

5th February 1946

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

## Official Report

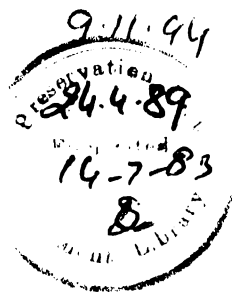
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### Volume I, 1946

( 21st January to 11th February, 1946 )

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FIRST SESSION  
OF THE  
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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*President :*

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

*Deputy President :*

SIR MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, M.L.A.

*Panel of Chairmen :*

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MR. S. DAS.

*Marshal :*

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*Committee on Petitions :*

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MR. SRI PRAKASA, M.L.A.

MR. T. CHAPMAN-MORTIMER, M.L.A.

SARDAR MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5 February, 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.

## MEMBER SWORN:

Captain Syed Abid Hussain, M.L.A. (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan).

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### CONSTITUTION MAKING BODY

1. **\*Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly state when, according to his estimate, the Constitution-making Body will start work, how much time it will take, and by what time the Constitution drawn up by it will start functioning?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Government's intentions are indicated in His Excellency the ~~Viceroy~~ Governor's statement of the 19th September last and in his address to this House on the 28th January. The exact plans for the composition and programme of the constitution making body will depend upon the discussions which His Excellency will hold with British Indian and States representatives after the Provincial elections. I am unable to indicate any time schedule.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Has His Excellency the Governor General initiated any discussions, preliminary or otherwise, in regard to this matter with the representatives of the Indian States?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have no information except that which is set forth in His Excellency's statement.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Has the Government of India made any recommendation either to the Governor General here or to the British Government in regard to this time table?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No; I said I am unable to indicate any time table.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** May I know whether the Government of India have discussed this matter with the British Parliamentary delegation?

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

#### ORDINANCES DURING WAR PERIOD

2. **\*Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Law Member kindly state how many ordinances the Government of India promulgated during the war period, and how many of them are still in force?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** Ordinances are promulgated by the Governor General. 261 Ordinances have been promulgated since 24th August, 1939, of which 124 are now in force.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Have Government even now any more power to promulgate any Ordinance in the name of war emergency?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I have told the House that Ordinances are promulgated by the Governor General and not by the Government of India.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is it a fact that the ordinances that have been repealed are only amending ordinances and that the substantive ordinances are just where they were before?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** No; that is not quite correct.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are ordinances now issued in the name of war emergency?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** If my Honourable friend would look at the provisions of law which entitle the Governor General to issue ordinances, he will find the answer to his question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that the war emergency is over, will the Government of India make recommendations to the Governor General that no more ordinances in the name of the war emergency should be issued?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** The war emergency is not over.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member kindly look into the list of ordinances that have been repealed and tell me whether it is not a fact that the substantive ordinances remain just where they were?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** That is not quite correct.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it or is it not a fact that in so far as ordinances are concerned, the normal procedure is that when the Assembly is not in session and an ordinance is passed, within six months of the passing of the ordinance it must be brought before the House, but when the Assembly is in session, there is absolutely no occasion for passing ordinances?

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member will put only a question.

**Mr. Asaf Ali:** I want an answer. I have put the question.

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** That is not the correct position in law.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I should like to know the correct position.

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I think that this is not a supplementary question which arises.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it or is it not a fact that ordinance is always a substitute for legislation? When the House is in session I do not see where the ordinance comes in. I want an answer.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member is asking for opinion on a question.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I am not asking for an opinion: I am simply asking the Honourable Member to tell us whether it is or it is not a fact that ordinance is always a substitute for legislation.

(No answer was given.)

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member kindly issue a list of ordinances still in force in view of the great confusion that has been caused?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I want to have notice of that question. I cannot give an answer now.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member wants notice.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** I want to know whether the Honourable Member will consider the desirability of issuing such a list. The answer to that should not take very long.

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I will consider the desirability.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is the Government considering how many of these ordinances which are still in force can easily be withdrawn immediately?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** Government is always considering it.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When will Government decide when the war emergency is over, in view of the fact that it is six months now after the war with Japan is over?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** If my honourable friend will have a little patience he will find the answer to a later question which will give him all the information.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil:** Is it or is it not a fact that ordinances are promulgated to put through schemes which are essentially of peacetime nature?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** Sir, I must protest against this sort of supplementary questions. May I draw your attention to Rule 10 of the Legislative Rules? I submit with confidence that these questions are not put for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given. I was asked how many ordinances are still in force and how many ordinances have been promulgated during the war period: and by way of supplementaries I am asked to enter into a debate as to when and how ordinances can be passed and what sort of ordinances have been repealed, etc. I submit they are not supplementary questions.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is that an answer or is it an argument?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** That is my submission to the Honourable Mr. President.

**Mr. President:** We may go to the next question.

#### LIFTING OFF OF CONTROLS

**3. \*Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Law Member kindly indicate the probable time when food, cloth and other controls on the necessaries of life will be lifted?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The existing controls are for the most part operated on the authority of legislation enacted at the Centre by virtue of section 102 of the Constitution Act. Under the operation of sub-section (4) of that section such legislation will cease to have effect six months after the revocation of the Proclamation of Emergency. It is the intention of His Excellency the Governor-General to revoke the Proclamation on the 1st April, 1946, and Government hope to be in a position to make an early announcement in regard to the future treatment of controls. Their intention is to maintain controls of a few essential commodities including foodstuffs and textiles in some form.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is it not a fact that these controls were brought into existence under the D.I.R. Rules where specific provision is made for such controls?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Not wholly.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable gentleman take this House into confidence if controls are to be continued beyond the 1st of April?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir; we will make a statement to the House and give an opportunity for the House to be informed.

#### PRODUCTION OF CASTOR SEED<sup>1</sup>

**4. \*Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary kindly state the annual production of Castor Seed in the Country in the five years preceding the war and the annual production of Castor Seed during the years of war?

(b) How much Castor Seed and Castor oil were exported out of the country during the five years before the war and during the years of war?

(c) Is it a fact that before the war Castor oil was used by the E. I. R. Administration for lubrication of axles and other similar purposes?

(d) Is it a fact that during the war other Railway administrations also used Castor oil for lubrication of Vehicles and other similar purposes?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) and (b). A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

(c) and (d) Yes.



Statement showing the production of castor seed in India and the quantities of castor seed and castor oil exported from India during the five years preceding the War and during the years of War.

(Thousand tons)

Years	Production	Exports	
	Castor seed*	Castor seed†	Castor oil‡
1934-35	105	74	5.6
1935-36	121	64	6.3
1936-37	128	46	6.3
1937-38	104	44	6.8
1938-39	111	11	4.7
1939-40	97	43	5.4
1940-41	105	72	5.2
1941-42	91	20	4.6
1942-43	147	30	4.1
1943-44	140	28	0.2
1944-45	130	19	0.3

\*These estimates relate to the crop in Madras, Bombay, Bihar, C. P. and Berar, Orissa, U. P., Sind, Hyderabad, Baroda, Mysore and the Bombay States. These tracts cover practically the whole area cultivated with castor seed in India.

†Including exports through British India Ports and the Kathiawar States Ports. The figures for 1944-45 represents exports during the whole year for the British India Ports but for 8 months only (April to November) for the Kathiawar States Ports.

‡Exports through British India Ports only. No castor oil is exported through the Kathiawar States Ports.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that the Railways have been using more and more of castor oil and also in view of the fact that more castor oil is needed by rural people in view of the existing scarcity of kerosene oil supply, what steps do the Government of India propose to take to encourage the greater production of castor seed?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Perhaps that question might be appropriately put in connection with question No. 5.

#### CASTOR OIL FOR RAILWAYS

5. \***Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary kindly state how much Castor oil was purchased and used by the Railways during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945, and how much Castor oil was purchased and used by the Railways during 1936, 1937 and 1938?

(b) Is it a fact that the Castor Cake is extremely useful by way of manure and its demand has grown of late years as a result of the 'Grow More Food' campaign?

(c) Is it a fact that the increase in the demand of Castor oil in the Country has led to the growth of the industry of crushing Castor Seed and also resulted in the cultivation getting a much better price than before for the Castor Seed?

(d) Do Government propose to continue the use of Castor oil for lubrication and similar purposes by Railway administrations and thereby foster the growth of the industry of crushing Castor Seed?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is a fact that more castor seed is crushed in India now than before the war and that it fetches a higher price.

(d) Castor Oil will continue to be used as a lubricant where found suitable so long as the quality offered, price demanded and performance afforded continue to provide economic justification.

Statement showing Custer oil purchased and Used by Railways During the Years 1936—38 and 1943—45

(in tons)

Railways	1936		1937		1938		1943		1944		1945		Remarks	
	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used		
B. A.	.	11	10	9	9	2	8	1,383	1,283	3,120	3,027	1,400	2,096	
B. N.	.	...	22	4	22	27	22	631	920	992	1,096	942	396	
B.B. & I.	.	560	560	675	675	607	607	537	837	970	970	1,090	1,090	
E. I.	.	366	366	1,655	1,165	1,266	1,266	2,432	2,432	188	3,188	3,027	3,027	
G. I. P.	.	13	13	13	1	12	12	1,401	1,401	1,409	1,409	733	733	
M. & S. M.	.	70	70	70	70	77	77	941	941	1,154	1,154	904	934	
N. W.	.	125	202	16	41	40	50	2,348	1,951	1,612	1,453	1,261	1,371	
O. T.	.	14	14	14	14	14	14	229	229	229	229	286	235	
S. I.	.	356	240	356	340	319	240	658	463	315	308	311	463	
		1,515	1,598	2,322	2,349	2,290	2,356	10,600	10,107	13,159	12,814	10,994	10,944	

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I put that question now. What steps are the Government of India taking in order to push up the production of castor seed?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** One of the proposals is to set up an Oil Seed Committee about which a Bill will come before this House in a few days' time. At the same time the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are financing schemes for research on castor seed which will produce better yields of oil.

#### POLICY *re* PAKISTAN.

**6. \*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if Government will consider the question of recommending to His Majesty's Government that before the constituent assembly is convened, a clear statement of the policy as regards the establishment of Pakistan be made by Parliament?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I regret I am unable to make any statement on the question raised by the Honourable Member. The intentions of His Majesty's Government in regard to the constitutional programme are indicated in the reply which I gave to Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's question No. 1 today.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether His Majesty's Government have accepted in principle the question of establishing Pakistan? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have already said that I regret that I am unable to make any statement on the question.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Why not?

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Is the Honourable gentleman in a position to make a statement on the points with which he is familiar and knows about?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am afraid I cannot make any statement.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** May I know whether the Government of India have considered this matter in the Executive Council?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am unable to add anything to my previous answer.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** Have the Government of India addressed any communication to His Majesty's Government about this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I cannot add to my previous answer.

**Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan:** May I know if the Government of India have ever considered this question?

(No reply.)

7. \*[Withdrawn].

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** In view of the publicity that has already been given to this question which has been struck off, may I have your permission to publish its reply because I am the victim. The official influence has always been against me. They shut up the voters and drove them like sheep to the polling booth and worked against me.

**Mr. President:** I will consider the matter afterwards.

#### INDO-BRITISH TARIFF RELATIONS

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

(a) if he will consider the question of informing the Secretary of State for India and the British Premier, Mr. Attlee, that Mr. Attlee's statement in his Mansion House Speech of the 9th November, 1945, that "Ever since 1921, the Indian Government has had unfettered responsibility for its tariff policy entirely free from control by the British Government" is unsubstantiated by facts of Indo-British tariff relations, negotiations and political relations; if not, why not; and

(b) whether it is not a fact that the Ottawa Pact has not been abandoned by the Government of India, despite the Assembly's recommendation that it be ended?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) No, Sir, Government do not consider it necessary to address the Secretary of State for India in the matter, because the statement actually made cannot be described as 'unsubstantiated by facts'.

(b) I presume that the Honourable Member's question refers to the Ottawa Trade Agreement, 1932. This agreement was terminated in 1939. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are Government aware of the fiction which has been promulgated particularly in the U.S.A. that India is enjoying tariff autonomy, meaning that when the Government of India and this Legislature agree the United Kingdom will not interfere? Are they not aware of this fiction?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am not aware of any fiction. I am aware of the convention.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I ask then whether the Government of India have considered this fact that so long as the Government is controlled from London any agreement arrived at must be an agreement approved of by their superiors in London and therefore the tariff convention has no meaning whatsoever.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** The Honourable Member has entered into an argument and opinion. I stand by my reply that there is a convention.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Government stop this propaganda in the United States of America that this country possesses tariff autonomy.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am afraid I am not aware of the propaganda.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is the present position? Is India free or not to impose any tariff duties it likes upon the United Kingdom imports if it so chooses?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** The position is exactly the same as that mentioned by Sir George Rainy in 1930 and that stands.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It is rather difficult for us to remember what was said in 1930. May I ask the Honourable Member to give us the contents of the statement made in 1930?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** This was the reply given by Sir George Rainy as he quoted then from the report of the Joint Select Committee. The convention is grant of liberty to the Government of India to devise those tariff arrangements which seem best fitted to India's needs as an integral part of the British Empire. That stands as a matter of convention.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is it not a fact that in spite of the repudiation of the Ottawa Agreement, preferential tariffs are allowed in the case of the United Kingdom?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** The whole question of tariffs is examined on its merits with reference to each country and whatever tariff arrangements have to be made will be made in the best interests of India.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Oh, oh.

#### DATE FOR OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF WAR

9. **\*Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly state why no declaration has yet been made fixing the date for the official termination of the hostilities?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 9 and 16 together.

An Ordinance is being promulgated today providing that, for the purpose of references in statutory provisions and in contracts to the present war or the present hostilities, the present war and the present hostilities shall be deemed

to continue to, and to end on, the date on which the Proclamation of Emergency under section 102 of the Constitution Act is revoked. It is the intention of His Excellency the Governor-General to revoke the Proclamation on the 1st April, 1946.

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** Is that proclamation going to include three dates, those for the end of the war with Italy, Japan and Germany?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** All wars will be included in it.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** May I take it that on the 1st October, 1946 all ordinance rule will end, that is six months from the official declaration of the cessation of the war?

I am sorry to have confused the Honourable Member like that.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I think I should ask notice of that question. I think the answer is probably contained in my reply to question No. 8.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I ask if the Defence of India Rules will also cease to operate on the 1st of April, 1946?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** They will cease to operate on the 1st of October, 1946.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Why have the Government taken so long to come to this decision as to the date of the stoppage of hostilities?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** If the Honourable Member will have patience until Question No. 18 is reached, he will get the answer.

#### ENLARGEMENT OF APPELLATE POWERS OF FEDERAL COURT

10. \***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Law Member please state:

(a) when Government propose to arrange a debate in this House on their resolution, dated the 15th January, 1945, regarding the enlargement of appellate powers of the Federal Court as promised by them in the last Budget Session; and

(b) whether the Government of India or the Secretary of State for India have reconsidered their decisions in the light of the opinions received in response to the publication of the resolution and have come to some decision; if so, what the new decision is?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) I have given notice of a Resolution on this subject which appears in Admitted List No. 2, dated the 30th January, and I propose to consult Party Leaders before deciding when to move the same.

(b) The Resolution dated the 15th January, 1945, did not purport to embody decisions. It contained proposals on which opinions have since been obtained and circulated to Honourable Members. The views of Government on the action which should be taken on a consideration of these opinions are embodied in the Resolution referred to in the reply to part (a).

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is it not a fact that the Federal Court is so overloaded with work that it will be dangerous for the Judges to have more work added to it?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** That is a matter of opinion. My Honourable friend may keep his opinion to himself.

#### CONSTITUTION-MAKING BODY

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

(a) whether an opportunity will be given to this House to discuss the plans for setting up the Constitution-making Body in India;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, when the day or days are likely to be appointed for the discussion;

(c) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, how Government propose to consult this House with regard to the plans of setting up the Constitution-making Body; and

(d) whether it is proposed to give this House due representation on the Constitution-making Body?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a), (b), (c) and (d). I regret I am unable to give any reply to the Honourable Member's question at this stage. His attention is invited to the reply I gave earlier to Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's question No. 1.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask if the Honourable Member has consulted His Excellency the Governor General whether an opportunity will be given? We are not asking him to fix exactly the time-table or the dates but will an opportunity be given to this House to consider the plans that are sought to be made?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I regret that I cannot add anything to His Excellency's pronouncement of September 19th.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** Part (b) is entirely different. If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, then it is entirely for the Leader of the House to say.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have not answered part (a) in the affirmative.

#### CONSTITUTION-MAKING BODY

**12. \*Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether Government intend appointing a small committee or a special officer to collect materials for the use of the Constitution-making Body to be set up after the general elections?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Material which is likely to be of assistance to the Constitution-making Body is being collected by the Reforms Secretariat which has recently been strengthened by the appointment of Sir B. N. Rau as an Officer on Special Duty.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that the Government of India have said that they have no responsibility whatsoever in regard to this matter and that it is a special preserve of the Governor General, how is it that the Government of India have placed the services of their Secretariat in regard to the gathering of the material for this Constitution-making Body?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** It is part of the Governor General's Secretariat and I presume that the Honourable Member does wish some material to be collected.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** We would like that information to be collected by the Governor General on his own responsibility.

**Mr. President:** Order, Order: that is no question.

#### FORFEITURE OF DEPOSITS OF CENTRAL ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES

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

(a) how many candidates forfeited their deposits during the last general elections to the Central Assembly; how many of them were sitting members?

(b) to which parties did they belong?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) 50 and 4 respectively.

(b) Government have no official information but they believe the following figures to be approximately correct.

Hindu Mahasabha . . . . .	20	
Independents . . . . .	20	including one candidate who sought to stand on behalf of the Muslim League but did not receive the League ticket.
Nationalist Muslims . . . . .	7	
Congress . . . . .	3	
	<hr/>	
	50	

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** May I know what the Government does with this forfeited money and under what head it is credited in Government accounts?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I presume it goes into the general revenues of Government.

