilities attaching to the post of Special Officer, Far East Broadcasts, which is at present vacant. The Africa and East Asia Section broadcasts in English, Hindustani and Tamil for Indians Overseas, and in French, Burmese, Tonkinese, Cochin-Chinese, and other Chinese dialects for non-Indian residents of East Asia. Mrs. Khin Zaw is a B. A. First Class (Hons.) of the Rangoon University where she was working as a Lecturer in English before she came to India with her father in 1942. In India she has worked as Burmese Translator Monitor and Assistant News Editor and Reference Officer, before her appointment to her present post. The bulk of the broadcasts from this section are directed towards Burma and the Far East. She is a Burmese and knows Burma and other Far Eastern countries. Her present pay is Rs. 725.

(b) No. She has been entrusted with the general responsibility for arrangements for broadcasts to Africa and East Asia, because there was no one else available at the time with adequate knowledge of Burma or the Far East.

(c) Her qualifications have been stated in reply to part (a).

(d) She was appointed Reference Officer on a selection made by a Selection Committee consisting of the Joint Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Department, the Director-General, All-India Radio, and the Director of News, All-India Radio. Opportunity was given also to other members of the staff to apply for this post and their applications were also considered by the Committee. She was subsequently promoted to the post of News Editor.

(e) First part : Yes.

Second part : No.

(f) No.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1127, asked by Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, on the 20th March, 1946

CONTROLS ON PRICES AND MOVEMENTS OF CHARCOAL, WOOD AND OTHER FUEL

(a) No definite period has been fixed or proposed for the control on the prices and movements of charcoal, wood and other fuel into Delhi. Controls will be necessary so long as the supply and transport situation is such that minimum demands cannot be met. It is likely that price control may have to be continued for some time even after control on distribution has been withdrawn.

(b) The controls were imposed on account of shortages as well as the imposition of export bans from sources of supply in other provinces on account of shortages there. The situation remains practically the same as last year and it is unlikely that by the 1st of April, 1946, it will have improved to such an extent that the controls become unnecessary. The position is, however, being examined from time to time and action to abolish or relax controls will be taken as early as possible.

(c) The staff sanctioned is as follows :—

1. Gazetted Officer	1
2. Inspecting Staff	63
3. Clerical Staff	36
4. Menial staff	10

The cost incurred during 1945-46 amounts to Rs. 1,71,000.

(d) No, Sir.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

REPRESENTATIONS FROM WOOL MERCHANTS RE CONGESTION OF WOOL IN INDIA

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether he has received representations from the Wool Merchants in India about the heavy congestion of wool in India ?

(b) Is the congestion the result of the export of wool being banned, if so, what steps do Government propose to take in order to remove this congestion ?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that, if the congestion is not removed, the Indian Merchants will be put to a great loss ?

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

(b) Export of wool is not banned, but is allowed subject to certain quantitative restrictions, the total quantity exportable every year being the estimated surplus remaining after meeting essential internal requirements. There is no congestion of wool in the country, but stocks have been piled up in Karachi in the expectation of early removal of controls. Press note issued by the Government explaining latest orders applicable to exports of wool is placed on the table.

(c) It is expected that, in view of the liberalisation of the control policy, there will be no undue accumulation in future.

PRESS NOTE

EXPORTS OF GREY AND BLACK WOOLS DECONTROLLED

New Procedure regarding exports of White and Yellow Wools

The Government of India have decided to decontrol the exports of grey and black wools.

As regards exports of white and yellow wools, the 'established exporter' principle has been abolished. Any one will be allowed to export white and yellow wool to any permissible destination provided that for every three bales sought to be exported, he offers to sell to one of the purchasing agents of the Industries and Supplies Department of the Government of India two bales of wool for use in India.

The offer to sell wool to the Agent should be open for six weeks and at prices fixed by the Industries and Supplies Department. If the purchasing agent certifies that he has purchased a certain quantity of wool from a particular exporter, that exporter will be allowed to export one and a half times the quantity purchased by the Industries and Supplies Department. If such agent certifies that the wool has been offered at the prescribed price but is not required, then two and half times the quantity offered for sale to the Industries and Supplies Department will be allowed to be exported by the exporter concerned. Thus for every three bales exported, two bales will be available for consumption in India.

The purchases to be made by the Industries and Supplies Department are intended to ensure adequate supplies of raw wool to the local woollen manufacturers.

Commerce Department.

New Delhi, March 29, 1946.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I know from the Honourable Member as to what decision the Department has taken in this respect ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I may tell the Honourable Member that wool is divided into two particular categories, white and yellow and grey and black. So far as grey and black are concerned, they are being decontrolled. So far as white and yellow are concerned, we are abolishing the system of established quota. Anyone will be able to export white and yellow wool and they will be able to export to any permissible destination, provided that for every three bales sought to be exported, he offers to sell two bales to one of the purchasing agents of the Industries and Supplies Department. The offer to sell would be open for six weeks and at prices fixed by the Industries and Supplies Department. If within that time the wool is not taken, the exporter will be free to export that quantity also.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I know from the Honourable Member what does he mean by a permissible destination ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : To places where under the regulations and controls things can go and having regard to the shipping difficulties things can be sent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : In view of the cloth shortage, why does the Government of India allow these exports of wool from India ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : That is because my friend has never been to Karachi and knows nothing of the wool situation. It is to help the growers for which my friend is most anxious that these quantities should be exported.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are the Government of India not doing enough to enable our own manufacturers to have all the wool here ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : We are doing all we can.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is there great shortage in other parts of India and if so why not transfer that wool from Karachi ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : This is the first time that I am aware that there is shortage of wool in other parts. Those who are engaged in the wool business are circumspect and the fact that they are not taking the wool leads me to the conclusion that they do not require it or my friend does not know the facts.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

BURNING OF MILITARY LORRIES IN CALCUTTA

Mr. President : I have received notices of as many as five adjournment motions. The first is from the Honourable Member Seth Govind Das and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha. They wish to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the burning of military lorries in Calcutta.

I do not know how many lorries were burnt and how the matter is of public importance or urgent.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : Everytime we hear of certain lorries being burnt and only yesterday it appeared in the papers that certain other lorries.....

Mr. President : How many ?

Seth Govind Das : Two or three.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran : Non-Muhammadan) : Previously more than eight lorries were burnt.

Mr. President : We are not concerned with "previousy."

Seth Govind Das : There must be something wrong with this Government if such things are taking place in various parts of the country. Therefore I want to raise this question, namely, whether Government should not be censured for their attitude on account of which such outbreaks are taking place in various parts of the country.

Mr. President : The matter seems to be very vague in that light.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : If you may remember, the last time when a number of military lorries were burnt it was given out that a man was run over and killed and then the mob got infuriated and again there is news that there was another accident. It is because of this rash driving that the people are angry. These military lorries are being driven recklessly and unmindful of the passers-by and something has to be done if these accidents are to be stopped. Therefore I think it is a matter of urgent public importance because some directions have to be issued by the military. We know from our experience in Delhi how recklessly these military lorries are being driven and at a very fast speed.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member means that it is negligent driving on the part of the military.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : It leads to riots and other public disturbances.

Mr. President : At best it is a very exaggerated picture of the situation.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Will the Honourable the War Secretary issue instructions? I do not want to press the matter for adjournment. But I want an assurance that something is being done.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India : Nominated Official) : Well, Sir, on the question of adjournment, I think you have said all that is necessary to say. I take it that it is not intended to censure the Government for their own lorries being burnt but to censure them because they have not taken steps to prevent the feeling in the minds of the people who have resorted to this method of expressing themselves. I would suggest that there is nothing particularly urgent or recent in the growth of feeling on this subject, because I am aware of the fact that for some years there has been considerable feeling on the subject, and in fact I was speaking in another place on this subject a year ago. We have issued constant and frequent instructions and we are constantly having action taken by the military police to put a stop to this.

Mr. President : I do not think I can give my consent to this motion.

FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO OBTAIN THE FOOD QUOTA DEMANDED BY THEM FROM THE COMBINED FOOD BOARD

Mr. President : The next adjournment motion is in the name of Diwan Chaman Lall. He wishes to discuss a definite and urgent matter of public importance, namely:—

“The announcement that the Government of India have failed to obtain the food quota demanded by them from the Combined Food Board.”

What has Diwan Chaman Lall to say?

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : This is within the rules laid down for similar motions. The matter is of public importance and relates to the subject of food. The matter is of urgent importance, namely, what steps we can now take to supplement the food that is not obtainable from the Combined Food Board, and it is of recent origin. My Honourable friend, who I am glad to say has come back to this House after his trip to America and Europe, in his statement has announced that 60 per cent. is the portion granted to us out of the total demand made by him from the Combined Food Board for the second quarter. We do not know what we will get for the third quarter. It is necessary therefore in the interests of the country and the public and the Government and this House, that this matter should be debated on the floor of this House.

Mr. President : I understand that this is not meant as a censure motion.

Diwan Chaman Lall : No, Sir. Adjournment motions, as you are perfectly well aware, are of two kinds,—one being in the nature of a censure motion and another which merely seeks to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. My motion is of the latter kind.

Mr. President : It seeks to know what happened at the Combined Food Board and how the situation in India was placed before them and how further representations can be made to that Board for more supplies.

Diwan Chaman Lall : You are quite right, Sir.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Leader of the House) : Sir, I welcome this opportunity of discussing the subject and I shall be very glad if it is admitted.

Mr. President : Then it will be admitted and it is for the House to decide when it will be taken up. The ordinary time is 4 p.m. but today being a non-official day, if it is desired to have it earlier, it is possible to do so.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I suggest that it may be taken up at 3 p.m.

Mr. President : Is that the general desire of the House?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha : Let it be taken up at 4 p.m. as usual.

Mr. President : Then the motion will be discussed at 4 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, the following Message has been received from the Council of State :

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 30th March, 1946, agreed without any amendment to the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1946, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 28th March, 1946."

RESOLUTION *RE* RELEASE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN AND POLITICAL PRISONERS—*contd.*

Mr. President : The House will now resume discussion of the Resolution *re* the Indian National Army and the release of political prisoners, moved by Pundit Govind Malaviya on the 4th February last and further discussed on 11th February. A number of amendments were moved, and there is also one received later from Mr. Karmarkar. I think, before Colonel Himmatsinhji, who was in possession of the House, resumes his speech, it will be better if Mr. Karmarkar formally places his amendment before the House, so that speakers may speak on his amendment also.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I move :

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :

'With a view to facilitate an early settlement of the political problems'."

Mr. President : Amendment moved :

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :

'With a view to facilitate an early settlement of the political problems'."

Colonel Himmatsinhji will now resume his speech.

Col. Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, much has happened since I began my maiden speech nearly eight weeks ago and which had to be postponed till today. I ask for the indulgence of the Chair and of the House to allow me a few minutes to finish my speech today. I do not intend to raise any controversies on this subject as a friendly atmosphere prevails in the country today ; an air of hope and expectancy prevails all round. Both British and Indians are advocating the dictum of forgive and forget. Very soon India and Britain will be on an equal and, let us hope, a permanent friendly footing. Therefore it is vital that no bitter memories linger on in the future between the people of our two countries. Sir, it is for this reason that I advocate clemency for all the I.N.A. personnel and security prisoners. The British Commonwealth and her allies have won this great war. The whole complexion of things have now changed. Let Government employ all the wisdom at its command and release the prisoners. Sir, it would be a contradiction in terms for India to attain political freedom on the one hand while keeping people behind the bars on political grounds on the other hand. I therefore appeal

to Government to synchronise along with the prevailing circumstances, by generously announcing amnesty to all I.N.A. and other political prisoners, say, on the same day as they announce that India is a free country and can count herself along with other nations of the world which have their destinies in their own hands. Such generous action will be befitting British statesmanship and will be in line with past British history. ✓

Sir, If this appeal of mine is not accepted in the spirit in which it is made, then I would be inclined to agree with some of the Honourable Members who have often said that this House is nothing but a democratic farce. This appeal which I am making is not only in accordance with the wishes of my Indian brothers in this House but hope of every Indian outside. Even I feel that my English friends on my right will also wish that we close this sad episode. I should like to go further and say that if the voice of this House is not heard, then the House serves no better purpose than another Chamber which is housed in this building. That Chamber in its annual function of a two days' session, commences its session by passing Resolutions of condolences on those Members who had died in the past year and finishes its session by passing Resolutions of congratulations to new members who have succeeded them.

Lastly, Sir, let me appeal to the Mover of the Resolution that both in the interest of the prisoners and in the hope that Government will receive our appeal in a favourable light, he will not ask the House to vote on this Resolution.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural):
Sir, if there is one matter on which not only in this House but also outside all sections think as one man, it is the matter of those persons who are imprisoned in connection with the Azad Hind Government. Before I come to the general questions involved I would invite the attention of the House to things that have happened and that are still happening outside India. A large number of persons—it does not matter whether they are of the Indian Independence League or of the I.N.A.—have been persecuted, and a large number of them are still kept in prisons in Malaya, Singapore and other places. The first thing that this Government ought to have done was to have asked for the repatriation of all these Indian nationals in Malaya and neighbouring places who are very insecure and unsafe there. Even the civilian population have been reduced to abject poverty and misery on account of previous vindictiveness there. When the civil population is not safe, how is it that confidence should be available which is a *sine quo non* for a fair and impartial judicial trial.

There is another aspect of the thing. The British policy with regard to these trials which was announced by the Under Secretary, Mr. Arthur Henderson, is that people will not be tried merely for collaboration, but there should be an additional factor of brutality or atrocity. If there is one thing which is clear, it is that this policy has been departed from in Malaya and the neighbouring places, and I will give you one example. There was one prisoner—I am sorry, Secretary, External Affairs Department is not here at the moment—who was persecuted do you know for what atrocity or brutality? He was connected with the Grow More Food campaign and while he was cultivating sweet potatoes three rubber trees had to be uprooted, and he was persecuted on the charge that he was collaborating with the Japanese by removing rubber trees. This is the nature of offence for which people are persecuted there. Of course I must say that after the very strong public opinion that has made itself vocal in India, things have improved a lot, but even then it is extremely unsafe and undesirable that trials should be held in an atmosphere where Indians are neglected and do not feel at home. Today a large number of eminent persons are in prisons. For example, there is no less an eminent person than Mr. Thivy who had the unique pride and privilege of being for some time the Secretary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. There is one Mr. Sahay, one Pritam Singh, there is one Major Abid Hossain, one Major Gopalswamy and one Dhillon, and several others.

They have been in prison for quite a number of months. I may tell you that no charges are framed against them and even today in the name of 'interrogation!' these people are detained in detention camps where life is very miserable. My grievance is that the Government of India do not take steps either to bring them

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanjal]

here so that they could be tried here, or do something which will inspire confidence in the minds of these helpless people and show that their Government has after all not forgotten them. No pressure has been exerted by the Government of India in this connection. The position of law is very clear: If these people are once brought here, they will be tried—if they are triable at all—under the ordinary law of the land. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Jaffer said with regard to those who were serving in the Army, that if they are brought into this country and once they are on the soil of India they are within the law of the land. Therefore it is a question of diplomatic obligation; it is a question of diplomatic propriety. The Government of India ought to have brought them back.

Sir, I want to give some information to the House regarding a large number of people who are now rotting in jails and do not know what the authorities are going to do about them. I refer to Siam. They joined in the activities of the Indian National Army, and after the defeat of Japan they were put into jail. Persistent efforts to obtain information regarding those people have not been fruitful. My good friend, Secretary of the Commonwealth Relations Department tried to get information, but nothing was made available. Why this imbecility? After all the Government of India is not in a subordinate position. We send our labour to Malaya and to neighbouring places, and it is on Indian labour that their industry flourishes. If this Government could hold out a threat that unless our nationals are treated fairly and squarely, we shall refuse to send labour to that part of the country, I am sure it will produce some effect.

Then, Sir, I give you some more information. At one time about 350 prisoners were 'loaded' on boat in Siam and they were given an assurance that they would be brought to India. But on the way they were unloaded at Singapore. They were 'unwilling to land at Singapore, but the Government of India had given instructions that they should not be allowed to come to India because their arrival was not considered desirable by them. Instructions were also given that if necessary force and violence might be used for detaining them at Singapore. This is the conduct of the Government of India with regard to our nationals abroad. Therefore, Sir, through my amendment, I have sought the mandate of the House to give a direction to the Government to bring back these people from abroad and if they are to be tried, they should be tried in this country.

Do you know, Sir, that information regarding the brutal treatment of these 350 prisoners was published by a correspondent of the *Hindu*. This correspondent could not get passage by land, but as soon as this information was published he was all of a sudden given passage by air, and he was told to leave the place.

