

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume VI, 1946

(16th April to 18th April, 1946)

FIRST SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 17th 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 :

Sir Pheroze Merwan Kharegat, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Agriculture Department); and Mr. Donald Ross Rutnam, O.B.E., I.C.S., M.L.A., (Government of India : Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

BRINGING DISPUTE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN UNION BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL OF UNITED NATIONS

1889. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state, categorically, whether he proposes to bring the disputes between the Government of India and the Government of the South African Union before the Security Council of the United Nations at an early date?

(b) Have Government ever given this procedure their consideration?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement made on the subject by the Honourable Leader of the House on the 16th April, 1946, in the House.

LOSS OF TWO CONSIGNMENTS OF WHEAT SHIPPED FROM BOMBAY TO KUMTA

1890. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if it is a fact that two consignments of wheat each of 750 bags shipped from Bombay to Kumta in January and February, 1946 were reported lost;

(b) if it is a fact that the loss of the January consignment was brought to the notice of the Food Controller, Bombay, and that he sent the next consignment also by sea;

(c) if Government have been able to find out whether there was no foul play in this reported loss;

(d) why the Food Controller, Bombay, sent the second consignment also by sea even after the loss of the first consignment was brought to his notice; and

(e) if any action has been taken by Government on this matter?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (e). The matter is under investigation by the Provincial Government.

(d) As no foul play was suspected and as access to the port of Kumta is only by sea, the second consignment was also despatched by sea.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Was it not sent by country craft ?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware that Kumta is accessible by rail and road and not by sea only ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : It is more easily accessible by sea.

Sri R. Venkatasubha Reddiar : Did such an occurrence take place at the end of 1945 also ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : I shall require notice of that question.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan : In view of the fact that there is need for safe despatch of such commodities, was it not proper for Government to have chosen the safer route ?

Mr. President : That is a matter of opinion.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIM BOYS IN BEVIN TRAINING SCHEME

1891. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether there is any proposal for sending candidates to England for training in the Bevin Training Scheme? If so, how many? What will be the representation of Muslims among them?

(b) When will they be sent, and for what period?

(c) Up to what date are the candidates required to apply?

(d) Are candidates of Indian States eligible for training? If not, why not?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) Yes. A batch of about 60 will be sent. The number of Muslims will, as far as possible, be as prescribed by the orders of Government regarding communal proportions.

(b) End of May or beginning of June. The period of training will be one year.

(c) Applications from serving and *ex-servicemen* were required to reach Government by the 20th February, 1946. In the case of civilians the National Service Labour Tribunals were asked to send their recommendations by the end of the first week of April 1946.

(d) Yes.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is it a fact that preference will be given to *ex-servicemen*?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : About ten posts will be for *ex-servicemen*.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government try to send them early enough so that they may be in time for the beginning of the academic session there ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : Arrangements have been made for their training at the time when they reach there. They will not be going to the universities and there is no question of academic training.

SUBSIDY BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVINCIAL POST-WAR EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES

†1892. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan :** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state whether Provincial Post-war Educational Schemes are subject to the approval of the Central Government, and whether approval of the Central Government is a condition precedent to any subsidy by the Central Government?

Sir John Sargent : The intention is to make Central grants for schemes which are in general accord with all-India Policy.

QUARTERS FOR LABOURERS IN FUEL DEPOTS AT GOL MARKET, NEW DELHI

1893. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga :** (a) With reference to the short notice question and its answer on the 11th February, 1946, will the Health Secretary please state at what stage the construction of proper quarters for labourers employed in fuel depots at the New Delhi Gol Market is?

(b) Is it a fact that the labourers are still living in far off places like Paharganj, Ajmere Gate, etc.?

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

(c) Is it a fact that these labourers cannot come to the fuel depots before 9 A.M. and that they leave the depots at 6 P.M.?

(d) Is it a fact that the Secretariat employees who purchase fuel at the Gol market depots are not able to attend personally to the purchase of fuel on account of the labourers not being able to turn up at the depots before 9 A.M. when the employees themselves have to leave for their offices?

(e) Is it a fact that the Secretariat employees have to leave the money and charcoal coupons with the fuel depot owners, instructing them to send the fuel to their houses?

(f) Is it a fact that the purchasers are left at the mercy of the fuel depot owners in the matter of quality and quantity of fuel supplied without being able to check personally?

(g) Do Government propose to expedite the construction of quarters at the depot premises? If not, why not?

(h) What have Government done in the way of giving a subsidy to these displaced workers to enable them to construct temporary houses?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) Sites for quarters for labourers employed in the depots on the scale of four quarters per depot have been selected and detailed estimates for the works are being prepared.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is reported that the labourers come to work at 8 A.M. and leave at 8 P.M.

(d) No. The depots open at 8 A.M. and remain open till 8 P.M.

(e) Some of the Secretariat employees adopt this procedure.

(f) No.

(g) The Municipal Committee is making every effort to expedite the construction of quarters near these depots.

(h) The Municipal Committee considers that as the structures in which the coolies were living were unauthorised and unhygienic, and as the New Delhi Municipal Committee never agreed to their staying there, the question of compensation or subsidy to the workers for having to make housing arrangements elsewhere does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Apart from the legal aspect of it and purely from the humanitarian point of view, why is it that the Government of India have not considered it possible to give them some decent subsidy in order to enable them to set up temporary buildings?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : Arrangements are being made as quickly as possible to provide accommodation for them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : How soon do Government expect to complete the construction of these quarters?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : I cannot say exactly when the construction will be completed; but I may say that pending completion of the construction of these quarters the Municipal Committee has allowed the owners of the depots to construct temporary quarters in accordance with the requirements of the Health Department of the Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Apart from the financial responsibility of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, will Government consider the advisability of giving them some subsidy in order to help them to protect themselves during the coming summer?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : I think temporary arrangements will be made before the summer season is over.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Who makes that temporary provision?

Mr. President : Order, order; next question.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS AMONG SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS AND EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS IN CENTRAL P. W. D.

1894. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the strength of Superintending Engineers in the Central Public Works Department;

(b) how many Muslims are holding such positions, and in what ratio; if the representation of Muslims among Superintending Engineers is inadequate, why it is so, when the Muslims of the requisite qualifications and experience are available; and

(c) the strength of Muslims in Executive Engineers posts in the Central Public Works Department; if the representation of Muslims among Executive Engineers is inadequate, why it is not adjusted at present?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given to Starred Questions numbered 1015 and 1646, asked on the 15th March, and the 8th April, 1946.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know what steps have been taken by Government since then to make up the ratio in these appointments of Superintending and Executive Engineers, in view of the quota of Muslims being very short?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: As pointed out in reply to that question, the question of communal ratio does not arise in the matter of promotions and these posts are promotion posts. So the question of filling any quota of Muslims does not arise in this case.

CERTAIN OFFICIATING PROMOTIONS IN KARACHI AVIATION DIVISION

1895. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the ratio of Muslims in the proposed panel for Class I Service by promotion from Class II or from the senior experienced temporary Engineers or from Subordinates? What is the percentage of Muslims in the proposed panel for Class II?

(b) What are the duties of the qualified experienced temporary Engineers holding gazetted ranks and working as Personal Assistants to Executive Engineers?

(c) Is it a fact that when an Executive Engineer who is a gazetted officer, proceeds on leave the officiating chance is given to his Personal Assistant who also holds gazetted rank? If so, why was a non-gazetted officer allowed to act when the Executive Engineer, Karachi Aviation Division, proceeded on leave, ignoring his Personal Assistant who is holding a gazetted rank?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a) A Class II Engineering Service has not yet been formed and the questions raised in respect of this Service do not, therefore, arise. A proposal for the formation of a panel of temporary Engineers and Subordinates for promotion to Class I Service is under consideration but no decision has been taken as yet in regard to the composition of the panel.

(b) To assist Executive Engineers in matters of routine.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: If the Additional Executive Engineer proceeds on leave will the Assistant Engineer be given a chance to act in his place?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: If he is the senior most he will be given a chance.

AUDIT REPORT ON EXPENDITURE OF GRANT OF MONEYS TO ROYIST PARTY

†1896. ***Sri S. T. Adityan**: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether the auditor appointed to audit the accounts of expenditure by the Royist party out of the grant of moneys made to them, has made his report;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said report reveals that the money has been improperly spent and that the accounts have not been properly kept;

(c) the total amount of salary paid per month to propagandists from out of the grant by Government;

(d) the maximum salary paid to a single man for acting as propagandist in the Royist organisation; and

(e) if Government will lay on the table of the House the report of the auditor?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a) No Auditor was appointed to audit the accounts of the Indian Federation of Labour relating to the grant. In the middle of 1944 an accountant was deputed from the Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenue, to advise the Federation on maintenance of the accounts. The monthly accounts from June 1944 to July 1945, which I placed before the House on the 19th March, 1946, have been checked by the Accountant General, Central Revenues as in the case of other Government expenditure.

(b) In view of the reply to (a) above, this does not arise.

(c) Attention is invited to the statement of accounts, which I placed before the House on the 19th March, 1946. The expenditure shown therein under the heading 'Pay of propagandists' for the months of May, June and July 1945 represents the total amount of salaries paid to propagandists during those months. The expenditure shown for the preceding months under the heading 'Pay of Propagandists' includes, besides the salaries paid to propagandists, expenditure incurred on dissemination of news. Information specifically relating to the salaries paid to propagandists from June 1944 to April 1945 is not readily available.

(d) Except in the case of two persons, who were paid Rs. 100 each for a few months on account of their special qualifications, the maximum monthly salary paid by the Indian Federation of Labour to propagandists was Rs. 75

(e) This does not arise in view of the the reply to (a) above.

ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS PASSED BY ASSEMBLY DURING THE CURRENT SESSION

1897. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena**: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state, categorically as to what action, if any, was taken on the various adjournment motions passed by the Assembly during this Session?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

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

Statement

Serial No.	Member moving motion and date on which adopted	Subject-matter	Action taken
1	Prof. N. G. Ranga— 21st January.	Failure of Government to refuse to co-operate in violent operations in Indonesia and Indo-China.	Copies of the debate were forwarded to the Secretary of State. Withdrawal of troops from Indo-China was substantially complete when the motion was discussed and British Indian troops are now being steadily evacuated from Indonesia.
2	Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar— 31st January.	European recruitment to Indian Civil Service and Indian Police.	The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to parts (a) and (b) of the short notice question asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on 12th February.
3	Seth Govind Dass— 4th February.	Threat to interests of Indians in South Africa by the introduction of the "Freezing" Bill.	Government have given notice of the termination of the Trade Agreement with the Union of South Africa. The position with reference to further action has already been fully stated in the House.
4	Seth Govind Dass— 5th February.	Danger to the position of the Indian Community in the proposed Inter-territorial Organisation in East Africa.	Government have communicated their views on the proposed inter-territorial organisation in East Africa to His Majesty's Government. These views were formulated after the opinion of the House and of the Standing Committee attached to the Department had been taken into consideration.
5	Mr. N. V. Gadgil—7th February.	Imminence of a general strike in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.	Action was taken not in consequence of the adjournment motion, but on the merits of the case, as the result of which strike notices were withdrawn or held in abeyance and no strike has occurred.
6	Mr. M. Asaf Ali—12th February.	Failure of Government to instruct its delegate to UNO to convey to the Security Council the views of the Assembly on the subject of Anglo-Dutch operations in Indonesia.	A copy of the debate was forwarded to Secretary of State and to the Indian Delegation to UNO.
7	Mr. Muhammad Nauman—13th February.	Arrest of Muslim League workers in Delhi and use of handcuffs and chains by the Delhi police on the 12th February.	None.

Serial No.	Member moving motion and date on which adopted	Subject-matter	Action taken
8	Mr. M. Asaf Ali—23rd February.	Mutiny in the Royal Indian Navy.	The question was discussed with the Defence Consultative Committee who agreed unanimously to the setting up of a Commission of Enquiry and to the terms of reference. The Commission has since been appointed under a Government resolution and its first meeting was held on 15th April.
9	Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar—6th March.	Collision between the Dehra-Dun Express and a goods train.	What action if any is required in connection with the accident cannot be determined until the report of the Chief Government Inspector has been received and considered. In the meantime assurances given in the course of the debate with regard to the furnishing of information to the House and the collection of figures as to the sale of tickets have been duly implemented.
10	Nawab Siddique Ali Khan—8th March.	Shooting of innocent citizens and use of tear gas and lathi charges in Delhi.	None.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What action was taken in regard to the adjournment motion passed by this House on the question of recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service ?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (a) and (b) of the Short Notice Question, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 12th of February.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : That is asking one to go from pillar to post. What was that answer ?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : I have not got the information with me at present.

SINDHIS CALLED FOR INTERVIEW AND GRANTED SCHOLARSHIPS

1898. *Seth Sukhdev : (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state how many scholarships were given to applicants from Sind last year ?

(b) How many scholarships have been given or are proposed to be given to the Sind applicants this year ?

(c) How many scholarships in all were given to applicants from the whole of India, province by province, last year and this year ?

(d) Have any Sindhi applicants been called for interview this year ? If not, why not ?

Sir John Sargent : (a) None of the scholars selected by the Central Government for Overseas Scholarships in 1945 belongs to the Sind Province. The selection of scholars was made on considerations of merit without reference to the Province or State to which they belonged or to the University at which they studied. 15

scholars were, however, selected on behalf of the Sind Government, and the Central Government will pay half the total cost of their training.

(b) The selection of scholars for 1946 is still in progress. The scholarships to be awarded by the Central Government are not earmarked for persons domiciled in any particular province.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to page 6 of the Report of the Selection Board for Overseas Scholarships, 1945, copies of which are available in the Library of the House, for information relating to the 1945 scholarships. In the current year, it is proposed to award about 253 scholarships on behalf of the Central Government if suitable candidates are available. 347 scholarships are to be awarded by the Provincial Governments and out of these 17 are allotted for Sind.

(d) Three candidates belonging to Sind have so far been called for interview for Central Government scholarships. It is not possible however to give final figures at this stage.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan : How many of these scholarships are earmarked for Muslims ?

Sir John Sargent : As I have said in reply to many questions, the Central Selection Board are endeavouring to observe the quotas laid down for communities. Last year in fact they did so, and Muslims actually obtained slightly more than the minimum they are entitled to.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : With reference to part (a) of the question, may I ask the Honourable Member how many Sindhis had applied for scholarships last year ?

Sir John Sargent : I am afraid I must ask for notice of this question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : In view of the fact that no scholarship was awarded to any Sindhi, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of including some of the applicants who have applied for overseas scholarships in the Central Government quota ?

Sir John Sargent : I am afraid I have not been able to catch the point of the Honourable Member's question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : In view of what the Honourable Member has said in reply to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member consider the claim of Sindhis in future ?

Sir John Sargent : Every applicant receives careful consideration, but so far as the Central Government scholarships are concerned, they are to fill posts the necessity of which is being felt by the Central Government, and from that point of view the Central Selection Board are endeavouring to select the best applicants. But in addition, as I have explained, there are scholarships in which the Central Government and the Provincial Government co-operate so far as the financial responsibility is concerned, and those scholarships are of course allotted to people from the provinces concerned.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I know from the Honourable Member if the financial responsibility in regard to 15 scholars who are selected on behalf of the Sind Government rests with the Central Government ?

Sir John Sargent : The Central Government's responsibility is 50 per cent of the total cost of the training.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why has this number been decreased since last year ? Is it not a fact that 500 scholarships were given last year whereas this year they propose to send 253 students ?

Sir John Sargent : The number is exactly the same. The scholarships are being divided between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments and this year the allocation has been 253 scholarships for the Central Government and 347 scholarships for the Provincial Governments, making a total of 600, the same number as was allotted in 1945.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What is the significance of the expression 'if suitable candidates are available' ? Is it not a fact that many times more than were actually needed last year applied for the scholarships and they possessed suitable or necessary qualifications ?

Sir John Sargent : As I said, Sir, the selection for this year has not yet been concluded, but I don't think there will be the slightest difficulty in getting candidates with suitable qualifications. The standard of candidates on the whole is of a very high order.

INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN WORLD SHIPPING TRADE

†1899. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representative on behalf of the Government of India attended the Conference of the United Maritime Authority held recently in London, and whether any non-official Indians representing Indian shipping were associated with him;

(b) the broad conclusions reached at this Conference as well as the attitude and policy adopted by the Government of India's representative in respect of the decision reached at this Conference;

(c) whether an interim arrangement is going to be adopted in order to assure ocean transportation of food, fuel and other commodities to areas where they are urgently needed for preservation of human lives;

(d) whether India would continue to be a member of any such interim organisation;

(e) whether any decisions have been reached at this Conference in regard to allocation of routes, especially in the Far East where Japanese tonnage has been eliminated as a result of the war; if so, whether Indian shipping would be allocated any of such routes in pursuance of the policy announced by the Government for a more adequate participation of Indian shipping in the various maritime trades;

(f) whether any provision has been made for the development of Indian shipping services as an integral part of the new arrangement; and

(g) whether India has been included in the category of countries to which the temporary agreement applies for provision of transport in respect of essential needs?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the final meeting of the United Maritime Executive Board (which was the Executive body of the United Maritime Authority) held on the 11th February 1946. The Government of India was represented at this meeting by the Deputy High Commissioner. No non-official Indian was associated with him.

(b) I lay on the table a copy of the Press release made by the United Maritime Executive Board after its final meeting. There was nothing in the recommendations made by the Board to which exception could be taken. I may add, however, that the representative of the Government of India has instructions to make it clear that they were pledged to a policy of assisting in the rapid development of the Indian mercantile marine, and desired to see Indian Shipping carry an adequate share of India's Coastal and international trade including ex-enemy trade.

(c) Interim arrangements recommended by the Board came into force as from 3rd March and will remain in force till 31st October, 1946, unless terminated earlier.

(d) India is one of the countries participating in the interim arrangements recommended by the Board.

(e) As far as I am aware, the reply to the first part of this question is in the negative; the second part does not, therefore, arise.

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

(f) The development of Indian Shipping is a long range problem which does not come within the purview of the interim arrangements.

(g) India like any other participating country is entitled to seek shipping assistance under the interim arrangements when need arises.

UNITED MARITIME EXECUTIVE BOARD

FOURTH SESSION

Press Release

The final meeting of the Fourth and Final Session of the Executive Board of the United Maritime Authority was held to-day under the Chairmanship of Sir Cyril Huroomb (U. K. member of the Board).

At earlier meetings during the session the Board approved arrangements for the closing stages of the Authority, which terminates on 2nd March.

Because of the special experience of shipping problems which they have gained during the period of the United Maritime Authority, the Board considered that it would be helpful to Governments if they made recommendations to their Governments as to the situation in the following few months after the U. M. A. ends on March 2nd.

The Board were unanimously of opinion that the return to normal processes of international shipping business should not be retarded. The Board were also unanimously of opinion, however, that certain difficulties and problems might arise in the shipping situation after the termination on March 2nd next of the Agreement on Principles of August, 1944. This situation did not appear to the Board to call for any continuation of the comprehensive control of U. M. A. but they came to the conclusion that it would be desirable for nations to take certain measures which are designed to facilitate the prompt and efficient transportation of relief and rehabilitation cargoes. These arrangements are to operate for a limited period of eight months. Accordingly they agreed upon certain Recommendations for the consideration of the Governments they represent.

These recommendations will be referred immediately for consideration to the eighteen Governments who are members of U. M. A., and to other Governments who may desire to join in the proposed new arrangements.

The eighteen Governments who are members of U. M. A. are Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Greece, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslavia.

11th February, 1946.

PREFERENCE TO NON INDIAN FIRMS FOR EXPORTING CLOTH TO SIAM

1900. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether the information published in the *Times of India*, dated the 27th February, 1946, that the shipments of about ten million yards of cloth to Siam are being arranged through the Anglo-Thai Corporation is correct?

(b) If so, did the Government of India intimate their intention for allowing this export to long-established Indian firms who carried on this trade between India and Siam?

(c) If not, why have Government given preference to a non-Indian firm who never handled this trade from India against long-established national firms already in this trade?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The information is incorrect. Shipments of cloth to Siam are being arranged through the Government of India's official purchasing agency.

(b) and (c). These do not arise.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member which is the official purchasing agency on behalf of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Textile Commissioner.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether for distribution in Siam any agency will be given to the Anglo-Thai Corporation?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : The question of distribution in Siam is certainly not within the jurisdiction of the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is our cloth being exported there in return for food from that country ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I can assure the Honourable Member that the Government of India was cognizant of the food position in this country and of getting more food from Siam when they discussed the question of sending cloth to that country.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know what is the total quantity of cloth which has been sent to Siam and how much rice is expected ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : So far as the details are concerned it is very difficult for me to say offhand, but as regards the cloth I might say that it is roughly about ten million yards.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Has the Honourable Member assured himself that the Food Department have satisfied themselves with regard to the import of rice in exchange or cloth ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : It is not a question of actual exchange. We have cloth and they have food. It is a question of food that we are expecting to get in view of the cloth that we are sending there. That is all I can say.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I take it that the rice which my Honourable friend the Leader of the House obtained from Siam through the Combined Food Board is being obtained in lieu of this barter of cloth ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I am not aware if the Combined Food Board have anything to do with the Siamese rice.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Have Government made any arrangement with Indonesia for the exchange of cloth against 500,000 tons of rice offered by the Indonesian Prime Minister ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : That question is still being enquired into.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask if the Honourable Member is not aware that the Honourable the Leader of the House contemplated getting a certain portion of rice from Siam, and whether this arrangement is in connection with that demand by the Honourable the Leader of the House from the Combined Food Board ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : If my Honourable friend is aware of the situation there, he will realize that at the time when treaty was made between Siam and the Allied countries it was understood that large quantities of rice would be available there, but, unfortunately, towards later stages it was found that it was extremely difficult to make any procurements of rice in Siam. The rice passed into the hands of those people who did not want to part with it, and it was represented to us that the only way in which the procurement of rice can be made easy was to offer them cloth. Therefore not only this cloth but other consumer goods were sent there with a view to ease the procurement policy of rice in which we are all interested.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why is it that the Government of India did not think of coming to a bilateral agreement with the Siamese Government so that we can export our cloth to Siam in exchange for an equivalent quantity or value of food for this country ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : We felt that if we sent a certain quantity of cloth in order to ease the procurement policy of that country in getting food, in the long run we will be benefited by it. It is from that point of view that we agreed to send a special quota.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it that my Honourable friend has no guarantee whatsoever that he will get a single grain of rice from Siam and that he is prepared to hand over this cloth without any agreement with that Government ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : One can always defeat the best of case by the most extreme arguments.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that Indonesia is prepared to give rice in lieu of cloth ? And what steps has the Honourable Member taken with regard to that offer ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : As I have said, that matter is being urgently looked into.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Why did my Honourable friend not take steps to enter into an agreement with Indonesia prior to coming to an agreement with Siam ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : As a matter of fact I stand in the *pro forma* position. Decision with regard to the import of food are taken by those who are responsible for the food situation in this country and we act on their advice. We are satisfied that we are doing what should be done.

EXPORT QUOTA FOR LINSEED AND CASTORSEED

1901. *Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) What was the export quota fixed by the Honourable the Commerce Member for linseed and castor seed ?

(b) Was the original figure departed from ? If so, under what circumstances ?

(c) What is the quota fixed for the official year 1946-47 ?

(d) What is the estimate of exportable surplus from India and on what basis is it fixed ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) During 1945 the export quota of linseed was 315,800 tons. Export of castorseed was allowed freely to the United Kingdom while a quota of 5,500 tons was fixed for Australia.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Castorseed 42,520 tons and castor oil 2,350 tons during 1946. Linseed 62,000 tons and linseed oil 5,300 tons during 1946-47, subject to the confirmation of the proposed Basic Plan by the Provincial and States Governments concerned.

(d) The provisional quota of linseed represents the estimated exportable surplus which was worked out on the basis of outturn *minus* internal requirements. The exportable surplus of castorseed could not be determined for want of proper statistics and export quota has been fixed on the basis of exports during previous years and the minimum requirements of the importing countries.

Mr. Manu Subedar : I am not clear about under what circumstances the original quota was departed from in 1945.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : No, Sir, it was not departed from.

Mr. Manu Subedar : On what basis, that is to say with regard to the requirements of this country, does the Honourable Member and his Department make this estimate for what we are free to send out ? And on what basis is the requirement of this country given absolute priority, and having regard to the failure of crops in many parts of the country, does he propose to revise the quota for this particular year which he has mentioned ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : If my friend means that I reserve all I require first and then after that we send out, that is an impossible position in international trade. All we have to do is to get an estimate from the Agricultural Department as to production, the requirements of trade and industry as reported by the different Departments, the previous year's figures of exports and consumption within the country, and on that basis an estimate is made and on that basis this has been returned.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know whether the Honourable Member or his Department consults any trade organisations in this country before they determine this quota and receive more adequate and more full information which these trade organisations may have ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : So far as I am aware, it is not done in my Department. Whether it is done in other Departments who advise in this matter, is more than I can say.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Has my Honourable friend received any representation on this subject ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : The danger is that once we let out the fact that so much is allotted for export the market will be full of speculators and speculation will go on. That is the danger.

RESERVATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HARIJANS, ETC., FOR STUDIES ABROAD

1902. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if any places for scholarships for Indian youths and for the tribal people to go abroad on Government's account are reserved for Harijans and other scheduled castes; if so how many;

(b) how many have applied and from which Provinces, and how many have been selected for this year;

(c) whether the selections for this year have been made, if so, when; and

(d) what precautions are being taken in the light of their last year's experience to see that our scholars are provided with seats in the required faculties of the United Kingdom and United States of America Universities?

Sir John Sargent : (a) No specific number of Overseas Scholarships to be awarded by the Central Government have been reserved for Scheduled Castes or any other community. It is however intended, in making the awards, to ensure that as far as possible minority communities receive a fair share of these scholarships provided suitable candidates from these communities are forthcoming. The communal ratio to be aimed at is the ratio fixed for recruitment to Central Government services.

(b) and (c). There are 43 Scheduled castes candidates who have applied for Overseas Scholarships this year. The distribution according to Provinces is: Bengal 23, Madras 6, Bombay 5, C. P. 3, Punjab and Mysore State 2 each and U. P. and Hyderabad (Deccan) 1 each. The selections for this year are not yet over but are likely to be completed before the end of this month.

(d) In order to facilitate securing seats in educational institutions abroad for our students, the selections this year are being completed early and advance intimations about our requirements have been sent to our agents in U. S. A., U. K. and Australia to enable them to secure reservations for the students

APPROACHING ARGENTINA FOR WHEAT

1903. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the state of wheat stores in Argentina;

(b) whether Argentina is exporting large quantities of wheat amounting to millions of tons to Spain and Portugal and has surpluses over those exports;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to contact Argentina with a request for wheat supplies to India;

(d) whether such a request will be urgently made;

(e) whether a special mission will be sent to her for this purpose; and

(f) whether India has the necessary diplomatic machinery to approach her directly; if so, what it is ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Argentina is a surplus wheat producing country, but the extent of its surplus is not known.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Exports of Argentina wheat are subject to allocations by the Combined Food Board and we await a communication from that body as to the precise amount allotted to India within our general allocation from that country.

(d) and (e). In view of the reply to part (c) of the question parts (d) and (e) do not arise.

(f) The Government of India have got a Trade Commissioner at Buenos Aires.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Government does not seem to grow any wiser.

Mr. President : No comments, please. The Honourable Member may put his question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : With reference to part (b), Government says they have no information at all whether any efforts have been made. The Honourable member says that the Combined Food Board is in contact with them. Argentina is not a Member of the Combined Food Board. Then Argentina should have been contacted through U. N. R. R. A.

Mr. President : What is the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : The question is that it is to be based on facts and he has given no facts. That is why I am stating facts.

Mr. President : The approach to the Combined Food Board has been a matter of questions so many times that there is nothing new.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : The question is that he cannot go on making mistakes.

Mr. President : Order, order. He may put his question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Part (b) of the question asks : " Whether Argentina is exporting large quantities of wheat amounting to millions of tons to Spain and Portugal and has surpluses over those exports." Is it not the duty of the Government to ascertain the facts ? The Government say they have no information.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : To clear up the position. Argentina is not a member of the Combined Food Board. It is the member of the small committee which works under the Combined Food Board. I said there are two committees—one the wheat committee and the other the rice committee. On the wheat committee Argentina is represented and the Combined Food gets information about Argentina from a committee that works under the Combined Food Board.

As regards the one million tons of wheat from Argentina, my Honourable friend may rest assured that Argentina has not got any shipping of its own. Neither has Spain and anything that has to be shipped from Argentina to Spain can only be shipped through the efforts of the Combined Food Board.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The question is why has not this Government made any independent effort to contact the Government of Argentina. We want to know whether they have made this effort. If not, we want to know why : and whether they will not now consider making such effort or a direct approach to the Argentina Government ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : We have already taken up for examination the exports which could be used to get the best terms for India. We have called for information from the Combined Food Board as to the quantity to be allocated from Argentina. The point we have taken up with the Combined Food Board is that India needs imports as quickly as possible and if large quantities are allocated from Argentina then we shall not get these in time.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Do I understand that the difficulty is for shipping and that even the allotments made by the Combined Food Board cannot be brought here ? Then what has Government done to reduce the bottleneck in shipping ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : The difficulty is not shipping but internal movement. That is our insuperable difficulty in getting large quantities quickly out of Argentina.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is there any constitutional difficulty preventing the Government of India from making a direct approach to Argentina.