#### STUDENTS SENT ABROAD FOR HIGHER STUDIES

**14. \*Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Education please state:

(a) how many students have been sent abroad for higher studies by (i) the Government of India, (ii) the Provincial Governments, (iii) the Indian states, and (iv) private institutions and individuals;

(b) to what countries they have been sent and how they are getting on; and

(c) whether there was some trouble when the first boat carrying Indian students was about to leave Bombay; if so, what the trouble was and what its details are?

**Dr. John Sargent:** (a) The following numbers of students have so far been sent abroad for advanced studies:

(i) By the Government of India, 144 to the U. K. and 98 to the U.S.A.

(ii) By the provincial Governments, 103 to the U.K. and 66 to the U.S.A.

(iii) In respect of Indian State candidates, the Government of India have so far recommended the grant of priority passages to 34 students for U.K. and for 17 students to the U.S.A. It is not however known how many of such students have actually sailed, as some States have made their own travel arrangements.

(iv) No figures are available regarding the number of students sent by private institutions and individuals.

(b) The Government of India have set up organizations both in U.K. and in the U.S.A. to look after the welfare not only of students sent as Government scholars but also of private students going at their own expense. There have been and still are difficulties arising mainly for post-war conditions abroad but it may be said that on the whole the students are settling down satisfactorily.

(c) On the 4th October, 1945, some students who were to have sailed by a troopship declined to do so mainly because they were not at the time aware of the conditions attaching to travel on troopdeck. All these students were however accommodated on other vessels.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** What is the proportion of the Muslim students?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I am afraid I shall want notice of that question. With regard to the scholarships actually awarded by the Central, and, I believe Provincial, Governments the proportions laid down for communities in the Home Department regulation were observed.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Have Government received any complaints from any of those students who have been sent to the United Kingdom?

**Dr. John Sargent:** There have been certain difficulties which the officers deputed abroad from my Department are now endeavouring to sort out, but they have been very few.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I ask whether the Government of India would be willing to give priority in the passage to those students who have been selected by the Universities from the members of the staff?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I am afraid that is a question I cannot answer. So far as we are concerned, we advise the Civilian Passage Control Department as to the priority which, we think, should be allotted to different students. The decision remains with them.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable Member's Department be prepared to make recommendations?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Oh, yes; we do so.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** May I know whether the Government of India is getting periodical reports from the United Kingdom and the United States of America?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Yes, Sir.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is it not a fact that a report appeared in the *Hindustan Times* and is not the Honourable Member aware that students are not admitted in the proper Universities or given those facilities for getting into such studies as are necessary or required by them? Is it not a fact that they are asked to change from one subject to another?

**Dr. John Sargent:** With regard to this end, no student selected by the Central Government was asked to undertake any subject except that for which he himself had expressed preference unless with his own consent. But we have to face the fact that owing to the difficulty in getting passages certain places in certain subjects which we had previously obtained in institutions abroad, owing to the delay on the part of the students in reaching there, have lapsed. Wherever I have seen a case of a student who appeared not to have been satisfactorily placed with regard to the subject which he wished to study, I have asked for a report from our Liaison officer in the country concerned.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask how many of them have had to change over to other subjects?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I cannot give the exact number.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is it not a fact that no difficulties have arisen so far as the Government of India students are concerned and that the students selected by the Provincial Governments are undergoing difficulties?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I am afraid I cannot answer that.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are not the Honourable Member and the Government of India looking after the welfare of those students also who were sent by the Provincial Governments?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Our organisations abroad are for the service of all students whether sent by the Central Government, the Provincial Governments, the State Governments or students who proceed at their own expense and on their own initiative. We are endeavouring to help all of them equally.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Therefore may we take it that the Honourable Member has not yet received any reports of complaints from those persons who have been selected by Provincial Governments regarding accommodation in Universities and colleges in England or America?

**Dr. John Sargent:** A certain number of complaints have been received. I personally looked into one or two of those reports. But I am afraid I cannot say offhand whether they were in regard to Central Government scholars or provincial scholars or others. We are treating all alike.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is the Honourable Member aware that students even holding first class tickets were not allowed to travel in cabins but were thrown on the deck?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Last year when the passage position was very serious the only kind of passage which became available for students at that time was troopdeck accommodation in troopships. I regret that in the beginning, although the students were quite clearly informed that it would be troopdeck accommodation, exactly what was involved was not made clear. After the incident which I referred to occurred, every step was taken to make it quite clear to students what accommodation would be available. I am glad that the position in regard to actual accommodation has since then improved.

**Seth Govind Das:** Are there any fresh complaints regarding accommodation?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I have not heard of any.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Have all students sailed or are there still some left?



**Dr. John Sargent:** There are still a considerable number of students for whom we have not yet been able to obtain passage..

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Government take special care to see that such difficulties do not recur in the case of students who are going to be selected?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Yes, Sir.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** Have the Government taken into consideration the possibility of utilising the total amount which is to be spent on these students for the purpose of opening training centres in India and getting experts from abroad and giving training to students here?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Yes, Sir.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** With what result?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Proposals are at present under consideration. We are trying to provide improved facilities for training in higher technical studies in this country.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable Member approach the authorities of the British University to be more considerate in the admission of Indian students, particularly in view of the fact that admissions in Universities are at present closed?

**Dr. John Sargent:** When I was in England in 1944, I met the Vice-Chancellors of British Universities and pressed upon them the claims of Indian students. I think on the whole they have been very sympathetic in their attitude towards this matter, but at the same time one has to realise that there is tremendous pressure on Universities for accommodation not merely from students now being demobilised but also in view of the promises which were given to the Governments of devastated countries in Europe that university education facilities would be provided for their nationals also.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** Have Government any well thought out plan as to the way they will utilise these specially trained students from abroad when they return to this country or is it simply a general pious feeling that they will help in the better development of things in this country?

**Dr. John Sargent:** No, Sir. The students have been selected with reference to particular demands set out by the different departments of the Government of India and those demands are determined with reference to specific prospects of employment for the students when they return.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** Do I take it then that on return every one of these students has practically before hand been allotted the post to which he will be sent?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Not any particular post but employment within the range of the subject which he has been studying.

#### STEAMER COMMUNICATION IN INDIA'S WEST COAST

15. **\*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state why steamer communication in the West Coast between Bombay and North and South Kanara is not resumed in spite of the cessation of hostilities and better shipping position?

(b) Are Government aware of the resultant inconvenience to the public? If so, what do Government propose to do in the matter, and when?

(c) Do Government propose to look into the matter and ask the authorities concerned to resume the means of communication?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The cessation of hostilities has not yet made it possible for Government to release from requisition the cargo cum passenger steamer of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company, with the exception of one which is plying between Bombay, Cutch Mandvi and Karachi. So far as commercial shipping is concerned, the shipping position has not therefore improved.

(b) and (c). Government fully sympathise with the people of the North and South Kanara Districts who have been seriously inconvenienced for want of shipping facilities. The matter is, however, receiving the urgent consideration of Government and it is hoped to resume the Bombay/Mangalore passenger service in the near future.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Instead of sympathising with the public, may I suggest to the Honourable Member to take the trouble of going to the district by road and rail. . . .

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member must put a question.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Honourable Member take the trouble of visiting the district and see for himself the great inconvenience caused to the public?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I can better utilise by trying to arrange service as soon as possible.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the consideration that Government is giving to this question of resumption of shipping facilities for inland ports, will Government be pleased to consider the needs of the East Coast also?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I think the Government are considering the whole aspect of the question so far as they have been able to do it.

#### DATE FOR OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF WAR

†16. **\*Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state the dates which the Government of India propose to declare as the official end of the war against the European Axis partners and Japan?

#### U. K. C. C.'s ACTIVITIES

17. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that the Commerce Secretary said to the Indian Merchants' Chamber that the activities of the U.K.C.C. in India would cease?

(b) Have these activities actually stopped; if so, from which date?

(c) Is it a fact that the operations of the Food Ministry of the United Kingdom are still continuing in India?

(d) Have Government any information as to the volume and value of different items of food purchased by this organization in the country? If so, what are they from the 1st January, 1945?

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

(b) Yes, from 31st January 1946.

(c) Yes.

(d) It is not clear whether Honourable Member's question refers to the Ministry of Food or United Kingdom Commercial Corporation but neither of them has purchased any foodgrains or foodstuffs except that during the twelve months ending 31st October 1945 the Ministry purchased 371,134 tons groundnuts against a quota of 500,000 tons.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the food distress in this country, may I know if Government have decided definitely and finally to prohibit the export of groundnut from this country?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** That question is being considered. May I inform my Honourable friend that the groundnut production in the whole of India is a little over 3½ million tons and my Honourable friend should realise that only about 200,000 or 300,000 tons are being exported. That question is being considered.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Why then was even this small quantity permitted to be exported in view of the food crisis in this country?

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†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 9.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Because the organisation which my Honourable friend represents and other economic organisations had drawn attention repeatedly that some small quantities should be available for export in order to keep up our export market.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Was that not before the dire fact about the impending famine in this country was revealed?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have already said that that question in view of the food situation in the country is under careful examination. I am afraid I am unable to say anything more just now. I hope my Honourable friend would get an answer very soon on that point.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know if the Food Ministry of United Kingdom is still operating in this country and they are not buying food, what are they doing here?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have got no information on this point except on this question of groundnut which I have answered.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to part (b), may I know if this includes the total quantities of food and food grains that are placed at the disposal of British and American troops in this country?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I think that question does not require any answer from me.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Who else will answer that?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I cannot understand why I should be asked to give the world requirements of food in a question relating to Food Ministry which I have already specifically answered.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it a fact that U.K.C.C. purchased sugar in this country from January 1945 to the close of the year and sold it in Persia at many times the purchase price here?

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

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are not exports of foodgrains going on still?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Certain foodgrains are totally prohibited. But there are certain food articles such as pepper, for example which are exported in small quantities.

#### DATE FOR OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF WAR

18. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether Government have considered the desirability of declaring, as early as possible, the date of the formal cessation of hostilities, on which many private contracts depend?

(b) What is the reason for having delayed the declaration of this date so long after the hostilities stopped both in the East as well as in the West?

(c) Do Government regard the operations, which the British Government is carrying on in Indonesia, as hostilities against the principal enemies concerned in the war?

(d) When will Government make an announcement on this subject?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I have just given to questions 9 and 16.

(b) There is no question of undue delay. In the absence of statutory intervention, the wars with Germany and Japan would have continued for statutory purposes until Peace Treaties, had been signed and ratified, and I would remind the Honourable Member that the statutory date for the termination of the war of 1914-1918 was in August 1921.

(c) No.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will Government say something which will allay the feeling in this country that the principal reason for this delay has been the desire of Government to use the Ordinances, particularly those relating to currency, finance and economic affairs, which were promulgated during the war emergency?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have just said that there is no question of undue delay.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In regard to the U.K. is it a fact or not that the cessation of hostilities has been published already?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I shall require notice.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** What is the exact position regarding the cessation of Ordinance rule?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have replied to that in my answer to question No. 8.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** If the answer to part (c) is in the negative why are Indian troops still in Indonesia?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I refer the Honourable Member to the debate which took place on the adjournment motion on the opening day of this session.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** I want the Honourable Member either to deny that there are Indian troops in Indonesia today or to say that they have been withdrawn.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** It does not seem to arise in any way.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** It arises from part (c). If hostilities have ceased in Indonesia there is no purpose of keeping Indian troops there. I want to know whether these troops have now been withdrawn from there.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The question was whether Government regard the operations, which the British Government is carrying on in Indonesia, as hostilities against the principal enemies concerned in the war; and the answer was in the negative.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In the light of the Honourable Member's reference to the debate that took place in this House the other day, have Government considered the opinion of this House as expressed on that occasion and decided to withdraw our troops from Indonesia?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** There are a number of questions on this subject put down for the 7th instant.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** Is His Majesty's Government also making a similar announcement regarding the termination of hostilities?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am afraid I have no information.

#### DISPOSAL OF AMERICAN SHIPPING

19. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member opened any negotiations with the Government of the U. S. A., or has he received any communication from the Agent-General in U. S. A., with regard to the disposal of American shipping?

(b) Have Government formulated any proposal for bringing in a larger amount of shipping under Indian registration and for offering any special facilities to Indian shipping companies to acquire more ships either in the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe, or U. S. A.?

(c) How many ships taken over during the period of the war from the coastal trade for war purposes have been returned to their respective owners?

(d) Does the Ministry of Shipping in the United Kingdom still function in India in regard to the allotment of shipping space?

(e) What steps have Government taken in order to terminate this arrangement since the stoppage of hostilities?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, Government have been kept informed by their Agent General from time to time, of developments in the United States of America in this matter.

(b) The question of expansion of the Indian Mercantile Marine is now being looked into by a Sub-committee set up by the Shipping Policy Committee in October last, and Government's policy on this question will be formulated on receipt of the Sub-committee's report. Meanwhile Government are endeavouring to assist in every possible way Indian Shipping Companies in their effort to acquire additional tonnage.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) Yes, but only in regard to ships on the British Register.

(e) The possibility of terminating the existing shipping control was considered recently but it was decided that the control should continue for the present. The position will be reviewed in the next few months.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the fact that the United States administration have declared that they will give preferences to Governments in acquiring the surplus of U.S.A. shipping, may I know why this Government have not negotiated with the U.S.A. for the purchase of some ships to be distributed to the mercantile marine?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** We have given every assistance to all Indian companies who are anxious to procure tonnage from abroad by not only supporting their cases but taking steps to see that they go abroad and their representations receive proper consideration.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Sir, a private shipping company when it goes to the U.S.A. to purchase does not come within the preferential category. It is Government which come in the preferential category; and may I know if after ascertaining these facts the Government of India will in their own right make some purchases and then distribute these ships to these private companies?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If my Honourable friend will kindly send me a memorandum on this point I will certainly have this question looked into.

#### FIRMS IMPORTING PROVISIONS INTO BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

20. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that there are only four firms who have been given licences for importing provisions and tinned food into the Province of Bombay from abroad, and that all these are European firms?

(b) Will Government give the names of parties, who have been given licences for importing provisions and tinned food into India since the 1st of January, 1945, and the quantities for which such licences have been issued?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) No Sir. At Bombay licences for imports of the foodstuffs mentioned have been issued to thirteen firms of which seven are European and six Indian.

(b) I regret it is not possible for me to disclose these names and other details in public interests.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know why only six Indian firms are taken and seven European firms and why the names cannot be given in the public interests, just in order to allay the charge of discrimination?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I categorically deny that there has been any discrimination. The principle on which this allotment was made as regards the import was on the basis of a pre-war figure or figures which were available in the basic period. And the reason why I am not prepared to disclose the names is that it will really cut across all commercial practice if Government disclose the names of importers and the quantities imported.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Cannot my Honourable friend even give information as to the names of licensees?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** No, Sir; I do not think it will be fair to these people that I should give all these names.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know why this *purdah* or mystery is being maintained with regard to the names of these licensees?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have said quite definitely that public interest demands that names of those who have received licenses should not be disclosed in public.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Were the Provincial Governments and the Chambers of Commerce consulted on this subject?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If import licenses have to be issued after receiving the opinions of Provincial Governments and Chamber organisations, my Honourable friend will set down an adjournment motion censuring me for the long delay.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** If monopoly licensing is given to a few firms, may I know why this House should be denied information as to their names?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have denied that it is a monopoly; there are seven Europeans and six Indians. And for the information of my Honourable friend I may say that there are cases where Indians also have received the largest amount of import as against Europeans.

**Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable Member give the percentages of the Indian and European firms?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** It is very difficult for me to isolate Bombay from the rest of India. If my Honourable friend wants figures as to the different articles,—which include things like jam, jelly, canned food and a number of other imported things,—and if I have to dig into each item, I am prepared to give the information but it will take a very long time to collect these figures. Again, it will not be fair on my part to give information only with reference to one part; I am prepared to consider it with reference to all parts of India, and I can assure my Honourable friend that I am having this question examined.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** May I know whether all these licensees belong to Bombay only?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have said that licenses are issued for all ports in India.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** Have Government issued licenses to traders living in inland towns?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Licenses are not issued to traders but to importers; and if an importer belongs to an inland town and has done business in the past, he is given a license. But I cannot answer off-hand.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** Sir, it is either not in the public interest or it is a very long list which the Honourable Member cannot waste his time upon. Sir, I am drawing your attention to my difficulty in understanding his point of view. Either it is in the public interest or it is not. But if the matter were to be left to ordinary trade channels it is different. When Government. . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order; the Honourable Member should ask his question and not argue.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** No, Sir, I am trying to ask a question.

**Mr. President:** He has to ask a question and not merely try for it.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** I will try to frame my question as best as I can. Does he make any distinction between private trade channels and Government licenses being granted?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am afraid I am in equal difficulty in not being able to understand the question.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member give information in private interest if not in the public interest?

(No reply was given.)

**Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** I want percentage in money value of the business with the Indian firms and the European firms.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I want notice of that question. I am quite prepared to answer that question.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** Is it the decided policy of the Government to reinforce in India all pre-war things however iniquitous or unfair they were?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am not prepared to allow any iniquities when I am satisfied that there has been an iniquity.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether the secret policy of not disclosing the names of those persons has not a tendency to encourage blackmarket? People do not know where articles are available, and they can sell it anywhere.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** My Honourable friend knows that there has been blackmarketing going on in India on a large scale. Mine will not add even one-thousandth part of the blackmarket transactions.

**Mr. P. K. Salve:** What does the Honourable Member mean by 'public interest'? And what is the public interest?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** It is the usual parliamentary form and the second part of the question does not arise as to what is the public interest.