Then, Sir, we come to the fundamental question: why should these people be tried at all. What have they done which even Englishmen in the same circumstances would not have done? The story of the formation of Azad Hind is not a story but it is history. What was the position with regard to these people who joined the I.N.A., whether they were civilians or whether they were in the Army? When the Japanese invaded Malaya, the civilians wanted to be afforded the opportunity of defending themselves, but the British Administration, on the ground of prestige, not only declined to give them arms but they even declined to give them sticks. In these circumstances all those small countries fell to the Japanese. And what did the representatives of the British Crown, who are now claiming sovereignty and who are now claiming the right to try these civilians and the I.N.A. men, do? They threw the entire Indian population to the mercy of wolves, but every Britisher and every bottle of whisky, even the last cigarette case, was given a comfortable exit by land and sea and by air. Even their dogs were allowed to come by air, but as against that these unfortunate Indians were not only not given any facilities when they came to air ports and sea ports, but they were forced back. In these circumstances what could they have done? There were two courses open—either to be absorbed by the Japs or to have an independent existence, and as a matter of fact the instruction which was given by the British authorities was to toe the line of the Japs. I will give one example of T. P. Coe. He tried to come away but Sir Shenton Thomas, the Governor of Malaya gave him instructions to fall in line with the Japs and to obey their orders. Another instance is one Captain Pritham Singh. He is now in prison. He

was in the I.M.S. He was given instructions to serve the Japanese and he obeyed. But a large number of people instead of getting absorbed by the Japanese preferred to take a more honourable course, namely, to have an independent existence. They found dangers on either side. They saw that the British had failed in their duty and that the condition of India was insecure. On the other side they saw that the Japs were casting their greedy eyes on India. They were between two dangers and they took the honourable and brave course of trying to ward off the danger from either side. They made up their minds that the Japs must not enter their land, and they also made up their minds that the British must leave their land. It was in this state of psychology that the Azad Hind Government came into existence. They found in Netaji Subhas Bose, a man of destiny. They rallied round this great statesman and patriot. In the course of a short time they had territory of their own, their own exchange and currency and their own military resources and they had every right to see that the Japs did not succeed in penetrating into their homeland of India. And at the same time they had every right to see that the British power was expelled from this land. Sir, this is the context of the case. If anybody ought to have been prosecuted, I submit and maintain, that the British Army officers who were responsible for the safety of the people in their care and who abandoned them at the critical moment and retreated only for purposes of their own safety. These people ought to have been prosecuted, and if anything could and should have been done in respect of these brave Indians they ought to have been given the highest honour that our country could have given. What is more, I was submitting that sovereignty is not a one sided affair. It carries with it its own obligation just as you have in the ordinary legal language the relationship between the landlord and the tenant is a mutual affair. Similarly the relationship between the Crown and the subject is one of mutuality. If the Crown abdicated, i.e. the representatives of the Crown let down the subjects, the subjects were free to choose their line of action and they did it honourably. Their status, after October 1943, when they declared war upon the British, was recognised as a sovereign state by at least some first class powers of Europe and Asia. If they failed in their mission it was only a matter of chance. If today by some more favourable circumstances they had succeeded in expelling the British out of India, what would my friend, Mr. Mason, and his European comrades expect? They would expect not to be treated as ordinary criminals under the Penal Code. They would certainly have expected treatment as prisoners of war. So as the Englishmen put it: Do unto others as you would have others to do unto to you. If you wanted such treatment it is only just and proper that these people should be given similar treatment. My friend, Mr. Mason, the other day in a very well put speech raised the plea of brutality. As a humble student of law, this expression brutality or atrocity is very vague to me. On one occasion I wanted to ascertain from the Government whether there was any description or definition of brutality or atrocity. There is none. And if a man can be accused of brutality or violent collaboration when rubber trees were removed, then everything can be brought into the category of brutality. Even in today's *Hindustan Times* there is a message from *Reuters* published that His Majesty's Government has made it clear that only collaborators will not be put on trial and such cases will be withdrawn but if such collaboration has led to the commission of brutality or atrocity by others, it will come within the category of brutality for him. This is spiritual brutality and the sin of one must be visited upon the other. Then look at the matter from one important aspect. You have been a lawyer. I am glad that you have been. So far as the question of evidence is concerned, who is giving evidence of brutality? They are persons who were accomplices with the accused but somehow or other have become weak before British power and now wish to purchase their safety or their promotion. They are the persons coming as witnesses to alleged brutality and the trial in certain cases has brought in the revelation that what these persons have said are not their voluntary statements in all cases. They have made statements which are the result of the brutality and tutoring by their British prosecutors here. What is the good of pursuing this matter with such high-sounding phrases? It is a fundamental conception of British jurisprudence that an accomplice is not worthy of credit unless his words are corroborated by independent testimony or evidence.

May I have your permission to speak a little more? My party will adjust the time accordingly.

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

What is the good of bringing this. I will just give an example. When there were allegations of torture by Ram Manohar Lohia, when there were allegations of torture by Mukunda Lal Sarkar, and Sisir Bose, Aurobindo Bose and Dwijen Bose and when there were allegations of torture by a large number of political prisoners, why was this matter not brought before a court of law? After all a man can be convicted upon the testimony of one man. There the policy of the Government was that here is the version of the prisoner on the one hand and here the version of the jail authorities and the police on the other. Therefore high policy required that the matter should not be brought for trial before a court. Where is that policy here? A man who was a comrade of another, one who has bravely stood the trial saying that we wanted our country to be free and we felt that we were relieved of all obligations to the Crown, against that man who has been demoralized by temptation, he comes and says that such was the torture. Is that consistent with British policy? Is it consistent with British jurisprudence which stands out as one of the finest pieces of jurisprudence in the whole world? Therefore I submit that this brutality story is a tall-tale story. Then consider the matter from the practical point of view. After all a battle-field is not a married man's chamber. A battle-field is what it is. Feelings run high and nerves are high strung in people who are looking to the liberation of their country with fire in one pocket and with death in another. These were the people who did not like to line up with the others in the same place. Therefore if there were some technical errors here and there it is not right that they should be given a monstrous proportion for purposes of a trial. It is vindictiveness, it is brutality. Lord Morely, an ex-Secretary of State, said after Charles I was dethroned and put on trial that this procedure was in itself an act of war and it was just as indefensible and as assailable and on the very same grounds as war itself. If that is applied to these trials, prosecutions and presecutions, these are more brutal than the alleged brutalities in the battle field of persons who were fired with the zeal for the liberation of their country.

My friend, Mr. Mason, gave a homily on integrity. He had also a fling on Indian nationhood. He asked us to look back to the past history of India. He said that it would be bad for the future Government of India to overlook this betrayal of the army. May I invite the attention of my friend Mr. Mason to the history of his own country? What was the position when the English people went against Charles I? What was the morality behind the Protestant Revolution? Is he prepared to say that the British people including the civil and military condemned themselves by going against Charles I, who was the King of England at that time? What was the position in the American War of Independence? Is it betrayal? Whom did they betray? The Americans were the British cousins across the Atlantic. I say however that our position is much better. The Americans thought that the Stamp Act exceeded the limits of British authority and the Americans considered it unjustified. What did James Otis of Boston say? He said that the British certainly were in the wrong and the Americans were in the right. What did the famous English historian Mr. Freeman say? He said that Hobbs and Bacon gave the idea of democracy. The Puritan Revolution gave shape to those ideas and George Washington expanded it across the seas. We want to go a step further....

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India : Nominated Official): I did not really have a fling at Indian nationhood. What I did say was that it might be a good thing to look back to the past and consider how many battles might have been won which were in fact lost owing to inability to depend on fidelity on the part of their comrades on the field of battle. But none of the points raised by my friend relate to that.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: If the Honourable Member objects to the word 'fling' I withdraw it. If there is any precedent or parallel with which to test this case, it is there on all fours in the American War of Independence. We are on stronger grounds. The Americans were of the same race. They were of the same blood. If we accept Mr. Freeman's verdict that George Washington extended it across the seas, we go a step further. Our Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose extended the ideology much further.

My friend Mr. Mason was speaking of betrayal. Whom were these people betraying. If they were guilty of betrayal, they were guilty of betrayal of the foreign power over them, the power which also failed in its ultimate obligation to protect the army and civilian population under them. When these people were let down, when they were handed over to the enemy, they had every right to take steps to get rid of this unwanted and undesired foreign rule in India. Therefore the story of betrayal and integrity is an idle story and the less said about it the better both for this side and the other side.

Coming to the question of brutality I will not refer to the brutality of our British administration in the past. These people were fighting for their country, They were even courting death for the liberation of their country and as such there was some justification for their being violent. But what is the justification of this armed Government here being brutal to the unarmed civilians of this country. I will not go back to the old history and detail the circumstances in which Sirajuddaula was killed and Nand Kumar was executed. I will not refer to Jallianwalla bagh or to the atrocities of 1942 which is the subject matter of another resolution. I will not even refer to the recent happenings of shooting from the air upon innocent and unarmed crowds whose only fault was that they wanted to have their voice heard I will make a present to the people and this House some other atrocities of this Government and those who do not know about it will shudder after hearing it. There was one coastal battery, battery No. 4 in Cochin. There were young men of all provinces there. General Auchinleck, who was not then Commander-in-Chief at that time was so much satisfied with their conduct that he recorded his appreciation of the performance and efficiency of this coastal battery. Then the rub came. The Britishers in the regiment grew jealous of the Indians. The Indians on the other hand thought that since they had the appreciation of General Auchinleck they were entitled to be treated on equal terms with the Britishers. Even the ordinary constables would try to lord over these V.C.O.s. These V.C.O.s. wanted to be treated equal with the Britishers of the same rank. This was interpreted as mutiny. I want Mr. Mason to hear me. Every word that I say is full of responsibility. This was interpreted as mutiny and somehow or other in this context one British officer was condemned (I will not name him but if the Honourable Member wants the name, I will give him afterwards. He was degraded for inefficiency and loss of integrity—I use the very words used by Mr. Mason namely integrity) he came back and proclaimed that he must teach these Indians a lesson. All of a sudden there was some firing in some palmleaf hut. These Indians were put on trial and I will tell you how the trial was conducted. A person who was degraded and who was accused of pilfering came forward as the most important witness. I do not know whether there was a court martial or anything like that. These people were between the ages of 19 and 21. Ten of these persons were put on trial. Nine were sentenced to death. *They were tried in St. Andrew's Church at Bangalore and executed in Madras. These people wanted to have their defence. They were not allowed any defence. One incompetent Indian military officer was appointed as a defence counsel or lawyer and as he tried to do his best, he was degraded from his rank and even the show of defence fell. Ultimately these nine unfortunate young men were hanged.

Mr. P. Mason : May I ask when all this took place ?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : In the year 1943. May I ask the Honourable Member if he has any information to the contrary ? The trial took place at St. Andrew's Church, Bangalore, and the execution took place in Madras. I can also give the names if my friend wants. In an Army Order dated the 29th October, 1943, the execution was published. These are the names : Jem. Thakar, Hav. N. K. Dey, Hav. D. D. Roy Chaudhury, Hav. N. Bawa, Hav. C. R. Mukherjee, Nk. T. Chakravarty, Gr. S. K. Mukherjee, Gr. K. P. Aich, Hav. N. M. Mukherjee, Gr. R. N. Ghosh, Gr. M. Rahaman—the last two were given transportation for life. And there was one A. C. Dey. He was given seven years R.I. on the ground that he was aware of the contemplation of a conspiracy for a mutiny which, however, never took place, and it was said that he did not disclose the information. Persons who refused to give tutored evidence and who wanted to be defence

*Corrections made *vide* Honourable Member's request at page 3301.

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

witnesses were terrorized. But, for the version they gave to the Military Department they were accused of perjury and they were kept in a small cell which is eight feet by six feet. About twenty or twentyfive persons were put there. It was Belsen or Black Hole, whatever you might call it. They were starved and humiliated on the ground of perjury, and imprisoned. Some of them have been recently released, and the British people have not had the elementary sense of obligation to publish even a grain of this information. That is what we find on the score of brutality.

And do you know, Sir, how these people were trapped? So far as this N. M. Mukerjee is concerned, as soon as he heard that he was prosecuted on this ground, he wrote to his men in Calcutta, and his brother ran up to the military authorities with a lawyer D. M. Sen. The military authorities did not allow an interview. They said that when charges were framed, the charges would be forwarded to the lawyer, and the address was taken. Subsequently, when he wrote from Calcutta again, he was told that the charges were not ready. I have got the correspondence here, but I will not go through the correspondence as that will take time. I simply want to assure my friend that I am speaking from dependable papers, and if he wants to peruse them I will hand them over. He was told then that the charges were not ready. Then, after some time, a wonderful telegram came to this lawyer. "Civil lawyer's assistance not required". Sir, English is their language. But as regards the use of that language, "Civil lawyer's assistance not required" is different from "Civil lawyers not allowed". These people naturally thought that either the proceedings were going to terminate or that the proceedings were not of such a serious nature as to require the assistance of a civil lawyer from outside. Then, Sir, will you be surprised to hear what handy piece of information came thereafter? A letter was sent to the unfortunate widow mother that he was found guilty and that he was executed on the 27th of September. The unfortunate mother was also told that he applied for mercy but mercy could not be given. My friends who are now trotting out all sorts of brutality of prisoners in the war field, and depending upon the doubtful evidence of tutored persons, I say, their hands are coloured by the blood of brutality. Let us not hear all these things. My friend, Mr. Mason, and my good friend, Mr. Griffiths, also, made a plea that when power is transferred to Indian hands let us not allow treachery or betrayal of these people. Beware, future India, if power is really coming to us, we want our own army and our own military, and if we have to fall back upon somebody or some group it is exactly these I. N. A. people who have suffered in the first instance. They have been through fire and blood. They have done for the liberty of the country what others could not do in spite of their desire. They have among themselves solved the Hindu Muslim tangle. They have experience abroad and they have now come. These are the persons who will give first-class nucleus for our national Indian Army's composition and for that narrow reason also we want them to be free and to be in our midst.

Today we are on the eve of changes. It is the desire of everyone that nothing should be done which is bitter and that nothing should be said which is bitter. Let us agree not to say anything bitter. But then I would appeal to the European Members of the Government, if they desire that their performance on the platform of brutality should not be remembered or discussed, is it not equally desirable that technical errors on our side should also have to be written off. After all, if we examine the balance sheet of our performance and the balance sheet of their performance, Sir, it will be just like a mole hill below a mountain. If it is really, as I have heard and understood Mr. Griffiths the other day, that they are anxious to see transfer of power to Indian hands and that they will be glad to settle down as traders with Indian capitalists, if that is so, Europeans must purchase goodwill, and for purchasing goodwill they must take their own share in the slogan of 'Jai Hind'. They must make us feel that they also feel like us. After all, if they want to stay in India they must share our sentiments. Even today I have a suspicion. The Ceylon Government succeeded in getting the release of people who went against the British power. The Burmese Government also succeeded. But our Indian Government is not doing that. Why? My suspicion is that they are haunted by the hallucinations

nation of Subash Chandra Bose. It is their uncertainty. They sometimes think that he is alive. They sometimes think that he is dead. If he is dead, my European friends ought to understand that "Long live Subash Chandra Bose" is the Indian cry today, and that it will continue to be so far some time to come. If he is alive, the future Government of India, for peace and prosperity, for the peace and prosperity of the whole of Asia, will have to recall Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. That being the attitude of India as one man, if Mr. Griffiths wants to extend his hand of fellowship, he must take his share in the slogan of 'Jai Hind' and he must take his share in the struggle of Indians. If we have to clear our accounts of past regrets and look to the future, here we on all sides of the House, and outside, have to cry "Jai Hind" and "Netaji Zindabad", for that is the way to peace, that is the path to goodwill. Sir, I move.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, the Malayan warfare and the march of the Japanese through Burma is a most unfortunate episode in the history of this war. It was a very badly managed affair, and from the very beginning everywhere the persons of the Indian Army were let down. As soon as the Japanese entered into Bangkok and warfare started, the British armies were receding and were leaving small portions of the Indian army behind ; so much so that they left Singapore all of a sudden. I am not sure whether they have so far been able to attribute the fault of mishandling of that episode on any General. But this is true that the British army were always receding and were leaving the Indian part of the army at the Japanese front, not only to fight but to surrender also. So much so, that when they actually retired and left the shores of Singapore and other ports in that neighbourhood, they took jolly good care, that all the British army and women and children should be taken with them to India or other parts of the empire, but mainly the Indian soldiers and officers were left behind. The march into Burma was still worse ;

I P. M. so much so that when the enemy reached Rangoon and Mandalay and other places, not very far from India, the Indian families and small children and girls and boys had to walk bare footed without any rations for hundreds of miles to India. They were not given any facilities to get out of the country. The conduct of Col. Hunt when he handed over those prisoners to the Japanese was also objectionable because his advice certainly encouraged demoralisation which had set in in the Indian Army which he left behind. Eventually they organised themselves into the Indian National Army. But soon after there was a quarrel between the Japanese and the officers of the Indian National Army, purely on the ground that the Japanese wanted to have things in their own way, but the officers of the Indian National Army who had organised that army to protect themselves and the Indian nationals in that part of the world would not submit to their orders. The result was that our best men, like Mohan Singh and Niranjan Singh had to rot in jail up till the last day of the war when they were rescued and brought home by the British Army. So, if under such circumstances these people organised themselves to save themselves their countrymen and countrywomen in that part of the world, in the midst of that confusion, I think, today to blame them would not only be wrong but a sin and a crime. I would ask the Government that when they had left Burma and Malaya, when the Japanese were all powerful there, and the Japanese wanted the Indian National Army to accompany them and attack India under their own conditions, and the Indian National Army refused to do so and a very large number of responsible people went into jail, and British India was quite unprepared to fight against the Japanese on the eastern front what was there to stop the Japanese to enter India if it was not the good faith of the Indian National Army who refused to work under their orders ? I think those people who behaved in that way and tried to do all they thought was good for their country,—to treat them like you are treating them today, is I think very wrong. You adduce evidence and accuse the members of the Indian National Army for having committed brutalities on some of their men, in the name of disciplinary actions. But after all, from what we have read about the evidence which has been adduced to prove their brutalities, I would request the Government to see if there is anything that can be compared with the brutality committed on the Indian Army in Burma and Malaya and on the Indian nationals whoever you left there, while you left the country as you did in Burma, Malaya and Singapore. I think that was downright betrayal of the Indians who lived in those places. If you do not call that brutality, I am afraid I do not know what it is; and if

[Sardar Sampuran Singh]

you compare that with the alleged brutalities of the Indian National Army people, you will find that the acts of your officers were far worse than any committed by those people.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : Mr. President, much has been said from different sides of the House regarding the advisability of the immediate release of the brave men of the Indian National Army and the political prisoners who are wrongly rotting behind the prison bars in India. It is more than eight months that His Excellency the Viceroy in his broadcast following the release of members of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress uttered those memorable words "Forgive and forget". That admonition and suggestion we all hoped, was not for one side only, namely, the Indian National Congress; we had thought that that advice applied also to the Government of India. But up till now we have not had any the least evidence that the Government of India has seen reason and has learned to forget, much less to forgive. When we hear that the members of the Indian National Army will not be indicted with the offence of waging war against the King, we do not give very great credit to them for that as an act of clemency. The reason was very obvious; the Englishman of all persons is a very practical being; he knew full well that the circumstances attendant on the foundation of the Indian National Army, their sacrifice, their valour, their patriotism and their love of their countrymen had deeply stirred the hearts of those people even in the Indian Army; and as a measure of practical expediency they dropped the charge against the Indian National Army of waging war against the King. I am sorry they did not drop the whole charge as a measure of expediency. To justify their action in the eyes of the world, they fell back upon another expedient. As one of their own gifted authors put it very nicely, George Bernard Shaw said that an Englishman may be wanting in anything else, but will never be wanting in principles; he will crown a King on loyalist principles and cut off another King's head on republican principles. So at the present moment they are trying some of these brave Indian National Army men on the principle of punishing brutalities. It strikes me as very anomalous that this Government of all things should find itself encouraged to run on with these trials without examining its own moral credentials. This is not the time to enter into any details regarding the atrocities committed under the auspices of the Government which is trying these brave men for alleged brutalities. There is one instance coming from my own Province, which has come up before the courts, in which evidence has been recorded and which the Government themselves will not be able to dispute. I refer to the case of one sincere worker who had the privilege of being one of the 78 followers of Mahatma Gandhi in the Dandi march, whose name is held in admiration not only in our own ranks but also in the ranks of our opponents, the police. Every policeman in the Karnatak has a word of admiration for his non-violence. Some how the authorities decided that this man who had gone underground and was supposed to be responsible for many offences must be done away with. When I narrate these facts, I speak not merely on indirect hearsay evidence but I have had the privilege of having had this confirmed when I was a detinue in the police headquarters at Dharwar, from the mouths of the people who participated in this nefarious affair. Now, Sir, what happened was this. They decided to do away with this man. At a small conference where the senior police officer was present, he exhorted his men and told them 'Every mother's son who is here will try to do away with this man.' Ten policemen were made to form an armed guard at Hosaritti and when this man came there, they shot at this man, and afterwards killed him. And, Sir, what greater brutality can there be than to kill a man after he is down. Even military laws and international laws recognise that when a man is already wounded, no more injury shall be inflicted upon him. Now, this man was unarmed, undefended and according to the version of one of the highest police officials in our presidency which he himself gave, this man was bare armed. He was shot down and after he was wounded he was killed. He is Mahadev Mailar and his name is held in great affection and admiration in all hearts.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member) : On a point of order. I was under the impression that this Resolution is about the I.N.A. and political prisoners. I would ask how far a statement of this kind about some one who has not been a prisoner, as far as I can make out, is relevant to the discussion.