Mr. B. R. Sen : There is no constitutional bar to it, but we must proceed in a manner which will be the most effective in the circumstances.

APPROACHING U.S.S.R. FOR FOODSTUFFS

1904. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have approached the Government of U.S.S.R. either through the British Government or directly for supplies of foodstuffs as a special matter to enable us to wade through the present food crisis;

(b) what action has been taken since the Government assured the House that such an approach would be made;

(c) whether it is a fact that during the war, India sent foodstuffs to the U.S.S.R., if so, in what quantities; and

(d) whether Government propose to send an urgent mission to Soviet Russia for pressing the need for food imports from Russia?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) and (b). The question has been taken up with H. M. G. and their reply is awaited.

(c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(d) This will depend upon H. M. G.'s reply.

Statement showing exports of Foodstuffs to U.S.S.R.

Name of article (Unit of weight)	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
Pulses (Tons)				150		
Butter (Cwts.)				986	200	
Ghi (Cwts.)				2,137		
Other sorts of provisions (Cwts.)				8,979	200	
Sugar (Tons)	...			50	1	
Tea (Lbs.)	34,791			798,602	100	1,444,458

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it impossible for the Government of India to make a direct approach to the U. S. S. R. without having to go through the British Government ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : I am not quite sure about the position. This question was asked before and I undertook to take it up with His Majesty's Government, and we are still awaiting a reply from them.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Is it not possible for this Government to send a cable direct to Russia intimating that in view of the distress, will Russia be able to free any wheat for supply to India ? Is there a constitutional bar or is it merely a matter of convenience ? We feel that convenience ought not to be allowed to stand in the way of the calamity which is facing us.

Mr. B. R. Sen : The whole matter is under consideration. We shall not go very far by making a direct approach over the head of His Majesty's Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : May I know his reply to part (d) ? Is it in the affirmative or in the negative ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : We are awaiting the reply of His Majesty's Government in this matter.

DESTRUCTION OF FOOD STOCKS BY U.S. ARMY

1905. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the news item "U.S. Army Destroys Huge stocks of Food" published on page 8 of the *Hindustan Times*, of the 3rd April, 1946;

(b) why Government have failed to approach the United States Army and other authorities in India asking them to try to implement the appeal of President Truman to be economical in their use of food for their personnel in India; and

(c) whether Government propose to appeal to them now not to destroy or to re-export to America their unwanted food materials but to hand them over to the Government of India or the Local Provincial Government and take, if necessary, the usual price for it?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Government have seen the news item as also the statement of the U. S. Army Commander, India-Burma Theatre, published in the *Statesman* of Friday the 5th April, 1946, that the quantities destroyed were small and unfit for human consumption.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Arrangements already exist whereby the Q. M. G. in India acts as stockholder for all food surpluses of the U. S. A. Forces in India. These surpluses are disposed of in consultation with the civil authorities for civilian consumption to the extent feasible.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know whether Government do not propose to take these surpluses and store them as a reserve in areas which are threatened with famine for use at critical moments and whether they permit them to be disposed of in those localities where perhaps they are not needed ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Surplus stocks are taken over by the Q. M. G. He is the authority to dispose of these stocks in India and in disposing of these stocks he has got to get into contact with the civil authorities concerned. When the quantities are large he informs us and we approach the Provincial Governments who are likely to be in need of the foodgrains.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : May I know if the total quantity of food allotted to the Q. M. G. for purposes of the army is determined after taking into consideration whatever quantities of food may be taken over from the U. S. Army ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : In the beginning of the year the Q. M. G. submits indents and we make allocations on those indents. If during the course of the year other supplies come into their hands, those supplies are also taken into consideration. There is a quarterly review of the requirements of the Q. M. G. by the Food Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar : My query was whether something could not be done in order to prevent the dissipation of these supplies to those Provinces which are not facing any food danger and whether these stocks could not be reserved for those areas in the country which are going to face food danger.

Mr B. R. Sen ; The quantities involved are not considerable. If I may give the figures, at the time of the Japanese surrender the total quantity of foodgrains in the hands of the U. S. army was 90,000 tons. A total of 310 tons have been destroyed as unfit for human consumption. 39,000 tons out of the 90,000 tons since the Japanese surrender have been consumed by the U. S. army. The total remaining is 51,000 tons. Of this 12,500 tons have been delivered to the UNRRA and Indian charitable institutions. 2,000 tons have been retained for the American soldiers during the balance of their stay in India. The other quantities have been supplied to us and to the civil authorities where these stocks are held. There is no question of large quantities being available from these surpluses.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Why are these sold in the Punjab, in Bengal and in other areas like the U. P. which may not face the food famine ? Why are they not supplied to Bombay and Madras which are going to face food famine ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Whenever any stocks are reported to us we get into touch with the Provinces which are likely to need them. We take into the account the keeping quality of these stocks and the time they would take to be sent to certain places. All these factors have got to be taken into consideration in disposing of them.

LOW PRICE OF CANE OFFERED TO PEASANTS AND SHORTAGE OF SUGAR AND Gur

†1905. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a letter by Mr. Phool Singh, M.L.A. of Saharanpur to the Editor of the *Hindustan Times* of the 3rd April, 1946 stating that, although peasants demanded a higher price for their cane as the prevailing price was too low, Government refused to raise it to Rs. 1-8-0 per maund of cane and that, as a result, there has come to be a shortage of gur and sugar on the one hand and peasants were obliged to use cane as fodder owing to too low prices;

(b) if it is a fact that there is a shortage of both gur and sugar and, therefore, Government have asked for 500,000 tons of sugar imports from the Combined Food Board;

(c) if it is also a fact that Government have fixed higher prices for sugar and gur in view of this shortage, while not increasing the corresponding prices for cane; and

(d) when Government propose to take the necessary steps to raise the prices of sugarcane in order to encourage growers to plant cane on a larger acreage and also to assure them of remunerative prices?

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

(b) There is a shortage of sugar and *gur* due to the cane crop having been damaged by adverse monsoon conditions and by frost. The Government of India have asked for an import of 200,000 tons sugar.

(c) This is not strictly correct. The price of sugar was recently increased to enable the factories to pay higher wages to labour and to keep a small reserve to meet costs of renewals and repairs to the plant. The price of *gur* has not been raised but a maximum has been statutorily fixed this year in parity with sugar cane price.

(d) Fixation of cane prices will be taken up in the beginning of the next season (1946-47) some times in August this year. Cane crop for the next season has already been sown and any increase in the cane price at this stage will not affect the cane acreage.

SCHEME FOR SCIENTIFIC APPROACH FOR FOOD CONSERVATION

†1907. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of the Food Secretary been drawn to a note by Prof. V. Subrahmanyan, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, enunciating certain lines of scientific approach to the problem of food shortage in India and dealing particularly with (i) prevention of food spoilage by moisture control, (ii) reclamation of partly spoilt food, (iii) securing more food value out of grains, (iv) scientific control over parboiling of rice, and (v) popularising and finding additional use for some of the less commonly used food materials, and stressing the need for a permanent State organisation in the nature of a Food Conservation Board or Authority mainly for scientific planning and helping in the execution of the scheme outlined by him?

(b) Has the scheme been given a careful consideration, and if so, what action is proposed to be taken thereon?

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

(b) Prof. Subrahmanyan's note was considered by the Technical Panel set up by the Food Department at the end of March, 1946. The report of the Panel is awaited.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

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

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS AND INSPECTION OFFICERS UNDER REGIONAL FOOD COMMISSIONER

1908. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Regional Food Commissioner there are Assistant Directors and Inspection Officers; if so, their functions;

(b) whether it is a fact that laboratories required for examination purposes by the Inspection Officers referred to above do not exist and whether, as a consequence, thereof they have no work; and

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, whether he will explain why the Inspection Officers continue to be in service even when there is no work for them to do?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) There is one Assistant Director (Inspection) under each Regional Food Commissioner. A statement setting out the functions of the Assistant Directors (Inspection) is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Facilities for analysis work are available to the Assistant Directors (Inspection) in Provincial and Army laboratories situated at their headquarters. Laboratory work is only one of the numerous duties of these officers.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Functions of the Assistant Directors (inspection) under the Regional Food Commissioners

(1) Generally to assist in the organisation of inspection of foodgrains on a scientific basis regarding quality and weight and in devising ways and means for improving quality from the fields onwards and ensuring correct weighing.

(2) To study the various methods of analysis and to prepare a record of the procedure of analysis followed in different parts of their regions.

(3) To assist and supervise the establishment of efficient grain Inspectorates by Provincial and State Governments in their regions and other large consumers, such as the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and large scale industries.

(4) To conduct the inspection of foodgrains purchased by the Government of India for the Central Reserve and/or supervise inspection of foodgrains movement under the Basic Plan or Rationing schemes and to carry out check inspection with regard to quality and weight in respect of such movements at convenient points.

(5) To keep a watch on the condition of stocks in the Central Reserves and note the rate of progress of deterioration of such stocks by infestation or otherwise and advise about turnover.

(6) To advise the Regional Food Commissioners on technical matters arising from disputes between the supplying and recipient Administrations with a view to bringing about or facilitating an equitable settlement.

(7) To undertake tours in their respective regions and to furnish reports regarding despatches, arrivals and stocks at Mandies, etc.

(8) To study the various methods of grading, standardisation and processing of foodgrains as practised in Mandies.

(9) To study the characteristics and qualities of the various types and varieties of foodgrains grown in their regions and to furnish all the relevant particulars to the Director, Storage and Inspection at headquarters, through the Regional Food Commissioners.

(10) To draw F. A. Q. samples of the season and to send them to the Central Foodgrains Analysis Laboratory through the Regional Food Commissioner, for analysis, with a view to seeing if any modifications are necessary in the existing specifications.

(11) To see that the existing standards of foodgrains laid down by the surplus areas are strictly adhered to. These officers will secure the co-ordination, observance and maintenance of the All India standards when they are evolved.

**GRIEVANCES OF AND STRIKE NOTICE BY EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PRESS, CALCUTTA**

1909. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted their first memorial on December 20, 1944;

(b) whether it is a fact that employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted a memorial to the Secretary, Labour Department, through proper channel on December 17, 1945, stating their grievances and praying for redress;

(c) whether it is a fact that no consideration has been given to redress their grievances yet;

(d) whether it is a fact that the employees have submitted a strike notice on the 13th March 1946 to the effect that, in case their long-standing grievances are not properly redressed, they will go on strike on and from March 28, 1946; and

(e) if the answers to (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, have been taken to meet the grievances and to avert the impending strike as also the cause of delay in taking steps?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) Yes.

(b) The memorial was addressed to the Controller of Printing and Stationery (India), with an endorsement to Secretary, Labour Department.

(c) Some of the grievances have been redressed. Others are under consideration. Steps are being taken to ameliorate the conditions of service of the Press-workers as early as possible.

(d) Yes, but no specific date was intimated. The strike notice stated that the press employees would suspend work from any day on the expiry of a fortnight from the date of the strike notice. The workers actually went on strike from the 2nd April, 1946.

(e) I have already answered it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it not a fact that recently a deputation of these press-workers headed by some of our own colleagues waited on the Labour Member ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : Yes, it was so. I had discussions with the Honourable Member who has asked the question and had also long discussions with the deputationists.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What progress has been achieved ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : Most of the matters have been dealt with and relief granted to the extent which was possible and the rest are under consideration either by officers specially appointed for the purpose or by the Pay Commission.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What decision have Government come to in regard to the reduction of hours of work from 44 ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : The working hours were 48 and after very careful consideration the Government of India thought that they would be able to reduce it to 44 and that has already been done. It is not possible just at this stage to further reduce the working hours from 44 to 42 or 40.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal have reduced the hours of work in their presses to 40 ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : It is true.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : Is it a fact that the Regional Commissioner of the Government of India in Calcutta recommended 42 hours of work for the Government of India Press at Calcutta.

Mr. S. C. Joshi : That was the recommendation made by him. The working hours of the Bengal Press are 40. We found that all the presses in India belonging to the Government of India have to work on the same lines. Therefore it was thought necessary to reduce the working hours from 48 to 44.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : Is it not an anomaly that Government of India Presses and the Government of Bengal Presses have different hours of work ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : That is an obvious anomaly but there are various other anomalies also. An attempt has to be made to remedy the anomalies and not to create mor-

anomalies and it is only for that reason that the Government do not find it possible to reduce the working hours from 44 to 40.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : If it was possible for the Government of Bengal to do so, may I know what stands in the way of the Government of India to do so ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : The Government of Bengal did it sometime ago without consulting the Government of India or without giving any intimation to the Government of India.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : What are the other grievances of the workers besides hours of work ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : There are other grievances of the workers. Some of them have been already considered and relief granted.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : Which of them have been considered and relief granted ?

Mr. President : Order, order. Next question.

HOSPITALS IN AJMER-MERWARA

1910. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava :** Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara in rural and urban areas;

(b) the percentage of villages for each hospital in the said rural area;

(c) the percentage of population of rural and urban areas served by each hospital;

(d) the amount of money spent during the last year on hospitals in rural and urban areas; and

(e) the amount provided for hospitals in rural and urban areas in the budget for 1946-47?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) There are two hospitals, both in urban areas.

(b) There are no hospitals in the rural area. There are six dispensaries. Each dispensary serves on the average about 116 villages.

(c) One of the hospitals serves a population of 1,47,258 and the other a population of 36,720. Each dispensary serves about 60,000 persons.

(d) Rs. 1,19,770 including dispensaries.

(e) Rs. 2,01,000 including dispensaries.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : Is it a fact that the local administration have for years pointed out to the Central Government the gross inadequacy of medical and health facilities in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : It is a fact that the medical facilities in Ajmer-Merwara are inadequate but plans to improve them are under consideration.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : In view of the answer given by the Honourable Member that each dispensary serves about 60,000 persons, do not the Government think that the time has arrived to take more expeditious measures than merely to raise the grant from one to two lakhs.

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : When do Government propose to establish hospitals in the rural areas of the Ajmer-Merwara Province ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : That is under consideration in connection with the general plans for improving medical relief.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Do they propose any urgent measures at all ?

(No answer was given.)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AJMER-MERWARA

1911. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state if there is any Department of Public Health in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara? If so, what is the strength of the staff in such Department, and what work is it doing?

(b) Has there been made any provision for such Department in the budget for 1946-47? If so, what functions are proposed to be assigned to such Department, and will it work in urban or rural areas or in both?

(c) Do Government intend to implement the recommendation of the Bhoré Committee report in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara? If so, in what way?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) With the exception of vaccination and some public health staff employed by local bodies there is no public health department in Ajmer-Merwara.

(b) Provision has been made in the budget for staff for malaria control in both urban and rural areas. The appointment of additional staff for public health work is under consideration.

(c) This is under consideration.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : Do the Central Government consider it a satisfactory state of affairs for a province which is directly administered by them?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : That is a matter of opinion.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN AJMER-MERWARA

1912. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools and colleges for boys and girls in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara and the number of boys and girls receiving education in such institutions;

(b) the number of schools for girls and boys in the rural areas of the Province, the amount spent by Government on colleges in the urban area and on schools in rural areas;

(c) the number of Government-aided schools and colleges for girls and boys in the Province and the amount contributed to such institutions; and

(d) the amount spent by Government in Ajmer-Merwara on education, Primary, Secondary and Higher?

Sir John Sargent : A statement furnishing the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a)

Boys		Girls	
Institutions	Number of Scholars	Institutions	Number of Scholars
Recognised—290	25,169	Recognised—92	6,572
Un-recognised—72	4,169	Un-recognised—4	262
Total—362	29,338	Total—96	6,824

(b)		Number of Recognised Schools	Number of Unrecognised Schools	Total
Boys	.	175	14	189
Girls	.	33	...	33
				Rs.
Expenditure on Colleges in Urban areas		.	.	1,02,577
Expenditure on Schools in Rural areas		.	.	2,59,719
(c) Number of Government aided schools and colleges in Ajmer-Merwara:—				29
				Rs.
Amount of grant paid by Government		.	.	90,102
(d) The amount spent by Government in Ajmer-Merwara on Education—				
Primary	.	.	.	2,00,683
Secondary	.	.	.	2,86,032
Higher	.	.	.	1,12,193
Total				5,98,908

INSANITARY CONDITION OF MUNICIPAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN AJMER AND BEAWAR

1913. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Education Secretary aware that most of the Primary Schools run by the Municipal Committees of Ajmer and Beawar are located in rented buildings and are in very congested and in very insanitary conditions? If so, is it because the Municipalities have no funds at their disposal to erect their own buildings for such schools?

(b) Do Government propose to furnish requisite funds to these Committees for erection of their own school buildings? If not, why not?

Sir John Sargent : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have no information about the latter part of the question.

(b) No request for funds for buildings has so far been received from these Municipal Committees. The question of providing proper buildings for all schools is being taken up in connection with the plan for educational development of the Centrally administered areas.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What is the position regarding school buildings in rural areas ?

Sir John Sargent : The Local Administration are preparing a plan for implementing the proposals of the Central Advisory Board of Education and I am hoping to receive that plan at any moment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What does the Honourable Member mean by ' local administration ' ? Is there an elected District Board there ?

Sir John Sargent : I mean the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara aided by any adviser or district board there ?

Sir John Sargent : Yes. He is aided by a technical adviser with regard to education and he is frequently in touch with officers of my own Department

FACILITIES FOR MEDICAL, ENGINEERING, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN AJMER-MERWARA

1914. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state if it is a fact that there are no institutions for medical, engineering or other technical and vocational education in Ajmer-Merwara? If so, do Government propose to take steps to provide such education in Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) Have Government any scheme in view for providing such educational facilities in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government, till such educational facilities are available in the Province, take proper steps in collaboration with the Government of such Provinces where such education is available, to secure admissions for the students of Ajmer-Merwara aspiring for such education?

Sir John Sargent : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India are considering the question of provision for medical, engineering and other forms of technical education for the Centrally Administered Areas as a whole in connection with their post-war educational development scheme.

(c) The Government of India have been making a contribution to the authorities of the Medical College in Bombay and the Civil Engineering College, Roorkee on account of seats which are reserved for candidates from Ajmer-Merwara. In addition students are also awarded scholarships and stipends for technical and professional training available in other provinces.

LOW SCALES OF PAY OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL TEACHERS IN AJMER-MERWARA

†1915. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Education Secretary please state if it is a fact that the scale of pay of teachers in the Government Schools in Ajmer-Merwara is comparatively much lower than the scale of pay of Government School teachers in other Provinces? If so, what are the reasons for this disparity, and do Government contemplate to revise the same and to bring it in level to the scale of pay prevailing in other Provinces? If not, why not?

Sir John Sargent : No, Sir. The scales of pay of teachers in Government School are in some cases higher and in others lower than those prevailing in the neighbouring provinces. With effect from the current year, further improvement will be made in the existing scales of pay in the Province.

STRIKE IN BIJAINAGAR TEXTILE MILLS, AJMER-MERWARA

†1916. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that there have recently been a number of strikes in the Bijainagar Textile Mill (Ajmer-Merwara)? If so, what was the number and date of the strikes as also reasons for the same?

(b) What steps, if any, have been taken so far by Government to minimise the chances of a conflict between labour and capital in future?

(c) Is it a fact that the mill authorities have refused to give any bonus to the mill labourers notwithstanding repeated representations by the labourers to the mill authorities and to the local Government? What steps have Government taken or do contemplate to take to see that the bonus is duly paid to the labourers?

(d) Are Government aware that recently a number of mill labourers have been arrested? If so, for what reasons, and do Government propose to see that such mill labourers are re-instated? If not, why not?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) There were three strikes in the Bijainagar Textile Mills on the 29th January, 16th February and the 11th March, 1946. The reasons were either re-employment of certain discharged persons or grant of bonus.

(b) The Government of India have set up in Ajmer-Merwara a labour organization, with a labour officer in charge thereof, for dealing with labour disputes, etc. So far as the present dispute is concerned, an amicable settlement has been arrived at between the mill authorities and the representatives of the labourers, and the strike has been called off on the 28th March, 1946. In order to avoid similar conflicts in future regular Service Rules are under preparation by the mill authorities.

(c) In accordance with the terms of the compromise, the mill authorities have agreed to grant bonus to the labourers.

† ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION LAID ON THE TABLE, THE QUESTIONER HAVING EXHAUSTED HIS QUOTA.

(d) Yes, some arrests were made for alleged rioting and assaulting new recruits and prosecution in this respect is pending in the court. The accused persons have been let off on bail and since they have not been dismissed by the mill authorities, the question of their reinstatement does not arise.

LOW PRICES OF CANES TO GROWERS

1917. ***Sri A. Karunakara Menon**: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the news item published under the caption "Cane Growers Grievances", on page 5 of the *Hindu*, of the 1st April, 1946, stating that the present minimum price is not enough, that the commandeering of all cane at unremunerative prices goes against jaggery production and that loans advanced by the factory are not enough to finance cane cultivation; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to help the peasants to enable them to grow cane on larger areas?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) Yes. The minimum price of cane fixed for the Hospet Factory area is Rs. 26 per ton which is over 0-15-3 per maund and is the highest price of all factory areas in the Madras Presidency.

Cane which is required for crushing has to be delivered by the cane growers at the factory. For cane which is to be used for the making of jaggery, a permit has to be obtained from the Revenue Divisional Officer.

Government have no information as to the loans advanced by the Factory.

(b) It is not proposed at present to increase the acreage under cane at the expense of other food crops.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : May I know what examination was made by the Government of India to assure themselves that this price of 0-15-3 per maund for sugar cane is adequate and remunerative?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : The price was fixed by the Government of Madras and not by the Government of India.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Does the Honourable Member know that the percentage of sugar in sugar cane in Madras is much higher than in Bihar and therefore the price of cane in Madras should be much higher than in Bihar?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : I am afraid I have no information on the point.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Will the Honourable Member look into this because injustice is done to the Madras growers compared to the Bihar and U. P. growers?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : It is possible that the earlier statement that the yield is higher in Madras is correct. But it is also probably true that the costs of production are also higher.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : It is not only the yield. The percentage of sugar in sugarcane is also higher. Will the Honourable Member refer it to the Madras Government and draw their attention to this fact, that as compared to Bihar and U. P. the Madras grower should be paid much more?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : An enquiry on the point will be made.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : May I know whether Government have examined the fact that any higher price will discourage the farming of necessary foodgrains? Has the Government examined the possibility of discouraging the growth of foodgrains if a higher price is fixed for cane?

Mr. President : Is the question clear to the Honourable Member? His argument seems to be that if sugar cane prices are reduced, the plantation of sugar cane will be discouraged and the production of foodgrains encouraged. If so, has the Honourable Member considered that possibility? That is his question.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : We presume that all these factors have been taken into consideration by the Madras Government when they fixed the price.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Does an appeal lie to the Government of India over the decision of the Madras Government when sugar cane growers are not satisfied with the minimum price fixed ?

Sir Pherose Kharegat : No appeal lies to the Government of India.

FOOD SITUATION IN INDIAN STATES

1918. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken to watch the food situation in the Indian States;

(b) whether any Joint Contact Committee exists between the Food Department and the Chamber of Princes and other States which have not joined the Chamber;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some States food shortage is very acute; if so, what are their names;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to persuade the surplus States to introduce Government procurement procedure and maximise their exports and to induce the deficit States to introduce rationing and thus minimise wastage and maldistribution; and

(e) whether the food offices of the Crown Representative and the Chamber of Princes are being availed of to see that in the matter of food, all India is treated as one unit?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Regional Food Commissioners appointed by the Food Department for British Indian territories also act as Regional Food Commissioners for some States. In other States the Residents, with whom the States are in political relationship, act as *ex-Officio* Regional Food Commissioners for the Food Department and in the discharge of their duties in connection with food are assisted by Directors of Food Supplies or Group Liaison Officers. These Officers keep the Food Department informed of the situation in the States.

(b) The Food Department are in close contact with the Chamber of Princes through its Secretariat and with States which have not joined the Chamber, through Regional Food Commissioners and Residents.

(c) Yes. Certain States in the South such as Mysore, some of the W. I. States and the Deccan States.

(d) and (e) Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Which of the States have introduced rationing and food procurement procedure in their own States ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Is it with regard to procurement procedure or rationing ?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Both.

Mr. B. R. Sen : If the Honourable Member means monopoly procurement, then it has been introduced in the States of Travancore, Cochin, Mysore and some of the Deccan States.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What about the surplus States ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Hyderabad, which is one of the surplus States, has some system of monopoly procurement. But I am not in a position to give all the details.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are steps being taken to persuade the surplus States in Northern India adjacent or contiguous to the United Provinces and the Punjab to introduce monopoly procurement in order to maximize their exports ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Every attempt is being made to get these States to introduce monopoly procurement. We have not only approached the State direct, but we have also approached them through the Chamber of Princes and its Secretariat, in this matter.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : May I know what steps are being taken to supply the Mysore State to cover its deficit ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Supply to these States forms part of our general plan of distribution of our imports and our internal resources.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : Does the Honourable Member know that the situation in Mysore is very acute and that the present supply and storage of grain is very short ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : I am fully aware of the situation in Mysore.

PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME FOR GRAIN AND GROUNDNUT IN CENTRAL PROVINCES AND SUPPLY OF RICE TO MADRAS

1919. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if he has seen the news from Nagpur (29th March, 1946) on page 8 of the *Hindu*, of the 1st April, 1946, to the effect that though the Central Provinces Government were prepared to send 5,000 tons of rice to Madras, the Government of India had not yet replied; if so, why;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no procurement programme for grain and groundnut in the Central Provinces, if so, why;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce monopoly procurement with fixed producer's prices in the case of groundnut and grains in all Provinces; and

(d) whether the Central Provinces Government have asked for an increase in the prices to be paid for their exports of rice, wheat, jwar, grain; if so, from what prices to what prices?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) The Government of India had asked the C. P. Government to spare 5,000 tons of rice for Madras, but before instructions could be issued for its despatch a very serious shortage of stocks was reported in Travancore owing to the delay in the shipment of rice from Sind and this quota of 5,000 tons from the C. P. has had, therefore, to be diverted as a matter of the greatest urgency to Travancore to prevent depletion of stocks there.

(b) The C. P. Government do procure rice, wheat and *jowar* by official machinery. To these grains has recently been added gram and arrangements for the official procurement of pulses are in hand. Groundnuts are not procured officially.

(c) The Government of India have recommended a policy of monopoly procurement for all the major grains with fixed producers' prices. Monopoly procurement of groundnuts is not considered necessary or feasible at present as they do not form a common article of food and a good portion of the production is utilised by village *ghannies* for making oil.

(d) No, Sir.

APPROACHING SOVIET RUSSIA TO MEET CENTRAL PROVINCES GOVERNMENT'S DEMAND FOR TRACTORS

1920. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if he has seen the news item published under the caption "Central Provinces Government's plans" on page 8 of the *Hindu*, of the 1st April, 1946, in which the Adviser said that the Central Provinces Government asked for thirty tractors so as to bring under cultivation nearly a lakh of acres in the Northern Districts;

(b) what arrangements are being made to supply them these tractors; and

(c) in view of the fact that Soviet Russia is able to reconstruct her Tractor Factories and have huge surpluses of wheat, whether Government propose to make a direct approach to the Soviet Government for the supply of 500 tractors?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) Yes, Sir. The statement referred to is reported to have been made by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture. The fact, however, is that the scheme in question is still under the consideration of the Provincial Government and no order for tractors from it is pending with the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The chances of obtaining tractors from Russia are practically nil, for the reason that the Soviet Union have suffered considerable losses themselves and their first need will obviously be to replenish their own losses and meet their own requirements.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : In view of the fact that the answer to part (c) is only a repetition of an answer to a supplementary question earlier, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether they have made any sort of inquiries from any one connected with Soviet Russian Government in order to find out whether they can spare any tractors ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : No ; no enquiry has been made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why is it that the Government of India do not think it necessary to make inquiries when a suggestion is made in this manner that Soviet Russia is able not only to meet the requirements of her own population but also export to other countries ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : Because it is considered practically certain that nothing will be available from Soviet Russia at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are we to understand that Soviet Russia is treating India as a pariah, or *vice versa* ?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. Manu Subedar : Is it the conclusion of the Government of India without any enquiry, is it merely a surmise, or has any inquiry official or unofficial been made in the direction ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : No inquiry has been made from the Soviet Union. But it is a fact that the Soviet Union are themselves in the market in the United States of America in order to purchase tractors from America.

IMPORT LICENCE FOR PLANT AND MACHINERY TO PUNJAB ELECTRIC LAMPS AND RADIO MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED, LAHORE

1921. ***Diwan Ohaman Lal :** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly refer to his answers to starred questions Nos. 1527 and 1528 asked on the 3rd April, 1946, and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee comprising of the representatives of the Supply, Planning, Commerce and Industries Departments of the Government of India considered the desirability of further extending the industry for the manufacture of Electric Lamps in India and, as a result, the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company, Limited, of Lahore were permitted to issue capital ;

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what special circumstances and reasons the Government had in not issuing an import licence to the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company of Lahore, but recommending others ;

(c) if the Government are aware of the fact that there is no Lamp manufacturing factory in Northern India ;

(d) if it is a fact that the largest producers of electric lamps in India are ELMI, a branch of the British Lamp Manufacturers in the United Kingdom and that they opposed the issue of an import licence for plant and machinery to the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company of Lahore ; and

(e) if any import licence for obtaining additional plant and machinery for the manufacture of lamps has been issued to the existing lamp manufacturers ; if so, on what dates, and to whom ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) Yes, on long-range conditions *i.e.*, with the stipulation that the bulk of the money must not be invested until the time comes when it could be spent on lawful objects.