#### PROTECTIVE TARIFFS POLICY

21. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) When does the Honourable the Commerce Member propose to enunciate his permanent policy in regard to protective tariffs?

(b) Has the interim Tariff Board been entrusted with the work of formulating a tariff policy of the Government of India?

(c) If the reply to above is in the negative, how do Government propose to use tariffs to implement their objective of increased industrialisation declared in their statement of Industrial Policy issued in April last?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) and (c). The matter is still under consideration, but Government hope to come to a decision before long.

(b) No, Sir.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the fact that the same reply was given to this House when we raised this point last year when the matter was being considered, namely that Government hope to come to a decision before long, may I ask whether Government will either through the Tariff Board, or through an independent committee, get the tariff system of this country put on a scientific basis?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Sir, I have said that Government has taken immediate steps to appoint an interim tariff board. The interim tariff board has so much preliminary work to do for at least next two years, that I am afraid to burden them again with the task of framing a permanent tariff policy will not be right in view of the work they have got. At the same time, my friend, of all persons, should realise the international, economic and commercial situation today; it is not in a definite condition and I can assure my Honourable friend that we are constantly watching it and, as I have said, we hope to come to a decision before long.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** I thank the Honourable Member for the assurance he has given. But my question is simple: If Government have not announced

their permanent policy with regard to tariff nor set up any particular organisation for this purpose, has the Honourable Member given the power to this tariff board to overhaul the tariff, and particularly to avoid the anomalies where raw materials, half finished goods, and finished goods are taxed at the same rate?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have said that the three points which were raised as to what should be the nature of the future permanent tariff policy are before us just now, but in view of the world conditions and in view of the fact that we are investigating and have not yet decided what steps should be taken within the next two or three years, we are not able to formulate our permanent policy yet.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have you given power to this tariff board?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** We have not given that power to the Tariff Board. You have seen the terms of reference; that term is definitely there. But after their report comes and after we know the international situation, we hope to come to a decision on all aspects of the question which my Honourable friend has narrated.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** My submission is very simple and if I may persist on this most important question to all industries in India, it is this: I think Government should formulate the policy themselves or for the time being this Interim Tariff Board should be given the power. Will Government consider giving power to the Tariff Board for issues which come before them, because without this decision how can the Tariff Board report to you?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I will refer my Honourable friend to the Press Communique which was published in the Department of Commerce on the 3rd of November, 1945, showing the lines on which the present Tariff Board has been appointed. As regards the other question, it is still being considered by us.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will you give wide powers to this Tariff Board?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Whether we will give wider powers or whether we will appoint another committee or whether we ourselves come to a decision in this matter—all these questions are under consideration.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** In view of the enormous changes in the fiscal situation in the world, may I ask whether the Honourable Member is contemplating to appoint a fiscal commission, similar to Rahimatulla's Commission in 1921, to formulate a policy which the Government of India may follow?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If I know that today the world has come to a static conclusion on all aspects of the question which should be thought out, I could come to a decision in this matter. But I am saying that the world itself is still in consideration stage and I do not know where to find a decision on all aspects of the question. Till that is known, I think it will be premature for us to come to any conclusion in the matter, but that aspect of the question will also have our consideration.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government keep before themselves the policy for post-war planning or planning and reconstruction that was decided upon by Government before they come to any sort of decision in regard to this tariff policy?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have not been able to understand my Honourable friend.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government place before themselves their own post-war planning policy, which was announced recently, while they consider what decision they must come to in regard to their post-war tariff policy?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** It is so jumbled up that I have still not been able to follow what the Honourable Member is driving at.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It is not so very difficult to understand. Will he take into consideration their post-war development policy also when he decides the post-war tariff policy?



**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Sir, I have tried somehow to understand something of this, and if I have been able to understand him aright, surely the whole question—not merely the trade and commerce of India as has developed in war time but the industries and commerce which will come in not merely in the immediate future but in the distant future also—all these question will have to be considered before a permanent tariff policy can be settled.

**Mr. President:** Next question.

#### HAJ PILGRIMS

**22. \*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, be pleased to place on the table a short statement with figures showing:

(i) the total number of Haj Pilgrims that left Indian Ports from 1939 to 1945 December;

(ii) the total number of deaths amongst the Indian Pilgrims for the above period; and

(iii) what proposals Government have in view to improve shipping and other accommodation for the Indian Haj Pilgrims for the future?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** The statement asked for is placed on the table of the House.

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#### Statement

(i) 36,895.

(ii) 785.

(iii) The question of providing improved facilities to Hajj Pilgrims was examined by Mr. J. A. Rahim, I.C.S., Officer on Special Duty. In the light of his recommendations and in consultation with the Standing Committee on the Pilgrimage to Hejaz, steps have been taken to provide berthed accommodation in the existing as well as in new ships to be constructed for the transport of pilgrims. Necessary arrangements have also been made for providing the prescribed quantity of fresh air, water taps, improved latrines and medical facilities. Proposals for the reconstruction of the pilgrims camp at Karachi are also in hand and a budget provision of 27 lakhs of rupees has already been made. The construction of Musafirkhana, exclusively, for pilgrims at Calcutta, is also under consideration.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** What is the reply to part (iii) of the question?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** It is included in the statement laid on the table of the House.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** We want to ask supplementary question on this.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that thousands of pilgrims have been turned away from Karachi Port for want of sufficient shipping accommodation?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** I believe, Sir, about two or three thousand pilgrims, who had been to Karachi without having made sure of reservation of their berths, had to leave the place after a few days.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Honourable Member admit that the blame entirely lies on the part of Government for not having set up a proper machinery to inform the public with regard to the rules and regulations for obtaining the passage?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** No, Sir. We do not plead guilty to the suggestion . . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** You never do.

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** . . . . that Government had not done sufficient propaganda. We feel that ample notice had been given to the public.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Honourable Member give an assurance on the floor of the House here and now that similar difficulties will

not be encountered next year, and that better arrangements will be made in the interest of public next year?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** We shall do our very best.

**An Honourable Member:** As usual.

#### HIGH EXCHANGE RATE OF SAUDI DUES

**23. \*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, please state:

(a) whether he has received a note from Khan Bahadur Haji Hasanally P. Ebrahim pointing out that on account of the high rate of exchange at which the Saudi dues and transportation charges were pre-collected by the Government of India from the Haj pilgrims during the 1944-45 Haj season, the pilgrims suffered a loss to the extent of Rs. 19 lakhs;

(b) whether he had received protests from the pilgrims and the general public against the high rate of exchange at which the Saudi dues were collected;

(c) whether the Government of India made any profits directly or indirectly on account of this pre-collection, and, if so, how much;

(d) whether the payment to the Saudi Government of the pre-collected dues was made in cash or in kind and, if in cash, how and at what rate of exchange it was made, and if, in kind, what was supplied and at what rate and whether the Government or the suppliers made any profits on the transaction; if so, how much; and

(e) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government intend to refund to the pilgrims the excess amount collected from them; and, if so, what steps Government have taken to effect this refund?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government of India made no profit in any way.

(d) Payment was made in cash. The amount collected was paid in rupees to the Saudi Arabian Government through the usual agency of banks. Payment was made at Rs. 1-11-0 per Rial at which rate the collections had also been made.

(e) Does not arise.

**Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** With reference to his reply to part (d), will the Honourable Member say whether the rate of exchange, namely Rs. 1-11-0 per Rial, was correct according to the market rate, or was it dictated by the Saudi Arabian Government?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** That was the rate at which we were asked by the Saudi Arabian Government to make the collections. The market rate of exchange prevailing at the time in Saudi Arabia was about Rs. 1-4-0 per Rial.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Was the Reserve Bank of India consulted when they fixed this rate of exchange?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** The rate was fixed by the Saudi Arabian Government.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** It is rather a very strange procedure that the foreign Government should fix the rate of exchange between this Government and the foreign Government . . . . .

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

#### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

##### INADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

**24. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of clerks and assistants in Government Departments who have applied for quarters but have not yet been allotted accommodation in New Delhi;

(b) the number of superintendents who have applied for but not given any Government accommodation so far;

(c) the number of houses or flats requisitioned in New Delhi and Karol Bagh areas for the use of persons in (a) and (b) above during the war;

(d) the number of houses and flats in New Delhi and Karol Bagh which have been handed over or proposed to be handed over to their owners on and from the 1st January, 1946; and

(e) when he expects those who have applied for accommodation before the 1st January, 1945, will be allotted Government accommodation?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) and (b). Applicants for quarters are divided into two categories, viz., (i) officers drawing a pay of less than Rs. 600 and (ii) officer drawing a pay of Rs. 600 or more. All clerks and Assistants and some Superintendents come under category (i). The number of applicants under this category, who have not been allotted accommodation is 16,256. Information regarding the number of clerks and assistants or superintendents, who applied for but were not allotted quarters, is not readily available.

(c) The number of flats requisitioned in New Delhi and Karol Bagh areas for officers, drawing a pay of less than Rs. 600 is 188.

(d) 3.

(e) It is not possible to furnish the information as an applicant's prospects of securing an allotment of quarter depend on many factors which cannot all be foreseen, such as the date of his posting to New Delhi, the amount of his pay, whether he is single, married or with family, his preference for a particular type of quarter, etc.

#### SURPLUS GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN DELHI

25. \***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state—

(a) if any of the barracks and buildings built to the north and south of the Imperial Secretariat Buildings and in other places in New Delhi for the use of the American, British and Indian personnel have now become superfluous for such use, if so, how many;

(b) the total number of rooms, etc., in the buildings in (a) above;

(c) whether any offices are now located therein, if not, what is proposed to be done with them;

(d) whether it is proposed to allot such buildings now or in the near future for (i) office use, and (ii) for residential accommodation with slight alterations for kitchens and bathrooms where necessary;

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the affirmative, whether any have been allotted so far, if so, how many; and

(f) in particular what is proposed to be done with the American barracks on the Talkatora Road, Gurdwara Road, Queensway and Connaught Place?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) and (b). I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to temporary buildings which were till recently occupied by personnel other than that of the Government of India.

A statement containing the necessary information in respect of such buildings as have been surrendered to Government or as will, according to the information in the possession of Government be surrendered within the next three months is laid on the table.

(c) I confine my answer to this part of the question to the buildings which have actually been surrendered to Government. The answer is in the affirmative except in the case of the buildings surrendered only very recently which are also required by Government and are proposed to be used by them.

(d) I confine my answer to this part of the question to buildings which will be surrendered within the next three months. Such buildings are also required by Government and are proposed to be used for one or the other purposes.

(e) No, the latter part of the question does not arise.

(f) The buildings on Talkatora Road and Gurdwara Road are being used by Government for office purposes and will continue to be used so long as these

are required by Government. As regards the American buildings on Connaught Place and Queensway, the method of their disposal is under consideration but they are likely to be required for Government purposes.

*Statement showing the buildings surrendered or to be surrendered to Government within the next three months in New Delhi:*

Name of the buildings	Number of rooms, etc., available therein	
L Block . . . . .	74	...
M Block . . . . .	107	...
Gurdwara Road . . . . .	106	...
Talkatora Barracks . . . . .	14 barracks . . . . .	49,000 sqt.
	1 barrack . . . . .	2,800 sqt.
	Office rooms (18) . . . . .	4,446 sqt.
	Recreation Hall with 4 adjoining rooms and godown.	5,000 sqt.
	Kitchen and Dinning hall	2,803 sqt.
Officers quarters on the Central Vista . . . . .	288 rooms . . . . .	...
Jodhpur Mess . . . . .	120 . . . . .	...
(To be surrendered in April 1945)		
Canning Road Barracks - 'B' Block . . . . .	6 barracks (double storeyed) . . . . .	62,406 sqt.
(To be surrendered on 21-2-46)	1 barrack . . . . .	4,598 sqt.
	10 office rooms . . . . .	4,566 sqt.

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. HARKNESS AS TOWN PLANNING OFFICER, DELHI AND NEW DELHI.**

26. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that one Mr. Harkness has been appointed as Town Planning Officer for Delhi and New Delhi recently;

(b) the terms on which his recruitment has been made;

(c) if the post was advertised in India and applications called for from qualified or capable Indians for the post; and; if so, whether any applications were received;

(d) if the appointment was made through the Federal Public Service Commission; and, if not, why not;

(e) if he has satisfied himself that no Indian of the necessary ability was available before Mr. Harkness was given the job; and

(f) whether Mr. Harkness has had previous experience of town planning in a country like India or whether his experience has been confined to Europe and other countries?

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

(b) The post has been sanctioned for a period of 3 years and is non-pensionable. It carries a pay of Rs. 2,000 per mensem.

(c) The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

(d) The post was first advertised by the Federal Public Service Commission but no suitable candidate was available in India.

(e) Yes.

(f) Mr. Harkness's experience has been confined to Europe and countries other than India.

**INDIA HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN LONDON.**

27. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly state:

(a) what the total expenditure on the High Commissioner's Office in London is for the current year;

(b) the number of officers and clerks employed in that office with their designations;

(c) if any portion of the expenditure is met from the British treasury;

(d) how many of the staff are Indian nationals;

(e) whether in the High Commissioner's Offices of other dominions, such as Australia or Canada or South Africa, the staff is wholly dominion nationals and not British nationals; and, if he is not aware, whether he will make necessary inquiries; and

(f) what steps have been taken so far and are proposed to be taken in the future to employ in this office only nationals of Indian origin drafting personnel if necessary from time to time from the Central and Provincial Secretariats or other Indian establishments?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The budgetted expenditure for the current year is Rs. 29.61 lakhs.

(b) and (d). The latest information has been called for and will be placed on the table.

(c) No, Sir.

(e) Information has been called for and will be laid on the table.

(f) The High Commissioner is fully aware of the need for preferring suitable Indians in making appointments in his office and is constantly endeavouring to achieve this end. He is, however, handicapped by the unwillingness of Indians to commit themselves to a career in England.

#### SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA'S OFFICE

**28. \*Sri B. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly state:

(a) what portion, if any, of the expenditure, in pounds or rupees on the Secretary of State for India and his establishment in England is borne by this Government;

(b) if any portion of such expenditure is paid from the Indian revenues, whether any Indian nationals are employed in that office; and, if so, how much they are paid; and

(c) if the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, whether he proposes to take steps to employ Indian nationals to the utmost possible extent in that office and inform the Assembly as to what steps are being taken in that direction?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** This question concerns the Finance Department and will be replied to by my Honourable colleague the Finance Member.

#### FOOD DEPARTMENT STAFF

**29. \*Sri B. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Secretary Food Department please state:

(a) the total number of officers, assistants and clerks in his Department in the Secretariat proper;

(b) the total number of officers and clerks employed in the Delhi and New Delhi Rationing staff;

(c) the number of (i) officers, and (ii) assistants in his Secretariat who are over the age of 55 as on the 1st October, 1945, and who are still kept on in his Department, and the reasons for keeping such superannuated men after the ending of hostilities; and

(d) if such superannuated men cannot be replaced by younger officers and, if not, why not?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) Officers 78, Assistants 200, Clerks 292.

(b) Officers 50, Clerks 730.

(c) and (d). (i) Officers 5, (ii) Assistants 4.

The officers are occupying posts of a technical nature or key posts which require men of experience, and cannot, therefore, be immediately replaced.

Of the four assistants, one has been discharged from the 1st February 1946 and two more will be relieved on the 1st March 1946. The case of the fourth is also being reviewed.

'QUIT INDIA' DATE

**30. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state whether he is aware of the intense desire of the Indian public in general and this House in particular that, for the true and free constitutional reforms in India, the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Government he represents should immediately Quit India? If so, what date has been fixed by him and his Government for quitting this country?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** With reference to the first part of the question, I have heard such views expressed by unappreciative persons. As regards the second part, if the plan which His Majesty's Government and His Excellency the Governor-General have in mind for the reconstruction of the Executive Council is fulfilled, my colleagues and I will be only too happy to make way for the new Government.

HAND-MADE PAPER FOR MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**31. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether he proposes to procure for future use of and sale to the Members of this House, handmade paper only which is manufactured as a village industry by institutions organised on co-operative basis?

**The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar:** If all the Members of the House agree to accept and use handmade paper of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member, such paper will be procured for sale to them whenever it is available in acceptable qualities.

HAULAGE ALLOWANCE OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**32. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state the reasons why haulage charges for cars or coach and horses have been discontinued?

(b) Are Government aware that the new system of giving a fixed conveyance allowance per day to the Members works out inequitably in the case of such Members who come from long distances and are now required to bring the conveyances at their own cost?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Free haulage of cars was suspended on account of transport difficulties. This decision was taken in pursuance of the report of a Committee of this House appointed on the 14th September, 1942.

(b) Yes, where Members are able to bring their conveyance from distant stations notwithstanding the existing transport restrictions. Where Honourable Members prefer to hire conveyance in Delhi, the grant of a fixed conveyance allowance at the present rate of Rs. 15 per day may in the generality of cases be found to afford more equitable compensation for so long as present conditions prevail.

WELLS AND ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE

**33. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of bungalows for the residence of members of both the Houses of the Central Legislature? If so, what steps Government are taking to construct sufficient number of additional bungalows so as to provide residence for all the members?

(b) Are Government aware that the absence of wells in these localities causes great hardship to such orthodox members of the families of M. L. As. who have objection to the use of tap water?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to construct wells, at suitable distances and places in these localities, before the members take up their residences for the next session?

**The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar:** (a) Until the beginning of this Session no shortage was reported to Government and no complaint of shortage was received by them. A small shortage of bungalow type accommodation has just been brought to the notice of Government and the matter is now under their consideration.

(b) No.

(c) Government have not at present any such proposal under consideration.

#### HARDSHIPS OF ISTAMRARI TENANTS IN AJMER-MERWARA

**34. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Is the Agriculture Secretary aware of the hardships and insecurity to which the tenants of the Istamrari areas in Ajmer-Merwara are subject? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to ameliorate their conditions?