Mr. President : I may bring to the notice of the Honourable Member that there is an amendment by the Honourable Member, Mr. Mason which says that the words 'except those charged with brutality' be added at the end of the Resolution, meaning that the prosecution of those charged with brutality should not be dropped. That is the amendment; and the point, as I have been seeing even during the last speaker's speech, is that the evidence as to brutality, on which these people are being charged or are likely to be charged is of a doubtful character, coming from accomplices. It seems to make out that the police are manufacturing evidence. That seems to be the point. That is why I was just hearing what the Honourable Member has to say. I do not know if he has any other object in mentioning that.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : One more object is that the Government of India in conducting these trials are by their action trying to create a moral effect on the people, and that sort of effect will not follow. I have finished with that point. I could give many instances of that kind. The Government of India in the eyes of the people have been clearly guilty of brutality of a far more serious character than the ones with which they are charging members of the I. N. A. and in view of the fact that those trials are not likely to carry any moral sustenance or support to the Government, I think it is extremely improper that the Government of India should proceed with these trials.

Mr. President : 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. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal :** Sir, with your permission, I should like to correct a mistake which I made in my speech this morning. I said that the trial took place in St. Andrews Church, Bangalore and execution also took place there. It was a mistake. The trial took place in St. Andrews Church, Bangalore but the execution took place at Madras. I request that this correction may be made in my speech.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : Sir, when the House rose for Lunch, I was about to finish the point that the present Government with a long record of the type of things they usually do are far worse than what the I. N. A. accused have been charged with and that the Government have no moral right to proceed with these trials. It is not my purpose this afternoon to bring into this debate things which might be very really relevant in another debate when it comes to a question of enquiry into the atrocities of 1942 movement. It is not my purpose to refer to this point, otherwise there are plenty of incidents from Behar, from U. P., from Andhra and from other parts of India, practical instances of a kind which had not disfigured the annals and the history of any other nation in the whole world but it is not my purpose to bring into this debate details of the atrocities for which this Government is bound to be held guilty by any impartial tribunal. I referred to one incident only for the purpose of showing partly that this Government with that record to its credit has really no moral right in the eyes of the world to proceed with the trials of men indicted with offences which compared with the deeds of this Government are almost innocent.

The second point which I should like to invite the attention of the House to would be this. What was the situation in 1942? What was the part that these brave men of I. N. A. played in those eventful days. Time was when not only I. N. A. men but also largely the Indian National Congress was blamed for having pro-Japanese tendencies. At a very discreet hour, at an earlier stage, they withdrew the charge against the Indian National Congress and Mahatma Gandhi that they had any inclination towards the Japanese. Now as the elucidation of events has it, it is now proved beyond all doubt that the I. N. A. men were never in any sense of the word pro-Japanese forces in the sense that they wanted to sell India to the Japanese. It has been proved by evidence brought before proper tribunals—or perhaps shall I say improper tribunals—that the one object of I. N. A. was to achieve

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar]
the independence of India and their programme did not have as one of its parts, any idea of handing over the country to the Japanese. Who would be a safer man to rely upon? Who would have been a safer man to rely upon in those dark days of 1942? The I. N. A. men or the present Government that is in power today and which was also in power then? What was the attitude which the present Government that exists in this land adopted in those days? What were the instructions given by them to civil officers. For instance, one among others of the instructions which they issued to the District Magistrate of 24 Pargannas was that if the Japanese were to advance, that that particular officer was to remain behind and serve the Japanese quietly. Was it not also part of the instructions further that if he chose he was at liberty to retreat with the British army. Who would be a safer guide at that moment? In the eyes of history who would be the persons fit to be indicted at any trial before a proper tribunal? Was it the I. N. A.? In those difficult times, at the cost of stern opposition, the I. N. A. men objected to the Japanese landing on Indian soil. The I. N. A. men did not want to surrender an inch of Indian soil to the Japanese. In those dark days, the Government of India instead of fighting every inch of Indian soil, instructed the civil officers to abandon Indian territory if it came to that as a measure of discretion. In my respectful submission to this House, my suggestion would be that if any one is to face a trial for incompetence and untruthfulness and ingratitude to Indian people, it is not the I. N. A. men but those who were in charge of the Government of India in those critical days of 1942. Much has been said by my esteemed colleagues who have preceded me with regard to the noble part played by I. N. A. men in those hard days.

I now pass on to another type of persons also included in this Resolution, and that is political prisoners, non-military political prisoners, if I may so term them. Now with regard to that type of men, part of them belong to the pre-1942 days and most of them are prisoners who were convicted for taking part in August 1942 disturbances. There has been a lot of controversy carried on between high quarters, between Mahatma Gandhi on the one hand and the Government of India on the other as to the primary responsibility for the incidents of 1942. For those incidents which followed after August 1942, history will be the best judge. I will not attempt at this stage to make an analysis of the whole events as they occurred. But this much is true. If any responsibility is to be fixed on anybody's shoulders primarily for what happened during August 1942 and after August 1942, even a cursory glance of events will show that the responsibility does not lie with any organisation in this country, it does not lie even on the shoulders of those people who have been convicted for offences for things that happened during 1942, but the primary responsibility lies very heavily on the shoulders of the Government of India who precipitated the whole thing by arrest of the one leader who could have delivered the goods, namely Mahatma Gandhi at that time when he was almost supplicating for an interview with the Viceroy. On that point and about the events that were part of these disturbances, much has been said. Really some regrettable incidents have occurred. Some deaths did take place. A few deaths on the official side and a larger number of deaths on the popular side. The number of deaths that were caused on the popular side were largely due to indiscriminate action taken by the military in shooting down people on the pretext of rooting out unruly mobs from the scene. Official casualties have been far less. If you properly scan the events, you will find that innocent men were shot down due to indiscriminate action on the part of authorities to try to bring the situation under control. I will not cite instances to show that. Otherwise I should have taken the House through the events which occurred at Nandurbar, where students were fired upon, in Behar, in U. P. and other parts of the country where simple procession of boys, even of girls were shot at, when peaceful processions were shot at in order to disperse them, when perhaps a more tactful and a more humane and a much quieter attitude on the part of the authorities would have saved the situation without loss of lives. The authorities know only the bullets as the sole method of pacification under these circumstances. The country rose in what the official side was pleased to term as rebellion, but largely thanks to Mahatma Gandhi a very peaceful rebellion indeed. History has no similar record to show where a non-violent people in order to defend their primary rights as citizens, braved all the horrors of Government might by laying down their lives. There was an instance of another

kind about 25 years ago in Ireland when the British put a prize on the head of Michael Collins for being captured alive or dead. We all know the events which ended in violence in that country. Happily in India thanks to Mahatma Gandhi there was only peaceful resistance and in view of the abnormal situations that existed, in view of the fact that on their own admission it was not a case of a few individuals committing heinous crimes, but a whole people incensed in wrath against what they termed repression of Government, in view of the abnormal circumstances at that time, in view of the fact that the Government were pleased to term it a rebellion, they should have applied to these events also the rule that is usually applied to political prisoners, prisoners of war for the time being and instead of that many people have been convicted to long terms of imprisonment, some five years, some seven years and some to 14 years for offences committed during those troublous days. I am coming to my last point and the point underlying my amendment. Months ago His Excellency the Viceroy said we should forget and forgive. We have tried to forget and forgive. Mahatma Gandhi has tried to bring in an atmosphere where forgiving and forgetting would be encouraged. But the Government of India should respond likewise and demonstrate not only to the people of India but to the whole world that they are also in a reciprocal mood to forgive and forget. That is the one little thing they can do, because they know from past experience that those prisoners who are behind the bars are not going to be frightened by long-term imprisonments to which they may be relegated. They are not going to shed their principles: if at all, these people who undergo long-term imprisonment come out stronger in their faith than before. It is just that type of good gesture that this Resolution is inviting Government to make. And in order that the present political talks may lead to the fruition of something constructive, as we all hope, and something which will be well for both Britain and India, my amendment seeks to add the words "with a view to facilitating the solution of the political problems." Sir, whatever may have happened in the past—and I speak in no apologetic mood because the prisoners themselves resent any terms of apology and are prepared to suffer for whatever they have done in the best of their convictions—it is not in a mood of asking them to exercise their clemency because we on this side of the House refuse to talk of clemency from a Government which is not responsible to the people: but it is in a sportive manner of inviting Government to do the right thing at the right time. No doubt when the provincial Governments come into power they may release the prisoners. But just at this time when three senior Ministers of the British Cabinet are here trying to effect a conciliation between Britain and India, nothing would be a better prelude to these talks than an unconditional release of political prisoners including I. N. A. men who are today for no fault of their own but on account of the situation created by British imperialism in India rotting in jail. Sir, I commend the Resolution and my amendment to the acceptance of the House.

Shri Sri Prakasa: (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in rising to support the Resolution and the amendments moved from my side, I am fully sensible of the extreme gravity and delicacy of the situation: and I am most anxious that I should say nothing that should in the least add to the bitterness and unhappiness of the days in which we live. It seems to me that the problem before us can be easily and more fully comprehended, if we accepted two axiomatic truths. One is that a Government must govern. However it may come into power—by force or fraud or vote—it has got to govern to fulfil its responsibilities. The other is that a subject people must struggle to be free. No doubt in the mutual adjustment of these two truths, there are clashes and conflicts; and from time to time occasions arise when there is much bitterness and much controversy. But from time to time occasions also arise when both sides have to sit down and take stock of the situation; and to learn to forgive and forget; when the victors and the vanquished alike have to shake hands over what has passed before; to give each other credit for good intentions; and to proceed forward as friends. The principle that is involved in this is not vitiated either by success or by failure. Some conflicts, some revolutions may succeed; others may fail; but the principle underlying the conflict is the same; and I see no reason why when England can shake hands with America despite the war that took place between the two countries and that wrested from England the freedom of the American continent; she cannot shake hands with us also even though we happen to have failed at the moment. We feel that this is the time when we could

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all sit down, take the conflict that has ended in the right perspective; and look forward to a less unhappy time.

Sir, before proceeding further I should like to dispose of the main amendments to the Resolution. The first was moved by my amiable and Honourable friend Mr. Mason. He has said that only those men should have relief who are not accused of brutality. The Indian National Army—and I am sorry that he referred to it this morning with an adjective of “so-called”—has elicited a great deal of sympathy from all quarters, and still even in accordance with the principles that have been enunciated by my Honourable friend opposite there are large numbers of persons who should have been free but who are still in prison. I have got a long list of officers of the Indian National Army who have been brought from Rangoon and are today in prison in Delhi. There are Captain Ahmad, Captain Saleem and about 16 others who arrived on the 20th May 1945. Then a week later arrived Captain Jivan Singh, Flight-Lieutenant Latiff and about 12 others who have all been interrogated and who are not being proceeded against for any brutality or impropriety; but who are still being kept in prison. There is another list of 16 persons,—Major Nagar, Lieutenant Khan and others,—who came from Bangkok and Singapore on the 11th December 1945; whose interrogation was finished in the second week of January; but who are still in jail. On behalf of these men I should say to the War Secretary that it is time that in accordance with his own principles and the principles that have been published and broadcast, they should be immediately released. But that is only by the way.

The main contention of my Honourable friend is that those who are guilty of brutality should not be released. Brutality is a word that can be interpreted in many ways. But one thing is certain, and that is that when a conflict is on, many things are done which are apparently brutal and which decent people would not do in normal times. Care has to be taken of the circumstances in which certain incidents occur before we can condemn the perpetrators thereof outright. I could bring a long list of proved actions of brutality on the part of authority. Some of my friends have done it. I do not want to mention many incidents which we have ourselves investigated and which happened in Ballia, in Azamgarh, in Benares in the days of 1942. I am sure that my Honourable friend, the kind-hearted Mr. Mason is bound to regard them as brutal if I were to relate to him the incidents of murder, of shooting, of arson, of pillage, and even of rape that then occurred. But I will not burden either the speech or vitiate this evening by describing in detail all that happened. They got publicity in the press also. The Government forfeited the security of the papers that published them, but did not proceed further or bring them to trial before a court of law. These papers to my knowledge had armed themselves fully with evidence.

I will also come to the amendment of my very dear and Honourable friend, Haji Abdus Sattar. He is one of the kindest of men, perhaps the most popular Member of the Assembly, a gentleman as to the manner born; and I can tell him that if he would only see to the implications of the amendment that he has moved—not granting amnesty to political prisoners he would be the first to withdraw it.

To another Resolution on the order paper today, an amendment has been tabled that investigation should be made into the atrocities that were committed by Congress volunteers. Personally I welcome the amendment; and I have absolutely no objection to full investigation being made in any atrocities that I or my friends might have committed. The fact however remains that these have already been fully investigated into; that men are undergoing long sentences of imprisonment because of such investigation as the Government was pleased to make at the time into the alleged atrocities of Congressmen; that some of them have been already hanged. I do not understand what further investigation is necessary, but I would welcome any further investigation and also invite punishment upon myself and upon all others who were guilty of misconduct. I may add that the officials guilty of misconduct have all been granted amnesty while we have been severely punished. What I should like to say to my Honourable friend, Haji Abdus Sattar and others who think that no amnesty should be given to political prisoners, is that these political prisoners are undergoing imprisonment for an atrociously long time and that many of them are in prison without charge or trial. I am sure my Honourable friends will realise

the extreme impropriety of putting men in prison without charge and without trial for the unduly long period of six years and more. Many men are in prison as detenues since 1940 and it is time that they were released.

Sir, the 1942 convictions too were conducted in a most peculiar manner. There were many instances in Benares, my home town, where men acting as Magistrates convicted people although they had really no authority to do so. There were many Magistrates who got the persons, against whom they passed sentence, whipped in their presence. The law requires that such men should receive their strokes in jails, under special conditions; but the magistrates in their enthusiasm got them caned immediately in their own presence. For very small offences, men were sentenced to long terms of seven years and more. There are many in my province who are under sentence of sixty years and more. It is time that the cases of these persons were carefully looked into; and I have no doubt that when my Honourable friend, Haji Abdus Sattar, knows exactly what the situation is, he would join hands with me in asking that these persons should also be released. It is possible that my friend is angry with anything that I might have said or done or any other congressman might have said or done; but let him not condemn the whole lot of Congressmen or those who acted under peculiar impulses in 1942 because I or some other individual has done something which has rightly roused my friend's anger. Let us be punished and not they. We know that in 1942 our warrants were out on August 5 and we were put into jail on August 9. I was hauled up a few days later, not being in Benares on the 9th; and the Jailor was quite surprised why I was late in coming. He told me that he had orders to receive me on August 5. It is not that the Congress had organized anything because to most of us our arrest came as an utter surprise. It was the Government that had planned before hand how various persons were to be caught at various places. So the pre-determination was on the part of the Government and none on our part. But, Sir, as things are, it is useless to think that it would be possible for any of us to convince the other. We have all got closed minds although our mouths are open.

It is particularly difficult for a man like me to argue with my Honourable and very esteemed friend the present Home Member of the Government of India. Of all the thousands of men I know, Sir, he is absolutely the most innocent. Despite his having been a Magistrate, perhaps a Judge—I have no dossier of his as he has of mine—Despite his having risen step by step very properly to his present position, he does not even know what handcuffs are; because he says, he never put them on himself. He does not know what a chain is by which a prisoner is held by the policeman when in handcuffs. There are two types of handcuffs. We on this side of the House know them all. My Honourable friend ought also to have known them for I have no doubt that even if he had not had them on himself—human nature being what it is—he must have sometimes felt that he ought to have known them for something that he might or might not have done! Handcuffs are given by irate Superintendents of Jails to prisoners which are called night-handcuffs. These have no chains. The prisoner is manacled at nights and put in his cell. Then he cannot even brush off a fly or a mosquito. These have no chains. But has not my Honourable friend ever seen a person with handcuffs being held on by a policeman with the help of a chain. They must have been brought before him while he was a Magistrate. He must have in the course of his duties visited jails and surely have seen handcuffs. I was amazed to-day to know that my Honourable friend has not seen or heard of handcuffs or chains. It is absolutely.....

Mr. P. Mason: May I ask on a point of order, to which amendment this is relevant?