(b) I may invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) of Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia's question (No. 1528) on the 3rd April, 1946, and may

add that the grant to a party of consent to the issue of capital does not automatically entitle the party to a licence for import of machinery for its business. The applications which were recommended and accepted were received earlier.

(c) There is a lamp manufacturing factory in the United Provinces, namely, Kaycee Industries, Shikohabad.

(d) Electric Lamp Manufacturers of India, Limited, Calcutta, are at present the largest producers of electric lamps in India. It is not a fact that they opposed the issue of a licence to Messrs. Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company, Limited.

(e) Radio Lamp Works, Lahore was granted a licence on the 30th June, 1945, and the application of Bharat Electrical Industries Limited, Calcutta, has been accepted for registration under the Capital Goods Registration Scheme and registration certificate issued on the 25th July, 1945.

IMPORT LICENCE FOR PLANT AND MACHINERY TO PUNJAB ELECTRIC LAMPS AND RADIO MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED, LAHORE

1922. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly state:

(a) If the Government are aware that Train Lighting and Auto lamps are not being manufactured in India; if so, why the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company of Lahore has not been given the necessary import licence for the importation of plant and machinery for their manufacture;

(b) whether, while considering the total post-war requirement of lamps for the country, the Government considered that it is time that Indian manufacturers also looked to export trade; if so, the figures;

(c) whether, in view of the fact that over 44 lakh lamps of different kinds have been permitted to be imported from overseas during the last twelve months, the Government are justified in turning down the application of the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company for obtaining plant and machinery for the manufacture of General Lighting, Train Lighting, and Auto lamps; and

(d) if, in view of the questions now raised, the Government are prepared to reconsider the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The potential capacity of factories manufacturing train lighting electric lamps in India is estimated at 5,00,000 numbers. As regards refusal of licence, Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply just given to his question (No. 1921).

(b) Yes; it was considered that manufacturers in India who depend to a large extent on imported raw materials would not be in an advantageous position to capture foreign markets in the near future.

(c) Yes. I have already explained the position in my reply to Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia's question (No. 1528) on the 3rd April, 1946.

(d) No.

DETENTION OF BABU ANAND MOHAN SAHAI OF BHAGALPORE, MEMBER, PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA, IN SINGAPORE JAIL

†1923. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state whether Babu Anand Mohan Sahai of Bhagalpore, a member of the Provisional Government of Free India, is at present detained in the Singapore Jail? If so, when will he be brought to India and released?

(b) Is he aware that the eldest daughter of Babu Anand Mohan Sahai is at Hongkong and his wife and other children in Tokio? If so, when will they be allowed to return to India?

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

Mr. R. N. Banerjee : (a) Mr. Anand Mohan Sahay was released from Singapore Jail in the first week of this month. As he is now a free man it is for him to decide whether and when he should come to India. Government of India have informed the Government of Malaya that there is no objection to his returning to India.

(b) It is understood that Mr. Sahay's daughter is in Hongkong and is likely to join him in Singapore shortly. I have no information regarding the whereabouts of Mr. Sahay's wife and other children.

POSSESSION OF ESTATE OF MR. HARI JEE OF SHAHABAD, DISTRICT BIHAR, IN BURMA

†1924. ***Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Is the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations aware that Mr. Hari Jee of the Shahabad District in Bihar has a large landed property in Burma? If so, does he propose to enquire about his estate and is the estate at present in the possession of the Government of Burma or in the possession of Mr. Hari Jee's men?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee : The information is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

STUDENTS FOR STUDIES ABROAD

†1925. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scholars hitherto selected in each Province for overseas training in various subjects;

(b) how many of them, in each Province, are (i) Muslims, (ii) Caste Hindus, (iii) Members of the Scheduled Castes, and (iv) others;

(c) how many of them, in each Province, have hitherto been able to proceed to their respective destinations;

(d) how many, in each Province, are yet held up for want of shipping accommodation or air passage;

(e) within what time are those hitherto held up likely to secure the necessary passage; and

(f) the prospects of those now in the process of selection or those who will be selected in the near future for getting the necessary passage to their destinations?

Sir John Sargent : (a) to (d). A statement in regard to students selected in 1945 is placed on the table of the House. With reference to (b) it may be pointed out that while the Government of India impressed upon Provincial Governments the desirability of ensuring that all communities received a fair share of these scholarships provided that suitable candidates from the various communities were forthcoming, the Provincial Governments were left free in making their selections to decide the communal ratios.

(e) and (f) It is not yet possible to say when passages are likely to be available in sufficient numbers: but it is expected that all students selected for the United Kingdom will be able to sail in time for the next academic session. The position in regard to passages to the United States of America depends on when the Government of the United States of America will be able to lift the embargo which they have placed on non-American personnel travelling on the United States of America Flag Vessels. We have no information when this embargo will be lifted, but it is hoped that the position may improve early enough to enable us to secure passages for the balance of students selected last year and also for those being selected now in time for the next academic session.

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

Statement
Communal Composition

Name of Province	Total No. selected	Hindus	Muslims	Sched. Caste	Others	Total No sailed (up to 15-4-46)	Balance yet to proceed
Madras	78	59	7	...	12	43	35
Bengal	50	24	25	1	...	22	28
Bombay	38	30	3	...	5	20	18
Punjab	43	12	19	...	12	16	27
Sind	34	19	11	...	4	19	15
U. P.	25	18	7	...	...	6	19
Bihar	19	15	3	...	1	11	8
Orissa	26	21	1	...	4	14	12
C. P. & Berar	26	25	1	...	...	16	10
Assam	10	6	4	...	...	6	4
N.- W. F. P.	9	4	5	...	...	4	5
Coorg Admn.	1	1	...	...	...	1	
Total	359	234	86	1	38	178	181

NOTE.—This statement is inclusive of Government servants sent abroad wholly at the expense of the Provincial Governments concerned.

INDIANS FOR POST OF DIRECTOR OR HEADS OF DIVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

†1926. *Mr. M. B. Masani: Will the Agriculture Secretary please state:

(a) whether the International Food and Agriculture Organisation expressed a desire in January, 1946, to appoint Indian Directors or Heads of Divisions on its staff and asked the Government of India for its recommendations;

(b) whether the Government of India failed to make any suggestions or recommendations in time, with the result that these positions have now been filled up by nationals of other countries; and

(c) whether it is a fact that no Indians are to be found who are qualified to fill such responsible positions in an international organisation to which India makes a substantial financial contribution and whose activities have so much significance for this country where the problem of agricultural production and food consumption is acute?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) Information was received on the 24th January, 1946, that the Food and Agriculture Organisation proposed to make appointments for (1) Nutrition and food management, (2) Agricultural production (crops and livestock), (3) Economics, (4) Fisheries, (5) Forestry and Forestry Products, (6) Rural welfare, (7) Statistics, (8) Administration, and (9) Information (Public Relations).

The posts were of two grades : in respect of the first eight divisions there were to be Directors (Grade 1) salaries 10,000—12,000 dollars a year, and Assistants (Grade 2) salaries 7,500—9,500 dollars a year : for the 9th division there were to be Assis-

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

tants (Grade 2)—salaries 7,500—9,500 dollars a year and assistants (Grade 3) salaries 6,500—7,500 dollars a year with international experience in work with the press, the radio and other mass information outlets. These salaries are free of Federal American income tax. It was stated that the Staff appointments Committee would meet on the 28th February to consider applications.

(b) and (c) Provincial Governments and various Central Departments were consulted. Five nominations were received for the posts of Directors, all from the Indian Forest Service ; three of Grade 2 and four of Grade 3 for public relations officers, not one of whom however had international experience of the type required ; and one of an assistant statistician. It was not considered desirable to recommend any of these names. As it was understood that staff appointments are to take place slowly over a period of two years, it was decided to give wider publicity to the matter so as to attract persons of the requisite calibre and qualifications. A press note has been issued accordingly. It has to be borne in mind however that at the present time there is such an acute shortage of technically qualified persons in India that it may be difficult to spare such men to go from India to the Food and Agriculture Organisation especially when we are trying to obtain such persons from other countries to meet our own requirements.

APPOINTMENTS MADE BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

†1927. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state whether Director General of Archæology is empowered to appoint subordinates in connection with conservation and excavation works up to a limit of Rs. 250 per month in each case?

(b) Is it a fact that under these powers the Director General appointed certain permanent men of clerical cadre to temporary posts of the class mentioned in (a) above?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please place on the table of this House a comparative statement for the year 1945-46 of the persons so appointed showing (i) names, (ii) designations, (iii) pay and allowance, (iv) duration of appointment with dates and (v) place of duty?

Sir John Sargent : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR CLASS I POSTS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

†1928. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that students who attended archæological training at Taxilla for about three months have been considered fit for holding gazetted posts in the Archæological Department?

(b) Will he please also give the number and communities of such of the abovementioned students as have been selected recently for appointment to Class I Posts?

Sir John Sargent : (a) Appointments to Class I Posts in the Archæological Survey of India are made through the Federal Public Service Commission on basis of academic and other qualifications. Attendance at one of the technical training schools organized by the Archæological Survey for research students of the Indian universities is naturally taken into consideration in this connection but is by no means the only qualification required. Subsequently to provisional appointment each officer serves a period of two years' probation during which he receives further intensive training. The appointment is not confirmed unless and until a satisfactory report is received.

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

(b) Of the students who received training at Taxila and subsequent schools five have appointed to permanent or temporary Class I posts in the Archæological Department on probation. Of those three are Hindus and two Muslims.

NEW DELHI MUSEUM BUILDING

†1929. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state whether the New Delhi Museum building belongs to the Archæological Department or to the Central Public Works Department?

(b) Is the building meant exclusively for the museum or it is also available for residential accommodation?

Sir John Sargent : (a) The New Delhi Museum building belongs to the Archæological Department.

(b) The building is used partly as a store, partly as offices for Department Headquarters, Museum Branch, Delhi Circle, and occasionally during the present acute shortage of residential accommodation in Delhi for emergency sleeping accommodation for officers and subordinates of the Archæological Department on duty in transit and on courses when other accommodation is not available.

POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT, CASHIER AND ACCOUNTS CLERK IN ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

†1930. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Education Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that posts of Accountant, Cashier and Accounts Clerk in the office of the Director General of Archæology are being declared technical?

Sir John Sargent : As it is essential for the incumbent of the post of Accountant in the Office of the Director General of Archæology in India to possess technical qualifications and accounts experience, it has been decided with the concurrence of the Federal Public Service Commission to remove the post from the ordinary clerical cadre of that office for the purpose of recruitment. It is not proposed to declare the other two posts in the office of the Director General of Archæology in India as technical posts.

EXPENDITURE ON AND SITES EXCAVATED BY ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

†1931. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state what sites in India have been excavated by the Archæological Department during the year 1945-46?

(b) What is the total expenditure incurred on actual excavation works during the abovementioned period?

Sir John Sargent : (a) During the financial year 1945-46, an exceptionally important site near Pondicherry was excavated by the Archæological Survey of India. The Department is at the present moment carrying out excavations at the famous site of Harappa in the Punjab. The results of these excavations which have been of great importance will be published in due course.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on the two excavations in respect of labour and materials is Rs. 39,335-4-9.

NOMINATION OF RETIRED INDIAN ARCHÆOLOGICAL OFFICERS TO ARCHÆOLOGICAL ADVISORY BOARD

†1932. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Education Secretary kindly give reasons for not nominating retired Indian archæological officers to the Archæological Advisory Board?

Sir John Sargent : Since almost all the senior active officers of the Archæological Survey of India, many of them with long service, are already members of the Central Advisory Board of Archæology, priority was given at the outset to representatives

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

drawn from outside the Survey in order to spread the basis of the Board as widely as possible. Otherwise there is more than a risk of the Board becoming primarily a Departmental Committee and so failing in its principal objective. There is, however, no objection whatsoever to the inclusion of ex-officers of the Survey as such.

APPOINTMENT OF EPIGRAPHIST AS JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL ARCHAEOLOGY

†1933. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state whether a new post of Joint Director General has recently been created in the Archæological Department? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the post has been filled by the appointment of the Epigraphist?

(c) Is it a fact that this Epigraphist is the same officer who had been holding the tenure post of Deputy Director General of Archæology since 1940 and given extension after extension?

Sir John Sargent : (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given on the 8th April, 1946, to parts (c) and (d) of starred question No. 1653.

(b) and (c). Yes. The former Deputy Director General of Archaeology who holds substantively the post of Government Epigraphist has been appointed as Joint Director General of Archæology. His tenure as Deputy Director General of Archæology was extended by about two years and three months.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA TAKEN OVER BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

†1934. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state the date from which the present Director General of Archæology has taken over the Archæological Survey of India?

(b) Is it a fact that his appointment is on a contract basis? If so, for what period?

Sir John Sargent : (a) 24th April, 1944.

(b) Yes. He has been appointed on a four years' contract.

EXPENDITURE ON GROWING OF AND PRODUCTION OF PADDY, WHEAT, LINSEED AND GRAM PER ACRE IN INDIA

1935. *Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the average production of paddy, wheat, linseed and gram, separately, per acre in India as a whole; and

(b) the average expenditure incurred on growing paddy, wheat, linseed and gram per acre in India as a whole?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) The average production per acre in British India is 10 maunds of rice, eight maunds of wheat, 3½ maunds of linseed and 6½ maunds of gram.

(b) It is regretted that no reliable data are available as regards the average expenditure incurred in the cultivation of these crops. The only all India inquiry in this connection was the one conducted by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research during the three years, 1933-34 to 1935-36. A copy of the report of this enquiry is in the Library of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is any effort being made by the I. C. A. R. to collect the information asked for here from the various local surveys made in different provinces either through provincial Governments or through universities or private individuals?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : As far as I am aware, no enquiries are in progress at present, because the question was considered but it was felt that owing to the present uncertain situation about prices it would be better to wait for the stabilisation of prices and of general conditions before making a further detailed inquiry.

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga : How did the Government of India then satisfy themselves that the present costs of cultivation are not much higher than the prices paid for the foodgrains ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : We have no information about the cost of cultivation at present.

STEPS TO INCREASE RICE PRODUCTION

1936. *Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state whether, in view of the assurance given by the Finance Member through the Secretary of the Agriculture Department that necessary funds will be granted for the development of research marketing and other improvements needed by rice growers, Government propose to set up a representative Committee to administer the funds which will thus be made available and also to take other steps to assist rice producers to increase productivity, and also to obtain remunerative prices and make the production and distribution of rice cheaper?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : The postwar schemes of the Central Government include the establishment of a Central Rice Research Institute with one or two regional stations and sub-stations. This Institute will undertake research on rice strains, its cultivation and other allied problems. The advisability of setting up a Rice Committee will be examined.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are we to understand that the Government of India do not propose to include in their studies in rice development, the improvement of the marketing possibilities for rice ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : If and when the Rice Committee is set up, that would probably be included as one of its functions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government consider the advisability of including the same aims and objects for the rice committee as were asked for the other day in this House for the Coconut Committee and the Oilseeds Committee ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : If a committee is established, that suggestion will be considered.

ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS DRAWING NOT MORE THAN RS. 600 PER MONTH

1937. *Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please indicate the precise policy followed in the allotment of residential accommodation to Government servants, particularly to persons drawing not more than Rs. 600 per month?

(b) Is it a fact that persons who are transferred to Simla on duty after April, 1945, are allowed to count their date of posting at Delhi on retransfer and not the first date of posting either at Delhi or Simla for the purpose of determining seniority in the allotment of residential accommodation at Delhi?

(c) If so, what is the reason for this discriminatory treatment to persons who are unfortunate to have been transferred out of Delhi after June, 1945?

(d) Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the allotment of residential accommodation to Government servants on duty at Delhi is done according to the rules prescribed for the purpose? If not, what procedure has been prescribed to check the prevalent abuses?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) Allotments are made on the basis of arrival seniority in accordance with the Allotment Rules.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to Starred Question No. 1420, on the 29th March, 1946.

(d) The insinuation contained in the last sentence is without any foundation in fact.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is Government aware of the great discontent that prevails amongst our own Members of the Legislative Assembly in view of the allotment of a large number of M. L. A. quarters to these Government servants during the recess?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : I am not aware of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government take note of it, that several of us do resent the allotment of our M. L. A. quarters during the recess to these Government officials in preference to the Members who have got to come here for the discharge of their duties in connection with Standing Committees?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : That will be taken into consideration.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

BENGAL SCHOLARS FOR STUDY OF AGRICULTURE IN AMERICA

1938. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in May, 1945, provisional selection letters were issued by the Government of Bengal to some applicants for scholarship for study in Agriculture in America;

(b) whether the scholars were asked to contact Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, the travelling agents, and subsequently American Express Company, Limited, for particulars about passage, dollar exchange, equipment expenses, etc.;

(c) whether the scholars executed bonds to the extent of Rs. 10,000 or more;

(d) whether passports were issued to them in September, 1945;

(e) whether they were directed to approach the American Consulate for medical certificate; and

(f) whether immigration certificates were issued to the scholars?

Sir John Sargent : (a) to (f). The Government of India have no information. The matters referred to by the Honourable Member were dealt with by the Bengal Government, except that dollar exchange facilities were arranged by the Government of India for all Government scholars, whether sponsored by the Central Government or by a Provincial Government.

BENGAL SCHOLARS FOR STUDY OF AGRICULTURE IN AMERICA

1939. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Education Secretary please state:

(a) whether the India Government asked the Bengal Government to send the testimonials educational qualifications and mark sheets of the scholars selected for study in Agriculture in America;

(b) whether telegraphic messages were sent to the scholars stating that the India Government has secured admission in an American University and that the scholars should be prepared to sail at a moment's notice;

(c) whether it is a fact that after all these tests, the India Government again asked the scholars through the Bengal Government to submit fresh copies of applications in prescribed forms stating amongst others the financial position of the scholars and also testimonials, etc.;

(d) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative the reasons for this when the scholars have been finally selected and only awaiting the orders for sail; and

(e) whether these scholars who have not yet been able to sail are likely to sail in the near future; if so, by what date?

Sir John Sargent : (a) All Provincial Governments including the Bengal Government were asked to furnish the Government of India with application forms of all selected students in the form contained in the late Department of Education, Health and Lands brochure "Information for students desiring to proceed overseas for

advanced Studies (1945)" together with the other necessary documents, as prescribed in the brochure, two copies of photographs and the syllabuses of studies pursued for the B.A. or B.Sc. degree and other higher examinations. The sheets showing marks obtained by the students in their examinations were not required.

(b) The Government of India had asked the Bengal Government to instruct all students to be sent to the United States of America to keep ready to go by air at 24 hours notice if necessary. This was done as failing arrangements for sea passages, efforts were being made to secure air passages and we were asked by the authorities concerned to warn the students to be ready to leave at 24 hours' notice. Our efforts, however, to secure air passages were also unsuccessful.

(c) and (d). No, Sir; fresh applications on regular forms were asked for immediately after the selections and not after admissions had been secured. In a few cases the Bengal Government might have asked students to fill in the regular application forms after the Government of India had arranged admissions abroad; but even in these cases, regular application forms were necessary as the admissions secured on the basis of particulars communicated telegraphically, were only provisional subject to the receipt by the institutions abroad of all the relevant papers relating to the students.

(e) The Government of India cannot say when the Government of the United States of America will be able to lift their embargo on non-American personnel travelling on the United States of America Flag Vessels. It is, however, hoped that all the scholars left behind will be sent abroad in time for the next academic session. In regard to those students who are to go to the United Kingdom passages are arranged for them as soon as places can be secured for them at suitable institutions.

DISPUTE BETWEEN MICA MAZDOOR SANGH AND MICA MINES AND FACTORY OWNERS AND LEVY OF CESS

1940. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, Government have taken to settle the dispute between the Mica Mazdoor Sangh and the Mica Mines and Factory owners?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, how far have Government succeeded in their efforts?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have decided to collect 3 per cent. welfare cess from Mica Mines and dealers?

(d) What will be the basis of the cess, production or income?

(e) When is the tax going to be levied?

(f) In what manner will the money be spent?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) and (b). As a result of Government intervention, peaceful negotiations are going on between the two parties concerned and an amicable settlement is expected to be reached very soon.

(c) The Honourable Member is aware of the provisions of the Bill I have introduced in this House to constitute a fund for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of the labour employed in the Mica Mining industry.

(d) The basis of the cess is neither production nor income. It is *ad valorem* duty of custom on value of all mica exported from British India.

(e) The date of levying the cess will be notified only after the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill has become an Act.

(f) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to clause 3 of the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill.

REPRESENTATION TO MICA MAZDOOR SANGH ON MICA MINING BOARD

1941. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if there is any Mining Board for the Mica Area?

(b) If so, is the labour represented on the Board?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, why has no representation been given to the Mica Mazdoor Sangh, which is the best organised workers' association in the Mining Area?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) There is no Mining Board in any of the Mica Areas. The Mica Enquiry Committee have recommended the establishment of Mica Warden's Boards. The matter is under consideration.

(b) The Mica Enquiry Committee have recommended the inclusion of representatives of Labour on the Mica Warden's Boards. The question is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

BILL FOR SOCIAL SECURITY OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

1942. ***Mr. S. Guruswami:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether he proposes to introduce a Bill for social security of industrial workers before the close of the present Session of the Assembly? If not, why not?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : A Bill is being drafted but Government regret it will not be ready for introduction during the current Session of the Assembly. Government hope to publish the Bill in the Gazette in May. Copies will be circulated by the Labour Department simultaneously for eliciting public opinion and printed summary of the opinions received will be made available to the Honourable Members when, as expected, the Bill is taken up for consideration at the next Session.

BAN ON FORWARD DEALINGS IN OILSEEDS

1943. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state when forward dealings in oilseeds were prohibited by Government, and the reason for this decision?

(b) Have Government received any representations for permitting forward dealings in any class of oilseeds? If so, from whom?

(c) Have Government consulted Provincial Governments and organizers of producers on the subject of permitting forward dealings? If so, with what results?

(d) Is the question now being considered? If so, by whom?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) Forward dealings in oilseeds were prohibited on the 29th May, 1943, to prevent exorbitant rises in prices due to speculation.

(b) Yes. Government have received representations from certain Chambers of Commerce and Associations such as the Marwadi Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, the Seeds Traders Association, Bombay, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Karachi Indian Merchant's Association.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(d) The question is under consideration in the Commerce Department.

WARD COMMITTEES FORMED BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DELHI, FOR DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT, SUGAR AND KEROSENE OIL

1944. ***Chaudhri Sri Chand:** (a) Is the Food Secretary aware that Ward Committees were formed in Delhi by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, in 1943 for proper distribution of wheat, sugar and kerosene oil in the respective wards of Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that with the introduction of rationing in Delhi these Ward Committees were also abolished?

(c) Are Government aware that the Members of the Ward Committees were solely responsible for the proper distribution of wheat, sugar and kerosene in their respective wards?

(d) Are Government aware that the Members of the Ward Committees gave every satisfaction for the proper distribution of these commodities to the public?

(e) Have Government recognised the services of the Members of these Ward Committees? If so, in what manner? If not, do Government now propose to recognise their services by the grant of Sanads, etc., to them? If not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Ward Committees were formed earlier than 1943 and one of their duties was to assist in the equitable distribution of foodstuffs and kerosene oil, etc.

(b) They were not abolished, but were relieved of their work in respect of the distribution of foodstuffs, etc.

(c) They were responsible to a large extent for the proper distribution of these commodities.

(d) Yes, generally.

(e) Yes.

FIRST SHIPMENT OF FOODGRAINS ALLOCATED BY COMBINED FOOD BOARD

1945. ***Mr. Tamiruddin Khan:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state when the first shipment of foodgrains allocated by the Combined Food Board to India is likely to reach India?

(b) What quantities of rice, if any, are expected to be received separately from Burma and Malaya?

(c) What is the result of the attempts that were being made to secure some foodgrains from Soviet Russia?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Shipments are already coming in against quotas previously allotted by the Combined Food Board for the first half of 1946. Shipments against the recent increased quotas should start arriving by the end of May.

(b) Nil

(c) The question has been taken up with H. M. G. and their reply is awaited.

DECLARATION OF FAMINE IN CERTAIN AREAS

1946. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state the areas in British India and Indian States where famine has already been declared?

(b) Is the question of famine being declared in any other areas under the consideration of Government? If so, what are those areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Actual famine has not been declared in any part of India. Scarcity conditions have, however, been declared by Provincial and States Governments in various villages of the following Districts.

British India.—The districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, Anantapur, Chittoor, North Arcot and Salem in Madras Presidency.

The districts of Satara, Sholapur, Belgaum, and Bijapur in Bombay Presidency,

Indian States.—Districts of Chitaldrug, Tumkur and Kolar in Mysore State
Kolhapur in Deccan States.

(b) This is a matter for Provincial or State Governments who declare scarcity conditions as and when they develop.

INTRODUCTION OF RATIONING IN NEW AREAS

1947. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state the names of places with their populations where full rationing of food has been introduced?

(b) What is the Government's programme, if any, for bringing new areas under full food rationing during the current financial year?

(c) What are the areas under informal food rationing?

(d) Has formal food rationing been introduced in any rural areas? If so, what are these areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) A Statement (No. I) is placed on the table of the House.

(b) According to information so far received 43 more towns with a total population of about 24 lakhs are expected to be brought under full rationing during the current financial year.

(c) A Statement (No. II) showing towns and areas under informal food rationing is placed on the table.

(d) Yes, formal food rationing has been introduced in the suburban area of Madras District, the District of Malabar, the entire rural areas in the States of Cochin and Travancore and in certain areas in Hyderabad (Deccan).

STATEMENT I

Statement showing fully rationed towns areas with their population.