(b) Will he lay on the table the Reports of enquiries conducted by the De la Fargue Committee in 1938-84 and by Mr. Irwin in 1939, into the conditions of the tenants of the Istamrari areas, and what steps have been taken or are intended to be taken to carry out the recommendations made in the two Reports?

(c) Are Government aware that along with the Settlement Operations in the Khalsa area of Ajmer-Merwara the settlement of the Istamrari tenants was also taken in hand, but was given up after the new Settlement Officer took charge? Why was this step taken, and do Government contemplate re-starting settlement operations in the Istamrari areas?

**Sir P. M. Kharegat:** (a) Yes. A proposal is under consideration for appointing an officer on special duty to draft the necessary tenancy legislation as also the amendments needed in the Ajmer Land and Revenue Regulation of 1877. In the meantime the powers vested in the Revenue authorities in the matter of ejectment of tenants are being exercised with due care and discretion so as to mitigate hardships and insecurity.

(b) The reports are of a confidential nature and have therefore not been published. It is regretted therefore that they cannot be placed on the table of the House. The settlement officer took up the preparation of a Record of Rights, i.e., a statement of facts in regard to rent, period of occupancy, village customs and other relevant matters as a preliminary to undertaking legislation.

(c) The enquiries referred to in the reply to part (b) were taken in hand when settlement operations started and continued even after the new Settlement officer took over charge in December 1942. They were completed in May 1944. Further operations cannot be taken up satisfactorily without tenancy legislation. It is proposed to take up these further settlement operations after the necessary legislation is enacted.

#### CHAIRMANSHIP OF BEAWAR MUNICIPALITY

**35. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Is the Health Secretary aware that the right of the Beawar Municipal Committee to elect its own Chairman was taken away in 1931, since when the Sub-Divisional Officer of Beawar acts as the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee?

(b) Are Government aware that the said right has not been restored notwithstanding several representations made by the citizens and resolutions passed by the Municipal Committee?

(c) What are the reasons for depriving the citizens of Beawar of their democratic right, and do Government propose to take steps to restore the right now that the newly elected Beawar Municipal Committee has come into being?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) to (c). Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received.

#### RE-CONSTITUTION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

**36. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state what action has been, or is proposed to be, taken in the matter of (i) re-constitution of the Geological Survey of India in order to make it "a potent instrument for the furtherance of Government's mineral policy"; and

(ii) undertaking legislation for the purpose of establishing control over minerals in terms of his statement in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th March, 1945, while defining Government's policy regarding mineral resources of India?

**The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar:** (i) A very large expansion of the Geological Survey has been undertaken by the Central Government. The superior gazetted staff of the Survey has been increased from its pre-war strength of 27 to 102 which includes specialists, like Geophysicist, Mining Engineer.

A copy of the brochure showing the Functions and Organization of the Geological Survey of India is available in the Library of the House.

(ii) Provincial Governments were consulted in the matter and their replies are under consideration.

#### ABOLITION OF UTILISATION BRANCH OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

**37. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the circumstances that led to the abolition of the Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India?

(b) Is it a fact that the Advisory Committee attached to the said Branch was at one stage, expected to function as a post-war planning committee with reference to minerals?

(c) Which Committee, if any, is now engaged in considering questions relating to post-war policy about minerals?

**The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar:** (a) The Utilization Branch was established with a view to utilizing undeveloped mineral resources of the country for furtherance of the war effort. On the termination of the war, the emphasis changed from that of war-time production to that of a planned policy of mineral development in the country. The development of such planned policy is an integral function of the Geological Survey of India and is being pushed forward but the necessity for a separate branch for productive purposes no longer exists.

(b) Yes, but the change-over in function has necessitated a change in the personnel of the Advisory Committee.

(c) The Government of India have recently formed an expert Advisory Board to advise them on problems connected with the mineral development of the country. A copy of the Labour Department Resolution No. M102(4), dated the 9th January, 1946, constituting the committee is available in the Library of the House.

#### INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

**38. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Secretary Commonwealth Relations Department be pleased to lay on the table a comprehensive and up-to-date statement dealing with:

(i) the present position of Indians in South Africa;

(ii) the operation of the Reciprocity Act as passed by the Central Legislature; and

(iii) any further action that may have been taken by Government to remedy the situation?

**Mr. B. N. Banerjee:** (i), (ii) and (iii). I would refer the Honourable Member to the debate that took place in the House yesterday on the adjournment motion on the subject.

#### REPORT ON POST-WAR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**39. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state whether Government have completed their consideration of the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-war Educational Development in India? If so, with what result? And if not, what stage in the consideration thereof has been reached, and when final decision of Government can be expected in the matter?



**Dr. John Sargent:** The Government of India have accepted generally, subject to the limitation of finance, the principles and the objects of the Scheme prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-War Educational Development of India and have decided:

(a) that until the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education that educational opportunities should be available for all has been fully implemented, steps should be taken to secure the provision of adequate facilities for Muslims and other minority communities and to accelerate the progress of the scheduled castes and backward communities;

(b) that with this object in view the Education Department should examine all schemes submitted by Provincial Governments and Local Administrations with a view to seeing that both in the selection of areas for development and in the provision of facilities for education generally, the needs of Muslims and other minority communities, the scheduled castes and backward communities, are adequately satisfied.

The Provincial Governments have been addressed in the matter. The Schemes submitted by them will now be examined in the light of the decision of the Government of India.

#### INDIAN BEVIN BOYS

**40. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state how many Indians were trained in Great Britain under the Bevin Training Scheme?

(b) How many of them have been employed in factories engaged in war production?

(c) How many of the latter have since been discharged?

(d) Is it a fact that a number of Indian technicians trained under the Bevin Training Scheme have been asked by the Government of India to accept places other than those in which they have specialised? If so, for what reasons, and what is the number of such technicians?

(e) Is it a fact that, though there was no guarantee of service, assurances were freely given during the stay of the Indian Bevin Boys in the United Kingdom that their services would be utilised for the betterment of the industrial status of India? If the answer be substantially as above, what steps have been, or are proposed to be, taken to ensure the proper employment of these trainees?

(f) Has any representation been received from these trainees indicating their grievances? If so, to what effect and with what result?

(g) Is it a fact that one of the objects of the Bevin Training Scheme, with reference to Indian trainees was to give them an appreciation of the British methods of co-operation between the employers and workers, and the value of sound Trade Union principles? If so, how is it proposed to utilise in India the training of these technicians in Trade Unionism?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) 712. A batch of 75 is at present under training.

(b) 414. Another 168 trainees were engaged on essential work in Defence Services in Government (Central, Provincial and Indian States) undertakings including Railways.

(c) 111 from the factories engaged on war production and 9 from the other undertakings.

(d) Orders for employment of Bevin trainees on their return from United Kingdom were issued by the Government of India under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance. In most cases Bevin Trainees were placed in employment consistent with the training received by them in the U. K. In a few cases they could not be engaged on work for which they specialised and were entrusted with other work which they could perform by virtue of their general training. Government are making a scrutiny of all such cases and every effort will be made to find suitable employment.

(e) No such assurances were given, so far as the Government of India is aware. The Prospectus clearly stated that no guarantee of employment could be given but that every endeavour would be made to place trainees in suitable posts.

(f) Yes. Their main grievance relates to their prospects of employment in suitable posts in the post-war period. Every endeavour is being made to find employment for the unemployed Bevin trainees in Government and private undertakings. Managers of all Employment Exchanges have been instructed to do their best to help Bevin trainees who register for employment. The position regarding unemployment among Bevin trainees will be reviewed periodically and, as far as practicable, suitable action will be taken to remove legitimate grievances.

(g) Yes. Facilities for the study of the working of trade unionism in Great Britain were made available to Bevin trainees. It is hoped that the experience gained will enable Bevin trainees to take their part in the development of trade unionism on sound lines in India.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### CURTAILMENT OF JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AJMER

**1. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if it is a fact that the District and Sessions Judge, Ajmer, was also the District and Sessions Judge for the Rajputana Railway Lands up to March, 1945, and that the latter jurisdiction has now been vested in another officer styled as "District and Sessions Judge, Rajputana Railway Lands, Baroda and Central India" with Headquarters at Rajkot? If so, will Government explain the advantages accruing from such change?

(b) Are Government aware of the resolution submitted by the Ajmer Bar Association to the Government of India laying down the difficulties and hardships occasioned by this new arrangement? Do they propose to take any action on the said resolution?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes. The correct designation of the officer is District and Sessions Judge, Rajputana and Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Agencies. The present arrangement is not only economical but also advantageous from the administrative point of view.

(b) Yes. After careful consideration of the resolution Government have come to the conclusion that the balance of advantage lies in maintaining the existing arrangement, and the Ajmer Bar Association has been informed accordingly.

#### REPRESENTATION OF CHIEF COMMISSIONERS' PROVINCES ON CONSTITUTION-MAKING BODY

**2. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Cripps' proposals and the others discussed at the Simla Conference have ignored the question of Chief Commissioners' Provinces and have not considered what position and representation will be given to them on the Constitution-making Body?

(b) Will Government inform if the Chief Commissioners' Provinces are to be represented on the Constitution-making Body? If so, in what manner?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). This matter will undoubtedly engage the attention of the Preliminary Conference (announced in His Excellency's broadcast of 19th September last) proposed to be convened after the Provincial elections are over.

#### TAX ON PILGRIMS TO DILWAR TEMPLE, MOUNT ABU

**3. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Is the Honourable the Leader of the House aware that the famous 'Dilwar' Temple at Mount Abu which commands great religious and cultural importance is visited by a large number

of British Indian people every year and that the Sirohi State authorities are charging a heavy tax of Rs. 1/4/- from each visitor per trip?

(b) Do Government propose to investigate the possibilities of getting this tax abolished in case of all the British Indian subjects?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes, though the actual rate is Rs. 1/3/9 and the tax covers a visit not only to the Dilwar temple but to other temples in the Abu hills.

(b) No, because the tax is justified by ancient usage and is required to assist in meeting the heavy annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of these temples in a fit condition.

#### LAND REVENUE ENHANCEMENT IN AJMER-MERWARA

**4. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Is the Agriculture Secretary aware that in the report of the new settlement operations in Ajmer-Merwara land revenue has been enhanced without proper regard to the conditions obtaining in the Province?

(b) Are Government aware that the objections to the enhancement of land revenue were made to the Settlement Officer, Ajmer-Merwara, on behalf of the tenants of Khalsa areas, but they were turned down and that the report has been submitted to the Government of India for final orders?

(c) Do Government propose to take into consideration the objections made regarding the enhancement of land revenue and make such reductions in the rates as are necessary in the light of these objections?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) It is a fact that the report proposes an enhancement in the land revenue by a little over Rs. 40,000 raising the incidence per acre from Rs. 1.55 to Rs. 1.7. It is claimed that this has been done after due regard to the conditions prevailing in the "Province" including the precariousness of the tract, want of irrigation facilities, the indebtedness of khewatadars, etc.

(b) Yes. The objections were examined by the Settlement Officer, the Settlement Adviser and the Chief Commissioner.

It has been pointed out that the rent rates proposed for a circle are not higher than the rents which are actually being realised by khewatadars and that the rates are not intended for general application but will be modified at the time of actual assessment to suit the circumstances of individual villages or soils. The report with the objections and the recommendations of the forwarding officers has been submitted to the Government of India for orders.

(c) The objections will be further examined by Government. It is not possible to say at present whether any reductions are likely to be made or not.

#### FOOD SITUATION IN AJMER-MERWARA

**5. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Is the Secretary Food Department aware of the high prices of foodgrains in the rural areas of Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) Are Government aware that acute scarcity of foodgrains at present exists in Ajmer-Merwara, particularly in the rural area, where this paucity of grain is obliging people to live upon boiled sweet potatoes or oil cake in many villages?

(c) Do Government now propose to investigate into the causes leading to the food situation in Ajmer-Merwara?

(d) What immediate steps do Government propose to take in order to relieve the said condition?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) The prices of wheat, barley, gram, "guji" and "bejar" are controlled. The prices of millets and maize which are not controlled rose temporarily owing to the failure of the Kharif crops but with the recent import of large stocks of bajra and maize into Ajmer-Merwara the prices of these two foodgrains are also being controlled.

- (b) and (d). The rural area of Ajmer-Merwara is normally self-sufficient in foodgrains. A temporary scarcity of coarser grains arose this year owing to the failure of the Kharif crops but adequate steps have been taken to meet the situation and considerable stocks of foodgrains have been sent to the affected areas.
- (c) Does not arise.

#### GUR IMPORTED INTO AJMER-MERWARA

**6. Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Secretary Food Department kindly state if Government are aware that a large quantity of the *gur* imported into Ajmer was of a very inferior quality and some of it even unfit for human consumption?

(b) Who is responsible for this import, and what steps do Government propose to take to see that Ajmer-Merwara gets a sufficient quantity of good quality *gur* which is urgently needed by the people during the cold season?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) From the report of the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, it appears that some of the *gur* moved was of poor quality.

(b) The imports were through the trade. According to normal procedure, a part of the supply of *gur* from U. P. was arranged under permits issued to persons holding stocks in the U. P. and the balance through the Agents nominated by the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara.

During the current season all arrivals of *gur* in Ajmer will be assigned to the Ajmer authorities who will exercise control over the quality supplied.

#### STATEMENT ON FOOD SITUATION

**7. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Secretary Food Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement:

(i) covering the period February, 1945, to December, substantially on the lines of the memorandum on the food situation in India and development of food policy up to the 2nd February, 1945, that was placed on the table of the House on the 9th February, 1945, in reply to starred question No. 36; and

(ii) specially indicating the prospects of importation of an adequate quantity of foodgrains this year from abroad?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** A statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

##### MEMORANDUM ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY UP TO THE 21st JANUARY, 1946

Although the War has come to a successful end, conditions which led to the introduction of the Basic Plan for distribution of available supplies, with its attendant controls, have not materially altered. The world food situation in 1946 is not likely to be less difficult than in 1945. The devastated countries in Europe will need food in large quantities from outside. Though with the defeat of Japan rice markets of Burma, Siam and French Indo-China have reopened, the quantities to be offered for export, are likely to be small as compared with those in pre-war times; and, in any case, there are other countries which, owing to devastation caused by the War or for their normal dependence on imports from those areas are strong claimants to whatever is available for export. Production and movement all over the world will take time to return to normal levels and in the meanwhile, world allocations must continue to be made by the Combined Food Board, Washington. While this continues, neither the Government of India nor Indian traders can operate as free agents in procuring supplies from abroad and therefore our own resources will have to be carefully husbanded.

The elements too have not been very kind this year. The vagaries of the monsoon have adversely affected crops in certain parts of the country while cyclones have caused considerable damage to crops in other parts. All this calls for increased vigilance and greater control over our internal resources. The present controls with regard to procurement, distribution, movement, prices and rationing will have to continue for some time longer. They will be reviewed from time to time with a view to their relaxation which must, however, be a gradual and regulated process consistent with the need for establishing a permanent and fair system which will assure a market for the producer and a fair distribution of food to the consumer, and will stabilise prices at levels fair to both.

The Woodhead Commission have dealt with the question of food administration at length in their final report and have urged that Government must assume the obligation of feeding the population in India and that a policy of *laissez faire* in the matter of food would end in disaster. The recommendations of the Commission are now being examined and as a result of this examination it will be possible to formulate a programme of action which can be the basis of Government policy in the post-war period.

#### A.—Summary of Crop Prospects.

The monsoon, though generally adequate in total, was irregularly distributed. It did not break in full strength over several parts of the country till late in the season. Up to the end of August rainfall was below normal in South West Bengal, Bihar, Eastern parts of the U. P., Orissa, Western parts of the C. P., Mysore, Southeast of Madras and the northern coast of Madras. The effect of these unsatisfactory monsoon conditions was, that sowings and transplantation of rice were delayed especially in Bengal, Bihar and parts of Orissa. Hathia (September-October) rains were, however, satisfactory and improved crop prospects considerably. The Aman crop in Bengal is now reported to be average. In Bihar, however, the crop is expected to be somewhat below last year's Crop. Cyclonic weather developed in Orissa towards the middle of October and caused damage to early winter paddy crop in Cuttack, Balasore and Puri districts.

In the U. P., rainfall was irregularly distributed and the Kharif crop is likely to be below normal.

Summer Monsoon in the Punjab was generally satisfactory, but heavy rains in October caused some damage to Kharif crops in parts of Ambala and Jullundur Divisions. The total rainfall in the N.-W. F. P. from the beginning of June to the end of October was considerably below normal.

Rainfall in Madras was both inadequate and irregular. Crops in Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah and Chittoor suffered seriously from lack of adequate rain. During October, strong winds accompanied by rains and tidal waves caused severe damage to the rice crop which was ready for harvesting. The districts affected by cyclone, were East and West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur which form a compact bloc of surplus rice producing areas. The damage in East and West Godavari which were worst affected was estimated at about 60 per cent. and the total loss to early and late crops was estimated at about 400,000 tons.

In Bombay, the rainfall during August was not enough for the paddy crops in Gujrat districts, while in Panchmahal, maize crop was adversely affected by excessive rains. During September, excessive rains caused damage to the millets crop in Gujrat districts, but were beneficial to the paddy crop. Rainfall was, however, inadequate in the Deccan and Karnatak areas during September, October and November and as a result, the Kharif crops have been seriously damaged and the prospects of a fair rabi crop have been ruined. It is estimated that the additional quantity of foodgrains which might be required as a result of the above mentioned damage would be in the neighbourhood of 400,000 tons.

In Madras & Mysore the north east monsoon has almost completely failed and there has been drought of unprecedented severity. Crops in large areas have failed and extensive assistance will be necessary to save the situation.