Shri Sri Prakasa: The relevancy is to the presence of my Honourable friend, the Home Member, in the House, to argue with an innocent man like this is very difficult. But I should tell him that things are happening in the land for which he is morally responsible even if he is not personally so. I beg him, Sir, to consider the situation in all its bearings with his usual sympathy and understanding, and if he does so, I have no doubt that he can come to one and only one conclusion at the end, namely, that all the political prisoners too must be immediately released. He may speak of many things; of reports from jail which he trusts better than our own statements. I do not know, Sir, whether he would believe

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me more than those who held me in prison. I have no idea or desire to tell this House my own experiences, and of the absolutely wrong statements that were given by prison authorities about me to the world at large when questions were put to them. Sir, I may only tell him this, that it is not that all his subordinates are always truthful and all of us always liars.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : Or *vice versa* !

Shri Sri Prakasa : Or *vice versa* ! or *vice versa* !! I am human enough to say ditto to that statement of my Honourable friend. We, Sir, are not angels. We are human. We make mistakes ; and I am glad we make mistakes because we do not pose to be either super-human or sub-human. We are just human. Mistakes have to be made in order that men may learn how to correct themselves for future conduct. In any case, I feel that we have all had our innings. We have all played our game. We have fought ; we have won and we have lost. But there is no doubt that the motives on either side—I make no exception—were good ; and both sides were trying to do their duty as they understood it. That there was a difference in the conception of right and wrong between them, is a mere accident, and an incident of life—inevitable, undeniable. I feel, Sir, that at the stage at which we stand, it is best for us on both sides of the House to finish the bad job ; for the other side to release our prisoners whom they hold in captivity ; and for us on this side to excuse all that had been done by the other and to desist from being vindictive, so that all may start once more on a clean state.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma (Meerut Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Much has been said about the release of I. N. A. prisoners and their innocence and the public pressure for their release. It is a fact, Sir, that this question has been in the fore throughout the entire land for a fairly long time. It is also a fact that the pressure of public opinion has been recognised by the Government, inasmuch as Mr. Mason has no other amendment but, that except those who are charged with brutality the cases against others might be dropped. This amendment of those charged with brutality is a curious one. The word brutality has nowhere been defined in law. The other day we were talking about the release of political prisoners. It was said that the word political prisoner finds no place in law. Much less the word brutality finds a place in law. So to adjudge brutality in a certain case is not possible in accordance with the definition in any book of law and it is to be judged in context with certain facts. When war is going on—and war is nothing else but an organized brutality. In such an atmosphere and under such conditions in which man's passions are aroused, his sentiments are appealed to and his manhood is exploited to murder his fellow-men in cold blood. They may call this a victorious war, a holy war, a war in the cause of nobility and humanity, but all the while it is nothing else but brutality spiritualised for purposes of certain people who happen to commandeer the machinery of war and control the fate of men. In this context, to talk of brutalities is something that does not appeal to common sense. It is something that is not adjustable with the noble words of the noble soldier, Forgive and forget.

To mention some facts. I come from that unfortunate province about which Mr. Sri Prakasa has spoken so much about the atrocities committed there. You talk of brutality. What about the innocent women who were raped in the public streets ; what about children being held on fire before their mothers. What about burning of houses and freely looting of people. The men who are responsible for the inhuman atrocities were not called by the Government villains, they are not penalized for their acts of brutality, but they are hailed as the conquerors of Balia. The charge of brutality in the case of I. N. A. prisoners and the acclamation of U. P. heroes for their inhuman atrocities can not go side by side.

Then, Sir, the release of detenus, the political prisoners and I. N. A. men is to be considered from a wider view point. The question, Sir, is whether we have a picture wherein peace, goodwill and prosperity are envisaged ; wherein the wishes of our people are to be realized by peaceful means and the power from those on the other side is to pass to the accredited leaders of the country. If this is the picture then there is no reason to keep the persons behind the prison bars, whom people love and admire and whose release the country wants. It is not possible to have a peaceful atmosphere for negotiation with these people in jail.

If the Government want a favourable atmosphere. If they want patience goodwill and reason—an atmosphere of sweet reasonableness, so very necessary to discuss things so delicate and so difficult, the problems of a land so vast, the problems so complex, the affairs so complicated, there should be nothing left which will leave behind bitterness and excitement and create an atmosphere of suspicion and disgust. If, on the other hand, my friends have another picture in view and all this is simply a show, then they are welcome to keep these people behind prison bars. As a matter of fact, then, the Government have no other option but to keep these people in jail and perhaps add to their number, in no time, a much greater number. That would be a picture of chaos, anarchy, bloodshed, starvation and death. There would be rebellion, there would be chaos, there would be disorders. And in that atmosphere of misery, starvation and death, they may expect somebody on his bended knees would approach them to remain in India. But the events will not permit them to stay any longer.

So, in this context of facts as they are today, I again submit that there is no other alternative but to release these prisoners and earn the goodwill of the people of this country.

About detenus. These people were arrested, as my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa said, on warrants which were issued on the 5th August 1942. Most of them were arrested on the 9th August and sent to jail and the law under which they were arrested was declared *ultra vires*. They were arrested under Rule 26 of the D. I. R. The Ordinance No. 14 of 1943 is a piece of law which validates an invalid act, an act permitted under no law whatever, because according to the judgement of the highest tribunal of the land, Rule 26 was declared *ultra vires*, meaning thereby that Rule 26 did not exist at all. It has no place whatsoever on the statute book. Action taken under that rule should not have been persisted in and the natural course of justice would have been that all those prisoners who were arrested under the old rule 26 D. I. R. ought to have been released. Another Ordinance was passed in similar terms, Ordinance No. 3 of 1944 validating the invalid acts. This law has no parallel in any civilised country. Bad as that law was even that law was abused. We had a time of tyranny, of police rule, a time of putting hands on anybody, arresting him and sending him to jail. This was a strange sort of experience which we had in 1942 and under those circumstances these people were arrested under a bad law and that bad law was being abused by irresponsible people and these innocent persons are still detained behind prison bars. Now that the war is over there is no need of keeping them under detention, if you want goodwill, peace, compromise and co-operation for a mission that is likely to solve the great political problems. At such a moment it is necessary that those people who are under detention should be released at once.

Then there is the question of political prisoners. My friend said the other day that there was no such term as political prisoners in any law whatever. There might or might not be any such term but everybody knows that the District Magistrate when he visits a jail he calls upon the jailor and asks him how the political prisoners are behaving. There are special reports to be sent to the local Government about the political prisoners. There are special hardships to be inflicted upon the political prisoners. For reference I would cite the case of the Allahabad High Court *Crown vs. Jhabwala* wherein it is laid down by the Honourable Judges that it was no use inflicting long sentences upon political prisoners because the punishment is not meant as punishment, for its own sake, but it has some nobler end in view, namely, either it is to be deterrent or it is for the prevention of the crime or it is for the reform of the offenders. A political prisoner commits a crime for political ends. In history he has always paid the price and the price has not been less than giving his neck for the noble cause. Those who are behind prison bars would be willing and ready to pay that price. The question is not of the safety or freedom of those who are behind prison bars. The question is one of solving the political problems which you are facing today in a proper atmosphere. The world is changing and so too India. India is to evolve its future whether you willingly co-operate with it or not. If you do not you will create circumstances and conditions over which neither you nor we would have any control. A change has to come whether you like it or not. If you lend your support you would create an atmosphere of patience, goodwill and compromise. We can then bring in a new and more brilliant future for India with credit to yourself and credit to ourselves and create a new atmosphere for a new world. These political prisoners have suffered in the noble cause for which they stood. If you

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admit that the changes are bound to come you should make efforts to bring in those changes. Once having admitted that, that somewhere there was some lacuna, some mistakes on account of which so many troubles have arisen; and now that the difficult times have passed there is no reason why these political prisoners should not be released whatever their offences might be and whatever the conditions in which those offences were committed. It would not be a bit derogatory to the administration. Most of them, I say 99 per cent., have been convicted under circumstances and in a way which cannot be called judicial, impartial or a fair trial. They have been thrown behind prison bars in a most tyrannical and atrocious way. Nobody can deny this. This is true and these are facts. Therefore I appeal to the Government to rise to the occasion and create circumstances in which the fate of the country might be decided in a way which would bring credit to them and solve the problem without any trouble whatsoever.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, in rising to support this motion moved by my Honourable friend Govind Malaviya there is one aspect of the question which I would like to put before the House today. We are hearing all the time, these days, about bringing a calm and harmonious and peaceful atmosphere in the country when the three eminent Cabinet Ministers are here and who have come, or are at least going to try, to settle the question of giving India her freedom. I ask you, Sir, how are we going to have this calm and peaceful atmosphere if so many of our people, whose only crime happens to be that of patriotism—and it is very strange that this is the only country where patriotism is a crime—are behind prison bars? How do the Government expect to have a calm and peaceful atmosphere? We have been hearing a great deal about those two words of His Excellency the Viceroy "Forget and forgive". Is that meant only for us, or is it meant also for the Government? If it is meant for us alone, we are trying our very best to forget and forgive. We can forgive, Sir, but we cannot always forget. How can we forget when we still have all these people behind prison bars? The War Secretary has told us so many times that the cases are going to be brought up against these I.N.A. men who are charged of brutality. A little while ago Mr. Sri Parkasa said that so many men of the Indian National Army—and may I tell the War Secretary it was not the "so-called" Indian National Army but it was an Indian National Army fighting for the freedom of this country against the Japanese and other aggressors with a view to free the country and to have it for ourselves—are still kept behind prison bars, though there are no charges of brutalities against them, not only in Delhi but also in other parts of India, in Malaya, some in Bangkok, and some in Europe. We hear so little about those civilian members of the Indian National Army who were in Germany and in France. The report came in the press the other day with regard to certain members of the Indian National Army being killed in France, but we have not heard anything further about that incident. We have also been hearing a little from the press with regard to those of our men who are in Germany. Some say they have been taken to England. Some say they have been taken to other places. The relations of these people have no news at all. We do not understand why they are still kept away in foreign lands and why they cannot be brought back to India. How are we going to get this peaceful atmosphere when our people are treated like this? In Delhi Fort, I know there are so many including Col. Chatterjee, Col. Loganathan, Alagappan and some other doctors. And we hear from the Bhoré Committee Report and from those on the Government Benches that doctors are so badly needed in this country. If you keep doctors behind prison bars, where there is no case of brutality against them, if you are still going to keep them in prison, how are we going to benefit and how can India benefit with the help of these doctors when we are facing such a calamity as we are facing today? I don't understand this talk about brutality. Why don't the Government look into the acts of brutality by Government people? There have been so many cases, reported in the press, and reports and statements made by those men who have now come out of the Red Fort about the brutalities practised there. There was one particular case against one Lt. Warran of the C.S.D.I.C. and I saw a report in the press by Col. Sahgal concerning the brutalities committed by that particular officer. How does the Government not deny the particular brutality and how is it that no action has been taken against this individual? I cannot understand why brutality

is brutality only when it is practised perhaps under very abnormal conditions. Mr. Sri Prakasa said that there were certain times when certain things are done. When some people do something at normal times it is all right. But if others do it, that is taken as brutality practised by brutal men. This is not the way that Government is going to bring about a peaceful atmosphere in this country. I don't quite understand whether they really want a peaceful atmosphere. I sometimes feel that the way they talk and the things they do are very contradictory. I have my own doubts whether they really want a peaceful atmosphere. I feel that they are wanting an atmosphere of tension. They are wanting an atmosphere of bitterness that is really existing in the country today to be kept up rather than a peaceful atmosphere to be brought in. If it is to be brought in, the Home Member as well as the War Secretary must see that it is absolutely necessary to release all those prisoners who were taken in 1942, and many of them who have not been tried. Many of them are just kept behind prison bars without any trial. With regard to the I.N.A. men, in spite of the stories that have come out, in spite of the statements made about the atrocities committed by the officials in the jails, nothing has been done, and the I.N.A. people are kept under lock and key. In the case of some people, they are those who have been released, like Raghavan of Singapore. He has been released without having real freedom. I do not know whether the situation has changed since these last two days, but he has not been allowed to come to India where he wants to come. When are these persons to be repatriated? At least those who are released should be repatriated to India when they show a wish to come back to their own country. Why are they still being kept back? Is it because that will bring about a peaceful atmosphere in the country that the Government is keeping them far away from India? People like Mr. Raghavan and Mr. Nambiyar are all known to be men of great influence, and men who will be able to help in solving this great problem that is facing us in India today. If really Government mean what they say about a peaceful atmosphere, they should see to it that all these men are released and no more trials take place. I do not understand the farce of these trials. What do they gain and whom are they pleasing, England or America? The Leader of the House has just come back from America. I would like to know from him what they think about these things in America. I know the people of America are in full sympathy with the Indian question and I am sure they cannot be feeling happy about the situation. Perhaps the War Secretary might say that this has nothing to do with the motion today. But it has to do something, because public opinion should also be taken into consideration. When we are asked to forget and forgive, we should also have our say, and we should tell the Government that they should also act so that these two things can happen so that a peaceful settlement can be made, and harmony, good-will and friendship can again come back into this country and to the people of this country. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-official): I have listened to the various speeches on the question of the release of I. N. A. prisoners and I cannot help making one or two observations on this subject. To begin with, I must say that I dispute—and very strongly dispute—the authority of the present Government to charge anybody for treason, because the question arises as to “treason against whom”? They have not derived that authority from the people of this country to try anybody on a charge of treason. But at the same time, even though it may look as if I am sounding a discordant note to the various arguments that have been put forward on the floor of this House, I would be failing in my duty if I did not bring certain facts before this House. The I.N.A. officers had the best of motives for the freedom of this country. I am not here to dispute the motives of a few young misguided youths of this country.....

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Properly guided.

Miss Maniben Kara: But let us see certain hard facts. It will be a very right thing for us always to see facts, not with prejudice but in the right light. If these I.N.A. officers had succeeded in what they thought would free the country, what would have been the result? The victorious Japanese army would have marched into this country, with the result that we will not be sitting in this House and India would have been thrown back hundreds of years and the question of freedom of India would not have arisen at all for the next many years. (Interruptions). It is

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not merely a question of India being under the domination of the fascists or Japanese as a result of India being under the domination of the Japanese, we would have been responsible for the dark ages engulfing the world. We must not forget that in the dark days of 1942 every Indian who called himself a nationalist was rejoicing at every victory of the fascists, thinking that the freedom of India was coming closer. I am not here to dispute the motives of those friends; but at the same time I may answer my friends that I had a most clear vision on this question; and as a member of the Radical Democratic Party, I had always taken up the position that the Japanese should be defeated. I was not one of those who said "I have no quarrel with Japan." I have always said that I have a quarrel with Japan and I would do whatever lay in my power to defeat Japan.

Whatever can be done was done by my Party.....

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind : Muhammadan Rural) : On a point of explanation, Sir; is the Honourable Member charging our party also ?

Miss Maniben Kara : If the victorious Japanese army had marched into India, as many of our friends wanted them to do, the result would have been that in spite of the best of their motives to free India, India would have been not only in darkness herself but would have had the sin on her head of making the entire world thrown into darkness and slavery for ever. Fortunately they did not succeed. But I am really wondering at the attitude of the present Government which today wants to penalise these very handful of people who were nothing but the victims of the continuous propaganda of those very elders who wanted a victory for the fascists and for Japan. Not only that but what I am still more surprised at today is the attitude of the present Government who are willing to transfer power to those very people and want to penalise this small handful. If that is the position, I certainly cannot have any sympathy and I cannot understand the logic of the position taken up by the War Secretary in wanting only to penalise these few people. With these words I would certainly support the resolution moved by my friend from the opposite side. I had absolutely no intention of speaking. I know that mine is a solitary voice and may sound a discordant voice, but I take my stand on the principles for which I have always stood, and I am proud of possessing those principles.

***Chaudhri Srichand** (Nominated Non-official) : Mr. President, I feel exceedingly pleased when I see the Congressites who, a few months ago, were in the habit of calling the Indian soldiers as mercenaries, are now calling them not only heroes but star-heroes. Mr. President, the poor long more for the freedom of their country than the rich. The rich who earn a lot of money from rents of their properties can easily afford to go to jail but the poor who have no such sources of income—may rather have to work hard for their and their families' livelihood—do not find it easy to go to prison. From this the Congressites must not conclude wrongly that they alone are lovers of the freedom of their country. The freedom of India was as much desired at the time when you branded the *faujies* as mercenaries as now when you call them star-heroes. There is not one Indian who does not desire to see India free.

Mr. President, the conditions under which these youngmen joined the I.N.A. are such that nobody could hold them blameworthy for their action. The Britishers, who, on account of war, could not find passage to go back to England, were appointed on Boards of fortune-tellers. It is said about Officials, who used to interview and select candidates for Emergency Commissions, that they were so experienced that they could tell after a few minutes' interview that the candidate would become a successful officer. These fortune-tellers would find out the candidates' capabilities by looking at his forehead. In fact these Selection Boards made the knowledge of English as their basis of selection and by-passed the experienced Viceroy's Commissioned Officers. The result was that tea-planters and shop-keepers were recruited to the Army and sent to the battlefield. These people, at the first appearance of danger, left their men fighting and ran away from the battlefield.

* Th^o Honourable Member spoke in Urdu.

I asked an officer of the 2/9th Jat Regiment, who had escaped from Singapore, as to the condition in which he left his Regiment. He admitted that at the time he escaped his Regiment was fighting but its British Officers had run away to India. Under these conditions if these youngmen joined the I. N. A. they committed no crime. On being told that the I. N. A. was being formed for the freedom of India they joined it.

Mr. President, we have not so advanced in politics that one brother may serve as an Inspector of the C. I. D., the other as a Congress leader, another as a member of the Communist Party and yet another may boast of loyalty to the Government and live peacefully and comfortably in the same house and under the same roof. We are yet in a condition that if one member of the family joins a movement all other members follow him. In the present war 4 to 5 sons of a father enlisted in the Army. Out of them 3 or 4 have faithfully served the Government on different fronts. One of them joined the I. N. A. Now if this one is sent to jail I assure the Government, that the others will not remain loyal.

Atrocities and non-violence are terms whose meanings nobody has understood. Government has conceded that the mere act of joining the I. N. A. does not make a cause for prosecution of a person; only those of the personnel of the I. N. A. will be prosecuted who have been accused of atrocious acts.

Mr. President, no case will be instituted against men and officers of the I. N. A. who fought against the allied armies but those of its personnel who, in the interest of discipline, in the I. N. A., caned or punished some of the offenders under them, will be punished. This, on the face of it, appears improper and nonsensical.