Province/State	Name of town/area	Population.
1	2	3
Assam .	1. Jorhat	23,765
	2. Sylhet	40,242
	3. Tezpur	19,268
	4. Dhubri	18,101
	5. Nowgong	19,291
	6. Gauhati	42,460
	7. Dibrugarh	34,273
	8. Silchar	20,134
	9. Shillong	60,197
	10. Habiganj	11,856
	11. Karimganj	7,813
	12. Golaghat	5,470
	13. Sibsagar	7,559
	14. Tinsukia	8,338
Bengal .	1. Calcutta	44,00,000
	2. Tollygunj	
	3. South Suburban Garden Reach	
	4. Bally-Belur	
	5. Howrah	
	6. Budge Budge	
	7. South Dum Dum	
	8. Dum Dum	
	9. Baranagore	
	10. Kamarhati	
	11. Panihati	
	12. Khardah	
	13. Titagar	
	14. South Barrackpore	
	15. North Barrackpore	
	16. Garulia	
	17. Bhatpara	
	18. Naihati	
	19. Halisahar	
	20. Kanchrapara	
	21. Uttarpara	
	22. Ketrung	
	23. Rishra	
	24. Konnagore	
	25. Serampore	
	26. Baidyabati	
	27. Champdani	
	28. Bhadrashwar	
	29. Hooghly Chinsurah	
	30. Bansbaria	

1	2	3
Bengal— <i>contd.</i>	31. Dacca 32. Narayanganj 33. Chittagong 34. Comilla 35. Darjeeling 36. Kurseong 37. Kalimpong	2,40,415 80,313 80,000 51,283 42,000 30,000 29,996
Bihar .	1. Patna 2. Jamshedpur 3. Dhanbad-Jharua 4. Darbhanga 5. Chapra	2,88,853 1,70,000 2,08,974 77,348 59,675
Madras	1. Madras City 2. Suburban area including Saidapet 3. Vizagapatam 4. Tuticorin 5. Tinnevely 6. Palanacotah 7. Bodinayakanur 8. Dindigul 9. Madura 10. Palni 11. Periyakulam 12. Devakottal 13. Karaikudi 14. Rajahpalayam 15. Sivakasi 16. Srivilliputtur 17. Virudhnagar 18. Trichinopoly 19. Srirangam 20. Karur 21. Coimbatore 22. Dharampuram 23. Erode 24. Pollachi 25. Tiruppur 26. Udumalpet 27. Coonoor 28. Ootacamund 29. Vizianagaram 30. Kodaikanal 31. Bimlipatam 32. Anakapalli 33. Chittoor 4. Cuddapah 35. Proddutur 36. Kurnool 37. Nandyal 38. Anantapur 39. Hinapur 40. Tadpatri 41. Bellary 42. Adoni 43. Hospet 44. Vellore 45. Wallajanpet 46. Vaniyambadi 47. Tirupattur 48. Gudiyattam 49. Tiruvannamalai 50. Conjeevaram 51. Chingleput 52. Chittoor 53. Tirupatni 54. Salem 55. Kumbakonam	10,72,648 1,93,516 1,45,883 1,00,000 1,52,598 32,925 68,331 3,48,557 30,242 32,431 30,455 37,879 52,270 17,103 40,280 41,662 2,87,519 39,075 1,87,559 23,907 64,057 44,500 53,542 22,689 30,242 45,338 98,125 13,176 11,061 44,696 28,348 38,892 33,400 54,000 30,868 24,978 22,540 17,910 74,921 49,465 27,947 1,18,027 13,596 42,339 27,151 42,815 41,754 94,361 22,379 41,510 27,043 1,87,932 89,667

1	2	3
Madras—contd.		
	56. Manargudi	29,206
	57. Mayavaram	38,689
	58. Negapatam	57,657
	59. Tanjore	85,903
	60. Tiruvarur	32,246
	61. Mangalore	1,47,351
	62. Kasargod	34,774
	63. Udipi	23,053
	64. Palghat	86,028
	65. Cochin	32,367
	66. Tellicherry	49,285
	67. Calicut	1,73,116
	68. Cannanore	71,600
	69. Cuddalore	75,040
	70. Villupuram	31,437
	71. Chidambaram	22,109
	72. Cocanada	1,10,404
	73. Peddapuram	24,000
	74. Masulipatam	81,509
	75. Gudivada	34,544
	76. Ellore	86,574
	77. Palacole	25,977
	78. Tenali	50,000
	79. Narasaraopet	19,289
	80. Nellore	75,483
	81. Ongole	23,142
	82. Guntur	1,21,000
	83. Bezwada	1,46,285
	84. Rajahmundry	1,07,335
	85. Chirala	49,897
	86. Calicut Taluk (Rural Area)	2,84,340
	87. Kurambranad Taluk (Rural Area)	4,77,092
	88. Kottayam Taluk (Rural Area)	2,70,976
	89. Chirakkal Taluk (Rural Area)	4,04,375
	90. Ernad Taluk (Rural Area)	5,63,204
	91. Palghat Taluk (Rural Area)	5,24,032
	92. Ponnani Taluk (Rural Area)	6,94,228
	93. Wynad Taluk (Rural Area)	1,26,882
	94. Walluvanad Taluk (Rural Area)	5,24,122
Punjab	1. Rawalpindi	2,45,227
	2. Amritsar	3,94,244
	3. Lahore	9,10,007
	4. Simla	89,420
N. W. F. P.	1. Peshawar	1,73,420
Sind	1. Karachi	5,12,826
	2. Hyderabad	1,55,338
Bombay	1. Ahmedabad	7,61,145
	2. Surat	2,38,148
	3. Poona	6,29,572
	4. Sholapur	3,11,122
	5. Subli	1,23,132
	6. Bombay City & B. S. D.	25,18,537
	7. Bandra	
	8. Ghatkopar	
	9. Juhu	
	10. Kurla	
	11. Malad	
	12. Parle-Andheri	3,40,400
	13. Mulund	
	14. Chembur	
	15. Remaining areas of Suburban District	
	16. Belgaum City and Cantonment	94,768

1	2	3
Bombay—contd.	17. Nasik	1,06,100
	18. Viramgaum	29,858
	19. Dholka	20,894
	20. Nadiad	57,453
	21. Kapadwanj	23,588
	22. Anand	23,513
	23. Borsad	20,439
	24. Umreth	19,430
	25. Broach	65,185
	26. Godhra	46,800
	27. Dohad	41,102
	28. Rander	14,000
	29. Bulsar	35,486
	30. Thana	50,861
	31. Kalyan	52,856
	32. Bassein	17,428
	33. Bhiwandi	21,427
	34. Ahmednagar City and Cantonment	98,272
	35. Jalgaon	58,470
	36. Chaliagaon	26,878
	37. Amalner	39,451
	38. Bhusawal	50,975
	39. Erandol	16,625
	40. Parola	16,538
	41. Chopda	24,705
	42. Dharangaon	20,451
	43. Dhulia	79,275
	44. Nandurbar	29,457
	45. Shirpur	15,488
	46. Taloda	13,063
	47. Shahada	11,511
	48. Dodaicha and Varwada	10,434
	49. Malegaon	53,494
	50. Igatpuri	11,785
	51. Yeola	21,313
	52. Sinnar	13,087
	53. Nandgaon	11,466
	54. Manmad	25,625
	55. Baramati	21,280
	56. Lonavla	17,407
	57. Dhond	11,748
	58. Talegaon Dabhade	10,971
	59. Satara	43,749
	60. Karad	24,087
	61. Wai	15,942
	62. Panchgani	6,318
	63. Mahabaleshwar	5,102
	64. Barsi	38,745
	65. Pandharpur	36,580
	66. Gokak	16,105
	67. Nipani	20,283
	68. Athni	14,209
	69. Bijapur	64,331
	70. Bagalkot	21,280
	71. Guledgud	19,858
	72. Ilkal	19,642
	73. Dharwar	63,737
	74. Gadag	64,156
	75. Ranabennur	23,944
	76. Haveri	15,943
	77. Karwar	22,704
	78. Panvel	20,489
	79. Matheran	3,682
	80. Ratnagiri	24,104
	81. Chiplum	15,242
	82. Malwan	18,330
	83. Astha	11,456
	84. Islampur	15,947
	85. Tasgaon	12,747

1	2	3
Bombay—concl'd.		
	86. Kunta	15,002
	87. Honavar	9,825
	88. Bhatkal	11,299
	89. Ankleshwar	16,633
	90. Jambusar	15,628
	91. Faizpur	12,241
	92. Nasirabad	14,252
	93. Yawal	14,409
	94. Raver	10,333
	95. Savda	13,386
	96. Shendurni	10,740
	97. Junnar	10,946
	98. Bailhongal	13,000
	99. Chikodi	12,580
	100. Sankeshwar	11,572
	101. Gokaran	5,984
	102. Sirsi	13,250
	103. Vengurle	11,749
	104. Dhandhuka	13,065
	105. Modasa	10,471
	106. Sangamner	17,639
	107. Pachora	15,164
	108. Nasik Road, Deolali Village and Cantonment. }	63,900
	109. Bhagur Town	
	110. Prantij	10,039
	111. Jajnner	10,289
	112. Bhadgaon	9,030
	113. Kasoda	7,987
	114. Kaira	10,129
	115. Dakar	11,000
	116. Mehminabad	9,328
	117. Mahad	11,633
	118. Dombivli	6,098
	119. Bordi	5,886
	120. Dahanu	15,000
	121. Trimbak	4,063
	122. Bellapur	14,470
	123. Kopergaon	13,220
	124. Lonad	5,037
	125. Mhaswad	8,764
United Provinces .		
	1. Cawnpore	6,74,701
	2. Lucknow	4,38,822
	3. Benares	3,42,155
	4. Agra	3,51,352
	5. Allahabad	3,03,254
	6. Dehra Dun	1,08,370
	7. Saharanpur	1,04,025
	8. Roorkee	20,813
	9. Meerut	1,74,389
	10. Aligarh	1,25,890
	11. Hathras	48,742
	12. Muttra-cum-Brindaban	1,01,250
	13. Ferozabad	40,574
	14. Farrukhabad	74,900
	15. Etawah	54,586
	16. Ghazipur	33,189
	17. Ballia	24,729
	18. Mirzapur	75,982
	19. Jaunpur	47,186
	20. Gorakhpur	1,10,980
	21. Deoria	17,422
	22. Azamgarh	26,578
	23. Mhow	29,568
	24. Fyzabad	78,236
	25. Partabgarh	14,509
	26. Sultanpur	18,402

1	2	3
United Provinces— <i>contd.</i>	27. Rae Bareli 28. Unao 29. Bareilly 30. Moradabad 31. Shahjahanpur 32. Jhansi 33. Mozaffarnagar 34. Bijnor 35. Badaun 36. Pillibhit 37. Barabanki 38. Bulandshahr 39. Nagina 40. Najibabad 41. Fatehpur 42. Lalitpur	20,838 22,577 2,00,241 1,42,700 1,14,646 1,08,820 54,179 27,900 52,077 44,709 4,633 29,701 26,077 26,898 27,436 16,881
Central Provinces & Berar	1. Nagpur 2. Jabulpore	4,00,000 2,78,000
Delhi	1. Delhi and New Delhi	9,50,000
Ajmer-Merwara	1. Ajmer	1,75,000
Baluchistan	1. Quetta 2. Chaman Town 3. Pishin 4. Saranan 5. Gulistan 6. Killa Abdulla 7. Bostan 8. Yaru 9. Loralai 10. Sunjawi 11. Duki 12. Barkhan 13. Musakhel 14. Kohlu 15. Sibi 16. Hurnai 17. Mach 18. Kolpur 19. Ushta 20. Jhatpat 21. Fort Sandeman 22. E. indubagh 23. Killa Saifulla 24. Dalbandin 25. Nok Kundi 26. Nushki	86,882 6,400 4,886 334 881 600 491 205 } 6,000 } 6,884 1,025 2,200 2,476 2,476 6,996 1,011 539 1,500 1,572 2,017
Travancore State	1. Trivandrum City 2. Nagercoil 3. Quilon 4. Alleppey 5. Kottayam	1,89,168 54,861 59,413 1,12,997 35,866
	<i>Rural Areas.</i>	
	6. Thevala 7. Agastiwarem 8. Kalkulam 9. Vilavancode 10. Neyyattinkara 11. Trivandrum 12. Nedumangad 13. Chirayinkil 14. Quilon 15. Pathensapuram 16. Kottarakara	45,057 1,32,006 2,55,664 2,02,568 2,98,597 1,72,745 1,87,795 2,15,433 2,54,918 1,26,196 2,08,386

1	2	3
Travancore State—contd.	17. Shencottah 18. Karrunagappaly 19. Karthigappaly 20. Mavelikara 21. Kunnathur 22. Pathanamthitta 23. Thiruvella 24. Ambalapuzha 25. Shertallai 26. Changanacherry 27. Kottayam 28. Vaikom 29. Meanachil 30. Thodupuzha 31. Muvathipuzha 32. Kunnathunad 33. Parur 34. Peermade 35. Devicolum	56,470 2,28,919 1,64,474 1,97,597 1,44,662 2,00,617 3,60,431 2,08,766 2,14,606 2,94,450 2,86,731 1,97,781 2,69,700 1,30,211 2,25,874 2,76,923 1,81,702 64,899 30,266
Cochin State	1. Trichur 2. Mathancherry 3. Narakkai 4. Ernakulam 5. Tripuni Thura 6. Irinjala Kunda 7. Chalakudi 8. Ollur 9. Kunnankulam 10. Wadakkancherry 11. Palanji 12. Chittur 13. Tattamangalam 14. Memmara 15. Cranganore 16. Other remaining areas of Cochin State.	67,693 73,187 12,110 60,881 11,442 17,448 65,185 11,392 12,149 6,779 2,593 10,500 7,230 7,800 22,233 11,21,378
Kashmir State	1. Srinagar	3,00,000
Mysore States Agency	1. C. & M. Station, Bangalore 2. Bangalore City 3. Mysore City 4. Tusnur 5. Kolar Gold Field 6. Davangore Town 7. Mandya Town 8. Channapatna Town 9. Chikmagalur 10. Harihar Town 11. Chamarajanagar Town 12. Sandur State	2,25,220 4,19,358 2,01,436 28,954 1,40,331 46,104 16,941 26,754 20,664 16,970 13,856 15,814
Gwalior State	1. Gwalior 2. Lashkar 3. Morar	2,15,586
Baroda and Gujarat States	1. Baroda City and Adjoining Villages. 2. Dumas 3. Bhimpore 4. Sultanbad 5. Bansda State 6. Cambay Town	1,90,000 10,337 55,559 38,000
Hyderabad State (Deccan)	1. Hyderabad City 2. Warangal 3. Narayanpet 4. Gulbarga Town	7,20,000 1,12,000 21,600 63,551

1	2	3	
Hyderabad State (Deccan)— <i>contd.</i>	5. Yadgir	17,661	
	6. Mahbubnagar	16,462	
	7. Shorapur	15,207	
	8. Achampet	72,240	
	9. Khammam	} 1,53,167	
	10. Secunderabad		
	11. 300 villages of Atraf, Balda and Bagat Districts; 142 villages of Achampet Taluk in Mahbubnagar District.	2,30,000	
	C. I. States	1. Bhopal City	1,10,500
		2. Sehore and all Tehsil Headquarters	88,235
		3. Indore	3,13,041
		4. Narsingarh	11,514
5. Pachore		3,001	
6. Khujner		3,503	
7. Chhapihera		2,538	
Deccan States	1. Kolhapur	1,25,335	
	2. Sangli	60,447	
	3. Shahpur	18,819	
	4. Akalkot Town	15,748	
	5. Aundh State	90,000	
	6. Ichalkaranji Town	24,745	
	7. Jayasingpur	7,028	
	8. Mudhol	10,786	
W. I. States	1. Bhavnagar City	1,35,000	
	2. Mahuva	29,834	
	3. Kundla	20,817	
	4. Botad	17,300	
	5. Porbandar State	1,65,625	
	6. Jafrahad	7,500	
	7. Morvi State	1,68,730	

No. of towns rationed = 460.

Total population rationed (approximately) = 4,52,00,000.

STATEMENT II

Statement showing town/areas under informal food rationing

Province/State 1	Name of town/area 2
Bengal	1. Burdwan Sadar Sub-Division.
	2. Katwa Sub-Division.
	3. Kalna Town.
	4. Kalna Sub-Division.
	5. Faridpur.
	6. Madaripur.
	7. Rajbari.
	8. Muktagacha.
	9. Gowripore.
	10. Natrakona.
	11. Kishoreganj.
	12. Bajitpur.
	13. Jamalpur.
	14. Sherpur.
	15. Tangail.
	16. Jessore.

1	2
Bengal— <i>contd.</i>	17. Kot-Chandpur. 18. Maheshpur. 19. Joynagar. 20. Baruipur. 21. Rajpur. 22. Rural areas of Sadar Sub-Division (District 24 Parganas). 23. Feni Sub-Division. 24. Jhargram. 25. Tamluk Sub-Division, including 6 thanas and Tamluk Town. 26. Contai. 27. Sadar North Sub-Division. 28. Barasat, Gobardange, 48 Unions of Barasat Sub-Division. 29. All the unions of D. Harbour Sub-Division (District 24 Parganas). 30. North Dum Dum. 31. Other unions of Barrackpore Sub-Division. 32. Mir Sarai. 33. Sita-Kund. 34. Double Mooring. 35. Panchlaish. 36. Hathazari. 37. Fatikchari. 38. Raozan. 39. Patiya. 40. Ranjan. 41. Anwara. 42. Rangunia. 43. Boalkhali. 44. Banskhali. 45. Satkania. 46. Other Sub-Division areas and rural areas of Jessore District. 47. Sadar (South) of Bakarganj District. 48. Sadar South Sub-Division (District Midnapore). 49. Mymensingh. 50. Chandpur Town. 51. Nilphamari Sub-Division. 52. Cox's Bazar. 53. Serajganj.
Bombay	All villages or urban areas where there is no statutory rationing.
Orissa	1. Jharsugoda union Board Area. 2. Angul. 3. Puri. 4. Balasore. 5. Berhampur. 6. Sambalpur. 7. Bargarh. 8. Cuttack. 9. Rayaghada. 10. Gunupur. 11. Jajpur. 12. Chatrapur. 13. Parlakemidi. 14. Kendrapara Municipal Town.
United Provinces	1. Mussorie. 2. Hardwar. 3. Naini Tal. 4. Almora. 5. Ranikhet. 6. Pauri. 7. Lansdown.

1	2
Bihar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Giridih. 2. Arrah. 3. Ranchi. 4. Monghyr. 5. Bhagalpur. 6. Gaya. 7. Muzaffarpur.
Central Provinces and Berar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wardha. 2. Kamptee. 3. Chhindwara. 4. Katni. 5. Damoh. 6. Saugor. 7. Pachmarhi. 8. Khandwa. 9. Ellichpur. 10. Amraoti. 11. Burhanpur. 12. Bedner. 13. Akola. 14. Khamgaon. 15. Piparea. 16. Sohagpur. 17. Gadarwara. 18. Narsinghpur. 19. Harda. 20. Hoshangabad. 21. Itarsi. 22. Hinganghat. 23. Hoshangabad District (3 Tehsils of Hoshangabad, Sohagpur and Gadarwara). 24. Nagpur District (Ajni and adjoining villages and Mahadulla and adjoining villages).
Hyderabad State (Deccan)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raichur.
Kashmir State	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jammu.
Punjab States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patiala. 2. Malerkotla. 3. Phagwara Town.
Rajputana States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District of Abu. 2. Partabgarh City. 3. Kotah City. 4. Sirohi. 5. Sheoganj. 6. Abu Road.
Rampur State	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rampur City.
Benares State	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gyanpur. 2. Ramnagar.
Madras State	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pudukottah City and one Taluk of the State.
Central India States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mhow Cantonment. 2. Dhar. 3. Ratlam. 4. Rajgarh. 5. Biaora. 6. Sitamau. 7. Laduna. 8. Khilchipur. 9. Kurwai. 10. Bareth. 11. Leera. 12. Dewas Town (Junior) 13. Sarangpur.

-
14. Ringnod Town Kaslia.
 15. Padlia.
 16. Dewas Senior and Alote.
 17. Piploda Town.
 18. Ajsigarh Town.
- Deccan States**
1. Jamkhandi City.
 2. Savalgi.
 3. Banhati.
 4. Rampur.
 5. Hunupur.
 6. Kodapatti.
 7. Hanchinal.
 8. Remaining areas of Jamkhandi State.
 9. Miraj Town.
 10. Jath.
 11. Sawantwadi Town and surrounding 11 village
 12. Kurundwad Town (Senior).
 13. Kurundwad Town (Junior).
 14. Janjira State.
- Western India States**
1. Jayapadar.
 2. Sardargarh.
 3. Dharangadhra.
 4. Vithalgadh.
 5. Junagadh City.
 6. Veraval.
 7. Rajkot City and villages.
 8. Rajkot City Station.
 9. Wadhwan Civil Station.
 10. Limbdi State.
 11. Mungrol.
- Madras**
- Rural areas of the following districts :—
1. Vizagapatam.
 2. South Kanara.
 3. Nilgiris.
 4. Coimbatore.
 5. Ramnad.
 6. Tinnevely.
 7. South Arcot.
 8. North Arcot.
 9. Chittoor.
 10. Chingleput.
- Baluchistan**
- All rural areas except Marri and Bagti tribal areas and certain desert areas along less the frontier.
- Mysore State**
- All the rural areas.

FURTHERANCE OF GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

1948. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state the additional areas of land brought under cultivation during the year 1945-46 in furtherance of the "Grow More Food" campaign?

(b) What is the Government's programme, if any, in furtherance of the campaign for the year 1946-47?

(c) What do Government propose to do to bring under cultivation large areas of cultivable waste land in Assam in furtherance of the "Grow More Food" campaign?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) Figures in respect of 1945-46 are not yet available. But comparing the average area of culturable waste and current fallow in the three pre war years with the average of the years 1942-44 (as later figures are not available) for the temporarily settled areas of British India (i.e., excluding Bengal, Bihar

and Orissa) the figure has gone down from 110·5 to 107·9 million acres which indicates that 2·6 million acres of additional land have been brought under cultivation.

(b) The programme during 1946-47 will be the same as before, *viz.*, subsidies for the construction of works of land improvement, including wells, tanks, bunds, dams, drainage cuts, etc.

(c) It is understood that the Assam Government are making detailed enquiries to ascertain full particulars about the culturable waste which is really available for cultivation, bearing in mind the need for the maintenance of grazing areas. Suitable action will thereafter be taken for bringing this land under cultivation depending on what facilities are needed in respect of each such block of land.

EXPENDITURE ON INVITEES OF CONGRESS, MUSLIM LEAGUE AND OTHER PARTIES TO SIMLA CONFERENCE

1949. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) what amount was spent by the Government of India in connection with arrangements for the invitees to the Simla Conference in June-July, 1945;

(b) what part of the amount, if any, was spent for the invitees from the Congress Party; whether the amount was paid in cash or it was spent directly over the arrangements; and

(c) what part of the amount, if any, was spent for the invitees from the Muslim League and other parties invited to the Conference?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : (a) Rs. 13,432-1-0.

(b) and (c). The expenditure was incurred partly on payment of travelling allowances to the invitees and partly on the arrangements made for their messing and accommodation. It is not possible to allocate the expenditure according to parties. I may add however that the Muslim League delegates were offered their expenses in the same way as other delegates but both Mr. Jinnah and Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan did not accept anything.

REPRESENTATION OF ASIATIC AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON GOVERNING BODY OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

1950. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the representation of Asiatic and African countries on the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation;

(b) whether it is a fact that more representation to Asiatic and African countries could be secured through amendments to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation; and

(c) whether Government propose to direct their representatives in the International Labour Organisation to press for an amendment to Article 7, clauses 2 and 4, substituting the words "non-European" with the words "Asiatic and African", when amendments suggested by the Paris Session of the International Labour Organisation are taken up for consideration?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) The representation of Asiatic and African countries on the present Governing Body is as follows :—

Government Members	Three	} India. China. Egypt.
Employers	Three	
Workers	One	(China).

(b) Yes.

(c) Governments intentions have been made clear in the course of discussions on the resolution recommending ratification of the Instrument of Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation.

COST TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MR. M. K. GANDHI TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS WITH CABINET MISSION

1951. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the cost of the special train in which Mr. M. K. Gandhi arrived in Delhi on April 1, 1946, to participate in the talks with the Cabinet Mission, was borne by the Government of India; and

(b) what, if any, was the cost of running this special train?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions 1951 and 1952 together.

As far as my information goes, the Government did not meet any part of the expenditure in question but I am getting this confirmed and will communicate the result of the enquiry to the Honourable Member in due course.

COST TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MR. M. K. GANDHI TO PARTICIPATE IN SIMLA CONFERENCE

1952. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the expenses for the special train in which Mr. M. K. Gandhi travelled to Simla in June-July, 1945, to participate in the Simla Conference, were borne by the Government of India; and

(b) the total cost of running this special train?

REVISION OF CERTAIN OUT OF DATE AJMER-MERWARA REGULATIONS

1953. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state if Government are aware that Ajmer Municipality's Regulation No. VI of 1925 is quite out of date? If so, will Government consider the advisability of revising the same at an early date and bringing into line with similar enactments in other reformed Provinces of India like the United Provinces and the Punjab?

(b) Are Government aware that Ajmer-Merwara Regulations, viz., No. II of 1887, is out of date? If so, what steps do Government contemplate to revise them to bring them in consonance with modern conditions at an early date?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) and (b). The Chief Commissioner is undertaking review of Regulation VI as well as of other Regulations in order to determine what amendments are necessary.

CONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT BOARD, AJMER-MERWARA AND REPRESENTATION OF ISTIMRARDARS

1954. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state how the District Board of Ajmer-Merwara is constituted, what the strength of nominated and elected members is, and what representation is given to Istimrardars on the said Board?

(b) What is the qualification for exercising casting vote at the election of the District Board?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner is its *ex-officio* permanent President and the Assistant Commissioner is its *ex-officio* permanent Secretary?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1951.

(d) Do Government propose to take into hand the revision of the constitution of the District Board at an early date with a view to making it more democratic and representative of the rural population and issuing necessary instructions to the Chief Commissioner to do the same at an early date before the new Board is constituted?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) and (b). A statement showing the constitution of the Board and the qualifications for voters is laid on the table.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(d) The question of the revision of the constitution of the Board and of revising the franchise is under consideration by the Chief Commissioner.

Statement showing the constitution of the District Board, Ajmer-Merwara and the qualifications for voters

Constitution of the District Board, Ajmer-Merwara—

Officials nominated	7
Non-officials nominated	7
Tazimi Istimrardars (<i>ex-officio</i>)	16
Elected members	21
Deputy Commissioner (<i>ex-officio</i> President)	1
	52

Qualifications for voters.—The following persons of the male sex only are, if they have attained the age of 21 years, entitled to be enrolled as electors:

- (1) A Bhomia possessing 200 Bighas or more of land or a Head Bhomia representing a group of Bhomias possessing 200 Bighas or more jointly of Bhum Land.
- (2) Muafidars, Jagirdars, and Minor Istimrardars individually possessing 100 Bighas or more land or a representative of a group of such Muafidars, Jagirdars or Minor Istimrardars jointly possessing 100 Bighas or more land.
- (3) Lambardars crediting annually Rs. 500 or more as land revenue (excluding water revenue).
- (4) Khewatdar proprietors whose individual liability for payment of land revenue is not less than Rs. 10 per annum.
- (5) Ex-proprietary tenants of land liable to payment of land revenue of not less than Rs. 10 per annum.
- (6) *Bona fide* residents of the rural area who have passed the Matriculation or School Leaving Certificate Examination.
- (7) Primary school teachers of the rural area who hold certificate of training and of Vernacular Final Examination of the United Provinces Examination Board.

EVALUATION AND TRANSFER OF ASSETS OF DELHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED, TO GOVERNMENT

1955. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state by what time the assets of the Delhi Electric and Traction Company, Limited, will be transferred to Government?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have agreed to have the assets of the said Company evaluated by an English firm of the name of Merz and Macbillen and to pay half the costs of evaluation?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) 2nd March, 1947.

(b) Yes, by Messrs. Merz. and Macbillen.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE DELHI MILK CONTROL ORDER

1956. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prosecutions under the Delhi Milk Control Order are, in effect, summary prosecutions;

(b) whether the Chemical Analyser who reports on milk being adulterated or otherwise, is a local official;

(c) whether any maximum punishment is prescribed by the Order referred to in (a);

(d) whether culpability in cases under the Milk Control Order referred to in (a) is based on the Chemical Analyser's report referred to in (b) or on some other evidence;

(e) if the replies to (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, the particular section of the Defence of India Act under which the prosecutions referred to in (a) are made summary prosecutions; and

(f) the total number of prosecutions under the Milk Control Order in Delhi and the total amount of fines realised by way of punishment for violating the provisions of the Order as regards selling adulterated milk?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The punishment is prescribed in the Defence of India Rules.

(d) There is no specific provision in the Order as to how culpability is to be determined and evidence can be allowed by the Court in its discretion according to the law of evidence.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The information is being collected and will be furnished to the House in due course.

KOH-I-SULTAN SULPHUR MINES

1957. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether Government propose to dispose of the Koh-i-Sultan sulphur mines;

(b) if so, the reason for selling away the concern;

(c) the amount of outlay which has been made on the said mines by Government;

(d) the amount, if any, so far offered by any prospective purchaser;

(e) the annual output of the said mines, and the annual expenses of the said mines; and

(f) the number of non-Indians employed in the said mines as executives and technicians and the posts held by them with the salaries of the said posts?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) It has already been decided to dispose of the Koh-i-Sultan sulphur mines and properties and Government have been trying to sell them for sometime past.

(b) Koh-i-Sultan sulphur ore is not in demand as imported sulphur is cheaper. The estimated reserves are not of an order to work the mines as a national industry.

(c) The total expenditure incurred up to 31st March, 1946, comes to about 32 lakhs, a large part of which has already been recovered by sale of sulphur ore.

(d) Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

(e) The average annual output for the last five years was about 13,000 tons of Sulphur ore while the average annual expenditure was about Rs. 6.4 lakhs.

(f) Four non-Indians were employed on the said operations of whom one was regular officer of the Geological Survey of India. Of the remaining three temporary officers two were Mining Engineers and one a Mechanical Engineer. The pay of the temporary officers were Rs. 1200, 800 and 630 respectively. Only one of the temporary officers was employed for more than a year.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WANT OF GOOD CATTLE AND HANDICAP IN GROWING FOODGRAINS IN NORTH KANAR DISTRICT IN BOMBAY

228. Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that one of the handicaps of agriculturist in growing foodgrains in the North Kanara District in the Bombay Province is the want of good cattle;

(b) what Government propose to do to help growers to have good cattle for agricultural purposes;

(c) whether cotton-seed has to be imported from the neighbouring districts for the cattle of the district;

(d) what arrangements Government have made for regular imports of cotton-seed into the North Kanara District; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide for the sale of cotton-seed for purposes of cattle through Government agency?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be supplied as soon as it becomes available.

PRINTING OF ARMY BOOKS 64-M AND 64 AT HIGHER RATES IN PRIVATE PRESSES AND REDUCTION OF STAFF IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

229. Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, the then Member-in-charge, Labour and Industries Department, Government of India, stated in the Legislative Assembly on the 20th September, 1933, in reply to unstarred Question No. 127 that the rate of printing and binding of Army Books 64-M and 64 in private firms is slightly higher than that of the Government Presses?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. H. I. McDonald, the then Special Officer, Central Revision Section, Army Department, Government of India in his note, dated the 1st July, 1931, expressed the desirability of the said work being done at the Government Presses on economic grounds?

(c) Is it a fact that now 64-M and 64 Army Books are being printed and bound at the Press of outside contractors instead of at the Government Press?

(d) Is it a fact that the Manager of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, is going to discharge eighty-eight workers on ground of reduction?

(e) Is it a fact that the Machine Section is remaining idle for want of work?

(f) Is it a fact that Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, President, Press Employee's Association, Calcutta, sent a telegram to the Honourable Member-in-charge, Labour Department, Government of India, acquainting him with the situation as stated in (c)?

(g) Is it a fact that Government are sending more and more work to the outside contractors contrary to the past declaration of Government?

(h) If the answers to (a) to (g) be in the affirmative, what is the reason?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) Yes.

(b) No such note can be traced.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) Yes.