Kathiawar, on the other hand, suffered from excessive rains which damaged the bajra and jowar crops.

In the Punjab, N.-W. F. P. and U. P. the absence of late December and early January rains is causing anxiety. Unless rain falls soon; there is danger of the young shoots of the rabi crop withering in the soil.

#### B.—Progress of the Basic Plan.

The Kharif and Rabi Plans 1945-46 taken together attempt the distribution of 3.2 million tons of foodgrains including about 0.2 million tons arrears from the preceding years' plans, from surplus to deficit areas and to the Defence Services. Against the above combined total movement target of 3.2 million tons, about 1.1 million tons have been despatched upto the 13th December, 1945. The total quantity of foodgrains despatched to each of the principal deficit areas up to the 13th December, 1945 is as under :—

Area	Quantity
Bengal . . . . .	178,900 tons
Bombay . . . . .	154,800 „
Madras . . . . .	33,200 „
U. P. . . . .	143,900 tons
Trav./Cochin . . . . .	..
W. I. States and Baroda . . . . .	9,400 tons

The table below gives the total export quotas and the total despatches from surplus areas (including overseas imports) to the deficit areas :

(In '000 tons)

Food Grain	Total Quota	Despatches upto 13th December, 1945 (for Kharif Grains from 1st November, 1945 and Rabi Grains from 1st May, 1945)	Percentage of despatches to quotas
Rice . . . . .	1,096·7	72·3	6·6
Millets . . . . .	279·0	26·3	9·4
Maize . . . . .	60·7	..	..
Wheat . . . . .	1,719·8	1,057·3	61·5
Barley . . . . .	61·4	37·9	61·7
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>3,217·6</b>	<b>1,193·8</b>	<b>37·1</b>

The Wheat quotas given above include 760,000 tons of Wheat from overseas imports (for May, 1945 to April, 1946).

#### Rabi Plan 1945-46

*Wheat.*—The allocations made in May, 1945, had to be revised shortly afterwards owing to certain changes which were brought to notice during the following two months. The Plan was, therefore, revised and re-issued in July, 1945, as being effective for the year May, 1945—April, 1946. The declared internal surpluses under this Plan amounted to 9,11,000 tons including 35,000 tons of Central Government's stock in the depots. In addition, 7,60,000 tons of wheat was promised by H. M. G. from overseas. The total quantity available for distribution was thus 16,71,600 tons. The deficits declared to the Food Department amounted to 20,24,000 tons. As the Plan progressed, the Central India States offered, for the first time, a surplus of 15,000 tons wheat. On the other hand, a deterioration in the internal declared surpluses arose to the tune of about 40,000 tons. The position was rendered all the more difficult owing to the slow progress of procurement in the Punjab. The wheat position in the U. P. also worsened with the result that a quota very much in excess of the original deficit of 1,00,000 tons had to be provided. In addition to the 7,60,000 tons of imported wheat, the distribution of which was made under the Plan 2,00,000 tons of wheat is expected to be received by the end of April, 1946, out of further imports of 400,000 tons promised by H. M. G.

#### Kharif Plan 1945-46

The total rice and millets surpluses offered to the Food Department by the Provinces and States for 1945-46 at the commencement of the Kharif Plan amounted to 7,91,000 tons and 2,31,000 tons respectively, while the declared deficits of rice and millets amounted to 27,42,000 tons and 4,80,000 tons, respectively. In addition to the internal surplus 1,61,000 tons of Burma rice was also promised to India by the end of December, 1945, of which only half was received. The failure of the monsoons and the damage caused by cyclones have however completely changed the picture. Bombay, Madras, Mysore, the Deccan States and the Western India States have increased their demands considerably which it is not possible for the Food Department to meet except from increased imports of wheat and rice from abroad, particularly in the next four months. The matter has been taken up with the Combined Food Board, Washington.

Experience of the working of the Basic Plan during the last two years has indicated the need for exercising more pressure on the deficit areas to relate their declared deficits more correctly to the actual requirements with a view to reducing cases of belated surrenders of allotted quotas to the minimum. Such belated surrenders besides causing inconvenience and some time a possibility of financial loss to the surplus areas, deprive the other deficit areas of foodgrains at a time when they are most needed. With the same end in view, it has been laid down that deficit areas will have to make good financial losses, if any, that are suffered by the supplying administrations due to the diversion of quotas late in the season. At the same time the surplus administrations are being persuaded to offer grain of acceptable quality so that complaints regarding bad quality may be reduced to the minimum.

#### C.—Price Control

##### (i) Rabi Prices

On the 31st March, 1945, the Government of India, after considering the views of the Governments of the main wheat producing areas and the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee, decided that there should be no change during the Rabi crop year 1945-46 in the existing statutory maximum prices of wheat nor in the statutory maximum prices of gram and barley which were in the ratio of 8/10ths and 7/10ths, respectively of the statutory maximum price of wheat. It was also decided that there should be no change during the next 12 months in the guaranteed minimum price of Rs. 7-8-0 for fair average quality wheat.

In June, 1945 the Sind Government approached the Government of India with a request that they should be permitted to reduce the statutory maximum price of wheat in Sind from Rs. 9-8-0 to Rs. 8-10-0. This step was necessary because dealers in Sind were purchasing large quantities of wheat at rates in excess of the Government's fixed purchasing rate (viz., Rs. 8-10-0) in anticipation of ultimate requisitioning for which the Provincial Government would be compelled to pay the statutory maximum rate as compensation. The Sind Government's proposal was agreed to and they reduced the price of wheat to Rs. 8-10-0 per maund from the 21st June, 1945.

(ii) *Kharif Prices*

The question of the fixation of rice and paddy prices in Sind for 1945-46 was considered at a special meeting of the Price Advisory Committee on the 5th September, 1945, as the Sind Government represented that Sind paddy started coming to the market in the first week of October and therefore it was absolutely essential in the interests of cultivators that the price of paddy for Sind should be fixed and declared by the middle of September. After full consideration of all aspects of the case and the recommendation of the Price Advisory Committee, the Government of India decided that the Sind Government's purchase price of Kagni rice should be reduced from Rs. 9 to Rs. 8-12-0 and that of paddy, from Rs. 5-8-0 to Rs. 5-3-0 per maund. The prices of joshi and red rice were also similarly reduced from Rs. 8-8-0 to Rs. 8-2-0 per maund.

Kharif prices in the Eastern region were considered at a Regional Conference held at Calcutta on the 22nd September, 1945, attended by representatives of the various units forming the region and presided over by the Secretary, Food Department. The Conference made the following recommendations:—

(i) Continuance of existing prices in Bengal and Bihar.

(ii) Scaling down of procurement prices in Assam to the Bengal level and some reduction in prices in the Eastern States.

The above recommendations were approved by the Price Advisory Committee and the Government of India and in pursuance thereof the Assam Government made suitable reductions, with the approval of the Government of India, in their procurement prices for 1945-46.

Rice prices in the Eastern States have also been reduced in the case of hand-pounded rice from Rs. 9-8-0 to Rs. 9-4-0 and in the case of milled coarse rice from Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 10 per maund. The Government of Orissa have also reduced their statutory maximum prices of rice and paddy as follows:—

	Rice				Paddy			
	Common		Fine		Common		Fine	
	From Rs. a.	To Rs. a.	From Rs. a.	To Rs. a.	From Rs. a.	To Rs. a.	From Rs. a.	To Rs. a.
Puri	} 7 12	} 7 2	} 9 12	} 8 14	} 4 8	} 4 2	} 5 12	} 5 4
Outtaek								
Balasore								
Ganjam								
Sambalpur	No change		9 12	9 8	4 8	4 8	5 12	5 8

Kharif prices for the rest of the country were considered at a meeting of the Price Advisory Committee held on the 12th October, 1945, and the following decisions were taken:—

(1) Statutory maximum price for coarse quality rice should be reduced from Rs. 13-8-0 to Rs. 12-4-0 in the Punjab and to Rs. 13-4-0 in the U. P. Existing maximum prices or existing price ceilings should be maintained in Bombay, Madras and C. P.

In view of the existing disparities in rice prices in various parts of the country and as the rice grower was assured of a ready market in the country the announcement of a floor price for rice was not considered necessary. The cultivator is however, protected by the general guarantee given by the Government of India in connection with the "Grow More Food" campaign that they would enter and support the market should foodgrain prices fall unduly.

(2) The maximum wholesale prices of bajra and jowar in primary markets should be reduced by 0-4-0 each from existing levels, the revised statutory maximum price being Rs. 7-4-0 a maund for bajra and Rs. 6-12-0 a maund for jowar.

The guaranteed minimum prices for jowar and bajra should also be reduced by 0-4-0 each, the revised guaranteed minimum prices being Rs. 5-12-0 for bajra and Rs. 5-4-0 for jowar.

In October last it was decided that the price of maize need not be controlled on an all-India basis. The uncontrolled state of maize price was, however, reported to be exercising a bullish effect on the prices of other foodgrains in certain areas. It was, therefore, decided at the end of December, 1945, to fix the statutory maximum price of maize at Rs. 7 per maund in the main maize producing areas.

## D.—Rationing

(1) *Extension of Rationing*

Since the last memorandum presented in February, 1945, rationing has been extended to 40 more towns representing a population of over 3 million people. In all, 556 towns covering a population of over 53 million persons have been fully or partially rationed. It is expected that before long about 60 more towns covering a population of nearly 1½ million persons will be brought under rationing.

(2) *Nutrition*

The extension and intensification of rationing has brought to the forefront the nutritional aspect of the food problem in India as malnutrition and under-nutrition are widely prevalent amongst the poorer classes in this country. A new Directorate has been created in the Food Department since January, 1945 to deal with several new problems of Nutrition of a technical and semi-technical nature, e.g., feeding of children, nutritional and balanced diets, provision for heavy manual workers of cooked food through Industrial Canteens, milk priority schemes, food and nutrition publicity through publications, lectures, posters, radio talks and films

(3) *Publicity*

Food Department have for the last 12 months been publishing two procures "Nutrition" and "Canteens in Industry" to stimulate popular interest in dietetics. "Canteens in Industry" is a quarterly publication directed at Industrialists and other employers of labour encouraging them to establish cheap cooked food canteens and to improve the feeding arrangements for their workers.

## E.—Storage

Proper storage of foodgrains has been and will always remain a question of great national importance. Food production in India even during normal times is inadequate to meet the demand of the growing population if every man is to be properly fed. The food supply of the country, however, depends not only on its production but also on the prevention of waste. The extent of loss which occurs as a result of damage to stored grains by insects, rodents and natural causes is not generally realised. Conservative estimates put this loss at 3 million tons annually which shows what tremendous scope there is for improvement in this direction.

With a view to minimize these losses as far as possible, Food Department undertook the responsibility of initiating and co-ordinating measures of improvement and set up a Storage Directorate in November, 1944 with the following main functions:—

- (i) A survey of existing storage conditions and advice on conversion, adaptation or improvement of existing buildings for storage purposes.
- (ii) Dissemination of scientific advice on scientific methods of storage and grain handling.
- (iii) Preparation of detailed schemes for construction of extra storage accommodation in areas where the existing storage is inadequate.
- (iv) Training courses for Provincial and State officials entrusted with the responsibility for storage.
- (v) Liaison with trade to induce modern scientific methods of conservation.
- (vi) Research.

As a result of the general survey it was found necessary to provide extra storage accommodation at important ports for imported foodgrains and at suitable centres for transit storage to facilitate procurement of foodgrains and their transportation by rail from one inland centre to another. More storage had also to be provided in the surplus areas specially in the Punjab, Sind, C. P. and Orissa, to give effect to the policy of putting into consumption imported grain first and storing surplus indigenous produce. These new constructions fall under three categories.

(a) *Godown built at the entire cost of the Central Government*

They comprise the following—

Location of godowns	Capacity
Bombay . . . . .	35,000 Tons
Vizagapatam . . . . .	10,000 "
Coimbatore . . . . .	14,500 "
Bulk storage bins at 5 centres in Sind (Nawabshah, Shahdadpur, Mirpurkhas, Digri and Jhudo) . . . . .	30,000 "
Dhantari (in C. P.) . . . . .	750 "
Bhatapara (in C. P.) . . . . .	500 "
Khurda Road (in Orissa) . . . . .	500 "
Sambalpur (in Orissa) . . . . .	3,000 "
Bobilli (in Madras) . . . . .	2,000 "
	96,250 "



The capacity at the first three places is mainly intended for the storage of imported grain, the bulk storage bins in Sind for long term storage of surplus indigenous produce and the godowns at the last mentioned 5 places for the surplus produce of the Eastern States which it was felt could not be tapped to the maximum extent in the absence of suitable godowns for its reception in British India.

(b) *Godowns constructed on the 50 : 50 basis*

An arrangement was arrived at with the surplus producing Provinces of the Punjab, Sind, C. P. and Orissa for the construction of additional godowns, the cost of such constructions being borne by the Central and Provincial Governments on a 50 : 50 basis. The following additional accommodation is being provided under this arrangement :—

Punjab . . . . .	30,000 tons
Sind . . . . .	25,000 "
C. P. . . . .	24,000 "
Orissa . . . . .	15,000 "

The ownership of these godowns will be joint and the residual value of the assets, when they are no longer required, will also be shared by the Provincial and Central Governments on the 50 : 50 basis.

(c) *Godown for the construction of which a subsidy will be paid*

As there was acute need to provide extra storage within the Eastern States territory for their produce and as some of the States concerned were reluctant to undertake constructions on their own accord, the Government of India offered to some of the State (detailed below) a subsidy of 0.6-0 in the rupee on the cost of godowns constructed at locations and for capacities approved by the Government of India provided the godowns were completed before the 31st December, 1945 :

Name of State	Location	Capacity
Patna . . . . .	Katabhanji . . . . .	1,500 tons
Kalahandi . . . . .	Kesinga . . . . .	2,000 "
Do. . . . .	Rupra Road . . . . .	750 "
Khairagarh . . . . .	Dongargarh . . . . .	1,000 "
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,250 "</b>

In addition, it has been possible to lease suitable godowns at other places notably at Karachi and Calcutta. As early as 1943 storage accommodation had to be secured at Karachi for the storage of imported foodgrains as well as the surplus production of the Punjab and Sind which had to be moved to the southern parts of India by sea. The necessary accommodation was leased from the Karachi Port Trust and other parties and this depot has at present capacity for 2,00,000 tons.

In February, 1945, a Central Depot was formed at Calcutta. 70,000 tons of storage accommodation has been leased from two agents on reasonable terms and they have been appointed Storage Agents of the depot.

At Shamli in the Muzaffarnagar district of the U. P. cement khattis with capacity of about 12,000 tons of foodgrains have been leased from the owners.

Owing to the necessity for keeping a part of the central reserve at some of the important wheat centres in U. P., e.g., Hapur, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar, arrangements have been entered into with the U. P. Government for keeping a part of the Central Reserve in khattis owned by the Provincial Government at these places.

Besides the godowns referred to above in which the Government of India are financially interested, the Provincial Governments, States and Administrations as well as private enterprise have been encouraged to build storage accommodation at their own cost, the Food Department arranging to secure necessary supplies of controlled materials. These materials include iron, steel, cement, etc., and to date more than 1,00,000 tons of such materials have been made available. Private enterprise has been persuaded to undertake construction of good stores and marked progress in this direction has been made in Bombay, C. P. and Bihar. All the Provincial Governments have on hand a storage construction programme. Mention in this connection may be made of the Punjab who are undertaking a scheme for the construction of bulk storage bins to accommodate 70,000 tons of foodgrains spread over some 40 important mandis in that Province.

The Technical Officers of the Storage Directorate have visited almost all parts of the country and given advice to the officers and others of the Provincial and State Governments about correct methods of storage on the spot. To demonstrate to them correct and hygienic methods of storage and conservation of foodgrains a training class was held in November, 1944, at Delhi at which many representatives from Provinces and States were present. A similar training course was held in November, 1945, also attended by more than 100 representatives from various parts of the country. A manual entitled 'The Principles of Cereal Storage' prepared by Dr. F. P. Coyne, who was the first Director of

Storage, has been made available to the public at a nominal price which contains practical advice to the layman about the proper conditions and methods of grain storage.

The value of propaganda to inculcate correct ideas of grain storage in the public mind has not been overlooked. Radio talks on the subject and propaganda through the press have been arranged. A film entitled 'Save the Nation's Food' is also under preparation. Attempts are also being made to utilise the services of the Boy Scouts Organization in the campaign for proper storage.

The experimental side of the work has also been steadily pursued. Experiments to test the insecticidal value of the two new chemicals DDT and 666 against stored grain pests have been arranged in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial and State Governments and the possibility of putting into general use these chemicals under Indian conditions is being explored. Work is also in progress on the best and safest methods of fumigating and recovering infested foodgrains.

Although hostilities have terminated the storage problem in India will continue to be of vital importance for a long time and can only be said to be satisfactorily solved when the present enormous wastage of foodgrains is prevented. Whatever storage accommodation has been newly constructed is merely a fraction of what is required in India. The exigencies of the situation created by the war demanded immediate constructions at ports and surplus areas but it cannot be said that all the accommodation required even at these places has been provided. A great deal has also to be done to improve the existing storage conditions in surplus areas, in mandis, in deficit areas as well as the cultivators stores. Apart from such improvements, the importance of the hygienic maintenance of godowns, elementary knowledge about stored grain pests and the seriousness of the damage that they cause, have to be brought home to all concerned in the handling of grain. This is by no means an easy task and will require sustained efforts and attention over a long period. Countries like America and Australia have made great strides in this direction as they have looked upon this problem as one of national importance even during normal times and India must profit by their experience.