In view of these circumstances I most strongly appeal to the Government not to institute any cases against the men and officers of the I. N. A. and withdraw those that are pending in the court.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Mr. President, after my release from detention, speaking at Bombay, I said that I demanded the British imperialist Government in India that not a hair on the heads of I. N. A. officers and men must be touched. In saying so, I was not speaking for myself alone; I was voicing the demand of the entire Indian people, irrespective of race, religion or creed. Sir, I was surprised, I was almost staggered, to hear certain words that came out of the lips of my Honourable friend, Miss Mani Ben Kara. I did not expect, that in the year of grace 1946 any one in this vast land of ours would have the temerity to describe I. N. A. officers and men as misguided or misled. I know, that in the year 1942 and in the succeeding years propaganda was carried on at the instance of or under the inspiration of my Honourable friends opposite to the effect that I. N. A. officers and men were Quislings, were traitors, were misguided, were misled, were of slavish mentality and all the rest of it. But time has had its revenge and those who came to curse the I. N. A. and its officers and men in 1942, 1943 and 1944 have remained to bless them. I say, Sir, with the utmost conviction that Shah Nawaz, Sahgal, Dhillon, Abdul Rashid, Burhanuddin, Alagappan, Lokanathan, Chatterjee and thousands of others who followed them will always be remembered and will be recorded in the history of India as fighters for the freedom of the country. In our eyes there is no difference whatever between Shah Nawaz on the one hand and Abdul Rashid on the other. In our eyes, there is no difference whatever between a Dhillon on the one hand and a Burhanuddin on the other. Each and every one of them is today looked upon, I will go further and say, worshipped, as a high priest of nationalism and a lover of his country.

My Honourable friend, Miss Maniben Kara, also talked about fascists. The I. N. A.—I prefer to describe them in our own words the "Azad Hind Fauj"—were not fascists or supporters of fascists. When I was listening to the speech of Miss Maniben Kara I was wondering in my own mind whether she was making any distinction between fascists on the one hand and imperialists on the other. If anything, Sir, imperialists are the parents of fascists. I know it has become almost the fashion—and I know at the same time it is safe—to condemn fascists and to leave the imperialists alone. As we are living under imperialist domination it becomes sometimes dangerous to condemn imperialists and imperialism. The last world war, Sir, was a war between the parents of fascism on the one hand and neo-fascism on

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the other or, if I may use the words of George Bernard Shaw, between Anglo-American fascism on the one hand and Italo-German fascism on the other. What difference Miss Maniben Kara makes between the old fascists and the new ones I for myself fail to comprehend.

Now, Sir, as I said a few moments ago in the year 1942 and in the succeeding years propaganda was carried on at the instance of the British imperialist Government in India that our own men across the borders had allied themselves with the fascists. That propaganda went on almost until the close of the last world war but since then other facts, disconcerting to British imperialists and their supporters, have come out and today I claim that I am right in saying that those of our own kith and kin who were fighting outside India's borders were doing two things at the same time. They were out to resist any possible aggression, I mean new aggression, on the one hand and to rid the country of old aggression on the other. Sir, I have never been a supporter of any kind of new aggression, but at the same time I shall say quite plainly that I have always been a sworn enemy, and God willing, till the last breath of my life, I shall remain a sworn enemy of the old aggression that still maintains itself in India. If anything, the old aggression is worse than any threatened new aggression because time makes us forgetful and makes us acquiesce in the old aggression. The I. N. A. officers and men have shown by their example that they were not prepared to acquiesce in the old aggression any longer. There was a call to the whole country to stand up, to rise and to free the country from the old aggression from which it has been suffering for the last 200 years. I know that point will be made by Government Benches that some of these officers and men of Azad Hind Fauj belonged to the British Indian army and in fact, a warning has been given to us by Mr. Mason that we should always be careful about the discipline and loyalty of the Army. Sir, I am aware that some officers and men of the Azad Hind Fauj were officers and men of the British Indian army and I very much regret it. But they were men in whom had been lighted the spark of patriotism. They were torn between two conflicting loyalties, one the smaller loyalty they subscribed to at the time they joined the British Indian army, and the other, the bigger loyalty that they had subscribed to from the dates of their respective births, loyalty to the country of their births or of their adoption as the case may be. The Honourable the War Secretary has spoken of the tradition in military matters. He has appealed to that tradition. But I appeal to a tradition, older, wider, nobler far, the tradition that was created by subject peoples in some other lands and in other times and which it was time for us to create in our own land, the tradition which enjoins the laying down of our lives for the freedom of our country. It is because I. N. A. officers and men created that tradition in this country that we love them, it is because of that, we adore them, it is because of that, we worship them. Now, Sir, the propaganda that was carried on in 1942 and in the succeeding years having failed, recourse had to be had to something else. And what was it? Talk of brutalities and atrocities was resorted to. Sir, who has talked of brutalities and atrocities? Descendants of those who exhumed the body of the Mahdi from its resting place, descendants of those in whose eyes, in the year 1857-58 and the succeeding years, it was a crime to be a Muhammadan, descendants of those in whose eyes, since the last fifty years, it has been a crime to be a Hindu! When a Muhammadan in 1857-58 struck a blow for liberty, every Member of his community committed a crime in the eyes of those whose representatives are sitting on the Treasury Benches today. If in 1905 a Hindu struck a blow, every member of that community was condemned as a terrorist and a revolutionary. Sir, we have seen through that game; that game will not succeed any more in this country. I ask, what is the evidence in support of these charges of brutalities and atrocities? Sir, I venture to say, and if I get an opportunity at any time in my life, I am prepared to prove it to the hilt, that it is all tainted evidence on which the War Secretary or the Honourable the Home Member or any other Member on the Treasury Benches is compelled to rely. It is all tainted evidence, tainted evidence coming from those whom they have kept in detention either in peril of their lives or in peril of lifelong imprisonment or some other peril. In those circumstances, it is easy to bring forward either documents or words in support of faked charges of brutalities and atrocities. Sir, I would ask Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches wh_o

have levelled these charges of brutalities and atrocities, I would ask them, would they dare to bring forward these charges before the ordinary court of law in this country? I know it is easy enough to bring them before court martials and special tribunals. We have had ample experience of such tribunals in the past and we are still going through the same experience today. The Honourable the Home Member or the War Secretary has not the courage to bring these men before the ordinary courts of the land for trial.

Mr. P. Mason : May I ask the Honourable Member whether he has read the statement of Dr. Katju, who, with his experience of 40 years at the Bar, has never seen a trial with greater fairness than these Courts Martial?

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose : I have been at the Bar for the last three decades and I also claim to have some experience of trials, civil, military and otherwise. Coming from the province of Bengal—and I say so with great respect to Dr. Katju—I have had more experience of special tribunals and Courts Martial than what Dr. Katju has had. I know what they are. And I know that Government are so hard pressed today that they have to rely on certificates from men belonging to our ranks.

Sir, coming back to the subjects of special tribunals and Courts Martial, the justice that they deal out, I make bold to say, is a travesty of justice. We all know under what circumstances evidence has been collected. And knowing them, I would ask those Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches who are making such a lot of charges of brutalities and atrocities to remove themselves from this country, with "their pedlars' pack of garbled evidence and surreptitious affidavits"—to use the words of Richard Brintley Sheridan. Even if there are charges against 25 or 50 of the I. N. A. officers and men,—I am reminded in this connection of a communique which appeared not very long ago that the Government of India intended to put up not more than 50 I.N.A. officers and men for trial on such charges—what happens to the remainder? My Honourable friend, Shri Sri Prakasa, has given the names of some of the I.N.A. officers and men who have been in this country since June last year. Ten months have elapsed and yet nothing has been done for their release. There are thousands of officers and men still rotting in detention. It is obvious that no charges of brutalities and atrocities could be made against an overwhelming majority of these officers and men. Then, why are they in prison today?

Mr. P. Mason : There are not so many. A number of them have been let out.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose : I am speaking only of those who are in prison. Not all have been let out. Thousands are still in prison today. Can the War Secretary deny it?

Mr. P. Mason : I have been anxious this afternoon to speak and place the real facts before the House, but I had no opportunity to do so.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose : I say thousands are still in detention camps today, whether it is the Red Fort in Delhi or the Kabul Lines or military hospitals or elsewhere. Is that denied?

Mr. P. Mason : I want to give the figures, but I have no time.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose : Are not the figures running to thousands? Why are they still in detention?

Mr. President : It being four of the clock, the House will now take up the Adjournment Motion. The Honourable Member can resume his speech on the next Resolution day.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO OBTAIN THE FOOD QUOTA DEMANDED BY THEM FROM THE COMBINED FOOD BOARD

Mr. President : The House will now take up the motion for adjournment. Looking to the importance of the subject as also the peculiar nature of the information which is wanted, it is suggested that the Honourable Mover, Mr. Chaman Lall,

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may just move his motion formally and, instead of making a speech now, may allow the Leader of the House, who is in possession of all the facts, to speak first and give the facts which will give the House the basis for the debate. Then the Honourable Mover may make his speech by way of reply. The Honourable Leader of the House will, of course, have an opportunity of speaking again. I hope the House is agreeable to that.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Yes, Sir.

Sir, I move :

“ That the Assembly do now adjourn ”.

Mr. President : Motion moved :

“ that the Assembly do now adjourn ”.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Leader of the House) : Sir, I am glad I have such an early opportunity of explaining to the House some of the facts relating to the most heavy charge and responsibility which was placed on me by the Government of India during the last few weeks. No task that I have undertaken on behalf of Government, no mission that I had headed during all my seven years of official life in connection with this Government had oppressed me with such a heavy sense of responsibility than the one which at very short notice I was asked to take charge of. I had hoped with the help of my colleague the Food Member in London, when he came over as Leader of the Delegation, to represent the full facts with reference to the Indian situation and to demand from those who are in a position to supply, such quantities of foodgrains as we required to meet the direct needs of this country. Not having been in charge of the Food Department myself I confess that I felt rather tremulous at the idea of taking such a heavy responsibility when I knew what the consequences of my failure to discharge my functions satisfactorily would be. Previous experience of what had happened in this country during the ghastly year of 1943 did not make me any more courageous in undertaking the mission. But when I realised that there was no alternative for me but to assume responsibility I had to take it, but with the comforting thought that in the discharge of those responsibilities I would have the active help and co-operation of several colleagues, members of the Food Delegation, officials and non-officials alike. It was only that thought that emboldened me at long last to assume that responsibility.

Sir, about the end of January I was warned that the food situation in this country was going to be critical in the coming months, that on the top of a cyclone in one portion of the Madras Presidency and floods had come a prolonged drought which had blasted the hopes of the Governments of the southern provinces including the Indian States and had made the position extremely precarious for the continued food supply on any adequate scale to the population of these provinces in particular. I was warned that a food delegation may have to come over and place the case of India's food supplies before such persons as were in a position to deal with that problem. About a fortnight later the Food Delegation arrived—I believe on the 11th February—and I had an opportunity of acquainting myself at first hand with the position from the report particularly of the officers of the various provinces and States. Sir Ramamurti from Madras, Mr. Madhav Rao, Dewan of Mysore and Mr. Gorwala, Adviser to the Bombay Government had complete facts before them as regards the position, and we had various discussions in London and I was made fully acquainted with the position. It was also fortunate that just at that time the food position in various parts of Europe had become so acute that in the General Assembly of the United Nations the representatives of the five permanent powers in the Security Council presented a Resolution calling upon all nations with surplus foodstuffs to do their level best to save the threatened acute famine and starvation in several parts of the world. Honourable Members are aware that the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, Mr. Bevin, moved the Resolution urging on the nations which had surplus crops to do their level best to supply to the deficit areas, particularly to the starving European and the South-Eastern Asiatic countries the surplus that they could so well spare. I had an opportunity to take part in that discussion. I will not go through what I said at the time because I believe

it has been fairly extensively publicised in this country. But I will make only one short comment on what I said which afterwards bore some fruit. I had come to learn both through the press and otherwise that Soviet Russia had sufficient supplies of food and that in fact the Generalissimo Marshal Stalin had stated in his electioneering speech just a few weeks before that rationing which had been continuing in Russia since 1941 would be revoked in view of the excellent food situation in the country; and I made a personal appeal to the Soviet delegation from the rostrum of the General Assembly and afterwards had talks with some of the delegates of the Soviet Russian delegation that the time had come when they should play their part in supplying out of their surplus the starving population in some parts of the world, including India.

Now, Sir, after the discussion of the resolution in the General Assembly, which was of course unanimously adopted, we started serious work as a delegation in London. I must first explain the process by which the allotment of surplus food-stuffs is made. There is in London a Council called the London Food Council, shortly called L. F. C. That Food Council represents all the dominions, Great Britain and the colonial possessions through the colonial departments, and meets regularly to discuss the food situation in what may be called the British Commonwealth area. The London Food Council first discusses what might be given to these various dominions and colonies and what might be got from these dominions which are surplus. There is then the Washington Combined Food Board which is the real authority for suggesting what wheat may be allotted to various countries and what rice can be allotted to the different countries. Before the London Food Council the delegation appeared—normally the High Commissioner for India in London is the representative of India on the London Food Council—but on this particular occasion the delegation itself appeared, and I and other members of the delegation took part in the discussions, placed our views before the London Food Council, showed to them how the shortage occurred and what the minimum is that we would require to meet that shortage. I might at once, to clarify the position, state what our demands were. We said, under instructions from the Government of India, that till the end of June of this year 1946 India would require about two million tons of wheat and five hundred thousand tons of rice, and that for the next six months—July to December—we would require a further two million tons of wheat and rice combined, so that our total requirements for the whole of the year 1946 would be 4.5 million tons. We divided it into two parts for more than one reason: In the first place, we felt that the European harvest would be coming in the month of July and that if the whole of the year's allocation was now to be suggested, the position of the European or the Northern hemisphere harvest would not be known and to over assure themselves those countries would ask for more than they would really need at a later stage and therefore it was advisable, though our own requirements would not change in any way, that we should divide our demands into these two categories: Up to the 1st of July 1946 2½ million tons in the proportions of wheat and rice that I have suggested, and from the 1st of July to the 31st of December a further 2 million tons, that further 2 million tons being of course subject to re-evaluation as time progressed and as the result of the June crop and the later small October crop came to be known.

In the London Food Council itself our rival claimants were the various Colonial possessions and to a certain extent South Africa. In South Africa there had been a similar drought. The two million population of coloured people—let me say, the native people, the local inhabitants—were short of food because the maize crop had failed, and the South African Government had put in a demand for over a million tons of wheat and maize combined. In Malaya, in Hongkong and other places there was also demand for rice and of wheat.

In the London Food Council itself there was not much difficulty in getting most of our requirements passed and indeed Honourable Members will easily realize the reasons for it. We were cutting down all those who were not represented at the London Food Council zone, all those who were outside the British Commonwealth—the European Nations, Japan, occupied Germany, and various other parts. South American countries were all claimants for what was available as a total world surplus but we were cutting them down to very narrow figures and

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we were able to push through our claims. But we realized that there would be a different position when we went to Washington and faced the Combined Food Board.

On the Combined Food Board the three Governments that are represented are the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Canada. These constitute the Members of the Combined Food Board. Under the Combined Food Board there are two committees established—the Rice Committee and the Cereals Committee—the Rice Committee dealing only with rice allocation, and the Cereals Committee evaluating the needs so far as wheat and other crops—barley and maize—are concerned of all those countries which ask for those. The Combined Food Board had only these three Governments on it, but in these two other Committees various claimants are represented. Many of the European Nations are there who have been claimants for a period of years. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association is also represented on these committees. India is not represented on either of these Committees. The claimants are there, but India was not a regular claimant and in any case it was not represented. The delegation took up the position in London itself that we had seriously suffered in the past owing to the fact that India was not represented on these Cereals and Rice Committees and that our position should first be argued before these Grain Committees whose recommendations came up finally for confirmation, approval or amendment before the Combined Food Board, and we later took up the same position in Washington. When we went up to Washington, the Combined Food Board first received us, and we argued our case before the Combined Food Board. The Chairman of the Combined Food Board is the Secretary for Agriculture of the United States Government, Mr. Clinton Anderson. I had the opportunity through the introduction of our Agent-General, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, to have a private talk with Mr. Clinton Anderson before the official meeting and to explain to him the position. At the official meeting itself we explained the position,—the reasons why India fell short of these things—and our requirements or demands for the quantity that I have already mentioned. After this the Combined Food Board suggested that the position may be examined by the two Committees that I have already mentioned. I might say here that in December and January the Combined Food Board had just finished the allocations for the next six months up to June 30th, 1946. What we were trying to do was to reopen allocations that had been made only a few weeks earlier by the Combined Food Board. According to the allocations in January, four hundred thousand tons of wheat and no rice was allocated to India for the six months from January to June 1946. We had put forward a claim for 1½ million tons earlier. It had gone through the post and through the Secretary of State and His Majesty's Government to the Combined Food Board. Part of it of course was required as a sort of reserve. This demand was put forward in August and October of last year before the situation had so developed that the December crops were practically complete failure in many parts of South India, and therefore before the new demand had arisen for more of these supplies of wheat and of rice. The Delegation realized the difficulty of reopening these negotiations and at this stage I would like to say that after our discussions in London with the London Food Council, of which Sir Ben Smith, the Minister of Food, was the Chairman, we felt that unless a person of high authority and Ministerial rank from the United Kingdom attended the meetings of the Combined Food Board, where the three Governments alone were represented, and where at the stage of coming to decisions and conclusions only those three Governments were present, we felt that unless the United Kingdom was represented at Ministerial level, it may be possible to get satisfaction. The Delegation, therefore, approached the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and suggested that on this occasion Sir Ben Smith, who had just returned to London, after the December-January allocations, should go back to Washington, and press our case as it had been approved by the London Food Council. We could not directly take part at the decisive and conclusive stages of the Combined Food Board's discussions. I am glad to say that the Prime Minister readily responded to our request and the Minister of Food, Sir Ben Smith, came to Washington to attend the meetings of the Combined Food Board. I said that the question of our demands along with the demands of other countries, was placed

before these two Committees—the Rice Committee and the Cereals Committee. A great deal of prejudice we had to contend with at the first instance. It was so easy for them to point out that we had come at a very late stage that we are virtually asking them to reopen allocations which had already been made, that the demands of various countries had already been accepted, that promises had been made to those countries, that the supplies of certain amounts would be going to them, and that it would be very harsh to reduce their supplies and that there was no visible sign of increased surplus which could be freely allocated in view of the new demand that India had made.