(g) No. Only overflow work and such work which cannot be undertaken by or done in the Government of India Presses is entrusted to contractors.

(h) The question does not arise in view of the reply given to part (g) above.

DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN BINDERS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA AND OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS *re* SUPPLY OF MATERIAL

230. Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that Government supply materials along with works to the outside contractors, whereas the binders of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are not given materials along with work? What is the cause for this discrimination?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state the names of contractors and the amount and value of the works given to them during the period 1939—1945, year by year?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) No discrimination is shown between the binders of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, and outside contractors in regard to the supply of materials. Ordinarily work is distributed along with the materials. It happens sometimes, however, that a particular item is not available when indented for. This difficulty was felt during the war and is still being felt in respect of some items.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

FIRMS FUNCTIONING IN BIHAR REGISTERED OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE

231. Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to refer to the answer to my starred question No. 1543 asked on the 3rd April, 1946 and state when the information regarding the number and location of the firms functioning in the Province of Bihar which are registered outside the Province will be made available to the House?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : As the Indian Companies Act does not require the particulars of places of business to be filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the required information can only be collected by direct approach to each individual firm operating in Bihar. The Honourable Member will no doubt appreciate that the time and labour involved in the collection of the information will not be commensurate with the results obtained.

PROPOSAL *re* CALENDARING OF MARATHI RECORDS IN POSSESSION OF MR. S. L. VAIDYA OF POONA

232. Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that at the instance of a Frenchman, Mons. A. Lehuraux, in the meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission, held at Aligarh in 1943, a Sub-Committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. S. N. Sen, Prof. D. V. Potdar and Mr. S. L. Vaidya for the purpose of determining the cost of calendaring the valuable Marathi records in the possession of Mr. S. L. Vaidya of Poona?

(b) Is it a fact that the Sub-Committee submitted a report at the Udaipur Session of the said Commission in 1944?

(c) If so, what action have Government taken thereon?

(d) If no action is proposed to be taken, have Government any object in or difficulty on financial or political grounds, in not giving effect to the recommendations therein?

(e) Do Government realize the importance and usefulness of making the Daftar available to the public?

(f) If so, will Government be pleased to expedite action on the report of the Sub-Committee, in view of the old age of Mr. S. L. Vaidya?

Sir John Sargent : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No action was recommended either by the Sub-Committee in its report or by the Research and Publication Committee or the Indian Historical Records Commission in their resolutions on the subject.

(d) As the report made no recommendations at all, the question of giving effect to them does not arise.

(e) Government realise the desirability of preserving manuscript records in private custody and of making them available to research students, and are prepared to consider any scheme submitted to them through the Provincial Government concerned or the Indian Historical Records Commission.

(f) Does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

LARGE SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any representation from the South African Indian Delegation as to the danger of a large shipment of goods to South Africa within the next month or two, anticipating the termination of trade relations between India and South Africa; if so, what steps he proposes to take to ensure that the effect of the measures adopted by the Government of India to enforce termination of trade relations is not nullified in practice ; and

(b) whether the Government will assure the House that during the period of notice no purchase or export of goods from India to South Africa shall be allowed except to the extent of the monthly average of such purchases and exports in past years ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have received a representation from the South African Delegation and are fully aware of the position. In fact, even before this question was received, steps were taken to stop excessive exports to South Africa.

Periodical reports of actual exports to South Africa are being received by the Government of India so that, if necessary, any tendency to excessive exports may immediately be checked.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Does the Honourable Member know that heavy purchases are being made on behalf of South African merchants in India and they have applied for the export of these purchases to the Honourable Member's Department ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I think if any merchant in India wishes to do that, I consider him not a very intelligent class of merchant.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Will the Honourable Member then assure this House that any export in excess of the average of pre-war years will not be allowed out of this country ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : Certainly. That is the policy. We will not allow anything beyond the usual quantity that has been allowed in the past.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : What will be the basis of calculation to come to the average ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I think a simple arithmetical calculation of the customs offtake from the different ports of India.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : Has the Honourable Member fixed any definite basic years in regard to this export to South Africa ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : So far, we have got reports that it has not gone beyond the quota which we fixed long before this question was taken up.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : When was that quota fixed ? On the basis of which year ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I should like to have notice of that question. I cannot say off hand but it is with regard to a year which we consider fair.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : Was the usual year pre-war or during the war years ?

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

Seth Yusuf Abdoolla Haroon : May I draw the Honourable Member's attention to his answer given on the 12th April in reply to Mr. Jaffer in which he laid a statement on the table, showing the export made from India to Africa to the fact that the export during the war was much higher than it was before the war and that the basis should be fixed with reference to the pre-war years, as is done in the cases of other mercantile dealings ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : In the midst of the war exports were stopped to many countries like Germany and Japan. That would make the average higher for other countries to which exports were allowed. We took a fair average year.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolla Haroon : May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that during the month of April in 1945 the exports were extraordinarily higher than in the years from 1939 to 1945 ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : That might be so. That was long before any economic action was contemplated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Can we be assured of complete co-operation between the Commerce Department, the Commonwealth Relations Department and the Leader of the House in regard to this particular matter in order to see that South Africa is not able to get any sort of undue advantage by playing one department against another ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : That is always better than one can usually see from outside.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

PROPOSED PARTICIPATION ON BEHALF OF INDIA BY NOMINEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THE PRELIMINARY MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD TRADE AND EMPLOYMENTS

Mr. President : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely :—

“ Proposed participation on behalf of India by nominees of the present Government of India in the preliminary meeting for consideration of an International Conference on world trade and employment without consulting this House and keeping it in ignorance about their intentions to participate.”

Will the Honourable Member state his facts ?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): The proposal for this International Conference has been submitted to various Governments by the U.S.A. and U. K., The United Kingdom is taking a keen interest in these proposals because they want to help the industries of highly industrialised countries and this is to the great detriment of backward countries. These proposals are lying with the Government of India for several months. A question was asked on the 3rd April when vague replies were given such as Yes and No and that the matter is under consideration. Then again as the matter is so important to the tariff policy of this country I tried to raise this question by means of a short notice question and the reply was that no short notice question would be allowed. What happens is this. Although they say that the matter is under consideration they have already agreed to join this conference and that comes out from the speech of Mr. Herbert Morrison on the 15th April. This speech came to our hands only yesterday morning in the *Times of India*. In that speech Mr. Herbert Morrison has brought these proposals to the notice of the House of Commons and he has explained what these proposals are and how they would help the Government. In that speech

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

he has said that the Government of India are going to join this preliminary conference, while on the 3rd we were told that the matter is under discussion and no decision has been taken. Further the U. K. Government is approaching the India Government and other Commonwealth Governments so that they may meet in a preliminary conference in U. K. itself. The matter is very important for the industries of this country because the proposal that has been placed goes absolutely at the root of the tariff policy and the protective policy of the various backward countries. If proper attention is not given in connection with drafting the proposals for the final conference, it would be very dangerous for India. We will be committed to a certain action and the matter is of vital importance to India. I think the House ought to be consulted and there were two opportunities for the Honourable Member. Further last year when the budget discussions were going on the then Finance Member, Sir Jeremy Raisman said in reply to the speech of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, who asked, at the time of the Bretton Woods Conference, why the Assembly was not consulted, that there was no time to consult. Again when we were asked to decide about joining the Bretton Woods agreement, we were told that there was no time. As Government have always been saying that there has been no time to consult the House, I say there has been enough time. For the last three months the proposals are before the Government of India and various other Governments, and they are consulting their respective legislatures. The Government of India, on the other hand, although an opportunity has come to tell the House what their policy is, what they are going to do to take the confidence of the House, still the Government of India refuse to do it. That is why the matter is very vital and very important and urgent.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member) : I am afraid I can exactly make the same allegations as my Honourable friend has made against me. This proposal for participation in the International Trade conference was announced by the Government of India in December 1945 by a Press statement and the contents of that Press statement are that the Government of India have accepted the invitation of U. S. A. Government to attend a preliminary meeting of certain invitee countries in the spring of 1946 which will consider proposals for expansion of world trade and employment issued to the latter Governments subject to the reservation made by us that the proposals will be treated as a basis of discussion. In other words, in December 1945, when accepting the participation in the discussion, we made it quite clear that we keep an open mind as to what line we should take in this matter in so far as these proposals are concerned. Having done that, later on we received memoranda on that subject and as far as I remember about the end of February or the first week of March, that memoranda has been circulated to all the Chambers of Commerce, to Members of the Consultative Committee of Economists and their opinions are still awaited so that before we can formulate our views, we should be able to know what views the Chambers of Commerce have got. I might say at this stage that the date for this preliminary meeting has not yet been fixed and we have not yet received any invitation as to when this preliminary meeting will be held. What we have made clear in December was that we will participate, but what the participation will be and on what subject and on what basis is a matter on which we are awaiting opinions. Then, Sir, during the budget debate, there was a Cut Motion put in by a leading Front Bencher of the Congress party on that very issue, and I took it that if there was any substance in the contention of my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, he would have insisted that on a momentous matter like this there should be some discussion. Even during the debate on the Finance Bill, there was no discussion on this subject. Throughout all these stages my Honourable friend kept absolutely silent. In a matter which was brought to the notice of everybody in December 1945 and on which we consulted the Chambers of Commerce, my Honourable friend comes now and tables an adjournment motion. Having regard to the statements I made just now, there is no urgency on this matter. No invitation has yet been received and as such it is a little premature on our part to say anything in reply to a question or in reply to an adjournment motion like this.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, may I be permitted to add a word? I think my Honourable friend having been a lawyer of

repute has entirely confused the issue. The issue is not whether in December 1945 a Press Statement was issued or not by the Government, the issue is not that the Government had agreed to join this particular conference. The issue arises out of the question put on the floor of the House when it was asked whether the Government had agreed to join the conference and send their delegates. The answer was that the matter was under consideration. We now learn from the debates in the House of Commons, from the statement made by Mr. Herbert Morrison on the floor of the House of Commons reported in the papers last night that India has not only accepted the invitation, but is joining this preliminary conference.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I may say that we issued a press statement in December in which we announced that the Government of India would participate in the preliminary conference. Beyond that we know nothing as to the date. No personnel has been selected, none of us know as to how and when that conference is going to be held.

Mr. President : Let me have these questions and answers which seem to be the basis for this Adjournment Motion and which appear to have caused misapprehension on the one part or the other.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is Starred question No. 1505 put on 3rd April 1946, I shall read the whole question :

“(a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if the Government of India have received from the Government of the United States of America the ‘proposals for the expansion of World Trade and Employment’?”

(b) If so, have they decided on the attitude they are going to adopt on these proposals?

(c) Is it a fact that preparatory to the conference to be called by the Government of the United States of America, it is proposed to hold a conference of the Empire countries in London?

(d) If so, have Government taken any decision regarding their joining such discussion in the United Kingdom? If so, have Government chosen their delegates to the Conferences in the United Kingdom and United States of America?

(e) If not, what is the procedure that Government are going to follow in choosing these delegates to the said two Conferences? What will be the composition of this delegation, and will this House have a decisive voice in determining the same?

(f) Will this House be given an opportunity to discuss the subject? If so, when?”

Sir, the answers given are very laconic. The answers to (a) and (c) are : ‘Yes, Sir’. The answer to (b) and (d) : ‘No, Sir’. The answer to (e) and (f) : ‘These matters are still under consideration’.

In spite of the fact that this question was tabled to be answered at short notice, my Honourable friend did not have the courtesy to accept short notice. It was rejected. In spite of the answers which the Honourable Member gave on 3rd April, what do we find? Last night news comes from the House of Commons that India is joining this preliminary conference.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I entirely deny that any statement, made in the House of Commons is a matter which must apply to the Government of India. I am getting up here and making this categorical assurance, and I made it clear on 3rd April that we have not so far made up our attitude. I submit one further point that if anything arises out of this question and answer as a subject matter of Adjournment Motion, then between 3rd April and 17th April, long number of days have elapsed and no action has been taken by Honourable Members opposite. I submit no Adjournment Motion can arise now.

Mr. President : I am not clear on one point. I do not understand this negative answer to parts (b) and (d) of the question. Part (b) of the question says :—

“If so, have they decided on the attitude they are going to adopt on those proposals”?

Part (d) of the question says :—

“If so, have Government taken any decision regarding their joining such discussion in the United Kingdom.....”

As I understood from the Honourable Member they already decided in December 1945 to join the discussion.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Leader of the House): Sir, may I intervene and say a few words? I know there is a great deal of confusion in the country also on this subject. The United States of America some time back issued an invitation to some 15 important industrial countries to join in the discussion with a view to arriving at some sort of trade agreement with those countries bilaterally and if possible on a multilateral basis. This invitation was issued in September last year. When this invitation was issued India was one of the countries that received this invitation from U. S. A. and India accepted that invitation. I may say that most of the other countries which accepted the invitation were already bound by the Mutual Aid Agreement which had been signed between the U. S. A. and each of these countries whereby under Article 7 of that Agreement there was a clause which committed them to a reduction of tariff barriers with a view to promotion of greater international trade. India was not one of those countries which signed the Mutual Aid Agreement and therefore was not bound by that Article. In spite of that India can attend the Conference with—as my Honourable friend stated—an open mind and follow the discussions but not committed in any way even to the extent that the other 13 or 14 countries were committed by the Mutual Aid Agreement. That is the only invitation which the Government of India have so far accepted. Mr. Herbert Morrison in his statement the other day—which I heard on the radio—stated that the Dominions and India had accepted the invitation of the United States to that preliminary Conference of 15 countries. That is a fact that he was stating, because the Government of India by their press communique had already stated in December 1945 that they had accepted it. In addition he said that the Dominions and India were being invited to a preparatory conference which will be held ahead of the scheduled conference with the United States. The time has not yet been fixed and this preparatory conference of the Commonwealth countries may be held a few weeks before the date of the scheduled United States Conference when that date is actually decided. Now invitation for that conference has not yet come to the Government of India and the Government of India have therefore not accepted any such invitation because it has not yet come.

I may also add, to complete the picture, that after the United States had issued these invitations to the 15 countries, the United States felt that the United Nations Organisation of the Economic and Social Council having come into existence, an international trade conference on a world scale should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council at its last meeting in February at the instance of the United States delegation has agreed to convene a conference of all the countries and has established by itself a preparatory committee composed of 18 nations including India which will study the agenda and the documentation necessary for this international conference. That also is likely to be held in September or so, and it is at the same time that the United States preparatory commission of these 15 countries is also likely to be held.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, may I point out the danger from the point of view of this country?

Mr. President: Order, order. I want to be clear on one point. I was confining myself to the answer and perhaps the Honourable Leader of the House has supplied some explanation about it. The specific question was, "If so" (*i.e.*, if the U. S. A. propose to hold a conference) "have Government taken any decision regarding their joining such discussion in the United Kingdom?"

The answer was, "No". There seems to be an apparent contradiction.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: This refers to the Commonwealth, as also to attitude.

Mr. President: The question is this: "(c) Is it a fact that preparatory to the conference to be called by the Government of the United States of America, it is proposed to hold a conference of the Empire countries in London?"

The answer is "Yes". Then—

"(d) If so", *i.e.*, if the U. S. A. propose to hold a conference of the Empire countries—

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : No, the U. S. A. conference is different and the Empire countries conference is different. The latter can only be held on the invitation of the United Kingdom and the U. S. A. has nothing to do with that. To that conference we have not received an invitation yet though we have seen reports in the press that we will get it.

Mr. President : With reference to what was said in December 1945 about acceptance of the invitation, does it not include acceptance of the invitation for the preparatory conference also ?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : That is acceptance of invitation to the preparatory conference organised by the United States of 15 sovereign States some of which are members of the British Commonwealth. The other Empire Conference is quite different ; it is to be confined to the six Dominions of the Commonwealth and India.

Diwan Chaman Lall : You have not accepted that ?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : The invitation has not yet come.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, I will refer to the following statement which appeared in the *Times of India* yesterday :

"Announcing this in the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council said that the preliminary negotiations were designed to prepare for a full international conference to be called by the United Nations.

Mr. Morrison said that he understood the invitation, had also been accepted by Canada, Australia, South Africa, India," etc.

This is the preliminary conference called by the United Kingdom.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : No, Sir, that is the United States preliminary conference.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : Sir, may I repeat the press statement ?

"The Government of India have accepted the invitation of the United States Government to attend a preliminary meeting of certain invited countries, but acceptance is subject to the reservation that the proposal will be treated as the basis for discussion."

So it was made clear that the United Kingdom has nothing to do with it, the Empire countries have nothing to do with it ; it is the U. S. A.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, I will again draw attention to this :

"The British Government have accepted the United States invitation to nominate a representative to attend a preliminary meeting for consideration of an international conference on trade and employment."

This conference has been accepted by India.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai : Sir, the question is whether they are going to consult this House on the matter. In the past they have been saying that they would consult the House but they had no time to do so. Now the House is in session. Two opportunities were given to the Honourable Member to reply and make a statement and let the House know what they were doing in the last three months, because the proposals are very sinister so far as backward countries are concerned, and still they say they have taken no decision. But we see in the papers that they have accepted the invitation both from the U. S. A. and the United Kingdom.

Mr. President : Mr. Manu Subedar wanted to say something.

Mr. Manu Subedar : What I wanted to say from the point of view of this country is that generally in these international issues there are 40 to 47 countries but there were only 15 picked out for the first preliminary conference and poor India got linked up to their apron-strings, whereas we have an economic life of a very peculiar nature and we are in no position.....

An Honourable Member : That is an argument.

Mr. Manu Subedar : No, it is not so. We are not in a position to have this country committed definitely to economic propositions of the kind which were set out in that preliminary report. Therefore it is very necessary that this country's

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

Government, whoever they are, should be very vigilant and watchful, and not commit themselves. Our unfortunate experience has been that this Government, which is not responsible to this House, have selected hand-picked men to go to these conferences on behalf of India and they have gone and committed themselves to various things. And fears to this extent have been expressed in meetings of businessmen in Chambers of Commerce and elsewhere. This Government had the opportunity and now before we come to a close we want an assurance from this Government that the delegation will be selected by this House and will reflect the views of this House, and that certain things will not be committed to at all even if the delegation goes to such a Conference and the apprehension generally felt in the country will be allayed, and we want a line of action which will satisfy this House. My Honourable friend was saying the other day with regard to tariffs that the whole world is uncertain and we cannot fix our permanent tariffs. If so, how can we go to an organisation which is fixing.....

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban):

Sir, may I rise on a point of order ?

Mr. President : I think the discussion is not relevant for the purpose of determining its admissibility.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Sir, if my Honourable friend has not come to a decision regarding the delegates to be appointed to this conference, may I know whether he is prepared to consult the Standing Committee before he takes any such action ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I may say, because that point was raised.....

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : Sir, may I rise again to a point of order ? Honourable members cannot speak six times on one motion. I seek your guidance on the matter. When to seek permission to move an adjournment motion can be discussed as we have done and all kinds of arguments given there is no fun in having an adjournment motion at all. The mover should give the grounds for the motion, then a reply from the Government side and then your judgment. That should be the rule normally.

Mr. President : Ordinarily that should be the rule I quite agree, but it seems there had been, as was just seen in this instance, a misapprehension as regards the proper facts, and I have been trying to get the facts, elucidated. In fact, the laconic answers given—yes or no—have created a confusion as to which invitation was accepted and which was not accepted. When the Honourable Member read the replies and the questions, I was wondering as to how the Government could answer in the negative when a particular declaration was made by them in December 1945. So it was for the purposes of clarification that I wanted to have more information, and it is not a sort of debate at all. It is the importance of the question which is stressed by certain Members.

Now, I believe, a request is made soliciting information, just to enable the Member to decide, without having the ruling of the Chair, as to whether he should press his motion or not. That is the point.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I was going to say that unfortunately during this debate.....

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : I rise again to a point of order. How many times will the Honourable Member speak ?

Mr. President : He was interrupted by the Honourable Member's point of order.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : This is the sixth time the Honourable Member is going to speak on this subject.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I will not get up to reply if I am not asked a question.

Sir, there has been a certain amount of assumption in this matter. An invitation came on behalf of the American Government through the Commissioner of the United States of America in India to the Government of India and the reply went from us to the United States of America through the usual channel to the effect that

we propose to attend the meeting but it does not imply the acceptance of the proposal.

As regards the question as to why steps were not taken, my answer is that we have taken all steps, namely that we have consulted all the Chambers of Commerce ; we have consulted about 50.....

Mr. President : That is not necessary.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : But, Sir, it is very difficult to answer off hand because it is premature for me to say whether that invitation will be received or not.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal : European) : On this side of the House we have been for some fifteen or twenty minutes past not been following the Honourable the Commerce Member's vehement but quite inaudible oratory. May I request you Sir, to tell us which Preliminary Conference the House is now discussing—the United Kingdom or the U. S. A. ? We still do not know, on these particular Benches what the House is discussing.

Mr. President : It is the United Kingdom Preliminary Conference to which they have not yet received the invitation, and therefore that invitation has not been accepted by them. The answer to the question put perhaps raised a doubt that they had received invitation for that very conference and yet the reply was in the negative. That has been cleared by the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Honourable the Commerce Member. I believe the point is clear to the Honourable Members now. And now the only question put is as to whether the Honourable Member will consult the Standing Committee before he finally decides his attitude.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : That has not yet been decided.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, it is a very important matter.....

Mr. President : Order, order. I see from the facts as have been disclosed that, as the question was answered categorically, there seems to be some misapprehension as regards facts. The matter is no doubt important, but as the invitation has not yet been received, I think it will be premature to take this up as an adjournment motion. I do not think, therefore, that it would be proper to allow this adjournment motion.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF SEVENTH LABOUR CONFERENCE

Mr. S. C. Joshi (Government of India : Nominated Official) : Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Summary* of Proceedings of the Seventh Labour Conference held at New Delhi on the 27th and 28th November 1945.

BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF THE SECOND INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) : Sir, I present the second interim report† of the committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements.

With your permission I would like to explain that I am also tabling a motion to ask the House tomorrow to approve the Report. It is a unanimous report and is not controversial and will not take up much time of the House.

* Not printed in these debates. Copies placed in the Library.—*Ed. of D.*

† Report printed as Appendix to these Debates.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President: Now we proceed with the consideration of the motion moved by the Honourable Sir Edward Benthall to refer the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, to a Select Committee.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, when the House rose last night I had just been giving the reasons for introducing the Bill and referring it to a Select Committee. In my opening remarks I had observed that there were three main reasons for introducing the Bill and they were, firstly, the object of effecting improvements in order to meet the changing conditions brought about by developments in the organisation of road transport and secondly, to effect improvements in the Act the desirability of which had been drawn to our attention by various official and non-official bodies. The third reason which prompted us to suggest these amendments was the desirability of introducing certain amendments as a result of the increasing appreciation of the need for co-ordination between road and rail. The third reason is in no way dependent upon any financial participation by the Railways in road transport companies. The position is that Provincial Governments must now consider what their policy is to be, keeping in view what has happened in the past and what they desire to happen in the future. They may decide on provincial ownership of transport, or they may decide upon joint ownership between the provinces and the Railways, or they may decide upon tripartite ownership, or they may decide upon soundly organised road transport companies. But one thing, I hope, they will not decide upon is the continuance of the chaotic conditions which persisted in the past, the governing principle of which was the allowance of fierce cut-throat competition between the individual operators and between the operators and the Railways. The amendments which we are proposing in this Bill provide the next step towards a co-ordinated system of inland transport and the House will observe that we have provided an enabling provision to include representation of river steamers also in Bihar, Bengal and Assam on the Provincial Transport Authority. I trust that all the hard work that has been put into this question of road-rail co-ordination will not be wasted and I am convinced it will not be. But whatever may be the decision of Provincial Governments, some sort of co-ordination is necessary and the amendments which we have introduced in the Bill in clause 28, 29, 31, 38 and so on are, I believe, a valuable contribution to this end. I am sure they will have the careful scrutiny of the Select Committee. It may be observed that no provisions have been made to enable Provincial Governments to embark on provincial nationalization if they wish to do so. At one time we thought that it was desirable to introduce such measures into this Bill, but we decided after consideration that a matter of such far-reaching importance was one which the provinces themselves ought to decide in view of its importance to the provinces, and also to the existing owners. We therefore thought it better to leave this legislation to the Provincial Governments and Provincial Legislatures, and we do not wish to prejudice any decisions on their part. The Provincial Governments were advised of this and no objections were raised about it.

I should say something about Chapter VIII of the Act which deals with compulsory third party insurance. That portion of the Act is being brought into force in July of this year. We have of course no experience of the working of this chapter of the Act and therefore we cannot suggest any amendments based on experience. There is also another point in connection with this Chapter of the Act. Compulsory third party insurance in British India raises important and complicated questions with those States who wish to enforce compulsory insurance on a basis of reciprocity. We have had prolonged discussions with the Political Department, there has been a conference attended by a majority of the States that are interested and it has transpired as a result of these discussions that the legal complications are very considerable. The advice of our legal authorities is therefore that we should not attempt to amend

Chapter VIII of the Act just at present, and it is proposed at some suitable time when the legal position has been clarified, and possibly when we have had some experience of the operation of this chapter of the Act to introduce a separate Bill as and when it seems desirable to do so.

Now, Sir, there remains the question to which I referred last night: whether it is desirable to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, or whether it is better to circulate it for further opinion. This Bill is the result of prolonged discussion between my Department under Sir Kenneth Mitchell, who has put in a very great deal of hard work on this subject, and whose services we are shortly going to lose, and the Provincial Governments and the Transport Advisory Council. As a result of all these discussions we reached a large measure of agreement and eventually circulated a draft Bill at the end of last year. In circulating that Bill we asked the Provincial Governments to obtain the views of those interested, in particular the views of associations of road transport operators and also the views of users of motor vehicles. In addition to asking Provincial Governments to obtain these views and report them to us, we also had 217 representations on different points from seventeen non-official bodies which include references from Bus Syndicates, Motor Industries Associations, Automobile Associations, the Indian Road Transport and Development Association, Motor Union Congress, Motor Operators Council and various Chambers of Commerce. We could have, I think, wished for more views from the public, that is to say from, the user of road transport. I admit that owing to the desirability of getting on with some measure and the shortage of time, this Bill has perhaps not had the fullest circulation that some Honourable Members would like in spite of the large amount of work put into it by the Provincial Governments. In view of that we have already asked Provincial Governments to forward to us the views of any organizations of transport users or transport operators who have not had time to submit their full views. We said that when we received those views we would put them before the Select Committee if and when it was appointed. We now propose, as I mentioned last night, that we should go further than that and we should circulate the Bill departmentally to organizations likely to be interested and we should call for representations in reply by, I suggest, June 15th. I think when this Bill is circulated again with the ample notes on clauses which we have provided, it will clarify a number of points which have not been hitherto perhaps quite clear to everybody who has taken an interest in the Bill.

The objections which have been raised to the Bill are largely concerning Chapter IV, that is the control of transport vehicles. That is naturally because no operator likes control but the clauses, I think it will be found, are designed in the public interest and I hope that after examination in Select Committee and by the public, the interest of the public will prevail.

There has been a certain amount of objection to clause 24 which amends Section 38 of the Act so as to produce the maximum and the minimum limits of a certificate of fitness to a period of one year and three months respectively. Clause 39(2)(c) also has drawn a certain amount of criticism. That is the clause which enables Provincial Governments to appoint a single official to grant permits for a public carrier. That, Sir, was introduced because it was found by experience in the United Kingdom and elsewhere that such a provision is desirable, but the point was raised on the Standing Roads Committee to whom I pointed out that there would be ample opportunity when the Bill came before the Select Committee to argue this out thoroughly and we shall be pleased to put forward in detail the arguments for and against such a proposal.

In asking the House to refer this to a Select Committee instead of circulating it, I think we are not asking the House to commit itself to any new principle except the broad principle of road-rail co-ordination. I think everybody agrees that there must be co-ordination between road and rail. But I should like to make it clear that agreeing to a reference of this Bill to a Select Committee does not commit anybody any more than to the broad principle of co-ordination. It certainly does not commit anybody to the policy which has been already rejected by the House, that is to say of financial participation by the railways in road companies.

[Sir Edward Benthall]

So I think there is no new principle to which the House is not generally agreed in this Bill and that being so, our proposal is that we should circulate the Bill departmentally to all those likely to be interested and that we should ask for considered opinions by, I suggest, June 15th, though I am not in any way bound to a particular date. When we get the opinions, I suggest that we should print them up and place them before the Select Committee and that the Committee should sit about a fortnight after that, as soon as the papers have been read, say the beginning of July. There will then obviously have to be very considerable discussion in the Select Committee and provision has been made that discussions should take place in Simla. I hope I have made clear what Government have in mind. My Honourable friends opposite will appreciate that we are trying to meet the wishes of the House to have further circulation and at the same time our own desire that a Select Committee should be appointed to consider the whole matter.

Finally, with your permission, Sir, I should like to substitute the name of Mr. D. R. Rutnam in the place of Mr. A. T. Naqvi in the list of names for the Select Committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan): And add the name of Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no objection.