#### F.—Sugar and Salt.

(1) *Sugar*.—The total production of sugar during 1944-45 (1st December, 1944 to 30th November, 1945) amounted to 9.72 lakhs tons. In addition, a carry over of 1,60,000 tons from 1943-44 production and 30,000 tons *khandasari* were available for allotment during the above period. After meeting demands for the Defence Services exports, industrial requirements and carry over a quantity of 9,63,350 tons was allotted to various provinces and States for civilian consumption. The production of factory sugar during the current year (1945-46) is estimated at 11,14,400 tons which is 1,44,000 tons more than last year. The increase will be shared by U. P. and Bihar—1,00,000 tons by U. P. and 40,000 tons by Bihar. A quantity of 15,000 tons *khandasari* sugar is also expected to be available from the U. P. The final position regarding production will not, however, be known until the end of March. In the meantime, after meeting the usual demands for Defence Services, Exports, Industrial requirements and carry over, a provisional allotment of sugar (including *khandasari*) amounting to 10,29,900 tons has been made to various Provinces and States for civilian consumption during the year 1945-46. This increased allotment over that of last year has been possible owing to an estimated increase in sugar production and of about 50 per cent. reduction in the Defence Services requirements.

The ex-factory price of Standard D24 quality sugar, viz., Rs. 16-4-0 per maund remains unchanged except in the case of Bengal where the sugar factories have been allowed an extra price of Rs. 3 per maund to meet the higher cost of production due to conditions created by the War.

In order to secure maximum production of sugar, it has also been decided to encourage gur refineries in the U. P. and Bihar to manufacture sugar by refining cane gur. To enable the manufacturers to do so without incurring a loss, the price of D24 quality sugar produced by gur refineries has been fixed at Rs. 22-13-0 per maund till the end of October, 1946.

The Sugar Panel set up by the Planning and Development Department has recently submitted its report in draft regarding the development of the sugar industry in the next five years. This is under examination. In the meantime, action has been taken with the concurrence of the Planning and Development Department to recommend to the Chief Controller of Imports suitable applications for import of machinery and to the Examiner of Capital Issues applications for issue of capital.

(2) *Gur*.—A total surplus of 424,120 tons gur is estimated to be available during 1945-46 in U. P., Bihar, N.-W. F. P. and Madras (U. P. 2,95,000, N.-W. F. P. 72,000 and Madras 56,720 tons) and has been allotted to deficit provinces and States.

To enable our merchants to establish connections with the Middle East countries a small quota of gur is proposed to be allotted for export to Iran and the Persian Gulf Shiekhdoms.

(3) *Salt*.—The supply position has been generally satisfactory. Bengal has become overstocked with salt—their present stocks being equal to six months requirements. Fresh imports have therefore been discontinued for some time. Other parts of India are being supplied from internal sources. War time controls over distribution are being examined with a view to their relaxation.

G.—*Edible Oils and Oil Seeds*

As a result of an increase in peoples' purchasing power and shortage of ghee and kerosene due to war time conditions there has arisen a general shortage of oils and fats in the country and this shortage has been accentuated in particular areas, particularly in Eastern India. There has also been an increase in the demand of oil cake as manure. Another development has been the very large expansion of the milling industry mainly in seed producing areas like the U. P.

All Provinces have at one time or another instituted various degrees of control over seed, oil and cake. The U. P. imposed an elaborate control on these items as the agricultural economy of that Province is so mixed that control over foodgrains must go hand in hand with control over oil seeds. In Bengal the position became so acute that the Provincial Government had to resort to individual rationing of mustard oil in Calcutta. A planned distribution of mustard seed and oil from the U. P. to Bengal, Bihar and Assam had also to be made. Similarly in the case of ground nut and oil from Southern India, an *ad hoc* distribution plan for export and internal consumption was drawn up. This, however, suffered distribution plan for export and internal consumption was drawn up. This, however, sufficed to meet local difficulties only partially and it has become increasingly clear that control over oil seeds, oil and cake on an all-India basis is essential. Collection of information necessary for this purpose is already in hand and the policy as to what form such control should take and how far it should go is now actively engaging the attention of the Food Department. The Food Department propose to make a distribution of oil seeds and oil on a proper coordinated plan with a view to securing a fair distribution of edible oils and proper utilisation of the milling capacity. In such a plan due regard will also have to be paid to the needs of different areas for oil cake in consultation with the Department of Agriculture. It is not proposed to disturb normal trade, but the idea is to bring it under effective Government control.

H.—*Command Co-ordination Committees for Foodstuffs*

The Command Co-ordination Committees continue to do useful work in their own limited sphere of co-ordinating Army purchases. After the cessation of hostilities the important question before the Co-ordination Committees, both in the Commands and at the Centre, has been how to meet the needs of deficit areas satisfactorily. The question of the future of these Committees was considered in consultation with the War Department who have agreed that the work done by these Committees should now be gradually taken over by civil organisations provided the Army was represented on any organisation set up and the Army demands were promptly and adequately met. Accordingly Provincial and State Governments were addressed and their views invited as to what form future control over perishable commodities should take and how co-ordination should be brought about. While replies from a few Governments are still awaited the majority are in favour of utilising existing Regional Food Commissioners Organisations in some form as the co-ordinating body in regard to allocations. The whole question of the future of controls and co-ordination of provincial policies in respect of fresh and protective foods is actively engaging the attention of the Food Department and decisions will soon be taken.

I.—*Imports and Exports*

1. *Import.*—The full quota of 11,00,000 tons of foodgrains promised by His Majesty's Government for the period October, 1943, to December, 1944, arrived by 25th May, 1945.

For the period from January, 1945 to December, 1945 a total quantity of 7,60,000 tons of wheat was promised by His Majesty's Government. Out of this quantity 621,364 tons has already been received and the balance is expected to arrive by the end of February, 1946.

In addition to the above quantity of wheat, a quota of 75,000 tons of rice from Burma was allotted for the last quarter of 1945, the whole of which has been received. Negotiations regarding the import quota for 1946 are still in progress. The Government of India have urged upon His Majesty's Government with all the emphasis at their command. The necessity of allocating to this country quotas of foodgrains on a scale sufficient to meet the present difficult supply position arising out of crop failures in various parts of the country. Sir Robert Hutchings, Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Food has been deputed to the United Kingdom and U.S.A. to place India's case before the London Food Council and the Combined Food Board, Washington.

2. *Exports.*—The ban on export of foodgrains outside India still continues

J.—*Deputation of Technical Experts to United Kingdom and United States of America*

Dr. B. C. Guha, Chief Technical Adviser and Mr. M. L. Khanna Technical Adviser, returned from deputation from U. K. and U. S. A. in March, 1945, after investigating methods of food technology with particular reference to dehydration, refrigeration, canning, etc. They have submitted a report on this subject with their own recommendations regarding future development of food technology in India. The report is being printed for distribution.

*K.—Technical Panel*

The Technical Panel of the Food Department which has been set up with a number of eminent Indian scientists representing different aspects of food and food industries has met twice during the year and has formed the following seven committees —

1. Food Processing Committee,
2. Edible Oils and Fats Committee.
3. Vitamin Technology and Food Fortification Committee.
4. Food Standards Committee,
5. Entomological Committee,
6. Alcoholic Beverages Committee.
7. Microbiological Committee.

All the above Committees except the last have already met and made their recommendations. The Food Processing Committee set up a Sub-Committee to consider the reconversion of existing fruit and vegetable dehydration factories to peace time uses.

*L.—Production of Food Yeast*

Food Department's report on the production of Food Yeast has been approved by the Planning and Development Department and is now being examined in this Department in respect of the financial and other commitments involved in establishing a factory of a 10 tons daily capacity.

*M.—Proceed Foodstuffs*

A Laboratory has been set up in the Food Department for current analysis and investigation of processed foodstuffs. These investigations coupled with those carried out at the Peshawar Fruit Processing Factory are expected to lead to the improvement of the fruit dehydration industry in India. Research in respect of other food industries is also done, on a small scale, which may serve as a starting point for the Institute on Food Technology, the establishment of which has been recommended, and is being considered actively by the Planning and Development Department.

Food Department are also collaborating with the Agriculture Department to establish facilities for cold storage and refrigeration. As now envisaged, the Agriculture Department will establish a chain of subsidized refrigerating centres, as a nucleus to a larger plan in respect of which information is to be obtained from the provinces.

*N.—Vanaspatti Industry*

To overcome the existing shortage and to correct the deficiency of fat in the general diet the planned development of the Vanaspatti Industry was undertaken.

(a) *Immediate Expansion Scheme.*—For the immediate needs of the country particularly areas where the fat consumption was low it was decided to permit establishment of 27 Vanaspatti factories (18 in British India and 9 in Indian States) of a total annual capacity of approximately 1,36,500 tons, keeping in view the availability of groundnuts which is the main raw material required. All the 27 factories have been assisted in obtaining controlled materials and import of plant and machinery from abroad.

(b) *Future Expansion.*—A Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of the Vegetable Oil Products Controller for India to examine and report on the scope and extent of further expansion of the industry. The Committee will also examine and report on other important questions affecting the industry.

*O.—Army Demands*

The end of the war, and the consequent demobilisation has resulted in a considerable reduction in the Defence Services demand for foodstuffs for 1946-47. This reduction has affected firstly the civilian economy for which a larger proportion of food taken previously by the Army is now released. Secondly Government schemes for production have been curtailed or terminated. Three vegetable dehydration factories, and the concomittent Vegetable Production scheme in the U. P. have been closed down. The number of Ghee Centres and Controlled Flour Mills have been reduced from 6 to 3, and 9 to 3, respectively. The Fruit Canning Factory at Nasarpur has been leased to a private agency. Only the seven meat dehydration factories are unaffected and will probably work in 1946-47. Thirdly, and most important of all, has been the effect on private food industries under contract of supply to the Army. Most important of these are the Biscuit and Vegetable dehydration factories. Conferences of the representatives of both industries were held. In respect of Biscuit factories, it was decided that the Central Government should make an allocation of controlled materials sufficient to assure economic production to all factories. It was also decided to allow factories to export up to 5 per cent. of their production in order to enable them to make up for the loss of the Army demand and to establish themselves in new markets. In respect of dehydration, the prospects of maintaining existing production for the civil market is poor and the owners have been advised to divert their equipment to other food production for which they have been promised due assistance. In respect of other industries; Provincial Governments have been addressed to help in converting production for the civil market. At the same time, planning and development of all food industries is being undertaken by the Food and the Agriculture Departments. Every effort is being made to capitalise the development of food industries, which the war started or enlarged. This is with a view also to conserve food which unless processed is liable to be wasted in some places and seasons for want of a demand for the fresh product.

## ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAMINE ENQUIRY COMMISSION

**8. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Secretary Food Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement indicating action that has been, or is proposed to be taken on the principal recommendations of the Famine Enquiry Commission (1944-45) in their Report on Bengal as well as Final Report?

**Mr. B. B. Sen:** Action on most of the recommendations in the Bengal Report of the Famine Inquiry Commission is the responsibility of the Provincial Government. A report of progress up to the end of 1945 is placed on the table of the House.

The Government of India have generally accepted the main recommendations in the Final Report of the Famine Inquiry Commission. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement on Food and Agriculture Policy issued by the Government of India, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House. The Government of India have set up a special machinery to co-ordinate and progress the implementation of the recommendations, and progress reports will be placed before the House from time to time.

*Statement showing the principal recommendations of the Famine Inquiry Commission Report on Bengal and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon*

## Progress Report upto 31st December 1945

Serial No.	Recommendations	Action taken
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	District Health Officers should be brought into a provincial cadre under the control of the Director of Public Health. With regard to the status and duties of Health Officers, legislation along the lines of the Madras Public Health Act, 1939, is desirable (Part II).	The recommendation is under consideration of the Provincial Government. It will be further examined in the light of the Bhoré Committee recommendations and necessary action will be taken in due course.
2.	Whatever future advances are planned, the need for the existing emergency medical and Health Organisation will persist until the end of 1945. Not only should there be no premature retrenchment, but that full use should be made of developments during the famine as a foundation for further progress.	It has been decided to retain and strengthen the emergency medical organisation and to merge it into Province's post-war schemes. 20,000 emergency beds will be retained for a period of years, the buildings in which they are located will be looked after. The Provincial Government also propose to appoint 4 additional Assistant Directors of Public Health.
3.	The rationing of towns with a population of about 25,000 or more should be carried out as quickly as possible and in the light of experience gained rationing of smaller towns considered (Part III, Chapter I).	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation. Statutory rationing of rice, wheat, wheat-products, sugar and salt is functioning in Calcutta, Dacca, Narayanganj and Commilla. It is proposed to extend statutory rationing to Chittagong on 11th February 1946 and Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Kurseong on 25th February 1946. The Provincial Government have also under examination the question of extension of rationing in April 1946, subject to requisite quantity of wheat being available, to Asansol, Burnpore, Hiraipur, Kulti, Kharagpur, Midnapore and Burdwan.
(4).	Immediate steps should be taken to review licences issued since May, 1943, under the Food Grains Control Order and to remove from the register of licensees persons who are not traders by profession.	The Bengal Food Grains Control Order was brought into force on 13th December 1945 in supersession of the Foodgrains Control Order of 1942. Dealers have been defined as persons dealing in purchase and sale of foodgrains and includes persons so dealing or storing on behalf of another as commission agents or arhatiyas. Dealers licensed under the Food Grains Control Order of 1942 will be allowed time up to 15th March 1946 to renew their licences. By an executive order the Provincial Government have directed that no licences shall be granted to any applicant who does not already possess a licence under the Food Grain Control Order of 1942. The Provincial Government have also taken power to suspend or cancel any licence or permit issued under the Order.

Serial No.	Recommendations	Action taken
1	2	3
4 (ii)	Cultivators holding land exceeding 25 acres should be brought under the scope of the Food Grains Control Order.	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation and in-corporated it in the new Bengal Food Grains Control Order. Section II, Clause (e) defines a large producer as a person who cultivates land the area of which is not less than 25 acres at any one time.
5	Embargoes round the surplus districts should be effectively enforced and adequate number of launches should be made available for the purpose.	Against 121 power-driven river-craft asked for by the Provincial Government 71 have been supplied so far and attempts are being made to supply the remainder as soon as possible.
6	Requisitioning from traders and large producers should be undertaken and public opinion should be enlisted in support of requisitioning by suitable propaganda.	The register of producers holding land about 25 acres will constitute a register of large-holders. The Provincial Government accept the recommendation regarding requisitioning in principle. They, however, do not favour propaganda.
7	Official procurement agency should be appointed in place of the present system of procurement through Chief Agents chosen from the trade.	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation in principle. Direct procurement was taken up in 1944 before the publication of the Famine Inquiry Commission Report in Patukhali Sub-division of Bakerganj District and it has since been extended to the whole of that District, My-mensingh, Murshidabad, Pabna, Nadia, Rajshahi, Malda, Bogra, Khulna, Jessore and Basirhat Sub-division of the 24-Parganas District. Extension of the system of direct procurement by Government officials has been hampered to a certain extent for want of suitable staff.
8	Monopoly procurement system in force in Orissa and C. P. should be studied and applied as an experiment in a selected district or districts of Bengal.	The Provincial Government have examined the system of monopoly procurement in force in Orissa and C. P. They do not consider that the system suited to C. P. and Orissa can be adopted in Bengal but favour the extension of official procurement.
9 (a)	The respective functions of District Magistrates and Dy. Directors of Civil Supplies in regard to the procurement and distribution of supplies and the enforcement of controls should be clearly defined.	(a) (b) & (c). The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation and have issued the necessary orders.
(b)	The District Magistrate should be responsible for all matters concerning the distribution, storage, and movement of supplies and the enforcement of controls in the district.	
(c)	In those districts where a staff is specially employed for making purchases on behalf of the Government or for controlling and supervising such purchases the District Magistrate and his staff should have no responsibility in regard to procurement and operations connected therewith. In other districts, District Magistrate should be authorised to undertake procurement, should this prove necessary, in local surplus areas in order to provide supplies for other parts of the district.	

Serial No.	Recommendations	Action taken
1	2	3
10	The existence of a large staff under the Jute Regulation, Rural Reconstruction and Agricultural Departments affords an opportunity for organising a subordinate administrative establishment which will be of value in enabling District and Sub-Divisional officers to maintain closer contact with the villages. The possibility of such a reorganisation should be considered.	There was a large staff under the old Development Commissioner for the Jute Regulation, Food Distribution in rural areas, Rural Reconstruction and crop surveys. In accordance with the recommendations of the Rowland Committee the post of the Development Commissioner has been abolished and only such of the staff has been retained under the control of the Director of Agriculture as is needed for Jute Regulation work. The rest of the staff has been retrenched.
11	It is no longer necessary to reduce prices at relatively short intervals. A more stable price policy is recommended.	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation. Prices are now fixed for long periods.
12	Development of Co-operative Societies and the utilization of the marketing and agricultural credit societies in Bakerganj District should be made.	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation. The work was done by a Dy. Director in charge of Co-operative Procurement but that post has since been abolished and the work is entrusted to the Regional Controllers of Procurement. Procurement through co-operative societies is in operation in all direct procurement areas.
13	Action should be taken against officers guilty of corruption.	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation and have strengthened the Enforcement Staff to implement it.
14	(a) A Provincial Food Advisory Council, composed of officials and non-officials should be established. Producers, traders and consumers should be adequately represented on this Council. (b) A separate Advisory Body for Greater Calcutta should be established as also District Advisory Committees in those districts where they do not exist at present.	(a) & (b) Food Committees exist in towns and villages. The question of creating a Provincial Food Advisory Council is under consideration of Government.
15	A Rehabilitation Commissioner, with whatever staff is necessary, should be immediately appointed for rehabilitation work in all its aspects both at the Centre and in the districts (Pt. III, Chap. II).	In March 1945 a Director and Deputy Director of Relief and Rehabilitation were appointed. In addition, 35 Sub-divisional Relief and Rehabilitation Officers and 80 Circle Officers have also been appointed.
16	Restoration of land is a very necessary part of rehabilitation. To enable petty cultivators (who sold their lands during famine) to get back their land all pending cases should be quickly disposed of.	On the expiry of the Bengal Alienation of Land Ordinance of September 1944, an Act was passed for the same purpose. The time for filling applications under this Act expired in December 1945. 70,000 cases have been instituted under the Act. They are pending in Courts and will be proceeded with. The question is handled by the Board of Revenue.
17	Special Officers trained in rehabilitation work should be appointed.	See reply to item 15.
18	Suitable homes for all destitute orphans should be established without unnecessary delay.	A Special Officer has been appointed in the Education Department by the Government of Bengal to look after the permanent orphanages and the Relief and Rehabilitation Directorates are responsible for temporary orphanages. There are at present 2,000 inmates in 5 Government and 28 aided orphanages which are on a permanent basis. There are 4,300 orphans in the temporary orphanages.