Mr. President : The time limit of fifteen minutes in the case of speeches during the course of adjournment motion has been fixed by the Standing Order, but looking to the importance of the subject and the volume of information that the House would like to have from the Honourable the Leader of the House, if it is the unanimous desire of the House that the operation of the Standing order should remain suspended, I should be glad to suspend the same and give the Honourable the Leader of the House such time as he may require to give a full statement to the House.

Some Honourable Members : Yes, yes.

Mr. President : He can take his own time now.

If it is the unanimous desire, then he can take his own time.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : I am grateful to the House that I have been given time to explain the case fully.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi : General) : I would like to point out that although it is fortunate that the House has agreed to hear Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar on this very important subject, there is no precedent for such a suspension of the standing Order.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : I think we may solve the difficulty by saying that this will not create a precedent.

Mr. President : I am told that here are precedents, but I may assure the House that I do not like to exercise this power unless I feel that the House is substantially unanimous.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division : Muhammadan Rural) : It is—very substantially.

Mr. President : Very substantially.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : I was referring to the criticism with which we had to deal that we had come late on the stage and that we were upsetting the calculations already made very carefully by the Combined Food Board. We replied that the course of nature was not under our control, that the situation had arisen owing to a prolonged drought which we could not foresee and that day after day the Government of India and the people of India were looking at the skies in the hope that some cloud may break and bring in the necessary showers which, even if it were three or four inches, would have redeemed the situation and it would have made for better crops. In fact our late coming was a signal proof of the earnestness with which we had come and the genuineness of the demand that we were now making. After we had gone through those preliminary hurdles, they constituted two Working Committees of these two Committees—the Rice Committee and the Wheat Committee, and they were asked to go through the various demands or claims and try to allocate against these demands. It proved impossible to come to any agreement in either of these Committees. The demands from various committees were such that they could not all be met and very few were willing to reduce their demands. For our part we had said that the Government of India had made a most careful calculation, that if they erred they erred in trying to minimise as far as possible their requirements, because they knew the world situation was grave and there was no use of putting impossible demands before the Combined Board. We also argued that the rationing system is fairly satisfactory, particularly in the Provinces where this distress had arisen, that Bombay, Madras and Mysore had been working this system carefully, that all the urban areas had been rationed strictly, that in the Madras Presidency, by a quantitative restriction even the rural areas had come under a similar system of

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rationing, and calculated on this basis we put forward our demands. Moreover at the instance of His Excellency the Viceroy, only a few weeks earlier, I believe on the 12th February, the Government agreed to cut the rations to 12 ounces, which is only 1,200 calories, and seeing that the people had little else than rice, wheat or maize, by way of additional food to make up the required calories, that it was the minimum demand we were presenting.

Let me explain the position with reference to rice first. There is very little rice in the world outside the South-East Asia zone. Burma, Siam and Indo-China were the main rice producing areas with surpluses. There is a little rice in some of the South American countries. But most of the South American countries were themselves short of rice like Brazil. The Philippines was one of those again short of rice and so was Porto Rico, these being the special responsibility of the United States administration. We had claims to meet not merely from the European countries, which were liberated and came under the umbrella of UNRRA, but we had claims from enemy territories also, and I should like to explain briefly what these claims were.

In Germany there were three zones, each of which was managed by one of these powers. There was the Russian zone, the United States zone and the British zone. The United States zone in particular wanted a certain amount of rice because the German workers had to be kept on their work. These zones being under military commanders, the demand came to the Combined Food Board from the Military Commanders and they said that unless such and such requirements were fulfilled they could not be responsible for keeping law and order in those zones. General MacArthur from Japan put forward a claim of one million tons of rice for Japan. He could not fulfil his responsibility unless he got the one million tons of rice. I was informed, though not at a public meeting of this Board that General MacArthur insisted that he must either have one million tons of rice or that he must have so many hundred thousands more troops to keep law and order, if the rice was not forthcoming. The argument was advanced that these were responsibilities which had to be shared by the United States and by other Governments and that having taken upon themselves the task of feeding the civil population of the enemy countries they could not well deny themselves the responsibility of finding the food for these populations. If any one of these demands had been met, not fully, but even partially to any considerable extent, there would not have been any wheat or rice left for India and some of the other countries.

We contested this demand on the ground that though legalistically it was their responsibility, there was the higher responsibility by the United States and by other Governments similarly situated towards those people and nations who had been their allies in this war and whose present position was directly due to what the enemy had done towards devastating and sabotaging most of the areas which were producing foodstuffs necessary to feed the people. After a great deal of argument along those lines, I am glad to say that very substantial reductions were made in the demands which these military Governors made. We of course reinforced our argument by the statement that the calculations which the Military Governors had made and what the military administrators had made, could not by any stretch of imagination be compared with the meticulously exact calculation which Governments like the Government of India or other Governments which the machinery for the purpose were in a position to make and had actually made. At the best they were guesses or they were figures based on information gathered by the military administrations at the instance of those civil officers of the enemy territories who were in charge of supplies. As I said, neither in the Rice Committee nor in the Wheat Committee was there any possibility of coming to a complete agreement on this matter. Then we went to the Combined Food Board and argued our case before them. The Combined Food Board had finally to make its decision. The Combined Food Board made this decision: With respect to rice that India would get up to the end of June, 145,000 tons of rice; with respect to wheat that it would get up to the end of June for the six monthly period, January to June, 1,400,000 tons of wheat, and a little of maize included in that 1,400,000 tons. Now it should be remembered that by the time we got our decision in the Combined

Food Board, virtually three months had elapsed and that therefore much of this quantity of 1,400,000 tons of wheat and about 145,000 tons of rice would be coming into the country in the months of April, May and June. With regard to the second instalment of what we wanted, which would be spread over the third and fourth quarters of the year, no decision has been made. The position will be examined towards the end of May when India's case will be presented again and in view of the then situation we would have an allocation of what would be available to us. I might explain in this connection that there is a difference between the position of rice and the position of wheat. Rice whatever is obtained, being under the control of the South East Asia Command is absolutely allocated. That is the only rice available from Siam. Therefore the detailed allotments are sent out as allocated. With reference to wheat the technical position is that no allotment is made but a recommendation is made to the surplus countries that they will be well advised to give such and such quantities to various countries. Australia, Canada, the United States and to a certain extent the Argentina are the four countries which are surplus in wheat and the Combined Food Board recommends to these countries that they should send wheat of such quantities to such and such countries. These recommendations—the countries concerned being members of the Combined Food Board (Canada and the United States particularly and Australia and Argentina having agreed to abide by the decision of the Combined Food Board) are as good as allocations, though technically they are not allocations.

With reference to the Siam rice I ought to explain the position a little more in detail. At one time it was estimated that Siam had over one million tons of rice. This was about September or October last year as soon as they had entered Siam and found the granaries full. Unfortunately as I considered then, and as it has been recognised later, unfortunately the victorious armies suggested that an indemnity of one million tons of rice should be given by Siam for the part she took in the war. The result of that was that most of the rice was driven underground and when procurement operations were begun it was found difficult, almost impossible, to get any rice from Siam. I heard about it in December, long before the position with reference to India had arisen and knowing that the part of the country from which I come was specially interested in rice I had to interest His Majesty's Government in the question and put it before them that the question was not one of indemnity but of getting the rice and that payment was no consideration in regard to this matter. The main thing was to get the rice and indemnity was a forlorn proposition, if that was the main purpose. I am glad to say that His Majesty's Government revised that matter and that whatever rice is being got out of Siam is being paid for. Unfortunately the mischief had been done to some extent and we are now trying to remedy that position. I may also add that the Siam Government has now entered into an agreement whereby a United States and British Mission will be there to get the rice out of Siam. It had been dispersed into various hands. There are certain technical difficulties that arise in the procurement and I suggest and I hope the Government of India will accept the suggestion (it has been backed by the Food Delegation) that the stage has come when a representative of the Government of India, a non-official and commercial man with the proper staff should himself go to Siam and see that the procurement is properly carried out and that Siamese rice is paid for by way of various consumer goods being exchanged for the rice which we can get out of Siam.

I should like to mention one other fact. The Delegation went to Canada first. They went to Ottawa before going to the Combined Food Board in Washington, because we wanted to enlist the sympathy of the Canadian Government and the representative of the Canadian Government on the Combined Food Board in our favour, so that our battle may be fought by him as well as by the British representative on the Combined Food Board. I am bound to state with gratitude that the Canadian Government treated us with the utmost and cordial sympathy and with the closest co-operation. I had myself the honour of a long interview with the Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, whom I had the advantage of knowing on more than one occasion and especially at San Francisco. The Prime Minister said that he would do everything in his power to help India to get what she needed especially from his own country and from other places as well. The Canadian

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representative on the United Nations Organisation had also generously supported me when I made an appeal to the United Nations. I told the Prime Minister that from all that I had gathered from unofficial sources in Canada, the best way in which he could help us was not merely to give the surplus which was disclosed in the elevators, which was under the control of the Canadian Wheat Board, but to see to it that what little further surplus there was in the hands of the farmers come into the elevators, so that the surplus may be greater and therefore the allotment may be greater. I told the Prime Minister that I had learnt that farmers were keeping back some of their foodgrains and not transferring it on to the elevators on the simple ground that the more wheat they sold the more excess profits tax they would have to pay during the year. The Finance Department again came in the way in that country as in many other countries to stop and arrest the free flow of foodgrains to those who are most in need of it. Mr. Mackenzie King noted the point immediately and said that he would consider it with his Cabinet and I am happy to say that only last week I heard the announcement that the Canadian Government had provided that their farmers could freely sell their wheat, that they could take the profits over a period of three years, at any time during that three year period, that they need not account for it in this year or even in the next year as profits which would be subject to excess profits tax. That is to say, if next year the Canadian wheat crop was not as good or even in the following year or the third year, they could adjust the amount that they had received this year out of the surplus stocks, and that it could stand to their credit in any of the following years. I am hopeful, knowing the situation as it has been explained to me by Canadian farmers, that that would produce a surplus larger than was anticipated. The present allocation is on the basis of surpluses which have been realised and stated to the Combined Food Board. Any further surpluses that come in would have to be allocated even in this period as a further instalment.

Having had this decision by the Combined Food Board we wanted to see that as far as possible whatever we got was absolutely secure. In the first place we had pressed for a membership on the Cereals and the Rice Committee and in Washington we pressed that India should be represented on those committees. And I am glad to inform the House that this has been agreed to and Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, our Agent General, will normally be our representative both on the Rice Committee and on the Cereals Committee and in his absence we have suggested that the Chairman of our Supply Mission, Mr. Vesugar or his alternate may take his place and be a full member of both these committees, so that whenever these questions come up for consideration the position with reference to the Indian food situation will be known to them and will be pressed before it.

Apart from the quantities that we have obtained we wanted to ensure that, in the period up to June 30th, the shipments were made so that those quantities really reached the country. There is no use of paper allocations, if later on we found that for one reason or other (and we have had such experiences before, as indeed most other countries have had) the quantities are not really forthcoming. I was assured in London and the assurance was repeated in Washington that this time there would not be any question of steamer shortage, of shipping shortage, that there was enough of ships and that His Majesty's Government and the United States of America would between themselves take the responsibility of seeing that adequate shipping was available. But in spite of that we have asked the India Supply Mission to keep daily and weekly contact with the shipping authorities and the Combined Food Board and watch the programming of the shipments both of wheat and of rice, so that the quantities reach this country at the time stated and in time to meet the desperate needs of the country itself.

Now, Sir, there is only one more word that I should like to say. I have been careful enough to say all through that it is not a question whether the Food Delegation was successful or not. The responsibility that we had did not admit of evaluating what we have done except in terms of our need. We asked for 2 million tons of wheat and 600,000 tons of rice. We have got a fair amount of wheat but we have been most disappointed about the amount of rice that we have got and

knowing the people of my Province and knowing that they have been accustomed to 100 per cent. rice consumption that it is already hardship for them to turn over from rice to wheat, except in moderate quantities I do feel that the position is not at all satisfactory. That we got 145,000 tons of rice whereas we wanted 5,00,000 tons is not a satisfactory position. Our own minimum demand was 200,000 tons of rice and as against even that minimum demand, which I was assured by the Adviser from Madras Sir S. Ramamurthi, would go a little way towards redeeming the situation, we have been given only 145,000 tons. China was one of the contestants. Malaya was another. Hong Kong was a third. Philippines and Porto Rico, fourth and fifth. Ceylon got what she wanted and under those circumstances none of us got what we wanted except Ceylon which applied for a small quantity. Under these circumstances, though we may have the reflection that others also have been badly hit, it is no consolation to realize that only 145 thousand tons, instead of the 200 thousand tons that we wanted, has been given. It means that more and more of wheat or maize has to be given to the population and that rice will have to be cut short. That is a disturbing feature which I personally feel with reference to the South Indian provinces and States whose position I know so well. On the other hand, so far as wheat is concerned, owing to the steps that have been taken, I do feel that there is a possibility of a further increase in the allotment that has been made.

I have already referred to Sir Ben Smith's visit and the help he gave us and our gratitude to him. I must make a special reference to the help which the United States administration gave us. There was no lack of sympathy on their part, but there was lack of administrative machinery as they had disbanded their control staff. According to many, according to all European claimants, it was a rather hasty step that they had taken. Having disbanded a staff of several hundred thousand which was required to run the control during the war, the administration felt that it was impossible to restore all that staff again. They had their own troubles with the Congress as most other Governments have with their respective Congresses. And therefore this was quite clearly stated to me, that it may not be a practical proposition to have rationing introduced in the country.

I stated already that so far as Canada was concerned, rationing has been continued by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet and that so long as the European and the world food situation is what it is at the present day, that Government is willing to continue the rationing system and the people have accepted that as a necessary sacrifice.

I had the opportunity and the rare privilege of stating the case of India before President Truman, and I would like only to state what I have already stated to the press, namely his last statement as I took leave of him. I asked him whether he had any special message to give to India. President Truman, a most kindly man, one of the best gentlemen that one can think of said: "We shall do all that we can and more than we promise: and let that be my message to your country". He has made a special appeal for voluntary saving in various ways. Those who have been in America know that if voluntary saving can really be effective, a great deal can flow into the elevators and granaries. The waste that takes place in American consumption is something appalling to those of us who have faced situations of semi-starvation in this or any other country. There has been a great deal of stirring up of the American conscience on this matter and you would see from time to time hereafter, now and in the coming weeks, a great deal of agitation and appealing to the American public to ration.

I would only like to say a word of the great and enthusiastic support and help that I had from the delegation. The officials—Sir Ramamurthi, Mr. Gorwala and Mr. Madhava Rao from provinces and States and the officials of the Central Government—had knowledge of facts and figures which made a deep impression before every committee and every audience whom they addressed. The non-official representatives were equally helpful. Sir Nazimuddin had a first hand knowledge of the conditions which obtained in Bengal during the 1943 famine. Mr. Rahimtoola had a great deal a knowledge of commerce in this matter. Sir Manilal Nanavati, once Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank, had a special knowledge because he was a Member of the Bengal Famine Inquiry Commission, and his contacts with

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the Federal Bank in Washington and other places helped us a great deal. My friend Sardar Sant Singh, as many of his friends know, created a great impression and, though it came as a great surprise to me, he enlisted famiine sympathy for our cause. To all of them I owe my thanks, and whatever has been done by the Food Delegation has been done by these non-official and official representatives whom I had the honour of chaperoning both in Washington and London.

One last word. I had referred to the Canadian Government's system of rationing. I had referred to the appeals made by the United States towards similar voluntary rationing. I would like to make only this point. Various countries, including India and the Food Delegation, appealed to the surplus countries to make sacrifices, if necessary, to tighten their belt to save humanity itself, that nothing but ill-will could be bred if some countries were full and more than self-sufficient and were living in clover while others were starving and literally dying. I have come back to my own country and may it not be appropriate, or rather would it be inappropriate, for me to suggest that surplus provinces and deficit provinces should have a common aim, that the appeal that we made to foreign countries should not be any less relevant in our own country—in fact much more relevant—and that all areas which are in a surplus position should not attempt to over-insure that position for themselves and feel absolutely secure, that no one should adopt the position that so far as their own people are concerned they should have no worry, whatever happens in other parts of India. Whether India is a geographical entity, or an administrative entity, or any other entity, one fact is certain that we cannot face starving millions in different parts of this country. Therefore I would like to appeal, if that appeal were necessary—I personally believe it will not be necessary—that those provinces which are for the time being more fortunately situated should make some sacrifice and will be prepared to make that sacrifice if conditions which are so distressing and which threaten to be even more distressing should not arise from the situation and the horrors which nobody who has had any experience could ever forget after the Bengal famine. I venture to think that that appeal is not necessary and that there will be a ready response, and when I contemplate that within the next two or three days every province will have its own responsible Ministry working. I feel that it is doubly unnecessary to make that appeal. I venture to hope that what we have stated to foreign governments and foreign nationals, to sacrifice a little so that the whole world may be safe, would be quite unnecessary to be repeated with reference to our own Indian nationals. That, Sir, is the short story of the work that was entrusted to me by the Government of India.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadian Urban): Mr. President : I am sure we have listened with the closest attention and appreciation to the statement made by the Leader of the House with the clarity and lucidity which have so impressed his audiences abroad.

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

If, therefore, I rise to support the adjournment motion moved by my friend—Mr. Chaman Lal, it is not, as Mr. Chaman Lal made clear in the morning, as a censure against this party or that, against this Government or that, but rather to show our deep concern and disappointment at the result of the Food Mission that went from this country. There can be no doubt that we in this country fully appreciate the world-wide nature of the shortage. And this country, with all its traditions, is not one which wants that its people should be fed while others starve. We don't want food to be diverted from starving mouths in China to starving mouths in India.