Mr. President: Do I add the name of Mr. Saksena also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yesterday, my Honourable friend made the motion and I also moved my amendment for circulation. We agreed that after he finished his speech I should speak.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Honourable the War Transport Member has explained many things which probably met the point of view of this side of the House. The chief objection to reference of a Bill of this nature to the Select Committee was that if the House accepts that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, then the House stands committed to the principle underlying the Bill and there are certain provisions which probably may not be acceptable to the House and the Select Committee will find itself in great difficulty when those provisions come before it, because on one side is the verdict of the House rejecting the demand for Rs. 3,47,00,000 on account of road-rail co-ordination and on the other hand there will be the Bill which may be contradictory to that policy. Then the position of the Select Committee will become rather difficult not knowing which to accept and which to reject. Now that the Honourable Member has explained that the Select Committee will not be bound really to accept those principles which are contrary to the previous verdict which had been given by the House by rejecting the road-rail co-ordination scheme for which Rs. 3,47,00,000 were asked for, it has simplified the matter a great deal. Because once I give my vote on one principle and give my vote on the second contradictory principle, then I find myself in a hopeless position when I go into the Select Committee. Now that this position has been clarified I think it will simplify the matter to a great extent.

Another thing which I was fearing and this side of the House was fearing was that though the Bill had been circulated, the views of the persons whose views ought to have been taken were not properly taken. And now the circumstances have changed in two respects. Firstly, in most of the Provinces popular Governments have begun to work. Formerly we had Governments under Section 93 and in those cases the Government's view was the view of one person who was appointed by the Government to conduct the Department concerned on their behalf and whatever he wrote was considered to be the view of the Government, whether anybody agreed with it or not. Now it will be the views of the ministers that will be taken and the ministers will be guided by the views of their constituents. The ministers will be asked to give the views

which will be beneficial to his Province and to his constituents. Formerly it was ignored and the views which we have got at present in our possession are the views which had not taken into consideration whether a person was going to benefit or to lose. This House has laid down the principle that it is not willing to accept any proposition which may absolutely nullify or reduce the capital of the poor people. The scheme which we had before us envisaged that the capital of the people who were going to be affected was going to be reduced practically to a very small sum. Now the views of these people, after the debate, are bound to be taken and I would ask my Honourable friend when he circulates the Bill for eliciting opinion thereon that he should give direction to the local Governments that they should not confine themselves to obtaining the views of certain persons only but the views must be obtained from every district in every Province, where there are associations of bus owners, because they are the people who are going to be most affected and it is for the benefit of those people as well as of the travelling public that we are going to legislate. We can speak on behalf of the travelling public but we cannot call ourselves representatives of the people who provide the conveyance for the travelling public and their views are essential in order to come to a proper conclusion. We should not make a law which may affect one adversely while benefiting the other section. Our law should be based on equity, on the principle that we do not disturb the vested interests very quickly, the interests which are at present very valuable to those poor people who have invested all their wealth in the shape of these conveyances. This is one essential principle which should be borne in mind by my Honourable friend and he should give specific directions that if those opinions do not come from the districts or if they have not been asked for they will not be acceptable to the Select Committee. We are agreeable to refer the Bill to the Select Committee only on this condition that the opinions of these people are also invited and not only merely within the two months which we have got before us the opinions of the high officials are obtained which will not satisfy us. But we want to know what the poorer section of the people who are really going to be affected think of this law and how in their experience of day to day they suffer. We want to know what provisions we can make in the law which may reduce to the minimum the difficulties which they are experiencing, and how those provisions can benefit the travelling public also. This opinion is essential. I think I cannot call myself competent to legislate or to make any provision unless I am in full possession

of the views of all sections of the society, whose opinions were not obtained in the past. They are essential. If this is done, I think the Select Committee will be able to do justice to the task which is going to be entrusted to them. Without this I think we will not be able to discharge our duty properly.

1 P.M. Sir, I think one more matter which is essential is that the Select Committee, when they meet to go through the law, must of course take into consideration that there is likelihood of a certain kind of co-ordination coming in the future. But it should not be laid down by a strict rule of this kind as we may find ourselves bound down to one kind of principle. The law must be elastic and must be capable of being changed as the circumstances change. Of course, the Select Committee will take good care about this. Although we have rejected 8 crore and 47 lakhs of rupees, if the Provincial Governments find some kind of scheme which may be essential, then our law must be so elastic that it may come into existence. Sir, I think we cannot legislate in a manner that the law may be enforced very soon or at once, affecting the people, who ought to be given due chance and due time before being affected. Therefore, I think this point will meet us, that the Bill is referred to the Select Committee on these conditions, as I have said, that we will not be bound strictly by the principles which have been laid down and that the Committee will be able to alter the principle of the Bill also.

With these words I support the suggestion that the Bill be circulated to elicit opinion by the 15th of June.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I understood my Honourable friend differently from what the Honourable Member, the Deputy President, has said just now. What the mover wanted was that immediate reference to the Select Committee ought to be made and that departmentally opinions may be gathered by the 15th of June.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: What I meant was that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee on the condition that departmentally the opinions are obtained by the 15th of June.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of this I beg to withdraw my motion for eliciting opinion. I am satisfied with the assurance given by my Honourable friend that departmentally the same opinion would be gathered as in the ordinary course. I would like to say a few words on the Bill itself.

The Act was passed in 1939 and has come into force from that time, barring Chapter VIII relating to insurance. In many matters the proposed Bill seeks to interfere with various clauses in the original Act. Many of them are formal except a few which are controversial. I welcome many portions in the Bill which are an improvement on the old Act. But as regards the controversial portion I will have my say presently. Any Act regulating motor traffic or road transport services in the country must address itself to three or four considerations. First of all, I would place safety first, even before any proper service. In recent years, during the period of the war, for five years, all the accidents have occurred on account of young people not trained in the art being given licences by the Central Government. Military men caused a lot of havoc in the country. Military lorries ran over a number of persons on roads in all Presidency towns and wherever there was congestion. Young men who had not been given sufficient training, even for three or four months, and who had been given licences, were responsible for a number of accidents. When the Central Government is the owner of any vehicle, to that extent the licence need not be given by the Transport or Licensing authority. The Central Government may itself do so. The Central Government unfortunately did not appoint sufficiently good men to examine the various cases where licences are requested by drivers, and to examine even with respect to lorries whether they were in good condition or not. I would like the Select Committee to place further restrictions, having regard to the manner in which the Central Government has exercised the privilege of licensing its own drivers and permitting vehicles. Safety has been thrown to the winds. Personally I know of a case where a young soldier was driving a car. It was dashing at the speed of an aeroplane. I heard it from a distance. It was a small street in a small town where a number of children were playing. I went to him and requested him not to drive so fast. I do not know wherefrom he came and where he was going. He would not even pause to give an answer. He said "I will have nothing to do with that" and drove faster. If I had carried it further during the period of the war, having regard to my political affiliation, I would have had to undergo incarceration for another period of three years. But now peace has come. Let us avoid these accidents. Safety should come first. As it is, the man in charge of a vehicle wants the whole road. If there is an old woman or a child on the road, they must give way to him, immediately he horns. If there is a double bullock cart on the road laden with heavy goods, in a trice the bulls must come under control when he horns. They may be in a precipice. He would not wait. These are the ways in which these people have played with motor vehicles. But I am surprised at one thing. And it is exactly because my Honourable friend does not have the experience that we have in the mofussil. My Honourable friend has increased the speed limit. He said: "Improvements have been made in the mechanism and therefore we are no longer wedded to the 30, 20 and 6 miles limits. Let us therefore increase it to 35 miles" and so on. There is danger ahead. Even as it is, these people are driving recklessly. Every motor should have a speedometer, not for the purpose of finding out whether the speed limit is kept or exceeded. But some mechanism must be devised by which it must

be impossible for any vehicle to be driven at a higher speed than that which is authorised by the Traffic Licensing authority. Some such mechanism ought to be provided in every vehicle. With respect to private owned motor vehicles there is no question of speed limit. If the private owner does not run it for hire and uses it for himself, then there is no speed limit either under the old Act or the present one. Such people are dangerous. Why should there be no speed limit for them? I would say there ought to be in every motor vehicle, plying anywhere, either by private owners or a stage carriage or a goods vehicle, some maximum speed limit: 30 must be the maximum and there should be automatic mechanism which would prevent the driver from exceeding the speed allowed for that vehicle; and this ought to be enforced strictly. I would therefore place safety regulations first and foremost.

Then there is the question of exemption in the case of those drivers who are expected to drive heavy vehicles, in respect of light vehicles or vehicles for invalids. I say that any person who is in charge of a vehicle ought to be an expert. There should be no exception because whether he drives slowly or fast, he must be able to apply the brake suddenly. Various situations may arise and therefore any vehicle of this kind ought to be placed only in the hands of experts, and there ought to be no exemption regarding the capacity or the quality of experience that is expected of drivers or their skill in driving.

Now whenever an accident occurs, it is expected that the driver will report that accident to the nearest police station. But where a motor vehicle refuses to run on account of any defect in the mechanism itself, and stops on the way for an hour or two, that matter also must be reported to the police station, for this reason: if these things are not reported then and there, it is once a year or so that these vehicles are tested. If these vehicles are tested only once a year or once in three months even, these defects may be covered up; and unless timely intimation of these defects are given to the police authorities near at hand and they make a catalogue of the defects from time to time, proper investigation of these vehicles cannot be made. I know that the persons who are supposed to make these investigations and issue certificates are the Superintendents of Police who are busy with their own police work in the district and have little time or no time at all to attend to these things. They get into these vehicles and ask the persons in charge to drive for ten or fifteen minutes and then certify it is all right. Such practices ought to be given up.

I now come to the next item—services. There ought to be certainty and there ought to be regularity. We wait and wait for hours together on the road, expecting to catch the bus, but the bus never turns up. There is no punishment or penalty imposed upon the driver for not driving the vehicle to time: his excuse is the machine would not move, though he may be himself at fault, he may have other business, and he goes at his sweet will and pleasure. There is a provision that is sought to be made that the owner of a vehicle who has got a transport permit must have other vehicles also, so that if one or two vehicles are unable to move, there must be others in their stead so that the service may not be interrupted. Every person who wants to run a service on the road must be made to maintain a fleet of vehicles so that the service may not be discontinuous and there may be certainty and regularity. As regards reasonable fares, no doubt the provision is useful; but it is only after we get into the buses that we find we have to pay twice or thrice as much—he does not give receipts, and sometimes he gives receipts for the higher fare that is exacted

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Nationalisation will make it worse!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On the contrary, we will have much better men then. Perhaps in your country it may not be so; but in this country I feel that things will be better. My friend is trying to draw me away from the road transport—I will not yield. But whether we have nationalisation or otherwise, there must be inspectors on the road appointed by the Government or by the local authorities to check and inspect and supervise; and they must be allowed to get into these buses while in transit, and find out whether tickets have been given, whether the speed is more than it ought to be,

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]
 whether proper fares are charged, whether a larger number travel than are allowed to, and about other inconveniences to passengers, etc. These are wanting in the Bill. They may collect excess tax from these bus owners if necessary

Mr. President: I believe the Honourable Member wants to speak for some time more. He can resume 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.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When the House rose for Lunch, I was referring to considerations of safety and service in relation to motor transport.

A third point of equal importance is the co-ordination between various forms of transport. In the Act of 1939 there have been provisions to regulate road and rail transport. I find now a change in keeping with the times. Inland navigation is also taken up along with road and rail for co-ordination purposes. Now, Air service is coming in and other provisions may be necessary to avoid unnecessary and cut throat competition.

In the matter of co-ordinating all forms of transport the efficiency of service and healthy competition are factors which ought not to be forgotten. Under the guise of avoiding competition, a monopoly in favour of rail transport ought not to be given. With the best of management, rail transport is not up to the mark. It does not give the passenger all the conveniences he wishes to have. Railway transport is considered to be a commercial business. The passenger is the person who pays, but from the time he enters the station up to the time he emerges out of the station at the other end he feels as though he is in prison. In the matter of purchasing tickets, getting into the train, sitting comfortably in the train, getting down at a station where the train stops only for half a minute or a minute, in all these respects he is put to great inconvenience and if the monopoly of the railways were not there, passengers would avoid the rail and get into other forms of transport.

So far as goods services are concerned, there is no guarantee that the goods will reach safely. Pilfering goes on all the time and from the porter to the station master and the Inspector everybody gets his share of the commission. I am against buttressing this form of monopoly and this form of service, with all respect to my Honourable friend. On the other hand, there should be healthy rivalry between these forms of transport and cut throat competition ought to be avoided.

I am at one with my Honourable friend in the matter of making proper arrangements in regard to rates and fares in road transport but he ought not to take advantage of it to stifle road transport and bring it within his clutches, so that he can play ducks and drakes with road transport as they have been doing with the railway system today. Railways are not yet properly managed. I am not casting aspersions on X, Y or Z but the Railways as a whole cannot take pride in the way they are doing things now.

As regards the provisions which are sought to be included in this Bill to avoid unhealthy competition and to encourage co-ordination between these services, I agree that where there are roads parallel to the railways, the motor vehicles ought not to be allowed to ply at lower rates and thus make it impossible for the Railways to cater to the needs of the public. I know many cases where unhealthy competition is prevailing. Private owners of buses and driver owners undercut in such a way that it is impossible for the Railway Administration to reduce their fares and in spite of the efficient working in particular lines, railways are unable to compete with the road transport service. In those cases where there are parallel roads, the railway traffic ought to be protected. Wherever there are not, there road transport ought to be encouraged and inducements ought to be given and I feel that some more stringent provisions should be made in the Act itself to avoid long distance passengers and goods traffic.

A driver owning a lorry carries goods for over 300 miles when the goods can be carried conveniently on the railways. He is also carrying at cheaper rates making it impossible for the railways to have sufficient traffic along that particular route. This ought to be avoided. As regards passenger traffic, 50 miles ought to be the limit. When a passenger has travelled 50 miles in a bus, he feels exhausted and feels like a man who has been two days in a train. In their own interests, the passengers must be protected against travelling beyond 50 miles in any bus. So far as goods are concerned, 150 miles ought to be the maximum over which goods should be allowed from one place to another in a bus or lorry. It is here that unhealthy competition with railways comes in.

When we are willing to go so far, my Honourable friend wants to create a kind of dictatorship in the various Provinces by introducing a new provision here and superimposing or creating a substitute for the provincial transport authority. In each Province there is a Provincial Transport Authority. Under the Act of 1939, the Provincial Government may bring into existence a Provincial Transport Authority and also subsidiary transport authorities called Regional Authorities exercising jurisdiction over areas which are not less than a district. Under the Bill hitherto they have been doing good work. They have been holding the scales even between the railways on the one side and the road operators on the other side. My Honourable friend with a view to emphasizing the interests of the rail as against the road has now created a new person called Provincial Road or Transport Commissioner and he is trying to clothe him with all the powers which a Provincial Transport Authority has been exercising. He will be a Government servant whereas the Transport Authority might be representative of various interests. It is improper, unwise and it will stifle the road transport service if all the powers are vested in a commissioner who is to be appointed. I am against that provision. My Honourable friends from the Central Provinces have complained bitterly how this commissioner who was appointed in the place of the Provincial Transport Authority has abused all his powers in the Central Provinces and it is on account of that that we were obliged to throw overboard the scheme which my friend put before this House for financial assistance to road transport companies and financial participation by the Government of India in road transport service. That instance of the Central Provinces has created a lot of misunderstanding about this matter. It is the way in which the Provincial Commissioner superseded the Provincial Transport Authority in the Central Provinces that made us think twice and thrice before we accepted this plan. I would request my Honourable friend to see in the Select Committee that the provision relating to the appointment of a Commissioner is deleted. The clause relating to the appointment of a Provincial Transport Commissioner superseding in some cases the Transport Authority ought not to be allowed to continue in the Bill and it ought to be removed in the interest of the safety of Road transport service. There is another provision. Hitherto persons interested in road transport have not been allowed to be Members of either the Provincial Transport Authority or the Regional Authority because permits have to be given and their cases have to be judged by the authority. If the road operator is himself a member of the Transport Authority, he has to judge his own case. He has to prosecute himself, he is to be the judge of his own case. That is the reason why in the 1939 Act in the Provincial Transport Authority representation of persons who are interested in transport service were not allowed. Now this Bill aims at deviating from that position, which was the only safeguard we had. If representation is given to such persons who have interest, when their case comes up before the Provincial Authority they ought not to be allowed to vote. This reminds me of a case before the Federal Public Services Commission. A relative of a Member of the Federal Public Service Commission applied for a certain job. When the applications came to be considered by the Commission, the Member went out saying that he was interested in the matter and therefore he would not like to sit on the Board of Selection. I do not know if other Members of the Board of Selection would not have taken this as a hint to get that applicant passed, although the Member himself had got out of the group. This might be an inducement for them to vote in favour of the selection of the candidate.

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

Similarly, Sir, there are these difficulties. If they know that a Member who sits with them in the Provincial Transport Authority is interested in a particular matter, and though technically he might get out or he might not vote, yet that will be an inducement to his colleagues to vote in his favour. Therefore, Sir, it is not right or proper to clothe him with this authority or to make him a member of the Transport Authority.

Another point which I wish to stress is this. There must be equal representation for road operators and rail operators in that Transport Authority, if road and rail are allowed representation on this Board. My own feeling is that neither the road nor the rail need be allowed to have its own representatives on the Board. They may be advisers. Their advice is always taken by an independent authority. There is the Provincial Government, there is the Local Board interested in road service. Before these Boards the road operators and rail operators may place their case. There is already provision there. I do not think it is right that the road operators or the rail operators should sit as Members of the Provincial Transport Authority or Regional Authority. If, however, it is thought desirable to have one or two and equal representation is given to road and rail operators, then I would say, Sir, that labour, which is much in evidence in this service and which contributes to the efficiency of service, must also be given representation on the Provincial Transport Authority as well as the Regional Transport Authority. Labour—such as conductors, drivers, cleaners and so on, ought to be allowed a seat there.

The next point is this. Under the Act permit can be granted for periods extending from three to five years. In the Bill it is sought to increase the upper limit of five years to ten years. The reason is this. That it might be an inducement for any person to invest in a large number of buses. If he is given permit for a sufficiently long number of years, he might run an efficient service and he may not be in a hurry to make as much money out of it as possible much to the disadvantage of passengers and curtailing their conveniences. No doubt that is an argument in favour of the long term permit. But my Honourable friend must look at the other side. Ordinarily a motor vehicle which is purchased new has a life of five years. After that period, it will not be able to give efficient service. Even if it is in running condition, its utility goes down considerably. Therefore, five years is a sufficiently long period for any person to undertake this service. There is a clause already in the Bill which says that preference shall be given for renewal of permits to persons who apply for permits anew. I therefore submit that ten years upper limit ought not to be placed there.

I now come to another section with respect to which attention has not been bestowed, that is labour. I must acknowledge, however, one fact, that is that the Honourable Member has introduced one wholesome provision, that is he had reduced the hours of work from 54 to 48. To that extent this provision is good. In addition to safeguarding the interests of labour—conductors, drivers, cleaners and others who run the transport service,—there must be some provision here which will give fixity of tenure of service to the labourers. There must be provident fund for them. Something ought to be done for them. Motor transport service is becoming a huge service. We must take interest not in the road operators who are the middlemen between the general public and the persons who work, that is, labour. Therefore, let not the road operators walk away with enormous profits that they get. Let them distribute a portion for labour welfare, let them make the tenure of labour fixed. One other matter which I should like the Select Committee to consider in favour of labour. There is now third party insurance risk in Chapter VIII. Third party lives are protected by way of insurance, so that in case of accident, monies can be easily paid for them. But so far as the employees are concerned, I am speaking subject to correction, the employees who run this service are the people who suffer the most in case there is an accident. The driver, the conductor and the cleaner

suffer the most. There is no provision in the Bill or in the Act which insures their lives. A valuable, though dangerous, asset is placed in their hands and if they meet with an accident, they must be insured against it. Some provision must be made for the welfare of the wives and children of labour in motor transport. I should like the Honourable Member to tell the House what steps he has taken so far as the Insurance Chapter is concerned to bring it into operation. The original Act was passed in 1939 and it took four years for bringing this Chapter into operation. The provision relating to third party risks has been extended from 1943 to 1946. So, after seven years of the passing of the Act this provision comes into operation for the first time from 1st July 1946. Third party insurance may be done either by private companies or by co-operative *cum* insurance basis composed of various road operators. What steps have been taken by the Government to bring into existence co-operative insurance amongst road operators themselves? Have any steps been taken relating to the provision of co-operative insurance, particularly in the Act so that the road operators may derive the full benefit and risks will be evenly distributed amongst all the road operators. The intention in making provision for co-operative insurance is that no third party may take advantage of this Act, no middleman would take advantage of the profits, but that Government should help the road operators to organise themselves into various co-operative insurance societies. I pause for an answer from my Honourable friend.

Next as regards the collection of opinions, I request the Honourable Member to communicate with the new popular Ministries that would soon begin to function in various Provinces. It is better we take their advice. I did not hear my Honourable friend saying that they would be consulted. I am sure the popular Governments will be consulted and their opinions made available to the Select Committee. I am sure my Honourable friend will consult all the other agencies, if the circulation motion is carried, and their opinions may be taken by the Legislative Assembly Department and placed before the Select Committee so as to enable them to come to right conclusions in this matter during the Select Committee stage.

Sir, I support the motion for Select Committee and I withdraw the motion for circulation.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal: European): Sir, as I understand the position, by accepting the motion for reference to Select Committee we are accepting no more than the principle that there should be some form of co-ordination between road transport and other forms of transport. We are prepared to accept the motion on that basis. Had that not been the basis we should certainly have more to say about the various clauses of the Bill some of which appear to us to go dangerously far. Clause 28, for instance, eliminates the very significant phrase, "after having heard the representatives of the interests affected." That right to be heard is a very important principle, and we shall certainly want to know in Select Committee the reasons why that should be removed. I only wish to say at this stage that the Honourable Member will refer to the fact that he has given an undertaking that he will circulate this Bill for opinion departmentally. I understand that there are precedents for this procedure, but it appears to us that the public at large will have difficulty in knowing exactly how the matter stands. The Honourable Member only told us that he will refer to the Select Committee the opinions that he will receive on this new circulation about a week before the Select Committee meets. I ask the Honourable Member to consider extending that period. It is extremely difficult for members of Standing Committees or Select Committees to master the subject when papers reach them at the last minute. This is a matter of great interest to the smaller interests engaged in transport, and it is of great importance, in our view, that the opinions expressed on this Bill should be placed in the hands of the Select Committee, since they could not be placed before the House, at an adequate time so as to allow us time to weigh them

[Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel]

up and assess the whole position. I hope the Honourable Member will find it possible to enlarge on what he said on this subject and give us more time.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: How much more time would the Honourable Member like to have?

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: I should say, a minimum of three weeks.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I propose that the name of Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar be also added to the Select Committee.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no objection; I do not know if the other parties will agree.

Sir, I may say that I was extremely interested in the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar speaking. I understand, for his party, because I found him referring to many points which I think have frequently escaped notice in these debates and which we regard as being of the greatest importance. He stressed, for instance, the importance of safety and of service. These are points which all too often are forgotten when the problem of road transport is under discussion. I particularly welcome the stress he has laid on those points, and which of course it is the intention of the Act and of the Bill to meet. Generally speaking, I found his comments altogether very constructive and helpful; and where I differ—and I differ in a number of respects—I entirely respect the grounds on which he differs. He raised a number of points which we have already threshed out to a considerable degree with the Provincial Governments and we have come to one conclusion while he comes to another. But the conclusions which he holds to are perfectly legitimate conclusions which we shall welcome an opportunity to thresh out in the Select Committee. For instance, with regard to clause 29, amending section 44 of the Act, he took exception to the suggestion for a Provincial Transport Commissioner. I understand that none of the statutory powers of the Provincial Transport Authority will be given to such a Provincial Transport Commissioner. There is also the kindred question in clause 29 (2C) where it is suggested that the Provincial Government may be enabled to appoint a single officer for dealing with licenses for permits for public carriers. These are points on which we shall welcome discussion in Select Committee.

My Honourable friend laid considerable stress on the desirability of certainty and regularity and emphasised the need for penalties. In clause 32 (xviii) he will find certain provisions which will go a long way to meet what he desires.

On his point on labour I think I am correct in saying that road transport labour comes under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and I believe we have already circularised model rules to the Provinces to cover that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about provident fund for workers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of anything special in the nature of provident fund regulations, but the point has been noted in my Honourable friend's remarks. Everything that he has said will be carefully looked into with a view to discussion in Select Committee.

He asked why Chapter VIII had not been brought in before. The reasons are purely the intervention of the war. I remember a discussion on the Transport Advisory Council in which the matter was raised, and to the best of my recollection it was decided that under the pressure of the war it was simply not possible to get the staff to draw up rules or get insurance companies to take the necessary action to get prepared for the introduction of this chapter.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I wanted to know if any steps have been taken by Government to inaugurate or establish co-operative insurance societies for the road operators.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not so far as I am aware. I will see what there is in that suggestion; I have not given my mind to it at all and I am not aware that any action has been taken.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Still there is time. Instead of throwing them to the ordinary insurers will the Honourable Member and Government try to take steps to start co-operative insurance companies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member is asking for an answer on a subject to which I have not given any consideration at all. But, as I have said, the point he has raised will be looked into. He made another point that on the Provincial Transport Authority there should not be representatives of road, rail and river. We came to the conclusion that their presence on this Body would be extremely useful for the purpose of getting all points of view, but where their interests are involved, they would have no vote. My Honourable friend suggested that that might be done by calling in advisers. There is room for difference of opinion. When we decided that these three experts should sit round the table we thought that their advice would be most useful in that way.

3 P. M.

I agree with my Honourable friend when he suggests that there must be healthy rivalry between road services and rail but not unhealthy competition. That is what we have been trying to arrive at and many of the provisions in this Bill are designed to help towards that end.

My Honourable friend, the Deputy President, took rather a different line. He took the line that equity dictates that we should not disturb vested interests. While paying some attention to the desirability of getting the opinions of the travelling public and of all sections of society, he appeared to suggest that his main interest is to see that the vested interests of the road operators are not too harshly dealt with. To that end, he made what appeared to me rather a curious suggestion; he said that we ought to give a specific direction to local Governments, by which he meant Provincial Governments, to make sure that every district association of operators was consulted. Hitherto the line of action taken by my Honourable friend, and other Members who supported him, has been that the Central Government should do nothing until new Ministerial Governments came in because new Ministerial Governments would be able to speak for the people. That, Sir, was our view, but he now wishes us to give specific directions to the Provincial Governments. That is not how we should look at it. What we propose to do is,—and this is an answer to my Honourable friend, Mr. Hirtzel's point—to write to the Provincial Governments and ask them to obtain opinions from exactly the same people as they would have done if the Bill had been circulated in the ordinary way. And I think the Provincial Governments can be relied upon to secure the views both of the vested interests, in which my Honourable friend Sir Mohd. Yamin is particularly interested, and we hope also of the public—the bus user—, in whom my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar is particularly interested. In that way we hope to get a general consensus of opinion representing both sides of the question.

I think, Sir, I have, in these brief remarks, covered all the points which are necessary at this stage. The suggestion is, as I have mentioned before, that we should circulate the Bill for opinion in the manner which I have described and should ask for replies by the 15th of June. My Honourable friend, Mr. Hirtzel, suggested that we ought to allow three weeks after receipt of the replies to get them into the hands of Members of the Select Committee for their study. It will certainly take a few days also to print them and that being so it looks as if we should not hold the Select Committee until the middle of July. Without giving any definite undertaking as to particular dates, it seems to me that that would probably suit everybody's convenience and that is the line on which we will proceed if the House passes this motion for reference of the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, wishes to have leave of the Assembly to withdraw his amendment for circulation of the Bill.

[Mr. President]

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sri N. Narayanamurthi, Mr. Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Mr. R. C. Morris, Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharyya, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Harender Singh, Mr. D. R. Rutnam, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, and the Mover, that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five, and that the Committee be authorised to meet at Simla.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I was just doubtful as to whether I should state at this stage, or not state at all, one point about the understanding of parties with reference to the circulation of the Bill. I take it that the understanding does not affect the ordinary rule about the scope of the Bill. When the Bill comes up, as reported by the Select Committee, it cannot be pleaded that though the Select Committee may have gone beyond the scope of the Bill the amendments should be permitted and not confined to the principles of the Bill.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no such danger.

Mr. President: That is for the Honourable Members to see. It cannot be argued then that the Chair must rule accordingly because the parties came to this understanding on the floor of the House. I am only making the position clear.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1946-47

DEMAND NO. 66.—MISCELLANEOUS

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) : Sir, I move :

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. President : Motion moved :

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,00,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : May I ask your direction in this matter ? I take it that this item was on the agenda previously and was withdrawn. It was withdrawn willingly by the Government. What is the necessity for bringing this item on to the agenda for the second time particularly when the Standing Finance Committee has turned it down unanimously ?

Mr. President : I think it was withdrawn from last year's list of supplementary demands ; it was never put in this year's supplementary demands. Is that so ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member) : Yes, Sir, and also because adequate notice was not received by the Honourable Members and they understood that it will come at a later stage....

Diwan Chaman Lall : Which Honourable Members ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : All Honourable Members.

Diwan Chaman Lall : There was no such understanding on this side of the House. We understood that because the Standing Finance Committee had turned it down unanimously in deference to the feeling of the House in this matter it was taken out immediately.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau ; Indian Commerce) : I pointed out that this was a backdoor method of getting it through by putting it at

the bottom of a long list of supplementary grants, especially as it was an item which the Standing Finance Committee had turned down. It was admitted by the official side that it was so and that it had got there in under a misapprehension and that it would be taken out and put up separately.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : That is what we are doing.