Serial No	Recommendations	Action taken
1	2	3
19	In enlisting help of non-official institutions for taking care of orphans, great care should be taken to see that initial enthusiasm is not lost by the passage of time.	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation. It is their policy to accept help of approved voluntary organisations in this and other aspects of relief work and to make suitable grants-in-aid for that work.
20	There should be co-ordination between the Revenue Deptt. and other Deptts. of the Govt. of Bengal to speed up rehabilitation work. More energetic and co-ordinated action is needed. A survey of rehabilitation policy should also be stressed (Part III, Chapt. III).	Necessary steps have been taken. The Director and Dy. Director of Relief and Rehabilitation are Joint and Deputy Secretaries in the Deptt. of Public Health & Local Self Govt., Commerce, Labour & Industries, Education and Department of Co-operative Credit and Relief.
21	The Government of Bengal should encourage production within the province of the various pulses which the population requires.	A scheme for producing improved varieties of pulses in Bengal estimated to cost Rs. 75,000 over a period of 5 years has been prepared and is under consideration for being financed in collaboration with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The question of establishment of seed multiplication farms is also under consideration. The Govt. of India (Agriculture Deptt.) have sanctioned aloan to meet half the cost of distribution of 19,250 mds. of lentil, 7,500 mds. of cowpeas and 21,185 mds. of kalai seed during 1945-46. They have also sanctioned if required, a grant equivalent to 25% of the actual loss upto Re. 1 per md. which ever is less, in respect of quantities actually distributed during 1945-46.
22	The question of increase in the allotment of pulses under Basic Plan should be taken up.	The pulses requirements of Bengal are given the highest priority in distribution of available pulses-supplies under the Basic Plan.
23	Steps should be taken to increase the supply of fish. Immediate action should be taken to obtain (i) motor boats, (ii) necessary machinery and materials for the construction of rice factories and (iii) waterproofing material for nets, and whatever else is needed for the reorganisation of fishing industry in Bengal.	The Bengal Govt. have accepted the recommendation. The Directorate of Fisheries has been considerably expanded and strengthened; the main emphasis is being laid on development of tank fisheries and nurseries and fish farms were organised in 8 districts of the province during 1945. Attempts have been made to rationalise the trade in fish prawn in the districts and will be continued. The Provincial Government have recently sanctioned a scheme for the procurement, treatment and transport of fish from the estuarin area in the Suberbans to the Calcutta market at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,00,000. This scheme provides for the employment of one refrigerated lighter, three 25' collector launches and four 40' insulated fish carriers. The Provincial Government have also asked for assistance in the supply of coal-tar, yarn and cloth necessary steps are being taken.
24	Closer co-ordination should be established between Military & Civil authorities with regard to fish supplies. Military and Civilian demand should be more amicably adjusted and plans laid to turn channels of supply developed by the Military to Civilian use when the war is over.	This is no longer a live issue as with the end of the war Command Co-ordination Committees which have maintained liaison between the Civil and Military authorities will be taken over by Civil Officers.



Serial No. 1	Recommendations 2	Action taken 3
25 Production of milk should be increased by developing Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and also by importing more milch cattle.	<p>The Provincial Govt. have accepted this recommendation as a part of the long-term Development Plan. Arrangements have been completed by them for the establishment of a Central Livestock Research-cum-breeding Station at Haringhatta (35 miles from Calcutta). The station will be used to produce high-grade bulls. An experimental Dairy Farm will be set up. It is hoped to put the scheme in operation by the middle of 1946. To relieve immediate milk supply position, following measures have been taken :—</p> <p>(i) A separate Dairy Development staff will be appointed to increase milk supply of urban areas. The Govt. of India in the Agriculture Deptt. have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 60,569 to meet half the cost of the scheme for a period of 17 months from 1st October 1945 to February 1947.</p> <p>(ii) Arrangements have been made with the U.P. and the Punjab Govts. for the import of 1500 heads of milch cattle every month. Efforts are being made to increase this import quota.</p> <p>(iii) The question of salvage of dry cows is being considered.</p> <p>(iv) Arrangements are being made for Veterinary aid at selected centres which will also have stud farms attached to them.</p> <p>(v) Licensing of cattle by the Calcutta Corporation.</p>	
26 Railway Board should be asked to do whatever is possible to improve and accelerate the transport of fish.	The Railway Board have instructed the Railways concerned to pay special attention to the expeditious transport of fish. They are considering the possibility of providing refrigerator vans.	
27 A Rationing system on Bombay lines should be introduced whereby infants, young children, and expectant and nursing mothers are given prior claims on available supplies. This system is recommended for adoption by other municipalities all over India.	The Provincial Govt. consider that a scheme of supply of milk to priority consumers on the lines of the system in force in Bombay will involve considerable expenditure which they are unable to undertake in the present state of the Province's finances. They will, however, consider it as a post-war measure when financial position improves.	
28 The use of milk for non-essential purposes should be prohibited.	The Provincial Govt. consider that prohibition of the use of milk for non-essential purposes is undesirable as at the prevailing milk prices the milk so released will not find a market.	
29 Local milk market in Bengal should be relieved as far as possible of military demands.	The question is under consideration of the Central Government. A scheme for the establishment of a Military Dairy Farm at Calcutta is under preparation. The end of war have, however, altered the position a good deal.	
30 Duck-rearing should be encouraged on the basis of the experience gained in the Military venture.	The Central Government in the Agriculture Deptt. have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,11,000 a year for a scheme for the multiplication of poultry in Bengal for a period of three years. One military Duck Farm has been established in Bengal at Barrack-pore for meeting a part of the Army demand.	
31 To remove present scarcity of vegetables of all kinds a vigorous "Grow More Vegetables" Campaign should be undertaken.	<p>The Provincial Govt. have sanctioned the following three schemes immediately :—</p> <p>(a) A scheme for the production of Vegetables on 1,400 acres of land for supply to Calcutta.</p> <p>(b) A scheme for the Distribution of summer-vegetable seeds in rural areas; seeds worth Rs. 1,525 are being distributed through the Govt. Seeds Stores.</p> <p>(c) A scheme for the establishment of 178 seed and seedling stations covering an area of about 8060 acres in rural areas.</p>	

Serial No.	Recommendations	Action taken
1	2	3
32	With regard to military purchases the establishment of Regional Control Boards including Military and Civil representatives to co-ordinate military purchases of various foods is strongly recommended.	See reply to item 24.

*A Statement on Agriculture and Food Policy in India*

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in June 1944 prepared a memorandum defining the needs, and the means for the attainment of maximum efficiency in agricultural production, aiming at the fullest possible development of the productive potential of all the resources of the country, as a basis for an all-India agricultural policy. These proposals were generally endorsed by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The recommendations of this Committee were also generally accepted by Provincial Governments, and in June 1945 were approved by the Standing Committee of the Legislature.

Since then the Famine Inquiry Commission have included in their Final Report a series of connected recommendations which define the broad lines of an Agriculture and Food policy designed to prevent any future threat of famine, and to improve the diet of the people. These recommendations state objectives and principles, suggest lines of further investigation and advise specific action over a wide field which, in the words of the Commission, is for practical purposes, co-extensive with the whole future development of the country.

Proposals have been included in the post-war development plans, both of the Central and of the Provincial Governments, and measures have already been undertaken, which reflect agreement on the main essentials of a common policy for Agriculture and Food.

The development of agriculture and the supply and distribution of food, are among the most important statutory responsibilities of Provincial Governments. The events of recent years have emphasised the inter-dependence of the various Provinces and States on each other in the matter of food supply, and have shown that freedom from want can, in future, only be achieved by the closest co-operation of all, in an all-India policy of agricultural development, food production and distribution; and, in these circumstances, it is for the Central Government to co-ordinate that policy.

The Government of India therefore consider, after careful examination of the various suggestions and recommendations made, that it is now opportune to announce, in general terms, and subject to acceptance by Governments of Provinces, an all-India policy for Agriculture and Food, as well as the objectives to be achieved, the measures to be adopted and the respective roles of the Centre and the Provinces for their attainment. The policy will be implemented by the Provincial and Central Governments in their respective spheres in consultation with each other, and to the extent that is appropriate and necessary in each case. The degree of success will depend upon the degree of co-operation between the Central and other Governments, and among the people themselves, in working out a common policy for the common good of all.

This general Statement of Policy, and the objectives and measures included in it, will also be submitted to the Governments of States for their co-operation.

2. *The Policy.*—The all-India policy is to promote the welfare of the people and to secure a progressive improvement of their standard of living. This includes the responsibility for providing enough food for all, sufficient in quantity and of requisite quality. For the achievement of this objective high priority will be given to measures for increasing the food resources of the country to the fullest extent, and in particular to measures designed to increase the output per acre and to diminish dependence on the vagaries of nature. Their aim will be not only to remove the threat of famine, but also to increase the prosperity of the cultivator, raise levels of consumption and create a healthy and vigorous population. The Central and Provincial Governments will bring all available resources to bear to achieve this end in the shortest possible time.

3. *The Objectives.*—The Cardinal objectives of this policy are as follows:—

(1) To increase the production of food, both of foodgrains and protective foods, required to meet the basic needs of the present and future population of India and thus reduce dependence on imports.

As an indication of the magnitude of the task, it has been estimated that existing production falls short of present requirements for a balanced diet by the following margins.

Cereals . . . . .	by 10 %	(6 million tons)
Pulses . . . . .	by 20 %	(1½ " " )
Fats and Oils . . . . .	by 25 %	(5 " " )
Fruit . . . . .	by 50 %	(3 " " )
Vegetables . . . . .	by 100 %	(9 " " )
Milk . . . . .	by 300 %	(70 " " )
Meat, Fish and Eggs . . . . .	by 300 %	(4½ " " )

The increases in the production of cereals and pulses must be proportionately greater, until the required standards of production of other foods have been attained.

(2) To increase the efficiency of the methods of agricultural production, marketing and distribution.

(3) To stimulate the production of the raw materials of industry, both for domestic manufacture and for export.

(4) To secure for agricultural produce an assured market at a price remunerative to the producer, and fair to the consumer.

(5) To secure fair wages for agricultural labour.

(6) To improve the standard of living of the rural population, and for this purpose to solve the problems of rural economy which stand in the way of agricultural improvement.

(7) To secure continuous and profitable employment in agriculture by the introduction of intensive scientific agricultural methods, the development of agricultural and cottage industries, and the bringing of new areas under cultivation.

(8) To enlarge the market for agricultural produce and augment the national wealth with a view to improving the national diet, and for this purpose to promote industrial development.

(9) To ensure a fair distribution of the food produced.

(10) To promote nutritional research and nutritional education, as a prominent part of the public health programme.

The sum of these objectives is an expanding production and consumption, and adequate purchasing power in the hands of the people. It is now the task of the Central and Provincial Governments, in co-operation with the people, to translate them into practical achievement.

4. *Programme of Action.*—In the wide field of action necessary to attain these objectives, the first essential is the enlargement and intensification of the measures taken during the war for the increase of food production. The facilities, goods and services necessary for increased production will be made available to primary producers. At the same time they will be educated to make use of better methods of cultivation, production and animal husbandry and to appreciate improved standards of living.

In the matter of distribution of food, waste and deterioration must be eliminated as far as possible by improved arrangements for storage, methods of pest control, and the application of scientific processes to the conservation of perishable foodstuffs. Arrangements for transport will be improved and modernised, and movement rationalised.

Health, prosperity and increased employment must be brought to the villages by such measures as the provision of education, in the widest sense of the word especially of women, eradication of endemic diseases, the improvement of village communications, the promotion of co-operative marketing and credit, and the encourage of village industries.

The particular measures which will be required are described in succeeding paragraphs, and will be included in a programme of action prepared in consultation with provinces, and designed to achieve specified goals over a specified period of years. Many of the measures are already in hand: where preparatory work is necessary, it will be completed before the end of 1946.

5. *The Measures.*—The measures which will be included in the programme of action cover an immense field. In order to gring the task within manageable dimensions, it is necessary to select for immediate attention certain measures, which appear to hold out the best promise of a considerable increase of production over a short period, and to proceed with the utmost despatch to complete the necessary preliminary enquiries and surveys. These measures, which already find a place in the development plans of Provincial and Central Governments, and on which much work has already been done, are :—

(1) The supply and conservation of WATER, by the construction of wells, tanks, dams and canals.

- (2) The conservation of SOIL and the proper use of LAND.
- (3) An increase in the production and utilisation of all resources of MANURES and fertilisers, on a subsidised basis, if necessary.
- (4) The production and distribution of improved varieties of SEED.
- (5) Measures for the PROTECTION OF CROPS and STORED GRAIN against pests and diseases.
- (6) MALARIA control.
- (7) The development of FISHERIES.
- (8) An increase of MILK PRODUCTION.
- (9) The establishment of a network of DEMONSTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION CENTRES.

(10) The TRAINING OF AN ABUNDANT supply of workers for the practical work involved, and building up on the basis of the village, or a group of villages as the primary unit, an adequate and efficient administrative organisation to ensure practical results.

6. Other measures which will be included in the programme of action are as follows :—

(1) A sufficient supply of iron and steel will be made available to meet all demands for agricultural implements, and mechanical cultivation will be introduced in suitable areas.

(2) The results of research on improved methods of cultivation will be extended progressively throughout the country, and pilot schemes in new methods of agricultural organisation in villages by means of co-operative and collective farming and joint management will be carried out.

(3) The production of fruit, vegetables and tubers will be progressively increased, and their distribution improved.

(4) The production of oilseeds will be increased and the seeds crushed in India, so as to make more oil and oilcakes available both as a cattle feed and as manure.

(5) The quality of plough and milch cattle, sheep and goats will be improved by the establishment of breeding farms, by the distribution of selected animals for breeding, and by development of goshalas.

(6) The quantity and quality of cattle feed will be improved, and better facilities for grazing made available.

(7) Facilities for the protection of cattle against disease will be extended.

(8) Dairy and poultry farming will be developed making use, where possible, for civil purposes, of developments introduced by the Army during the war.

(9) Conservation of forest resources will be developed and extended, including the development of village forests.

(10) Agricultural statistics of acreage and yield will be improved.

(11) The regulation of markets and the improvement of marketing facilities will be extended in respect of both agricultural produce and the products of cottage industries.

(12) An adequate marketing organisation will be set up to ensure that middlemen's profits are related to services rendered, and the producer gets a fair share of what the consumer pays. A Committee has been appointed to advise on the subject and action will be taken without delay on its recommendations when received.

(13) Communications between villages and markets, and methods of transporting perishable foodstuffs, will be improved.

(14) Accommodation for the storage of foodgrains will be multiplied and improved.

(15) Assistance will be given to the establishment of industries for food processing, and the preservation of foodstuffs.

(16) The standards of quality of foodstuffs will be improved and enforced.

(17) Facilities for obtaining special beneficial foods for mothers and small children will be increased.

(18) School-feeding and industrial canteens will be extended.

(19) The consolidation of holdings will be encouraged and the fragmentation of holdings discouraged.

(20) Consultation with Provinces will be undertaken to ascertain the extent to which the existing systems of land tenure, including the rights and obligations of holders and tillers of land, impede the full productive use of land, and the measures to be taken.

(21) Co-operative farming, credit and marketing will be encouraged, and other forms of providing agricultural finance will be extended. The reports of Special Committees appointed on rural credit and the Development of the Co-operative Movement have been recently received. Their recommendations are being taken into urgent consideration.

(22) Such economic measures will be taken as may be practicable for the regulation of prices so as to ensure an adequate return to the producer and a fair price to the consumer. A Special Committee has been set up to advise how agricultural prices should be fixed and made effective. Its recommendations will be examined as soon as they are received.

(23) The question of subsidization of foodstuffs is under consideration by a Committee.

(24) Suitable measures to regulate the wages or remuneration of agricultural labourers and crop shares, so as to ensure to them a reasonable standard of living, will be encouraged.

(25) Legislation will be undertaken, when necessary, to secure these objects, including legislation to ensure that beneficial measures are not held up by the opposition of a minority to such matters as the control of pests and diseases, measures of soil conservation, consolidation of holdings, and improvement of live stock.

(26) The fullest consultation and co-operation is necessary between officials and the public in the preparation and execution of local plans, and it is therefore intended to promote the setting up of village agricultural associations, committees or co-operative societies for better farming, as well as similar tahsil, district and provincial bodies, so that the people immediately concerned and Government officials may work together to achieve the common goal of promoting the welfare of the people.

7. By these and other measures future production of food can and will be increased, and its distribution improved, Imports and distribution of food, and the holding of reserves, will be regulated to the extent that and for as long as may be necessary. It is intended that the trade shall in due course resume its normal functions. The relaxation of controls will be a gradual and regulated process, and not inconsistent with the need for establishing a permanent system which will assure a market for the producer and equitable distribution of food to the consumer, at prices fair to both.