Having said that, Sir, and also expressing my agreement with Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar that it is not today a question of evaluating the success or failure of this Mission, the fact stares us in the face that our worst apprehensions have been justified. Speaking on 30th January in this House I pointed out that we were 1 million tons behind in the import programme which has been laid down by the Gregory Foodgrains Policy Committee Report. As a result of the and hue cry raised, as a result of the grim prospect that faces this country of famine in many Provinces

—particularly in the south and west—this Mission has now been able to secure about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons, and I would like to point out to this House just what this means. It means that if you add up the $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons which we had secured in the 27 months that had passed since the Gregory Report and add this $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons to that, you get a total of $3\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. By the time these imports come in, 33 months will have passed since the Gregory Committee reported and if that programme had to be fulfilled in normal times, without the drought and the famine with which we are faced, the Government of India should have imported by then exactly $3\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. In other words, all that the Mission led by my Honourable friend has achieved is to make up for the time lag, to make good the shortage which had already accrued through the failure of the Government of India to keep up to its own declared programme and policy. That, Sir, is the net result, and I am afraid nobody can congratulate themselves—neither this country, nor this Government can congratulate itself—on having secured this very very inadequate and very unsatisfactory result.

My Honourable friend has pointed out that, as against their original demand of $4\frac{1}{2}$ million tons for the year 1946, we have secured $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. Now, it is necessary to point out that this demand of $4\frac{1}{2}$ million tons was not made on the basis of any ambitious ration; it was made on the basis of a 12-ounce ration, giving 1,200 calories a day; it is against this ration that our demand for $4\frac{1}{2}$ million tons was made. The question therefore arises how far we are going to maintain even this starvation ration which is today enforced in this country? I for one feel that we have come to a stage when we may adopt that Irish slogan, Sinn Fein—Ourselves Alone. It really looks as if this country must depend essentially on itself to help itself out of this mess into which it has been landed by the war into which we were dragged. But while we must no doubt turn our efforts in the future months to meet our deficit with our own efforts, the fact remains that we cannot help casting glances at certain other countries. The Leader of the House mentioned Japan. I do not think he mentioned that General MacArthur's demand for food for Japan was based, not on a ration of 1,200 calories as in India, but on 1,500 calories. In other words, even compared with this defeated nation, this pariah among the nations of the world today—and I for one do not want to associate ourselves with a policy which reduces either Japan or Germany to that status—even compared to that nation, our ration is smaller. General MacArthur gave the choice of more food or more troops to keep the Japanese down. May I remind the House of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's words—that if we in this country have to die, we shall die like men and not like rats in a hole? If necessary my Honourable friend may consider whether it is only Japan to which extra troops would have to be sent to keep down a starving people.

Another country with which we may compare ourselves is the United States of America; the ration there is 3,500 calories for the civilian; it was 4,500 calories for the troops. Leaving the army aside, it means that an American civilian today has three times the nutrition that an Indian can get today if he can buy his ration. That is a tragic contrast among members of the United Nations Organisation; and President Truman's conscience seems to have awakened at this ghastly contrast. He said the other day to the Women's National Organisation that a great many Americans are too fat anyway and they can afford to lose a bit of weight if it means the sustenance of the lives of other nations.

The third country to which I would draw attention is Russia to which my Honourable friend referred. In the year 1944, according to a League of Nations publication on Food Rationing and Supply, the Russian ration was 1,830 calories, and since then, as Marshal Stalin has reported, Russia has been in an excellent food position. It has relaxed rationing and it is now abolishing rationing and therefore presumably the Russian ration also is well above 2,000 calories.

This is the situation, and we have come to realise now, in view of what my Honourable friend has said, that membership of the Combined Food Board or audience at the Combined Food Board is not the last word in international affairs, so far as food is concerned, because there are countries like Russia or Argentine which took no account of what the Food Board desires or wishes. If we were masters in our own country, if the delegations we send were led by national statesmen of the greatest eminence in our own country—with the weight of public opinion

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behind them, I venture to think that the response we would get from the countries of the world would be different. When France wants to send any one to America for finance and food, it chooses an eminent statesman of the stature of Leon Blum. If India can do something of that kind, there is no doubt that—without saying anything against those who constituted the present Delegation—the result is bound to be different. That is our tragedy.

It is true that we may not expect complete equality in rations overnight between different countries; just as in our own country we have different levels in different Provinces and among different strata of society, there will be for many many years to come differences between the different nations and their standards of life. But just as my Honourable friend made an appeal that surplus provinces must disgorge and reduce themselves to a rough equality with those who are suffering and just as we expect the upper classes to forego part of their ration so that the poorest in our land may not die of starvation, so it is time that, if the vision of "One World" which has been held before us and of a world order which the United Nations Organisation tries to symbolise are to have any meaning and are not to be a mere mockery to the millions of China and India, then some greater approximation in living standards and standards of diet have to come about. So long as an American can have a diet three times as rich as the Indian, all talk of international friendship and harmony and amity, all talk of a world order, is a mockery. It is a challenge to the world's conscience, and I do hope that any efforts that this or any future Government of India makes in the future, whether in the month of May or later as mentioned by my Honourable friend, those efforts will have a better response than this very disappointing response that has come from the Combined Food Board on the one hand and from the Russian Government and from Argentine on the other. As I said, we in this country do not want to eat at the expense of others; we do not want that others should starve so that we should have a fat diet, but we do have a responsibility to our people and that responsibility we must admit to ourselves neither the Government of this country nor this Assembly is today in a position to fulfil.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): Mr. Deputy President, I will not keep the House very long with the few words I have to say. I followed Mr. Masani in the food debate that took place in this House at the beginning of this session and I follow him now at the end; and as then, I thank him for emphasising the seriousness of the situation and at the same time pointing out that as a result of the efforts of our deputation and in particular of their leader, our old friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, we may not have secured all we wanted, but in my opinion we have secured just about all we can expect. When I spoke last on this subject, I emphasised that we would not be the only people demanding a share of the world's grain, and indeed that has obviously proved to be the case. I think it is a matter for congratulation that we have secured as much as we have and on behalf of my group, I will most certainly tender to Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and his colleagues our grateful thanks for their efforts on behalf of this country. I would also say that I think from the press reports and from our own experience of Sir Ramaswami we can well realise the eloquence and the sincerity with which he pressed the case of this country. Sir, I do not intend to detain the House very long and my main purpose in rising was to express our thanks and to express moreover the fact that we do not share the disappointment that has been expressed by Mr. Masani. I personally expected no more. Indeed, I thought it possible that we might get less.

Now, Sir, as Mr. Masani said, it is our job now to help ourselves. I am not going through the various items upon which I have already touched as regards the methods by which we could help ourselves. I hope to find another opportunity

5 P. M. for doing that at greater length in another place. I would however like to point out at this stage that this country every year loses something like 3½ million tons of grain in storage. We are talking now of getting million and a half tons, 2½ million tons or perhaps 4½ million tons if our full demands were met. Are we at the same time realising that 3½ million tons as compared with our demands is lost every year in storage? I am not suggesting for one moment that that figure could be reduced to nothing. Of course it could not, but at the same time

it can be reduced and I think it is up to us to get to work on it. We have been told that something like 5 per cent. of loss occurs even in Government storage. From my experience I can say that village storage is generally very good. The cultivator himself knows how to keep the grain that he keeps in his village and he usually manages to keep the rats and the insects away. Where there are extremely heavy losses is in the godowns of the middlemen and there I should think the loss sometimes goes up to 10 per cent. These are all problems which we can set ourselves to tackle and if we could have even 50 per cent. of success, think of the saving of grain that there might be. Indeed the amount that Sir Ramaswami and his friends have secured to us might easily be equalled by a satisfactory drive in storage conditions. We have rats and weevils and other insects which do as much damage in a smaller way. We are using second hand bags that are already infested and in fact infest the grain that is put into them for the second time.

Then, Sir, I fear I must once again remind the Government about my old demand regarding fish. 150 million people in this country are habitual eaters of fish. 650 thousand tons of fish is the normal amount consumed yearly in this country. To give the fish eating population alone of this country half a pound of fish a week we would require two million tons of fish to be brought in. That figure, large though it sounds, is only half the amount of fish consumed in Japan before the war. Those are my grounds for saying that there is no force in the excuse that has been put forward to us for a mere increase of something like 40,000 tons over previous war years. These are all points that time and time again I shall continue to raise and press and I hope most sincerely that they will be taken notice of but that does not detract from the great help and the important, indeed utterly important necessity of getting help from outside to tide us over the awkward months ahead. I think with what we have got and with a strong and sincere effort on our own part we can get ourselves through what is going to be a most difficult year. Sir on behalf of my Group I welcome and thank Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I am not surprised at the attitude displayed by Mr. Lawson because even if my Honourable friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar had come to this country with even a more woeful story of failure on the part of our delegation as well as the British Government in regard to this mission and said that he has been promised only 500 thousand or 250 thousand tons my Honourable friend would have found it possible to stand up in his seat and to congratulate the Government. The same speech he has made now he would have made and also the two points about rats and fish. I know my friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar for the last 17 years and I have liked him very much in his private capacity. As Ramaswami Mudaliar he is certainly a great friend of mine but as Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar going about from one country to another as the agent of British imperialism he is certainly no friend of mine. Therefore I find it difficult to congratulate him or the other gentleman who is not here, Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. I cannot congratulate him also on the earlier mission on which he had gone when he had the opportunity of making friends with Mr. Maackenzie King at San Francisco and various other places. If he had gone as the representative of a free India, with his ability, experience and his eloquence, he would, I am sure, be able to show a better result than he has been able to show now. That is the gravamen of my charge. I am here to express censure on this Government in so far as this delegation is concerned and the terrible plight in which we find ourselves. I warn this Government that if it does not make up its mind to quit, and its master also, the British Government, there is going to be much greater trouble in this country than what General MacArthur and the unknown warrior of the United States of America in Germany imagine. Why is it that we have no place on the Combined Food Board? As a result of my Honourable friend's persuasion we have been able to achieve a membership of these two cereals and rice sub-committees. Is it not because India is not a free country? Why is it that my Honourable friend has been able to get even this quantity? Is it because General MacArthur and the unknown warrior of the United States were also pressing their claims or is it because of Sir Ben Smith or the various other people who

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were also pressing their claims? My friend has not told us, I do not know whether he has told them that if no proper supplies come from abroad our people will be brought face to face with starvation. Seven millions of them have died like rats in Bengal. But this time it will not be so. They are going to die, if at all, shouting, crying and as one of my revered leaders, Sardar Vallabhai Patel has put it, looting, killing and destroying everything.

Sir, we are living in very eventful days. I am not speaking figuratively--we are living in--revolutionary period--and within the shortest possible compass of time we must be prepared to come to grips with the constitution. There certainly will be revolution, it will be a revolution of not only Congressmen, it will be caused by the Muslim League also, it will have to be led and engineered by various parties in this country. Whichever party is not going to take part in this revolution, it will go to the wall, it will go to the gallows at the hands of the masses. My Honourable friend Mr. Lawson has put it very nicely--let us help ourselves. We should have done it long ago. My Honourable friend Mr. Masani has also said it. We asked for 3½ million tons of grain from outside, but we do not get more than 1½ million tons. Whose fault is it? Have they put it up in time before the Combined Food Board? They did not put their case properly. It seems they did not put their case early enough. They had previously asked for one million tons but they got only 500,000 tons. The Food Administration of the Government was so inefficient that they did not concern themselves with what was happening. They did not realise the position in India. Why did not the Government of India ask for more? Why did they rest satisfied with 500,000 tons only? The Viceroy went in the air and prayed for rains from Indra, the Lord of the Clouds.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan : But no rains came.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Except a few drops on the wings of the aeroplane. Nothing more. Why did you not go to Argentine and lay your request before them? Argentine has her own grievances against U.S.A. on account of her politics. But Argentine cannot be angry with us if only we place our case properly. If only free India had gone there in the name of an agricultural country that she is, if she had appealed to Argentine as an agricultural country, just as one peasant appeals to another peasant, just as one agriculturist talks to another agriculturist, and not as an industrialist talking to an agriculturist in the relation of an exploiter talking to the exploited, then it would have been possible to get some help from Argentine and get some food to our country.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth : (West Coast and Nilgiris : Muhammadan) : Why did you not go ?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : If India were free, I would go. Not till then. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend prefaced his speech that he made an appeal to Soviet Russia. Why did he not follow it up by flying to Russia? Has not Soviet Russia helped the French by giving them foodstuffs? They placed nearly 500,000 tons at the disposal of France and they were shipped in American bottoms from the Black Sea. It is unfortunate that England and Russia are now quarrelling. That is the difficulty. Then, Sir, it was said that we are going only to Combined Food Board and not to U.N.R.R.A. He said if we get it from Combined Food Board, it would be just as good. But he forgets the fact that Argentine is a Member of the U.N.R.R.A. and not a member of the Combined Food Board. We should have gone to Argentine through U.N.R.R.A. Soviet Russia is not a member of either U.N.R.R.A. or the Combined Food Board. If a free India had gone to Soviet Russia, her response would have been different. These people are talking of one world. My Honourable friend referred to their responsibility. Here is a quotation from one of the Secretaries, Mr. Philip Noel-Baker and he preaches a homily to other countries and asks them to make sacrifices. He says, "unless we can give the peoples a hope of food and work, no other institution of the United Nations can possibly succeed". This is all tall talk, in the same strain like any other commissions and conferences speak in our country. Here is what the *London Times* says :

"The distribution of supplies among the hungry people is not determined simply by an impartial estimate of needs. Invaluable though U. N. R. R. A. work has been, it has not been able to rise to the full level of its opportunities."

There is politics also coming in. Soviet Russia is not friendly with England, politics comes in there. Argentine is not friendly with U.S.A., politics is coming in there. Politics comes in with regard to various other countries also. They have given up discharging their responsibilities. Still America says she believes in one world. At the same time she has given up her rationing administration. She is keeping up various other administrations because she is thinking of the good of her own peoples. Whatever happens to the rest of the world, she does not care. My Honourable friend has told us that the President of the American Republic is very much concerned about the Indian situation. I would be satisfied if America proves her concern for India by introducing rationing in her own country, not at 1,200 calories but at 2,500 calories and releases her foodstuffs to a considerable degree and places her surplus at the disposal of the rest of the world. Otherwise all her talk of United Nations Charter and the four freedoms can only sound hollow in our ears.

Now, I come to the concrete question, how are we to help ourselves? Has Government done all that is possible? Two suggestions have already been made, but the main hurdle is always the price. Are our people paid the proper price for their grains? When they find that the consumers are not able to pay the price that the farmers have got to be paid, what steps have Government taken? The Honourable the Finance Member has not provided any money in his budget for financing these schemes for paying proper price to the farmers. It would cost not less than 100 crores if all our people are not allowed to die in privation and hunger. No provision is made in the budget or in the Food Department plans. I do not know what sort of story the Honourable the Leader of the House gave to the world about India. Mahatma Gandhi has told us what my Honourable friend has not been able to tell us in his half an hour speech. My Honourable friend says "I have gone round the world with a begging bowl along with other beggars, I elbowed out some beggars, I argued with them better than any other beggar, but in the end I have come back with a half empty bowl and nothing more". We are really ashamed to have to go to the rest of the world for our food. As I said once before, this country is capable of producing all the food that is required. Even the pamphlet issued by the International Institute about which I raised a question this morning at question hour, even that pamphlet makes it clear that within the next ten years, even with increase of population, which India may be faced with, it would be possible for India to feed all her people with her own resources provided the Food and the Agricultural Departments go about their business properly.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : We can do it within ten months.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands You can do it in ten minutes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : There is no uniformity in rationing so far as towns and rural areas are concerned. There is also great difference in rationing between one Province and another, between one class of people and another. Look at the towns. Look at the rural people. The rural people are given much lower rations. So the first thing we have to do is to put our own house in order. You will not be able to tide over this crisis even if this 1½ million tons were brought over here to this country. What about transport? That is our greatest bottleneck. The Honourable Food Secretary assured us the other day that all the machinery of his Department is working in full strength. Let us wait and see for the results. Unless you are prepared to run 10 to 15 specials every day for transporting foodstuffs from one place to another, I am afraid you cannot tide over this crisis.

In conclusion I would only say this. We have had a full statement from the Honourable the Leader of the House, for whatever it is worth. I am also glad we are going to get 1½ million tons. As Mr. Lawson already put it, we want much more. It is going to be very serious if we do not go about the business in proper way. We must go to rural areas and appeal to people not to hoard which they do to safeguard themselves against the vagaries of the Procurement Department. If we carefully plan and execute it, it will not be impossible for us to wade through this crisis. If we are not careful, if we are not prepared to respond to popular appeal, we are up against real trouble. Eminent people are here and I am prepared to treat them as

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

eminent, provided they make it clear not through words but through deeds that they are here only to quit so that an independent India, a Swaraj India, or whatever you call it, can be enabled to come to grips with this crisis so that the country will be able to tackle this situation before it becomes too late, or too serious.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, I believe the House appreciates the elucidation of the position which has been made by the Honourable Leader of the House, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, who was the Leader of Food delegation. It is true India could not get what she claimed and what she deserved, but we cannot say that the delegation did not do what was expected of them. My Honourable friend Mr. Masani said that France could send her top class of people. In India invitation was extended to us as well but the Congress refused to participate in the delegation. Muslim League nominated their best man suitable for the purpose and it is idle to say now that the delegation did not represent the country.

One fact I want to impress on the House is that the present situation in food has come in an unexpected manner, but at the same time a long-range policy has to be adopted to make this country self-contained and self-sufficient in the matter of food. I will refer to Government records which give the position of food production in this country as it compared with population. The 1920 census shows the population to be 31 crores and 89 lakhs, the total area under cultivation then was 267 million acres and the total production of grains was nearly 57 million tons and we had to import nearly one million tons wheat from outside. Then the 1930 census report shows a population of nearly 36 crores of people and the area under cultivation rose only to 277 million acres and production in 1930 went down by 1 million tons—it was about 56 million tons—and two million tons of wheat and rice had to be imported from Australia and other places. In 1940 the population went up to 40 crores, the area under cultivation increased only to 281 million acres and the total production went down to 55 million tons, because some areas were being used for jute and cotton which proved more lucrative to the farmer. Then the 1945 report shows the total area under cultivation as 291 million acres whereas the total production was about 54 million tons only. That is to say, we were short by about 5 million tons in 1945. The records for 1946 are not of course available. From this it appears that with the rise of population there has not been any appreciable improvement in the production of foodgrains. In this country there are millions of acres of land lying barren which could be put to use. I do not know the exact area but I understand that about 140 million acres are lying waste in places like Ajmer-Merwara, Chota Nagpur and Assam; and in some provinces people are willing to put these lands under cultivation but for some reason or other Government of the province does not agree to lease them out. This year we have been of course reduced to a bad position by some providential circumstances but my point is that we may be in this position every year if we do not improve our resources.