Mr. President : It comes to the same thing, namely, that this particular thing was not debated upon.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The propriety of bringing up an item which the Standing Finance Committee has turned down is something which the Finance Member should explain.

Mr. President : That is a different matter. So far as the admissibility is concerned, the point is that the matter was never argued. That is the chief point. Now there is the amendment of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan. Mr. Abdus Sattar Seth is not present.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar : Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding four crores in respect of ‘ Miscellaneous ’ be reduced to two. ”

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : It should be two lakhs.

Mr. President : What happened was that the Honourable Member who gave the notice first, missed to put in two further dots.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : Then he must amend it formally.

Mr. President : Order, order. I have not finished. Then he came and amended it. He wished for the amendment after his cut motion was circulated. There was no time for recirculation of the matter and so an amended copy was given to the leaders of parties.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : The point is what was in the original amendment of the Honourable Member ? Two lakhs ? If so and if he now wants to change it, he must do so by way of a separate amendment.

Mr. President : This is not a motion of amendment by the same member. This amendment is tabled by another member.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : The point is at what does the original figure stand ? If it stands at two lakhs, then it cannot be changed here without a proper amendment.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member has not got the point or I am not very clear. The first amendment was tabled by Mr. Sattar Ishaq Seth. Therein the figure of two lakhs was given. He wanted to have the correction of two crores. He is not moving it but this amendment is tabled by another member with the original figure of two crores.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : But the original amendment has not been received.

Mr. President : The point is whether this member should be permitted to move this amendment by waiving of notice. If the members do not agree.....

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan : The Honourable the President has already allowed me to move it and I have moved it.

Mr. President : I have called upon him to move it.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan : That shows you have given your consent.

Mr. President : It is not a question of my consent. It is a question of the Chair's right to waive notice. That is the right of the Chair. But if, as I have said so often, any amendment coming at the last moment, is not substantially agreed to by the House, I shall not waive notice.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa : Muhammadan) : The Chair has waived notice on a previous occasion.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I might say that on the question whether there is a mistake, and you are satisfied that it is a mistake, there is no

[Sir M. Azizul Huque]

objection. It has been generally understood that whatever might be the respective opinions of the members, no one has objected to the amendment being moved.

Mr. President : Let us be clear and there is nothing more to be discussed. There seems to be some confusion. I am prepared to accept the mistake of the Member and rectify it myself. I am not concerned with the point of procedure as that is a different matter. The point now is that that the member who has given the mistaken amendment, is not moving it, not being present. Another Member has given an amendment with the correct figure and the question is whether the Chair should waive notice. As the Chair has already expressed once, I do not propose to waive notice in any case, in any amendment unless the House agrees substantially. After all, it is not a question of this or that amendment but we should not have the practice of allowing amendments at the last minute. Therefore, as I find there is a serious difference of opinion, I do not waive notice.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I want to know whether the Finance Member is going to make any speech in justification of his having brought this demand against the recommendation of the Finance Committee. He owes it to the House to make a statement.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : It is the practice for the Finance Member to move formally all demand for grants and equally the practice of the Member in charge of a particular subject to talk about it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my Honourable friend, whether he himself having voted against this grant in the Standing Finance Committee.....

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : I did not vote against the grant.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My Honourable friend himself turned it down.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : I did not.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My Honourable friend challenges that ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : Certainly.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Will my Honourable friend place the proceedings on the table ?

Mr. President : There is no scope for that discussion. Assuming he has voted against it is open to move the motion for the grant.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : What I said was that it would be brought before the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is not part of the proceedings.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I will not take much time to explain the reason why this motion was brought before this House. The House will remember that after UNRRA was brought into being for sending relief to the war affected areas, this House in a motion brought before it agreed to participation with UNRRA with the rider that any area important to military operations of the United Nations and stricken by famine or disease, should be included for the benefit of the UNRRA. This resolution was by the wish of the House sent to UNRRA and it was accepted in September 1944. Then in the last budget, not in this one, but the previous one, an item was put in for sanctioning a sum of Rs. 8 crores.

I might here say that when this UNRRA organisation came into being, they met together, tried to find out what should be the actual needs for the relief organisation in terms of money, and it was the decision of the UNRRA that contributions approximately equal to one per cent. of the national income should be granted, but with a rider that where any such grant would be in conflict with the war demands or excessively burdensome, it would be for the country to vote an amount less than that.

It is well known that India has a very low *per capita* income and we have certain special responsibilities in India arising out of the distress and famine conditions in the country, and therefore we did not agree to accept the formula of one per cent. of the national income and it was on a question like that that I consulted the leading members of the different parties and with their agreement a sum of eight crores was

put in the Budget which was agreed to by the House. I might say in this connection that it was explained at that time that though the contributions were allotted in terms of money, in fact a very small percentage, namely ten per cent, is given in money. The rest is given in commodities which can be spared by this country. Representative of UNRRA came to India and discussed this matter and having regard to our difficult commodity problem, we were unable to give them what they wanted. But they were very pleased to get certain commodities which we could spare, such as, jute, raw cotton, tea, pepper, coir, manganese ore and surgical instruments. Raw cotton and surgical instruments were for China. When we were asked to contribute, it was merely in the nature of an estimate as to what would be the ultimate need of a country to which reliefs would go. At that time it was thought the amount of money then sanctioned would be enough for the entire relief operations. When in fact the relief operations were undertaken, it was found that both in the East and in the West the problem was of such magnitude and the work of relief and rehabilitation required so much of money, that they have come now with a request for further assistance to all the participating countries granting relief. Sir, I might say that the war did not end simultaneously in Europe and in Asia. As the war in Europe ended first naturally the task of relief and rehabilitation was first taken up in Europe. China and the Far East being war zones adequate relief could not be sent. To the extent relief could be sent it was sent to China and as far as I know 6½ to 7 per cent was allotted to China and in spite of the difficulties of transport and the commodity problem, relief was sent to China. Having gone to Europe for the task of relief and rehabilitation, once the nature and magnitude of the problem is realised, nobody can say that the relief operation must keep aside 50 per cent of the money for later needs in the face of the agonies of humanity, starvation, disease, hunger and all other problems. Having gone to render relief in Europe they could not stop saying that we could not proceed because we have to divide the money into two parts. The result is that almost the entire sum which was allotted for relief purposes was exhausted in relief to Europe and now we are confronted with the problem not only of continuing relief in Europe but also the task of relief and rehabilitation in China and the Far East, where the problem is of very great urgency and importance. As far as we have been able to study the materials I find from the estimates of this year that roughly about 47 or 48 per cent of the entire relief operation will go to China. An estimate has been made in terms of dollars and it comes to 1,006 million dollars of which 878 million dollars is for China. The relief for China is a matter of great importance both to India as well as to the world and that is the consideration which has made me to bring this matter before this House.

Commodities to the extent of a little over 2½ lacs tons were sent to China in spite of transport difficulties, in spite of the operations in Europe and in spite of the war not being over. These were sent actually to China as a part of relief operations and the situation today is that more funds are needed. Already some of the major participating countries have allotted a considerable amount of money as additional contribution to the UNRRA for this purpose. For example the United States has allotted an additional sum of 1,350 million dollars for this year's contribution and this roughly will come to about 400 crores of rupees. The United Kingdom has allotted 302.25 million dollars for this year's additional contribution and that comes roughly to a little over 90 crores of rupees. Canada has already allotted 69.3 million dollars for this purpose and that comes to about 20 crores of rupees. These have been the additional contributions of these countries so far as the present year's operations are concerned.

A question may be asked as to the difficult position in India; I might say that the UNRRA does not want any part of our food from India or any part of the food which India is receiving from any of the countries from which food is coming. These relief operations consist in terms of food, clothing, rehabilitation, reconstruction and a thousand other small matters, all that they want is additional funds for the purpose of helping them in their work. So far as India is concerned UNRRA requires particularly jute, tea and such other commodities as we can spare. I may say in this connection that they have been very helpful to us in every way and they have never for a moment tried to create any difficulty even on the ground that we promised something which we could not give subsequently. As we are well aware

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we promised a certain amount of groundnuts. The moment the Indian food situation deteriorated we said we could not send our ground-nuts but they said we could substitute it by jute, that shows as to what extent they themselves realised the difficulties of the Indian situation.

I should like to take this opportunity to mention what was reported in some sections of the press about what was alleged to have been said by Mr. Guardia, viz. that the promised wheat shipments to India might be diverted to the UNRRA. I am authorised to say that Mr. La Guardia never made that statement. On the other hand the whole of the UNRRA organisation in the United States has been trying their level best to create public opinion in favour of more sacrifices not merely for Europe and China but also for India to enable us to get our food allocation. The President of UNRRA made it quite clear that they have never asked for anything whatsoever to be taken from India's quota or from the share which she is entitled to. There the UNRRA is well aware of the food situation in India and they have all along made special efforts in America to see that the supplying countries from which food will have to come out do help not only the UNRRA but also the other countries where the need for food is as great as ours. These two things are being simultaneously publicised by the UNRRA organisation and to that extent American public opinion is created for more sacrifice and for sparing more food.

So far as India is concerned I might say that in spite of our difficulties India's generous contribution has greatly assisted the relief work of the UNRRA organisation and the reports that we have got show to what extent this relief has helped the organisation. I hope there will be no confusion between the two issues, namely India's need for more food and UNRRA's need for more money. Because UNRRA has asked for money, India's case for food should not be brought in. The question should be decided whether in the circumstances of the case we ought to pay the amount which has been asked for by the UNRRA. I will show to what extent the propaganda of UNRRA has been of great value so far as the food position in India is concerned. I shall quote from what appeared in an Indian paper a few days ago. Mr. Hendrickson said :

"Today's situation in India is even more tragic. Unless India can obtain 4 million tons of cereals, which it must have, from 5 to 15 million people will lose their lives in the months lying ahead. It is a mathematical certainty that without grain from the Western hemisphere more people will perish in India in 1946 than died in the Bengal famine. The very lives of scores of millions of men, women and children in the Far East depend utterly on the actions by the Food exporting countries in the Western hemisphere. In China, Indo-China, the Phillipines, the Dutch East Indies and India famine is no longer a spectre : it has arrived. Although the UNRRA is not empowered to provide physical assistance to the people of India it is taking every possible opportunity to emphasise during the critical time of global food shortages that every human effort must be exercised by the more fortunate food producing countries to make available sufficient food not only to the UNRRA for those countries dependent upon its aid but also to all other nations as well which must import food at this time in order that mass starvation may be averted."

I want to draw the special attention of this House to the fact that in the matter of food for India the UNRRA has rendered a great assistance and I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude all the work that they have done in the way of publicising this in America. I feel that the reason why I have to bring this motion at the far end of the session is that having joined an international organisation, and a decision having been made by that international organisation that extra grants should be made, it should not be for the executive government to say one thing or the other without bringing it before the legislature for the final decision in the matter. It is for this reason that I have brought it. I do not want to enter into the issue of the Combined Food Board and the UNRRA and the relation between the two. I have tried to show the reasons why in the midst of the present difficult situation in India it is absolutely essential that the American public should be with us in order that the food allocation which has to come to India might be facilitated and no difficulty might be created. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I cannot congratulate the Government of India on the occasion which they have taken to bring this motion before the House nor my Honourable friend for the manner in which he has sponsored it. So far as the Finance Member is concerned it is quite clear to me that he has done his duty by

his colleague in bringing it up and permitting him to play his own part on the floor of the House. But I suspect he was lukewarm without the same degree of zeal or enthusiasm which has characterized the outburst, if I may say so, from the Honourable the Commerce Member. Sir, I plead for a postponement of the consideration of this question till the next session and I will give a few reasons why it would be in the highest interests of this country to do so. This country has never turned down the call of charity from any quarter in the world, but it must consider its own financial and other position before it promises and rushes into payment of sums which I shall demonstrate are unduly large for it to bear. It is with a view that we may not turn down the call of charity that we should postpone its consideration till after four months when we will know the more acute requirements of famine and distress in our country and the dangerous position, as pointed out and painted by my Honourable friend the Commerce Member, from which this country is suffering in a more acute degree than any part of the world. After that period of danger, after four months when we meet again, having examined the position of this country generally we may respond to the call which is now being made. I feel that the sponsoring of this motion by the Honourable Member is premature and I will give the House several reasons for it. The first reason is that out of 47 countries which have joined the UNRRA only 31 have made the first payment. And only seven more have made or promised to make the second payment for which this country is being made ready. If there are 24 countries of this world who are members of the UNRRA whose sense of charity, obligation and responsibility to the distress and suffering of the world could not be inferior to that which is evinced by my friend, the Commerce Member, is it not right that this country, which is in the throes of a famine, which is in financial difficulties and which has got various other difficulties which I shall show, need not be among the very first who volunteer and promise, at the first call, to make a payment which is very heavy according to the resources of this country? Is it not right that we should wait instead of rushing in? Yet my Honourable friend has thought it proper to put it to the House at the tail end of the session without telling us what has happened to various constitutional and other issues in connection with the UNRRA to which I shall refer. My Honourable friend has thought it proper to bring it up now. I submit that this is very premature, that this matter could be held up without any harm to that very question which he dealt with, namely "what would America think?" The American people have got their own machinery of information. Even President Truman was recently mistaken with regard to the improvement in Indian harvest but the position was corrected by his faithful representative in this country, Mr. Merrell. They have got their own machinery of information. And what I most dislike in this country where the constitutional position is still in the balance is this pinch-beck diplomacy and statesmanship which the front Treasury Bench arrogate to themselves,—“If India does this her interest will be prejudiced in this direction; if India does that her interest will be prejudiced in this other direction” and so on. Let us think of the actual position here. Before we put our hands in our pocket for such a large sum as my Honourable friend is proposing to give away now at a moment which is so singularly inappropriate, in the Standing Finance Committee unanimously we had this feeling that it would not be right this year to make this heavy contribution. I think I had also the support of my friend Mr. Tyson that it would not be very appropriate this year, at all events till we pass through the famine period. Until we get through the more acute distress and anxiety which is overshadowing all our thoughts at the present moment, it would not be right to bring this question or to offer to make payment. We have to consider this in a proper perspective. When my Honourable friend spoke—and I have read through his speech when it was done before in 1944—and when he grew eloquent over the dangers of the world and the call to India to be charitable and to relieve distress, he mentioned to us that there was going to be a once-for-all payment, namely, eight crores of rupees. This House may remember the tiff I had with the late Finance Member when I accused him of being in a hurry to pay out from this country and not being agile to collect the claims of this country from other people. I said he was in a hurry to pay Rs. 8 crores to UNRRA. But he promptly stood up and accused me of misrepresenting him, fully knowing what that was. He had debited in the detailed account Rs. 2,70,00,000 for that particular year and it was intended

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that these Rs. 8 crores should cover a period of three years. That was the understanding before this House and yet it is marvellous that the sum has not only been exhausted but the Government of India come to this House and do not explain that this once-for-all payment has faded and say that more money is wanted, that though the payment would last for three years it has to be increased by a further sum of Rs. 4 crores.

Let us consider what eight crores is. Eight crores of rupees is almost the equivalent of the total yield of the salt tax which we want to be removed and in which we took great effort for reduction. My Honourable friend the Finance Member gave relief in taxes which delighted many parts of the House, and the total amount of that relief slightly exceeded 5 crores of rupees.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : In indirect taxes.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The total fresh reduction which my Honourable friend made in indirect taxes. Does that satisfy my Honourable friend's point of accuracy? This relief which delighted several parts of the House slightly exceeded 5 crores of rupees. Let us look at these things in their proper perspective. Four crores is almost the equivalent of what my Honourable friend gave by way of relief which delighted the people of this country. Is this a sum which we can lightly give away for the sufferings of other people? If the appeal is made to the sense of charity and humanity, as I say, the poor are always charitable. The House will remember the parable, which I acknowledge as coming from Islamic sources, in which it is said that one Emperor could not live with another Emperor in the same palace—only one Emperor could live there—but in the little hut of the fakir any number of guests could be accommodated and they were welcome. This, Sir, is the tradition of charity in this country and if my Honourable friend is appealing to that, I say that we shall not be found wanting. Were we found wanting in relief to refugees from Czechoslovakia and Poland? Did we not welcome them, give shelter to them? Did not this Government go far beyond its duties and did not this Government requisition the very best residential houses in Bombay and Calcutta for these refugees? Sir, in Bangalore each Czecho-Slovakian family was paid Rs 500 every month as relief throughout the period of the war. Did we not give relief to Europeans who came from Singapore and other places and did we not give them employment in this country? Did not this Government run a special Bureau for their relief and employment? Nobody will accuse this country of lacking in a sense of charity and humanity. Why, this country is so charitable and so human that it keeps on even this front benchers of the Government with whom it is not fully satisfied. And if they show some slight courtesy to us, how quickly we are willing and able to drop the curtain over the past? Nobody can accuse this country for not having a sense of charity and humanity. But let us take these things in proper perspective. Let us realise what a sum of Rs. 4 crores means to this country. My Honourable friend has tried to compare the United Kingdom contribution and the contribution of the United States—a rich man can put his hands in his pocket and throw a ten-rupee note down and forget all about it. Is that the position of the poor man? This Government ought not to misrepresent by trying to go with the rich in all these rich organisations. Nobody is making a mistake about the penury and the struggle and the disease and poverty—these very enemies which the Finance Member related to us, with which he and we were jointly going to fight. Is this the way of fighting these very enemies of penury and poverty? Is this the way by which we expect to overcome those troubles, namely, part with the substances worth Rs. 4 crores more? Why, the Honourable Commerce Member mentioned the large amount which the United Kingdom Government parts with for this purpose. May I read to this House an extract from the writings of a very eminent man who is a member of parliament? He is Sir Stanley Reed, a member of parliament and late editor of the *Times of India*. He is saying this, mind you, with regard to the richest country in the world as to its outlook on the UNRRA issue, the richest country in the world whose example my Honourable friend quoted without a flicker of his eye-lid: he thought he was making a very great point when he said that America has given 400 crores and England is giving 90 crores and why

do we not give away 4 crores ? I am sorry my mathematician friend is not here ; he would immediately put down that on that scale on which my Honourable friend mentioned, the contribution of this country may be 4 lakhs, and not 4 crores. Sir Stanley Reed says :

“ We are contributing between 80 and 90 millions yearly to the UNRRA, much of which goes to Yugoslavia and more is earmarked for Poland. Here is the brutal fact that these countries are living materially on our own sacrifices ; for whether we contribute in food or in goods, it exacerbates our own greatest needs. These countries are not even grateful for what they are getting ; they are showering the most bitter abuse of Britain and the commonwealth and the empire.”

The principal ground on which he throws very grave doubt on the desirability of continuing this sacrifice on the part of the British Government and the British people is that “ it is at the sacrifice of our own needs : that it is our own acutest needs that are thereby exacerbated and we ought not to continue this in the same manner as we have done in the past.

Now, this question of relative suffering and sacrifice has to be gone into before we come to any relevant or definite conclusions on this issue. During the war period when the UNRRA was instituted, it is true that there was a wave of feeling and sympathy towards those who had been over-run and whose rehabilitation,—immediate and human rehabilitation—was the object which excited all round sympathy and pity, and which in India in spite of Indian difficulties evoked a response which Government got to the extent of 8 crores of rupees. But the passage of time has disclosed something new, something unexpected. What is new and unexpected is this : is the suffering really as great in the countries which are mentioned are being overrun by the war or is it greater in certain other countries like India ? Is the suffering in countries which have lost in the war greater or is it greater in the countries which are supposed to have won the war ? England is one of those countries which has won the war, and I read out to you a representative opinion of a British Member of Parliament which throws very grave doubt on the desirability and the wisdom of continuing this contribution and this burden. Let us take the other position. India is put down as a victor and in the flush of this victory a burden is thrown on us of a complete military, naval and air unit which will occupy Japan on our behalf and whose burden will be thrown on the finances of India. This is something against which we have protested ; but these are some of the curious extravagances which have arisen in this Government's activities with regard to defence and with which I cannot reconcile myself. Here we are offering 4 crores for this relief ; here we are pretending that we have won the war and we have an army of occupation in Japan—I wonder why they did not suggest an Indian army of occupation in Germany—that is what I have still to find out ; but we have an army of occupation in Japan ; and we are going to make 4 crores contribution for the relief of Czecho-Slovakia and Poland and so on ; and in the meanwhile nearer at home we have this difficulty with regard to our own population.

My Honourable friend referred to the question of my friend, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang's amendment which was passed last time. By that amendment it was said that India would be made eligible for relief from the UNRRA ; and that was accepted by the Government ; and Government promised that they would send it up, and my Honourable friend just said that it had been passed. And yet, I have from the Deputy Director of UNRRA, Mr. Hendrickson, from whose recent statement my Honourable friend quoted, I have it from him that this country is technically not eligible. I have still further an appeal from that noble lady from America Miss Pearl Buck, an appeal from her to the UNRRA that in spite of the fact that India is not eligible for relief from the UNRRA, will not the UNRRA stretch a point and will they not do some servicing for India, which implies that servicing from other sources and by our Government's efforts were inadequate and unsatisfactory ? If this is the appeal made by a well-wisher of India and of general humanity in the world, that India should still be made eligible for this relief at the hands of UNRRA, then what is my friend's claim that the rider which was sent from this country and which would have made this country eligible for relief—what is that claim, I do not understand. I have failed to understand the claim my friend has made, and I rely upon the more recent statements, both of

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Mr. Hendrickson, the Deputy Director of UNRRA, and of Miss Pearl Buck, who should know what they are talking about. I rely on the statement of Mr. Sen, the Food Secretary who told us repeatedly in this House, when we complained during the most acute famine in Bengal, not only food but medicines could not be sent to this country by the UNRRA, because India was not eligible. Medicines were sent to Greece; food was sent to Greece; Indian coal was sent to Greece; but we are not eligible even for medicines to save human life. It is not a question of value; we would have easily and readily paid for those medicines. It is a question of availability. The UNRRA did this because we were through the incompetence of this Government technically ineligible for this relief and why were we not? It has been suggested—I leave it to the Treasury Benches to refute it in whatever way they like, that this Government thought, for their own purposes, that UNRRA was administered by Americans and relief by UNRRA would bring us in direct touch with the Americans. It was for that reason that this Government chose deliberately that India should not be technically eligible for relief from UNRRA.

Sir, I do not want to raise controversial issues about this. I have not the slightest doubt that it is a noble institution. It has done noble work elsewhere and it will do noble work still in China. I will make one more appeal to the UNRRA through this Government because my Honourable friend brought a message from Mr. La Guardia that this inhuman suggestion reported to have been made by La Guardia had never been made. I am very glad about it, because I am saved the need of the harsh words which I would have used. Mr. La Guardia is one of the most famous men on earth. He is the most famous talker on broadcasting in the United States and as Mayor of New York he is a much talked of figure, almost as popular in America as Mr. Churchill is in the United Kingdom and when he was appointed to the UNRRA I was frightened whether the overwhelming prestige of this one individual will not to some extent queer the pitch for India, because from the Food Board, it was repeatedly told to us there were two competitors, namely UNRRA for the European countries and India went there for the Indian famine. The whole propaganda machinery of the United States was in favour of the American machinery which was working for relief of humanity through the UNRRA. The Americans had also paid the biggest sum. Therefore naturally it was the American bias in favour of what their own men were doing, accepting facts as they were stated by their own men. My fears have been fully realised, because notwithstanding the full efforts for which my friend the Leader of the House may claim credit, notwithstanding the full effort about which we were told by the Food Secretary at a press conference at Allahabad where Sir Akbar Hydari was also present, that figure of 10 million ton deficit in India was whittled down to a smaller demand and we got still smaller fraction of that smaller demand in the ultimate relief which we got. In other words, this UNRRA organisation is influential. Take the issue of the Argentine. Here the UNRRA through its organisations can reach quickly, can reach the shipping board and the shipping ministry of the United States and the committee can work quickly and I still see that there is a point in the appeal made by Miss Pearl Buck that in spite of the technical ineligibility of India for relief from the UNRRA, its organisation should be permitted to come to the relief in India. Will not this Government still, even at this stage, before the famine becomes acute, take this up and will they not come up with regard to the efficient relief which is wanted? It is not a token payment of a few lakhs which is involved. This large payment which we are called upon to make is something which it is not right and wise to decide at this moment. Why is it not right? Let me mention to you that because of the famine our exports have fallen. We are importing an enormous amount from outside, including food. Our balance of trade is entirely against us this year and it will continue to be so for the next two years. When the balance of trade is against you, we are carrying a heavy deficit in the budget this year, a very heavy deficit which is not a suitable deficit for a peace year. We are going on the theories of new finance by which the budget need not be balanced so long as you come out right at the end of five years but supposing you come out wrong at the end of five years, where will you be? After all there are certain considerations which have to be taken into account and amongst those considerations is one which indicates the desirability

of keeping down the gap between your revenue and expenditure as low as possible and not doing anything deliberately to increase that gap. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend mentioned that it is only in the form of commodities. They only take 10 per cent like this. Has he mentioned to us the commodities which they took last time. He mentioned groundnuts. Now, the question of commodities is like this. Food and clothing we need for ourselves. Other commodities we also need for barter agreements with countries from which we can get food. We need other commodities. We need dollars for certain purposes. This is the time when the whole situation has to be examined. You cannot lightly put it like the Nawab who said—"if there is famine, why don't they eat butter and sugar if there is no grain." We do not want this Government to bring proposals to us which are indigested, which clearly have not been examined from the full point of view, from the point of view of all the factors which are involved here and we feel that this is not the time or the manner in which this particular matter should be brought before us.

I was saying that I am very glad that my friend brought this message from La Guardia with whom he claims direct relation. If he had not brought it, I do not know in what terms I would have characterised the UNRRA and its chief. I am very glad that that misunderstanding has been avoided by the timely contradiction which has been given to me but here is a practical issue and point. Will my Honourable friend undertake to compel the UNRRA or to persuade it in any other way to secure this 12 thousand tons. The Honourable Food Secretary has informed us that 12 thousand tons of food material which was a surplus to the American army in this country has been acquired by the UNRRA. It has been acquired by the UNRRA in virtue of the priority rights of the U. S. Government as to who should get the surplus, in what order and so on. The UNRRA is the absolute master of the 12 thousand tons of food material which was in the possession of the American army in India and which is a surplus. Now, is it or is it not a relevant question when we are considering this issue of giving 4 crores of rupees to this organisation whether we may not request the UNRRA to give this 12 thousand tons to us as a reserve provision in those provinces where famine has threatened to be used in order to save human lives if the occasion came. May I ask whether my Honourable friend or any other of my Honourable friends sitting on these Treasury Benches has even thought of doing this.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : May I ask whether my Honourable friend knows what is the nature of this 12 thousand tons of food ?

Mr. Manu Subedar : Yes. I acknowledge that my Honourable friend the Leader of the House is always an extremely clever debator and lawyer. I know that. Now my suggestion is this. I agree that this is food which is suitable for the higher classes, suitable for certain persons with certain tastes and certain types. I quite agree but if all this was put down in the province of Madras and Bombay where famine is threatening, it would go to the superior classes in Bombay and Madras, who would consume this food and to that extent they would release food for the consumption of the poor man. Is not my Honourable friend aware that owing to the appeal made by Government, in many restaurants, while serving European food, the use of rice is interdicted. Does he not know that this adjustment, this substitution in food is constantly taking place. You increase the supply of one kind of food and those who prefer it will take it up and to that extent they will release for the consumption of the poor and for the consumption of the masses that which they would otherwise consume.

4 P.M.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan : (Meerut Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Will they ?

Mr. Manu Subedar : I think if a man has eaten some delicacy from a tin coming from America, I do not think he would have any room left for something else, which must then go to the poor.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan : For some other delicacy.

Mr. Manu Subedar : In fact my Honourable friend is supporting me in the suggestion I make. I admit, Sir, that ours is a desperate position. Owing unfortunately to the failure of this Government to receive from the Food Board all that they asked for, we are in this desperate position in which we must strive to

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catch every little thing. I do hold out on the issue of U.N.R.R.A. I do hold out that here is 12,000 tons of food which can serve as a nucleus and reserve and it can serve to help the release of that class of food which will save human lives. Will they not do it? Will not my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches make proper approach? I do not want to be nasty in my remarks, I appeal to them, in the same words of common humanity which the Honourable the Commerce Member used to try to rouse our sympathy and support for suffering humanity elsewhere in the world, I am trying to arouse sympathy and support of the Treasury Benches for suffering humanity here under their very nose in this country who are their direct responsibility and will they not do it? Sir, in my opinion the position will be clear after a few months. Within a few months we shall have to find out which of the 24 countries which have not yet given or promised a second contribution, which of them will come in for more contribution. If all of them come in, then we are not the defaulters. We do not want to default on a case of charity above all. I entirely agree. Where is the harm? Will anybody tell me, Sir, what is the loss if a few months are passing in the operations of U.N.R.R.A. re-counted for by my Honourable friend. This sum is going to be flea bite. He mentioned 400 crores contribution by U. S. A. A rich country like U. S. A., if it is a question of charity it can put its hands into the pocket and produce another 200 crores. Nothing is lost if we wait for another four months, particularly if we watch the progress of this danger which is hanging over our heads, namely, famine. We shall probably need every rupee that we have got, we shall probably need most of the commodities that we have got. We shall need most of the shipping. U.N.R.R.A. cannot take anything from this country except in ships. We do not want to use those ships for U.N.R.R.A. transport. We want to use these ships for some other urgent transport for our own purposes. There are numerous considerations and nothing will be lost, in my opinion, if we waited for a few months in order to determine where we shall be.

Sir, I heard the Honourable the Commerce Member with some attention, the last thing I was told is, 'do not do anything which will make the problem of procuring food for this country more difficult than it is'. I think that is an appeal which is entirely all right. I think we are on common ground on that. We have no desire to do any such thing. It is because we have no such desire that I am deliberately suggesting that the discussion of this issue may be postponed till the beginning of the next term of the Assembly. Then, Sir, we shall be able to take a decision on this issue in its proper context and only emphasising those points which are relevant and proper to do. Today it is impossible for us to go away from the shadow of a great calamity which is hanging over this country of famine, and it is impossible for us to ignore that this issue has more facets to it than they are, and I certainly appeal to the Treasury Benches once again and impress upon them that America is a country which when it wants to know anything will know all the facts, you will not be able to throw dust in their eyes, you will not be able to mislead them on the real position and the real feelings which exist towards them or towards U.N.R.R.A. or towards any other organisation of the world. They are well informed people. They have got their own means of getting correct information. In my dealing with America, I should not like to be diplomatic, I should not like to be clever, I would rather lay all the cards on the table. I honestly feel that we would attract more sympathy, more attention in America and more consideration for our real plight, if we inform them of our plight, if we inform them of the delicate situation in which this country finds itself with regard to shortage of grain and with regard to the impending famine, with regard to water famine in certain parts of the country. I think we would draw their sympathy and attention and their consideration a lot more if we place all the cards on the table and if we then pleaded that for these reasons we are postponing the consideration of this issue till the following sessions of the Assembly. Sir, if that is not done we will be thrown to the necessity of opposing this grant and I want to know if that is the reason which the Honourable the Commerce Member said. He said, let us give this last blow to this opposition.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Asizul Huque : I am sorry my Honourable friend is entirely misrepresenting. A motive like the one suggested has never been behind my mind.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Well, if that is not the motive, why does not my Honourable friend accept an appeal from me to postpone the consideration of this Motion till the next session. What is lost ? We shall be the givers of gifts in spite of our poverty. The U.N.R.R.A. will be the recipient of the gift. It is only a question of four months more, those very critical four months during which we have got the shadow of a great calamity hanging over us. It is because of the reluctance on the part of the Government Benches to accept a measure so simple and so universally acceptable which has been put forward that I say that it may be, if the cap does not fit my Honourable friend, he may say, no, it may be that the Government intends, "let us give the last blow to these men of the Opposition, let us show them up to America as impossible people, who do not realise the position of India in the context of the world". But is that a monopoly given to my Honourable friends on the other side. "Let us expose these people of the Opposition as irresponsible, otherwise inconside rate and also uncharitable". Sir, if that is the intention, I am sure the Government will fail miserably in their intention because I am sure U. S. A., the U.N.R.R.A. and all these organisations which are working are not working without their own means to get correct and proper information. Whatever attempts may have been made by propoganda which was carried on in U. S. A. during the war through the machinery of Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai or the machinery of the British Embassy or any other machinery, whatever efforts Mr. Churchill may have made to influence Mr. Roosevelt on the issue of India, Sir, was there a time at which America was not properly informed as to what is what. Sir, the disclosures of the Phillips report indicated very clearly that at all material times, America had the fullest information.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division : Muhammadan Rural) : That is denied by the U. S. A. Government Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar : That may be a face saving device. In any case, I have reason to believe that Americans have a machinery for getting correct information and they have proper means of knowing what is what. I am not afraid of being misunderstood in America, or in any particular quarter when I urge in the common interest of this country and in the name of common humanity of the population of this country that the discussion on this particular motion may be postponed to the next session and that in the next session, after we have been through the worst that may occur, after we have known the extent to which it is necessary for us to husband our resources we may even go further than the sum of four crores. Or we may on the merits of the case at that time come to a decision that we may not be able to give 4 crores. But in the present context and the present atmosphere we are bound to be influenced by what is there, by the fact that this Government undertook to this House that this was a once-for-all payment. This Government undertook that India will be eligible and they have failed to make it eligible. We are also influenced by the fact that there are constitutional discussions going on which will probably make a very serious difference. I think in view of all these relevant and proper factors it would not be wrong for me to urge that the discussion on this motion should be postponed till the beginning of the next session.

Sir, my Honourable friend referred to the question of commodities. If these commodities are useful and in demand by other countries which are in distress, if they are genuinely surplus to us it may be accepted that these very commodities are marketable and that they are in demand by countries which have got something to give us that we want. Should we use these commodities for our own purposes or should we use them as free gifts ? My Honourable friend is not satisfied what particular commodities UNRRA is wanting which he has after examination declared are a definite and final surplus. He has not mentioned all this. May I not ask which are the commodities which are coming into question ? What is the list that my Honourable friend has received from the UNRRA ? In what manner has he determined the surplus ? Even this morning he mentioned that he determines the surplus from estimates that are received and that he does not modify the estimates later on in the light of what may be occurring in the markets or of later reports. He does not want to consult the Chambers of Commerce on the question of surpluses. These, Sir, are issues which do worry some of us on this side. It may

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be that we have not got these fuller reports and fuller opportunities which my Honourable friends on the other side have got. As I said to a friend of mine the other day, there are 14 Members and 40 Secretaries, and he could not expect any individual Member on this side to be equal to them in dealing with any particular issue. What I feel is this. My Honourable friend has got a surplus of these commodities which he thinks will go out to the U.N.R.R.A and whose removal from this country will not hurt us in the use of these commodities in the acquisition of dollars therefor to exchange for food from other countries who may not want it. Also there is question of shipping space which is going to be used to carry away the U.N.R.R.A. goods from this country. Shipping should be conserved for things directly useful to India. In view of all this I advocate that the consideration of this motion be postponed till the beginning of the next session and no final decision should be reached today.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : Sir, we have every sympathy with this U.N.R.R.A. organisation and that was clear from the speech of my Honourable friend who spoke just now, and previous debates will also prove this. There is no doubt that the purpose of this international organisation is noble and as Mr. Manu Subedar just said, we have never turned down calls on our charity. But he proposes postponement while on our side we proposed a reduction. We thought we could give half the amount as there was some sort of commitment and we should not back out of it. Our party's amendment has not been allowed to be moved, and we find it difficult to agree to the payment of the entire amount of 4 orores. Charity must begin at home and just now we are faced with the prospect of a famine and we must muster all our resources to meet that situation. That being the position, we thought we could give only half the amount for the rehabilitation of other countries and with regard to the balance we could consider it later on. Our position has been made difficult by our amendment not being admitted by the House.

Another point brought out by Mr. Manu Subedar requires a little elucidation by Government, i.e., whether the demand from the U.N.R.R.A. in the Food Board was a rival demand as against the demand of Indian delegation at the Food Board and that we could have got more if there had not been this rivalry. By contributing to the fund last year we thought we were entitled to as much sympathy as other countries, but if there has been discrimination, as alleged by the last speaker, the position becomes complicated for us.

Then again with regard to the 12,000 tons of tinned food which this organisation is taking over from the U. S. A., the Leader of the House said that Mr. Manu Subedar did not know what kind of food it was. He probably meant that it was not to be used by people in this country who would be affected by famine or it could not be used as a substitute for food to which Indians generally are accustomed. But it may also be that there are people in India who would like tinned food and they can spare other kinds of food for those who may not like this. My personal feeling is that if that food were made available to us it would surely ease the situation to some extent,—to what extent I cannot say because I have no idea of the varieties of tinned food that they have got to which reference has been made.

As we have said, there is no doubt that this international organisation requires the support of all and perhaps even the group to which Mr. Manu Subedar belongs is not opposed to it. He asks for postponement; we wanted to postpone only half the amount so that we might bring to the world's notice that though we are ourselves faced with an acute situation we are not slow in giving charity to others. We could also tell our constituencies that at a time when we required all our resources for our own use we have not been philanthropic and reduced the amount of charity which could not have been postponed or delayed without loss of prestige of this country. Of course we could deny any sanction if we thought that we would not get reciprocal aid from that organisation. That is the important point which I wanted to make. The Honourable the Commerce Member referred to the contribution of the United States of America and the United Kingdom. It is no secret that the financial position of America can not be compared to the financial position of

this country. The United Kingdom has suffered a considerable amount of destruction during the last great war and probably she required huge finances for her rehabilitation, but in view of her great resources and her capacity she has probably thought that it would be in the fitness of things to contribute to U.N.R.R.A. 90 crores of rupees. But the point is, Sir, whether the United Kingdom is going to take any advantage in return for this contribution? For her rehabilitation the United Kingdom may get 200 crores or even more from U.N.R.R.A. That point cannot be ignored. Whereas in our case so far we have not taken any advantage at all. Of course we may not have faced the same acute situation as it exists in Europe, but certainly our position has also been serious. In this connection, Sir, I would only refer the House to the discussion which took place in this House in November 1944 on the adjournment motion in connection with the Bengal Famine when the Government was asked to state whether it was a fact or not that no help was received from U.N.R.R.A., and the Honourable Member replied that application was not made in time.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Application was not made because we were not eligible. That was the statement made by the Government.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : Later on in another debate the Honourable Member said that we were eligible....

Mr. Manu Subedar : I have got two recent quotations.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman :but today my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar says that we are still not eligible for any help which this international organisation is capable of giving. We have got to think seriously whether, by giving charity to others if we are reduced to a position where we need help whether we are eligible for it. Or, are we to be told that we are not eligible for any help? I am not suggesting that we should not be a party to this organisation but we have got to make sure that we will be entitled to the same treatment which is meted out to other member bodies, and that we are also considered eligible for all those things which some of those countries which have suffered during the last war are now getting from this Administration. It cannot be the ambition of any country to reduce itself to a position where she would have to go to U.N.R.R.A. for help, but if it unfortunately so happens, she should not be told at that time that she is not eligible although she has been making contributions according to her capacity. That is a very important point on which this House is anxious to know the views of Government.

Then, Sir, the House would like to know whether U.N.R.R.A. helped us in getting a bigger quota of food. The Honourable the Commerce Member paid a tribute to that Organisation and said that they did help us in securing food from the Combined Food Board.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I said that the Indian food situation is a matter which ought to be very widely known in America. In order to make America sacrifice a part of the surplus which they have, and public opinion being what it is, it is very necessary that everybody should know our needs. In that respect the U.N.R.R.A. authorities have not only supported the case of European countries but they also very strongly supported the case of India with regard to food.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : On the other hand, my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, has said that they pleaded the cause of European countries, and they were rivals to the demands of this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar : We were definitely assured by the Honourable the Food Secretary over and over again that we could not go to the U.N.R.R.A. as U.N.R.R.A. itself is going to the Food Board for its own supplies and in that sense the U.N.R.R.A. was certainly a rival to the demands of this country. I admit that the demand had certainly grown up on account of the food situation, but the famine situation having arisen it was against the pleading of the U.N.R.R.A. on one side that India had to plead. I am very glad the Honourable the Leader of the House used his great

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talents towards that purpose, but I am disappointed that he did not come back with the very lowest minimum which we had estimated. He did not get it and he did not get it because U.N.R.R.A. was the rival.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It seems in the early stages U.N.R.R.A. was India's rival, but in the later stages, according to the Honourable the Commerce Member, she has been pleading for us also, and included our demand in her list as well. I do not wish to pursue this point any further.

We are prepared to support half the amount namely Rs. 2,00,00,000 immediately, if we are allowed to move an amendment to that effect. In that case we will not ask for postponement. But if that is not accepted and we are asked to either sanction the whole amount, *i.e.*, four crores, or refuse the grant, I can say that we find it difficult to agree to four crores of rupees for which this demand for supplementary grant has been made.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal European): Although I must confess that when I saw this demand for a supplementary grant come before the House, and I recollected what had taken place in the Standing Finance Committee, I had not in fact intended to intervene in this debate until my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, mentioned my name in connection with the view which the Standing Finance Committee took about this particular supplementary grant. I entirely associate myself with the view of the Standing Finance Committee, and I think that the way in which this matter has been brought before this House shows a considerable lack of co-ordination of Government action and, if I may say so, of Government utterances as well. The manner in which this transaction is sought to be dealt with is, in my view, unsatisfactory, and I will put it at no higher or lower level. I did not hear all of the Honourable the Commerce Member's speech, but what I did hear led me to doubt whether he had consulted his colleague the Honourable the Finance Member or whether he had in fact consulted the records of the Standing Finance Committee. That Committee was unanimous, Sir, in the view which it took about this supplementary grant for U.N.R.R.A. It was unanimous because we felt, after some examination of the matter—not a cursory examination, because we had a responsible official of Government before us—that the case that was put forward and what was asked of India was untenable in the context of an India, which is on the verge of a famine and in any case she has a large number of economic needs that remain unsatisfied. From my point of view, it was all the less acceptable because of some of the commodities mentioned by the Honourable the Commerce Member. In that part of his speech which I did hear, they were to come from the United Kingdom's quota for the purpose, and it seemed to me that however high-minded Britain's sacrifice in this matter was, it was a little illogical to ask that a lot of these things should go, as I understand from the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, to a country which is notoriously inefficient in the distribution of commodities and foodstuffs which it receives for the relief of the poor. In these circumstances I was not then prepared to agree to the supplementary grant and if the matter is put to the vote of this House, I shall not, speaking as an individual and not on behalf of my group, be prepared to agree to it now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. Deputy President, I am wholeheartedly in sympathy with the ideal for which this UNRRA has been brought into existence. There was a time when the conquerors used to simply destroy and exterminate all the conquered people. Later on they used to turn them into slaves. Afterwards they used to keep them as serfs and recently, after the last war, they used to leave the conquered to their own fate and to shift for themselves without raising their little finger in order to protect them from the incidents of consequential famine and pestilence that followed a devastating war like the present one.

This UNRRA anyhow does not wish to countenance such bestial ideals of the past. It stands for the principle that once the war is over all the vanquished and

the defeated are in a helpless condition. The victors should recognise their duty to come to the rescue to save them from famine and pestilence, help them to get through their harsh times, feed them and clothe them and help them in every way to rehabilitate and reconstruct themselves and thus bring them back to order and civilized humanity. This is a principle which I certainly accept and I welcome, and I am sure this country, too, has welcomed it, and that was why this Assembly, or the previous Assembly, had accepted the idea of UNRRA and also had granted the initial funds that were asked for by the Government. But my complaint is that the authorities, or the Government or the peoples who are behind this UNRRA, who were the sponsors of this organization, are not trying to do what they ought to, to all the vanquished and to all the defeated peoples. They are making distinction between one people and another, between one country and another, even among all these defeated peoples.

Not so long ago, we read from responsible American officers' statements about the callous manner in which they turned a deaf ear to the appeals being made by millions of Japanese in Japan for clothing and for food and they even had gone to the extent of saying, Americans anyhow would not be so chicken-hearted or soft-hearted to place these things at the disposal of these people, their erstwhile enemies and thus help to resuscitate them in order to repeat another havoc. I tried to give notice in connection with that and wanted to know whether the Government would protest against such statements to the United States of America. At that time the question was not allowed and therefore it could not be raised on the floor of the House on that occasion. Look at the solicitude that Anglo-Americans and other nations, who happen to be the victors have been showing towards the fallen people of Europe, and compare it with the apathy and callousness that they are displaying towards the Japanese. Does this not show that the very sponsors of the UNRRA are not really very keen in implementing the principles and the practice of UNRRA as between peoples of different countries and continents and colours. Therefore, Sir, I fear, that even now after having brought it into existence, these victors have not learnt the lessons of humanity as one would have expected them to do.

Yet I see some change. Soon after the last war I happened to be in England and various countries in Europe and I know how much the Germans and the Russians were suffering. They suffered so terribly that in several parts of Russia there was cannibalism and little children were sold away into slavery in return for a few morsels of food. Yet England kept up an economic boycott against Russia. So did America, and it was left to those two great men and servants of humanity, Dr. Nansen and Mr. Hoover, to raise their voices of protest against the callousness of the rulers of America and England and they organized a relief organization. Dr. Nansen organised the "Save the Children Fund" and he had the wisdom to borrow a phrasean immortal phrase from that immortal poet of ours, Dr. Tagore—and put it on top of those placards appealing for funds: "Every child that is born brings the message from God that he has not lost hope in humanity". With that he collected funds. So did Hoover also in America. They transported food to Russia and tried to save as many hundreds of thousands of people as possible.

From those days, we have marched a long way, so far as time is concerned. It is more than 25 years and yet today what do we find? Again the same Mr. Hoover has raised his noble voice of humanity and philanthropy and has again gone to Europe to save those people. But these Governments do not seem to be very much wiser and that is why they are showing this distinction against Japan and I am here in my place to raise my voice of protest against this partial treatment that these white peoples are showing towards these coloured and vanquished people.

Well, Sir, India is ready to place her funds at the disposal of such a great organisation like this. But is it being worked properly even as an organisation? The *London Times* has complained that politics is not being kept out of the UNRRA. Soviet Russia is out of it. Why? Is it not equally the duty of Soviet Russia to think of fallen humanity? There must be some reason behind it, and the reason can be only this, that Soviet Russia wants to look after those portions of fallen humanity

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which have fallen to her own lot and wants to conserve all her resources and spare them only for those people and leave the others to their own resources or to the resources of the Anglo-American and other victors, because she may be feeling whoever helps any particular section of the people can certainly be expected to have a sort of lien on their gratitude and these people in the Balkans excepting Greece can be expected to be her allies in later times to come, whereas if she were to extend her resources or spare her resources for other peoples she may be throwing all those resources merely in the name of philanthropy and humanity and not for political purposes. Similarly the Anglo-Americans too may not be free from similar motives when they offer assistance to certain people and when they fail to offer similar assistance to certain other people. To China they are making great gifts. China needs them. Yet China also holds the promise of future benefits that can be derived by Great Britain as well as by America. When we come to India we stand to gain nothing at all in future. Therefore any sort of grant that goes from India, any sympathy that is expressed by India for the fallen peoples, any succour that India extends to those people who are in need of it is an unalloyed gift of humanity, generously made to those people entirely in the interests of humanity and not at all in any way coloured with the ideas of self-interest. Under those circumstances the quota that India can be expected to contribute must certainly be very much less than what the other victors can be expected to contribute.

But what is the quota that India can contribute? That is the point. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has already told us that the poorer the man the greater is his humanity. The poorer the man the greater generally is his generosity and under such circumstances is it not the duty of the Government which necessarily has got to take into consideration rupees, annas and pies, which must necessarily be thinking about these things in a commercial manner, to save the poor people in this country from their own generosity and try to check these people to that extent as to let only that much of contribution from India to go to the UNRRA as they can bear it? My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has already given sufficient facts to prove how India cannot really at this juncture spare all this money. I discussed this matter with a distinguished friend of mine in order to enlighten myself and he told me "After all four crores. What is it? India has got such a lot of it in London. Why not spare these 4 crores." I am not able to look at it in that way. I look at it in another way and that is what are the demands on India's finances that the present situation is making.

My Honourable friend the Leader of the House made an eloquent plea somewhere in America in which he said that there was the danger of India losing nearly 10 million people by starvation if this food famine was not properly controlled. If we were to try to save these 10 million people only for four months at Rs. 25 per month, the cost of their maintenance will come to 100 crores and in the budget there was no provision at all for this 100 crores. The Finance Member said that he was going to find it. He has got to find it. Are we to add these 2 crores to the 100 crores? 104 crores we have to spare to tackle this particular crises alone. Looked at that way these 4 crores make their evil financial impact upon one's mind and that is why we are anxious that this money should not be spared at this juncture, even though it is for such an excellent purpose.

Is this the first contribution that we have to make? Not so. This is a special contribution that we are asked to make. Why? Because this crisis in Europe and in other parts of the world has suddenly become more serious and therefore we are asked to make this special contribution. If the situation has become more serious in other countries, it has become ghastly here in this country. Already there are reports that streams of people are marching from rural Bengal into Calcutta city there to die like destitutes, to be thrown into hospitals afterwards to die there, because of hunger. Some people have been saying that famine threatens our country. No. Famine is already at our very doors. I come from the famine-stricken area of Andhra. There are five districts there and 50 lakhs of people are living there. Today they are absolutely in the midst of famine and every day I am flooded with reports. Several of my Honourable friends have been generous enough to contribute large

sums of money for the relief of those people. Famine is stalking the land here. It is not merely famine borne out of failure of the monsoon but on top of it there is superimposed the food famine. Is it right on the part of the Government at this juncture to come forward with this particular proposal that four crores more should be placed at the disposal of other nations which are suffering but not so badly as we are suffering. I know that in the Balkan countries there are poor people. I can visualise their poverty but their poverty is rich as compared to our poverty. In England they consider it beneath their dignity to think of going about without being properly shod. Here in South India the soles of our people have become so hardened and have broken into so many cracks merely because they could not afford to wear any chappals or shoes. When I think of the poverty ridden people of Europe I naturally have got to think of their comparative prosperity, or shall I say lower degree of poverty on their part when compared to our own greater degree of poverty. That is why I hesitate a little and I think I am justified in hesitating before I hasten to agree with my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque in his motion for four crores. We want help from outside. We want food to be imported into this country. We are also in need of the sympathies of other countries. Therefore my Honourable friend was certainly right in laying stress upon the fact that we should not lose the sympathies of other people. I agree with him. If our case were to be properly presented there as eloquently and even more eloquently than the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar has tried to present the other day, if our position is properly explained to them, that we are not opposed to this UNRRA, we are not inimical to its objects, we are not unwilling to place our funds at its disposal but we only want time, we cannot spare this money just at present. We shall spare all the funds that we can spare that the UNRRA in its wisdom can ask us to spare the moment that we are free from the present crisis in which we find ourselves. I do not think the Americans and other countries will be so foolish or narrow-minded or unwise as to find fault with us and refuse to export to our country the food that we want. I do not think they are so narrow-minded. If they were they would not have given this grant. They would not have given this allotment to us. If they were so narrow-minded the UNRRA would not continue to function a day longer. The UNRRA relies on the fact that those people certainly can be expected and are naturally more generous than they used to be at the end of the last war. Therefore let us not unnecessarily exercise our minds with this foolish thought, with this futile and indeed farfetched thought, that those people will be prejudiced against us and therefore let us place these four crores also at their disposal. One other thought comes to my mind. If only these people had cared to ask for 400 crores of rupees, this Government would have come forward and asked for the amount. That is the misery of this country. The gentlemen on that side are ready to stoop to or to step up with the demands that are made by other countries in the name of internationalism. The time has come when we must be self-confident about our own concept of internationalism. We are all internationalists. Let me recall what Tagore has given in his Gitanjali :

"Neither country nor race nor caste nor religion should blur my vision, should prevent me from stretching my hand in order to shake hands with all other people, of all other colours, of all other creeds, of all other countries and so on."

Such is the country from which we hail. And therefore it is not necessary that the idea of internationalism raised here on the bidding of other countries be our only standard here. To them internationalism must be having greater pull because nationalism is not. They must hang on to something or the other. They cannot hang on to nationalism because it will mean going to jails. They cannot join the company of those friends who have also taken to talk of revolution, who are contemplating the prospects of harsh treatment at the hands of governments-to-be. Therefore they must naturally grow eloquent about internationalism. I do not wish to go further into this greenish internationalism. That has no attraction for me. My internationalism is a robust and healthy one. It is a self-confident one. That springs and grows from out of my own nationalism, and as long as I am a self-confident nationalist in my own country and want to, can and do try to look after my own peoples, I need not be apologetic about this internationalism. With all sense of responsibility as an internationalist, as one who stands at all times side by

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side with every genuine internationalist all over the world, I recommend to the House to accept our suggestion that this Government should not press this demand now but on the other hand agree to our suggestion that it should be postponed to the next session.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : After having heard the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of the Commerce Department I just thought of revising my memory as to what happened in the Standing Finance Committee meeting on the 16th March 1946. Before that meeting the necessary memorandum was put up by the Department concerned, asking for a grant of Rs. 4 crores, and it is the same demand which is now being pressed here before this House. In the statement of the proposal and reasons that was submitted before the Standing Finance Committee the two points on which the demand was pressed were these: one was the humanitarian ground and the other was a somewhat mundane and a practical ground. Here are the words :

“ Apart from humanitarian grounds it is considered that India's willingness to help other countries in distress might prove helpful in obtaining a larger allocation of foodstuffs from the Combined Food Board.”

and then the statement goes on to say :

“ Only such material and commodities as are surplus to India's own requirements will be procured for UNRRA and out of the proposed contribution”

Now, in the Standing Finance Committee Government was well represented. There were members of the other parties including my honourable friend Mr. Tyson of the European Group. All the points were duly considered. It was not that we wanted to belittle what UNRRA has done in connection with countries invaded by the Axis Powers, but we considered, and what was really the relevant thing to be considered, our position both financial and with respect to the supply of commodities that we needed. After a good deal of deliberation and discussion the Standing Finance Committee, unanimously came to the conclusion that this demand should not be accepted. I shall read to the House what the Standing Committee has recorded :

“ The Committee recommended that the additional grant asked for should not be made in view of the present state of India's finances and the nature of her shortage of essential supplies.”

Now, on two grounds it has been rejected. The first ground is the present state of India's finances and the second the nature of her shortage of essential supplies. We now know our financial position and the Budget has been presented. The Finance Bill has been passed. As the Budget was presented originally it showed a deficit of 42 crores. After some concessions that were accepted by this House the deficit now comes to nearly 48 crores. In the new theory of finance it may not mean much. But the fact remains that our finances are not as they ought to be in comparison with other countries. Only on the 16th March 1946 in the very meeting of the Standing Finance Committee, the Committee granted nearly 9 crores to the province of Bengal to meet its obligation arising out of famine. We are not yet out of the famine that was in the year 1943, when another famine is already on. There we discussed and tried to impress on the mind of the Finance Member, and with success I should say, that this grant should not be accepted. Now, it has been pointed out if we refuse this what will be the reaction in the United States of America. We want to make it clear so far as our party is concerned that we agree with the ideology of this international organization, but so far as our finances go they do not permit us to undertake such a big liability. I know that this is to be paid in terms of commodities, at the same time we have to see whether by rejecting this we are likely to have bad reactions as was suggested by the Honourable the Commerce Member. I respectfully submit that nothing of that sort will happen. When I found on the Order Paper an amendment to the effect that the grant should be reduced to 2 lakhs, our decision was to support it on grounds of economy, to show that we were in agreement with the ideology and the principle behind this international organization but at the same time to show that we were not in a position to pay this large amount. Somehow or other that amendment was not moved for reasons

which are now clear. But our point of view remains the same and that point of view is that we are not opposing it on any other ground except on these grounds which have been so well recorded in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. What is the position to-day so far as famine is concerned. Let us see what the American people have to say about it. I will only read what a high official of the UNRRA has to say.

Mr. Hendrickson said:

"Today's situation in India is even more tragic. Unless India can obtain four million tons of cereals, which it must have, from five to 15 million people will lose their lives in the months lying ahead. It is a mathematical certainty that without grain from the western hemisphere more people will perish in India in 1946 than died in the Bengal famine.

The very lives of scores of millions of men, women and children in the Far East depend utterly on actions taken by the food-exporting countries in the western hemisphere."

Now, Sir, people in America know what is the exact position with respect to famine in India.

May I stop here, Sir ?

Mr. Deputy President : I think the Honourable Member can stop there .

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 18th April 1946.

APPENDIX

SECOND* INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS.

1. The Committee considered the report submitted by Sir Chintaman Deshmukh on the proceedings of the inaugural meetings of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development held at Savannah, Georgia, U. S. A. from the 8th to the 18th March, 1946.

2. We note that no clarification has been made by His Majesty's Government on the issue of sterling balances and we reiterate what we said on this subject in the last report dated the 26th February 1946, the relevant extracts from which are reproduced :

"(1) We strongly endorse the statement made in the course of the recent debate by the Honourable the Finance Member that India is not bound in any way by the terms of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement of December, 1945.

(2) In our view the final decision whether it would be to India's advantage to remain a member of the Bretton Woods institutions may be determined to a very considerable extent by the outcome of the negotiations which His Majesty's Government are committed to undertake with the Government of India on the subject of liquidation of sterling credits. If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the Agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits."

3. As the whole question of India's constitution is under examination the Committee would prefer further action to be postponed until the outcome of such examination is known.

4. We accordingly recommend that Government should take advantage of every possible provision in the Articles to postpone payment of the subscriptions due to the Fund and the Bank till the last moment, but if after consultation with these institutions it becomes necessary to take a final decision before the Assembly meets again, Government should summon the Committee and a decision should be taken in consultation with them, the Committee being specially summoned for this purpose.

A. ROWLANDS.
GEOFFREY W. TYSON.
N. V. GADGIL.
M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR.
MANU SUBEDAR.
YUSUF A. HAROON.
ZIA UDDIN AHMED.

NEW DELHI,
The 17th April, 1946.

* *Vide* page 4183 *ante*.