Sir, I will not deal with the point as to why the delegation did not go to Argentina or to the U.S.S.R. of which my Congress friends are so fond. But I must ask why the delegation did not receive that reciprocation which it deserved because the responsibility for the famine was on the war condition and the people who thrust a world war deserve no sympathy. There could have been no reason to lay claims of Germans and Japanese and other people on the lines of India; it could have been argued on humanitarian lines that they had also deserved sympathy; but we were friends in adversity and we could not have been neglected, and we should not have been given the small share that has been allotted to us at the moment. That is my grievance. I want to impress on Government that the policy of depending on foreign imports will not lead us anywhere. We must become soon self-contained and be in a position to compete with world production on world parity prices for export from this country to other party. We should be in a position to feed other people through our agriculture and not depend on these other countries for our own food. I will not say like my Congress friends that it was no use going with a beggar's bowl here and there; if we have nothing here that was the only thing to be done. But I must say that this kind of

thing should not occur in future. Government must adopt a long-range policy and the only hope of our salvation lies in larger areas being put under agriculture, and that can be done if only Government sets about it.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I congratulate the Honourable the Leader of the House for his eloquent speech, but I wish to remind him that eloquence will not fill the empty stomachs and it is food that is required. The disquieting position is that we are not sure of our statistics. During the Bengal famine no one knew what our requirements were, no one knew where the food lies and how it could be transported to the famine area. I suspect that our figures are most unreliable. The Leader of the House, whom I call a successful beggar, has gone out to other countries and come back again. He is begging from the Provinces now but I would request him to be sure of his figures, figures of acreage, figures of production, figures of requirements and procurement, etc. These are very vital factors in planning and meeting the threat of famine. If a general does not know his army and does not know the weak points of the enemy, however efficient he may be he will fail in planning. If he has no reliable data with him he will find it difficult to meet the position. In the days of the Bengal famine we found the Food Member making one statement here, the Secretary of State making a different statement in the House of Commons and the Bengal Governor making another different statement. When the Food Member was questioned as to the source of these different statements he professed ignorance and when he was further questioned as to who was responsible for preparing the statistics he said he did not know. That is the position. If we do not know our own requirements, our figures of production and consumption, the time may come when it will be too late for the Honourable Member to get up and say 'I regret that millions have died'. I therefore request him to make sure of his position. The country will not forgive him if he makes wrong calculations.

An Honourable Member : They never calculate.

Sardar Mangal Singh : Yes, and that is why they bungle.

Secondly, I agree with him that in this matter the surplus areas should generously come to the help of the deficit areas. So far as my province is concerned, we spared a good deal at the time of the Bengal famine, but I would like to remind the Honourable Member that at that time much of the grain was destroyed while lying at Railway Stations. There were no wagons available. I would therefore request him to ginger up the War Transport Member and ask him to be ready with his wagons for the transportation of food from surplus to deficit areas. It is no use quarrelling with one another. In those days the Punjab Ministers were quarrelling with the War Transport Member, but the fact was that several lakhs of human lives were lost in Bengal. I am again reminded of the correctness of figures. Even up to this time we are not sure how many lakhs of Bengalis died as a result of the last famine. The official figure quoted in those days was about one million. Then the Enquiry Committee quoted a different figure. Somebody calculated in Bengal and he quoted quite a different figure, and so, up to this time, we are not sure how many people died by the direct effects of famine, and how many died as a result of the diseases which were caused by the famine. I therefore beg of him to calculate his figures correctly and to warn his Statistical Department in this respect. Sir, I do not know which Department of the Government of India deals with statistics—whether it is the Health Department, or the Food Department, or the Finance Department. In any case I would request him to be sure of his ground before he plans to meet this great threat.

My third point is, irrespective of what may be imported from other countries, we should look up to our own country for maintaining our population. As Mahatma Gandhi has said, we must be self-sufficient in our own home, and therefore we must begin to grow more food not on the files of the Agriculture Department in the North Block but actually on the fields. In this respect I support the remarks of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mohammad Nauman, that there is sufficient land at present lying vacant waiting for more food to be grown on it. In my own Province, although it is said to be one of the best irrigated Provinces in India, there is a lot of land lying fallow where food can be grown in great quantities.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind : Muhammadan Rural) : Ask your Ministry to do it.

Sardar Mangal Singh : The resources of the Punjab Ministry are limited. I therefore beg of the Government of India to plan a well-thought-out Grow More Food campaign so that we may not again feel the necessity of sending 'a good team' to America where some of them might attract the attention of the feminine sex. The Honourable the Leader of the House has given us a very charming description of his team, but he forgot to tell us whether he himself attracted any feminine sex..

Prof. N. G. Ranga : He has no beard.

Sardar Mangal Singh : Next time when he goes he will be careful enough to grow.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Or borrow from some one !

Sardar Mangal Singh : Turning to 'Grow More Food' Campaign, our chief necessity is water. Of course canals cannot be dug in a day. But surely the Department can provide tube wells which can be put up within a comparatively short time. In this respect I interrupted the War Secretary this morning when I said that his Department was dismantling tube wells which had been sunk in the aerodromes during the war. While the Agriculture Department are trying to put up tube wells for their 'Grow More Food' campaign, the War Department is dismantling them. I hope the Leader of the House will make note of this fact, and see that all those tube wells which are now being used for bathing tanks and are going to be dismantled, are offered to the surrounding villages, or, if necessary, they are transplanted to other areas with the help of the military and re-sunk where they are required.

Another source of food is fish. Now that the war is over, our Indian Navy and, if necessary, His Majesty's Royal Navy, can be used for fishing in which case fish can be sent to the Province of my Honourable friend the Law Member who relishes fish so much and the rice he will spare can be sent to the Province of the Honourable the Leader of the House. This Navy can be used without any further expense. It should spread itself on the Deep Seas to collect large quantities of fish. Fish is quite a nutritious food....

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan : You have made one convert !

Sardar Mangal Singh : Then, Sir, efforts should be made to set up poultry farms in this country, so that those who relish meat may eat such things and spare vegetables for some of my Honourable friends over there who are vegetarians.

If we tap these little sources the supply of food would be increased and then again we could exercise some economy. I interrupted the War Secretary this morning and I asked him what was the number of prisoners of war now kept in India. He did not give me any light. If there is any number of Italians here, or prisoners of war, I think they should be sent out immediately.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan : Italians are "Men of Garlic" !

Sardar Mangal Singh : It is true that arrangement may be made with His Majesty's Government but they are eating our food here. The war is over. It is officially over even on paper today. The Government of India will take immediate steps to send away those prisoners to some other countries. Why not to South Africa as a matter of retaliation? Another small point. I have seen that those people who have ration cards with them they can go to any hotel any time and eat whatever food they like. In this connection I will invite the attention of the Honourable the Food Secretary. If I hold a ration card and I can go to any hotel and take meals there, what is the use of ration cards? Something should be done that those who hold ration cards should not be allowed to take meals from the restaurant or the hotel.

Shri Sri Prakasa : Then we shall all starve here.

Sardar Mangal Singh : And then again, this rationing business is only in the cities.

Mr. Deputy President : The Honourable Member has one minute.

Sardar Mangal Singh : One minute is enough to condemn this Government. I hope, that although they were small points I think that in these days when food is so scarce, these points will be looked into and the human lives are saved. I would like to remind the House that in this matter at least, as Mahatma Gandhi, has put it, we should irrespective of parties and politics, all unite to save as many human lives as we possibly can.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Mr. Deputy President, you will have realized that the speeches made on this subject have been of a quality which gives the impression that this is a subject of very serious import. The speeches made have been of an excellent nature, although some of them have roamed round about the subject and were not particularly germane to the motion that has been moved on the floor of this House this afternoon. But let me congratulate the speakers, and let me congratulate my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, whom I welcome back to this House, for an able presentation of the case that he has been advocating on behalf of this Government in the Councils of Europe and of America. I am quite certain that my Honourable friend from the European Benches, Mr. Lawson, is mistaken when he says that he is not at all pessimistic. There was much in my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House's speech to evoke a great deal of pessimism, and if my Honourable friend had only listened to the speech with care, the care that it deserved, he would have realized there was a great deal to worry us, to worry him, although he happens to be in a very privileged position. But certainly there is a very great deal which causes us misgiving in regard to the present position and in regard to the future position. My Honourable friend has laid down the general proposition that although he asked for 3 million tons of cereals, including one million tons of rice for this period up to the 1st of July, he has been able to obtain from the Combined Food Board, as a result of his advocacy, a little over one and a half million tons of cereals for this half-yearly period. Is that correct? Has he really obtained this? Let us not go away with the idea that we have that food. We have not got this food, and my Honourable friend surprises me when he sings those praises and hallelujahs in the face of the grave situation facing this country. I hold a newspaper cutting in my hand dated Washington, March 26, and I am going to ask my Honourable friend what the import is:

"The Combined Food Board officially said tonight that it was pretty improbable that the Board could reach a final agreement on the exact amount of cereals it allocated to India in the next few crucial weeks."

This is March 26th.

"They declared that the statement of Members of the Indian Food De'legation to the effect that an agreement had been reached to supply 60 per cent. of India's original request for two million tons of cereals amounted merely to an "impression" (that is quoted) that all members had gained from the meeting of the Board they had attended. The matter was still under constant discussion."

This was only a few days ago. I want to know whether the statement contained in this message sent out by Reuter from Washington is correct or not. But it is true that although figures have been supplied regarding this—a little over 1½ million tons of cereals to be supplied before the 1st July—I do not see where this foodstuff is coming from. Let us take the case of rice. Rice has been allotted, I understand, and Siam is the country which has been designated as the country from which we are to draw this rice. Have any arrangements been made to transport this rice, to buy this rice? Is there any organisation in Siam to get this rice? My Honourable friend knows perfectly well that it is a matter of crucial import for the next few weeks for if the rains set in before this rice is arranged for and transported from Siam, not one grain of rice will come out of that country until the monsoon is over.

There is an organization run by Great Britain and the United States of America in Siam. We are not represented on that organisation. It is in charge of allocating rice from Siam. I take it that this is correct. We have nothing to do with that organization. If that organization fails in its object to give us this particular quantity of rice, which has been allotted to us by the Combined Food Board, what

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

will be the position? Is there nothing to worry about? I ask my friend, Mr Lawson.

Mr. C. P. Lawson : If I may interrupt. I emphasized at the beginning of my speech that there was a good deal to worry about. I do not see why he should put those words in my mouth!

Diwan Chaman Lall : If my Honourable friend realizes that there is a lot to worry about he cannot at the same time say he is not pessimistic.

Mr. C. P. Lawson : I did say there was a lot to worry about but I also said that we might get through if we all tried.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The word used was "pessimistic". I took it down myself while he was speaking. Anyways, I am very glad that my Honourable friend has been converted in regard to this matter. This is too serious a matter for forensic exchanges across the floor. It is so serious a matter, in fact so grave, that it is second only in importance to the other issue, namely the issue of our political freedom and it is intimately connected with the demand that we are making for our political freedom. It cannot be divorced and divested from it. Now I ask, what arrangements—and I hope my Honourable friend will enlighten this House and the country—are going to be made to see that what has been allotted in respect of the statement issued by Reuter that I read out is going to be obtained from Siam. Let us take the question of wheat. Countries have been allocated from which this wheat can be drawn. Have those countries agreed to give us this wheat? I take it that as far as the allocations were concerned, there was one country which refused to play up and that was Argentine.

Argentina was supplying to Spain, to Portugal and other countries but refused to agree to the demands made upon Argentina by the Combined Food Board. Are we going to get something from Argentina. I do not know if we are going to obtain anything from Canada, Australia or any other countries. What arrangements have been made for this particular purpose? Allocation on paper is one thing but to obtain the quantities of foodgrains allocated is another thing and it is necessary therefore for this Government to be watchful and see that whatever has been promised is actually obtained by them and obtained in time.

Mr. Deputy President, next comes the question of the quota for the next period. What arrangements have been made? We take it that in spite of this very terrifying message that has come that arrangements have been made for this period up to the 1st of July are still in the air, what arrangements are going to be made for the future period, for the other two quarters starting with the 1st of July and ending on the 31st December? Have any details been worked out? Have any arrangements been made in regard to this matter? Where the quantities of wheat and rice are going to come from I do not know. I have no idea as to what is going to happen and I hope my Honourable friend will enlighten this House in regard to it.

It is true that there is this organisation of the Combined Food Board consisting, as my Honourable friend said, of the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom. We are not represented on it. We in India happen to be 1/6 of the total population of the world. Can we not demand direct representation on this Combined Food Board? When Canada with a population of about 13 or 14 million people can obtain a place on the Combined Food Board, why cannot India with a population of 400 million people obtain a place on the Combined Food Board? We want not merely to go there making requests but we want to take some part in the making of the decisions, in the decisions arrived at by this organisation. We cannot do so because we are a subordinate body. We have to ask Sir Ben Smith the Food Member of the Labour Government—let not my Honourable friend take it that I am in any way making disparaging remarks about the Food Member of Great Britain, he has done his duty. But why should we be in this disgraceful position of having to take a first rate parliamentarian, a first rate statesman of Great Britain to go and plead our case before the Combined Food Board, when we can demand as a matter of right direct representation on these organisations.

Then, Mr. Deputy President, there is the question of transport. We have been told by Great Britain that the ships are available. But what arrangements have we come to regarding the separate allocation of these ships for this particular purpose of transporting the food that we so urgently need. I would like my Honourable friend to take this matter up and enlighten the House in regard to this matter also.

Then there is the question of Siam. 1·2 million tons of rice, I take it, is all that Siam is going to give to the South East Asia Command or that is going to be handed over to this particular organisation which consists of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Do I take it that we are going to get our particular quota, that is the quota for the first quarter, of rice which has been allocated to us and that it is coming out of the 1·2 million tons of rice which is all that Siam is going to hand over to this particular organisation? These are very disturbing questions and they are questions of very serious importance.

Equally important is the question raised by my Honourable friend regarding the Provinces which are supposed to be surplus Provinces. I take it that my Honourable friend was referring, although he did not name the particular Province, to my Province, the Punjab as well as to the United Provinces. Is it not a fact that as far as the U.P. is concerned the U.P. is already a deficit Province and that the U.P. has informed the Government of India that far from being able to send out any portion of their surplus they are absolutely in deficit and that they want the Government of India to assist them to carry over during this terrible period of the next few months that is ahead of us. As for the Punjab the position must be faced and faced squarely. We were able last year to export one million tons of wheat and other cereals from the Punjab, because there happened last year to be a fairly good crop but this year the position is just the reverse. We have suffered and we suffer from two calamities. One is the calamity of mal-administration and the other is the calamity of nature. The result has been that we are expected to produce in this harvest no more than three million tons of wheat for the use of the Province itself and three million tons according to the estimates of my Honourable friend, the Food Secretary, is the quantity absolutely necessary to feed the Punjab population with the result that there will not be available even a single grain of rice or wheat for any other Province but only enough to feed the population of the Punjab and the adjoining areas.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Perform the rope trick.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My Honourable friend belongs to a party which is in the habit of performing rope tricks but I do not belong to that party. As far as these problems are concerned it is not a question of performing rope tricks. It is a question of getting together, putting our heads together and seeing how we can get over the very serious difficulties that are facing us. Mahatma Gandhi has expressed his deep concern for the situation in which we find ourselves. The Viceroy himself in a broadcast has done the same thing. I submit that the time has come when not only should immediate steps be taken (I hope they will be taken) to change the Government from an autocratic and despotic Government to a Government which will be a Government of the people but that steps also will be taken throughout India in every province to set up Food Committees which will be the people's food committees, and which will be in very close contact with the procurement and distribution of foodgrains. If these steps are taken and many others that can be suggested, it is possible that the situation may become easier. But those are matters, Mr. Deputy President, which we cannot discuss at the present moment on this motion. We can discuss only what my Honourable friend has been doing namely the action taken by him in connection with the Combined Food Board and the questions that I have addressed to my Honourable friend. I hope he will be able to satisfy this House and the country in regard to those particular problems which are of great moment and importance to 400 million people of this country.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : Mr. Deputy President, with your permission I would like to make a very brief statement in reply to the several questions that particularly the last speaker has raised. I have never taken an optimistic view of the situation. In fact I have been so overwhelmed with a sense of the importance and urgency of the problem that I have tried to put before the public and before this House as sober a picture as possible and have in my statement

[Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar]

tried to make out what I consider the real matters for anxiety, even apart from the allocations that we have got. (Interruption by Pandit Govind Malaviya.)

Mr. Deputy President : The Honourable Member should not be interrupted, as he has only a few minutes left before six o'clock.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : As regards the Reuters message that was read out, I can only say this. Various officials particularly in the United States are accustomed to giving various interpretations to official statements in that country and I would not go into this official statement of an unnamed person. I would try to reconcile the statement in this manner from my knowledge of what happened there. The allocations have been made and the figures have been given to us but it depends upon the amounts that are available. These are estimates of amounts that are available and an over-cautious official may as well state that it is impossible to give definite figures but that we must see how the grain is coming out from the farmer through the granaries and through the elevators. That is how I shall try to reconcile that statement. But the figures I have given are actual figures arrived at by the Combined Food Board.

As regards the statement about Siam 1·2 million tons was the figure before the S.E.A.C. administration took charge. After that preliminary unfortunate incident much of it has gone underground. At the present moment it is estimated that by the 1st of July only 275,000 tons can be unearthed from Siam and the allocation to this country is 145,000 tons. I do not conceal from myself or from the public that the rice is still to come out from Siam and that purchases have to be made. At the present time there is a joint mission of the United States and the United Kingdom taking up this difficult question and at this stage....

Mr. Deputy President : Order, order. It being Six o'clock the House stands adjourned till tomorrow eleven o'clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 2nd April, 1946.