8. *The Role of the Centre and of Provinces.*—Agriculture, and the supply and distribution of food are Provincial subjects, and on Provinces will rest the first responsibility of making plans, in the light of local needs and capacity, and the final responsibility of carrying them out. But it is necessary for the Central Government to take the initiative in co-ordinating the proposals and bringing them into the framework of a common plan for agriculture and food. Subject to what follows, it is intended that both in planning and execution the Provincial Governments should have the fullest freedom of action and scope for local initiative.

9. It is the first and most urgent task of the Centre to assess the requirements of the country as a whole in respect of the different types of agricultural produce, and of nutrition. The Centre will estimate, on an all-India basis, what is required to be produced. This will be compared with the Provincial programmes of increased production. It will then be determined, by mutual consultation between the Centre and the Provinces how the gap should be reduced, what additional amounts should be produced in each area, what measures should be taken and facilities provided to achieve these ends, and in what period they should be completed.

The Central and Provincial plans will be examined from this point of view, to make sure that between them they include the measures necessary to achieve the objectives and make adequate provision for the administrative machinery required for the performance of these tasks. Steps will also be taken, by mutual consultation and joint agreement to ensure that a balance is maintained between the projects in each local plan, and between the efforts of each area, and that the sum of that balanced effort and its results are applied to the objectives of the common policy.

10. *Financial assistance.*—The Centre will give grants to Provinces for schemes of agricultural development except in respect of such productive schemes as are self-supporting. The form, scale and conditions of such financial assistance will be related to the over-all requirements of the all-India plans for development, and will be separately prescribed.

Proposals will be judged not merely on the basis of the direct financial return, but full account will be taken of the indirect economic and social benefits to the country as a whole. A liberal and expansionist policy will be followed in regard to agricultural development. Recoveries in respect of long term productive schemes will not be restricted to a short term period.

11. *Other Central Functions.*—Some of the other main functions of the Centre in contributing to the achievement of the common objectives for Agriculture and Food will be to provide certain facilities for training, to conduct research, to make available expert advice to Provinces that need it, and to set up special organisations to serve particular all-India purposes. (These are further elaborated in an Annexure).

12. *Preparatory Measures.*—Much preliminary work has already been undertaken and progress made. To the extent that all preparatory measures have not been completed, programmes of action framed and the administrative machinery to carry them out set up, this will be done in 1946. The preparatory measures include the training of staff, the carrying out of surveys, the framing of detailed schemes, the obtaining of materials, and the combination of the various schemes into a clear programme of action for the achievement of the local objectives. All this will be the responsibility of Provincial Governments in consultation with the Central Government.

13. *Liaison.*—The progress and continuity, and the inter-relation of Central and Provincial planning for Agriculture and Food, and its execution, will require frequent and personal consultation. For this purpose the Government of India have set up a small special organisation, whose function it shall be to visit the Governments of Provinces and to assist by all possible means the removal of any obstacle in the way of the early completion of measures undertaken consistently with this declaration of policy.

14. *A New Spirit.*—The Famine Inquiry Commission have called for a new spirit of determination to face the great tasks, they have defined. These will be hard, but worth accomplishing and must be accomplished. They will call for the highest degree of administrative and technical skill, for enthusiasm and for the co-operation of the whole population. This declaration of policy has been made in the confidence that there will be no lack of determination in the efforts now demanded, of governments and people alike, along the strenuous road which will lead them away from the menace of famine to a new vigour and prosperity.

#### ANNEXURE

*Training.*—The training of agricultural staff up to the degree standard is primarily the function of the Provinces and States concerned. The Centre will endeavour to arrange for the admission, at the larger Provincial colleges, of students from adjoining areas up to a certain limit.

In addition the Central Government will itself set up an Agricultural College and an Animal Husbandry College to meet the needs of the Centrally Administered areas and the smaller Provinces and States, which cannot afford to have separate colleges. It is hoped that these institutions will also serve as a model for other similar colleges.

The Central Government have also increased the facilities for post-graduate training in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. The number of post-graduate students admitted to the Agriculture Institute has already been increased from 16 to 50 per year and it is proposed to increase the number to 100 in a couple of years. Admissions to the Veterinary Institute have been doubled.

The facilities for training in special subjects like Dairying, Fisheries, Fruits and Vegetables, etc., are also being expanded. Admissions to the Forest Rangers College have been increased fourfold—from 36 students every alternate year to 75 students every year—and those to the Forest Officers College have been doubled.

The Centre is also arranging for post-graduate training in special subjects overseas. About 100 students have already been sent and it is hoped to send another 75 in 1946.

*Research.*—Higher training and research have to go together. The Centre will undertake to develop intensive research, in collaboration with the Provinces, on a sufficiently large scale in regard to agricultural matters.

For this purpose, the Central Government will expand the facilities for research at the Agricultural, Veterinary, Dairy and Forest Institutes and will also set up Institutes in respect of Rice, Potatoes, Vegetables, Fruits, Grasslands, Livestock breeding and Fisheries. Research on Cotton, Jute, Lac, Tobacco and Sugarcane and Coconuts is being attended to by special commodity committees and it is hoped to set up a similar committee for oil-seeds shortly.

The Central Government will not only set up high grade research institutes, but will also establish substations at suitable centres, for experimentation on a sufficiently large field scale, either in conjunction with Provinces or otherwise as may be found convenient. Provincial Governments will supplement this by research work of an applied nature to suit local conditions and for the practical country wide utilisation of the results of research.

In particular, the Central Government will take the initiative in carrying out pilot schemes of co-operative farming, joint management, testing the use and extension of mechanised farming, etc.

*Special organizations.*—The Centre will also set up and maintain, in certain cases, special organisations requiring central co-ordination or management and for providing expert guidance and advice on technical matters to those who need it.

A *Statistical and Economic Organisation* will be set up for the collection, compilation and interpretation of data relating to the production and distribution of agricultural commodities.

A *Central Agricultural Marketing Organisation* already exists, but it will be strengthened and placed on a firmer footing. A special committee has been appointed to suggest the lines on which this should be done. In particular it will deal with the improvement in the facilities for the marketing of agricultural produce by the organisation of co-operative societies or depots for the collection, grading, cleaning standardisation and sale of agricultural produce by the construction of godowns and cold stores and by the establishment of regulated markets.

A *Plant Protection Organisation* is being established which will look after quarantine stations for plants and take up the study of birds in their relation to agriculture. A similar organisation will also be set up on the Animal side, particularly for dealing with rinderpest.

A *Soil Conservation Bureau* will be set up which will, in collaboration with provinces, advise on antierosion work and guide and train the provincial staff in this line of activity.

The Centre will provide expert advice to Provinces in the preparation of their plans to co-ordinate the various activities and to undertake such other special functions as may be necessary from time to time. For instance there are advisers in respect of emergency

and minor irrigation works, Fish development, Dairy development, Fruit development, Fertiliser Production and Utilisation and so on.

The advisability of expanding the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research into an all-India *Council of Agriculture* will be examined, in order to provide a permanent machinery for the promotion of agreement between the Central and Provincial Governments and help in solving problems which are likely to arise from time to time.

The question of establishing an all-India *Council of Co-operation* will also be looked into particularly for dealing with problems of rural credit and marketing and the steps to be taken to provide both long term and short term credit to Agriculture. The suggestions of the committees appointed for co-operative planning and for rural indebtedness will be examined in this connection, and action taken thereon without delay.

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS TO DELHI DISTRICT BOARD

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to State:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the items of news in the *Evening National Call* of January 31, 1946, and the *Hindustan Times* of February 1, 1946, relating to the alleged interference of officials in the forthcoming elections to the District Board of Delhi;

(b) if Government have had any report regarding the interference of Revenue Officers, Naib-Tahsildars and Zaildars in the matter of these elections, and if the officers have been taking any active interest in the matter as asking the village voters to vote one way or the other; and

(c) if Government propose to take immediate steps to inform all officials concerned to forbear from taking any interest in the elections and ensure full freedom to the electors in regard to them?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** (a) I have seen one of the articles.

(b) I have received no complaints; neither has the Chief Commissioner nor the Deputy Commissioner.

(c) Government servants are well aware that they may not interfere with elections.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that these complaints have been published in the public press, even if the officials concerned themselves have not informed the Honourable Member, will the Honourable Member kindly take steps now to inform all officials that their policy is that Government servants should not interfere with these elections?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** No, Sir. As I say, Government servants know what their duty is. If any particular Government servant fails in his duty, it is open to anyone to make a complaint to the authority concerned.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the speech delivered at a police parade by His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces to the effect that Government servants are not to interfere with these elections and whether it would be *infra dig* on the part of this Government to issue similar instructions here?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** My attention has not been drawn to it, Sir.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that I am drawing his attention to these things, will the Honourable Member kindly take steps now?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** I think it possible—I do not know—that His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces was referring to complaints made in his Province. As I have said, no complaints have been made in Delhi Province.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it or is it not a fact that this complaint is being brought to your notice and are you going to treat this subject quite so lightly? Is it not your duty now to tell your officials that they shall be dealt with severely if they interfere with the elections?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** No, Sir. I think I have already answered it.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** You must answer!

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** If the Government servants themselves are expected to know their duty, as the Honourable Member says, I hope he also thinks that Government is also expected to do their duty forwards those servants: and in view of the complaints made, would it not be desirable for the Honourable Member to issue such orders?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** May I suggest that this is rather like the attitude of the mother who says, go and see what the child is doing and tell it not to.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Does the Honourable Member seriously expect that the Chief Commissioner himself will complain to him about these things? Does the Honourable Member expect the Chief Commissioner to complain to him? I cannot understand the situation and he refuses to take any action unless the Chief Commissioner himself complains.

**Mr. President:** That is a matter for argument. What is the question?

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** The question is whether the Honourable Member is prepared—that is in the form of question; putting the predicate before the subject to take into consideration the complaints that have been voiced through the public press and whether he is also prepared to issue instructions in this behalf to the officers concerned?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** I should be prepared to wait for some specific complaint.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Does he not realise that the elections will be over before the specific complaints reach him? Are they not to start today?

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

#### BURMA RICE FOR INDIA

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Secretary Food Department be pleased to state as to the approximate date by which he expects Burma rice in the Country?

(b) Will he be pleased to state the quantity of it and the agency or agencies through which the said rice is going to be imported?

(c) Will he kindly give any idea as to the price at which the said rice will be sold in this country?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) Burma rice started to arrive in this country from the 29th November 1945.

(b) So far 75,000 tons have been imported. All exports have been made by CAS(B) and imports into India by the Central Government.

(c) The price which India will pay for this rice is still under negotiation with His Majesty's Government, but in the mean time the rice is being sold in this country at the prices in force in the areas to which it is being sent.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** How has it been distributed over the rice-eating provinces?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** It has been distributed according to the needs of the different areas.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What do the Government mean by this prices in force? Do they mean the selling price or have they fixed any price?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** The prices at which rice is being sold retail in those areas.

**Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Is any profit being made?

(No reply.)

**Mr. President:** The answer is in the negative.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May we know what quantity, from what the Honourable Member has in his possession, has been sent to the Madras Presidency?



**Mr. B. E. Sen:** I want notice.

**Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddier:** Has the whole quantity of rice, already received, been distributed to the consumers?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** Yes, Sir.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** What is the quantity for Bihar?  
(A pause.)

**Mr. President:** What is the quantity for Bihar?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** This rice will be distributed according to the comparative needs of the different areas. There is no fixed quantity for anybody.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** As applications are made they are being distributed indiscriminately. In the southern provinces there is famine. Has not the Honourable Member taken note that particular areas are affected more than other areas and that there are surplus and deficit provinces?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** Everything is taken into consideration.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Have the fat and the lean equal rations?

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

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Who decides this matter of distributing Burma rice between different provinces?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** This is done by the Central Government. They have the whole picture of India before them and they decide according to needs.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member lay on the table the method of distribution and the allocation already made so far?  
(No reply.)

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I want an answer.

**Mr. President:** He shook his head in the negative. He is not prepared to give an answer.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** He has to give an answer.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** He must give an answer. He cannot insult the House.

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** I have said that the rice received is distributed according to the comparative urgency of the different areas. There is no fixed quota for this particular consignment of rice from Burma.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** How much further quantity is expected in the next two or three months from Burma?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** I am unable to answer that question.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable Member appoint a kind of Tariff Committee to advise them as to the manner of distribution among the different provinces?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. We now go on to the adjournment motions.

#### MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

##### INTERFERENCE IN SIND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BY EUROPEAN OFFICIALS

**Mr. President:** I have an adjournment motion from Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon. He wishes to adjourn the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the behaviour and misconduct of European Indian Police Service personnel and European Indian Civil Service personnel in creating hitches and harassing the Muslim public from exercising free franchise in the recent Sind Assembly elections".

The adjournment motion has been disallowed by the Governor General.

##### INTERFERENCE BY I.C.S. PERSONNEL IN ELECTIONS IN KARACHI

**Mr. President:** I shall now take up the next adjournment motion by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan relating to:

"The interference and behaviour of the Indian Civil Service personnel at Karachi during the recent provincial elections in harassing and entering in election booths of Muslim purdah nashin ladies."

This motion has been disallowed by the Governor General.

## RIGHTS OF INDIANS IN KENYA COLONY

**Mr. President:** The next adjournment motion is one by Seth Govind Das regarding: "the complete failure of the Government of India to take any steps to counteract the growing danger to the civic rights and rightful position of the Indian community in the Legislative Assembly of Kenya Colony in East Africa as threatened by the European elected members of the Council and Lord Francis Scott, a member of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council in Kenya, by categorically rejecting the proposals for legislative reforms and the proposed elected representation of Indians on it".

**Seth Govind Das** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): If the Honourable Member for Government has any objection to the motion, then I shall make my point.

**Mr. President:** It seems to be a matter of importance. Is there any objection?

**Mr. B. N. Banerjee** (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): May I know, Sir, what the specific matter is in this adjournment motion?

**Seth Govind Das:** The specific matter is that on the 12th December the Colonial Office issued a white paper, wherein a proposal had been made about an Inter-territorial Organisation in East Africa. A cable from *Reuters*, which was published in the press of India dated the 26th January, from Nairobi, says that this proposal of the Colonial Office is being opposed by the Whites of East Africa and these Whites are led by a very important person of Kenya, I mean Lord Francis Scott, who is a member of the Executive and also of the Legislative Council of Kenya. Sir, the question of Indians in East Africa, about the Highlands of Kenya and about other things have been engaging the attention of this House for a long time and this is a most recent occurrence, in which the Government of India are sitting tight and are doing nothing and therefore I want to raise this question on the floor of the House. It is a matter of recent occurrence and urgent public importance.

**Mr. President:** Has the Honourable Member for Government to say anything?

**Mr. B. N. Banerjee:** We have no objection, Sir, to a discussion of this motion.

**Mr. President:** The motion is admitted and will be taken up at 4 O'clock.

**An Honourable Member:** Today, Sir?

**Mr. President:** Yes, it will be taken up today, unless the House decides otherwise.

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ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 NOON on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Agriculture, twelve nominations were received. Subsequently, two members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for the unexpired portion of the financial year and for the next financial year: (1) Sardar Sampuran Singh, (2) Mr. C. P. Lawson, (3) Chaudhri Sri Chand, (4) Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, (5) Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, (6) Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah Jeelani, (7) Sri V. Gangaraju, (8) Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, (9) Mr. G. B. Dani, and (10) Mr. Sukhdev Udhowdas.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Legislative Department, seven nominations were received. Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47: (1) Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, (2) Chaudhri Sri Chand, (3) Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, (4) Mr. K. C. Neogy, and (5) Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

## ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President:** In view of the resignation by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, of his membership of Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport, a vacancy has occurred on the Committee. In order to fill up the vacancy, I appoint the period upto 3 P.M. on Tuesday, the 5th February, within which nomination will be received. The election, if necessary, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, on Friday, the 8th February, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

## PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands** (Finance Member): Sir, I present the Report\* of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1943-44.

**Seth Govind Das** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian): With respect to the report of the Public Accounts Committee it has been the practice of the House to discuss this report and two specific days are allotted for the purpose. Will the Honourable Member please state whether he proposes to allot two days for discussing this report and if so, when does he propose to do it?

**The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:** I understand, Sir, that it is not done at this stage. First an opportunity is given to the House to study the report and an opportunity will be afforded at a later stage for discussion.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): Sir, it has always been the practice of this House to have two days towards the end of the session to discuss the Public Accounts Committee Report. All that the Honourable Member, Mr. Govind Das, has suggested now is that the Government should allot two days for the discussion of this Report towards the end of the session. We are not asking for it tomorrow.

**Mr. President:** If I understood the Honourable Member aright, he said that the report is presented and at this stage, there is no discussion. An opportunity is given to members to study the report. And then, he said, in due course time will be allotted for its discussion.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadian Rural): The point is that two days should be allotted instead of one day as happened during the absence of the Congress Members from the Assembly.

**Mr. President:** Whatever may have been the practice of the House in the past will be adhered to.

\*Not printed in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House.—  
*Ed. of D.*

## ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**Mr. President:** I have to inform the House that Sardar Mangal Singh has intimated to me withdrawal of his candidature for the office of Deputy President. There is, therefore, only one candidate left, namely, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan whom, I declare to be elected as Deputy President. Under Section 68C(2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, this election requires His Excellency the Governor General's approval which will be communicated to the House when obtained.

### MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION—*contd.*

**Mr. President:** Further consideration of motion moved by Mr. B. R. Sen:

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration."

I think there are certain further amendments also tabled by certain Honourable Members.

**Shri Sri Prakasa** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): On a point of order, Sir. Members have to sit down when the President is standing. I see that several Government members are standing now.

**Mr. President:** I am thankful to the Honourable Member for having drawn my attention to the matter.

About these amendments which have been tabled very recently, I should like to invite Honourable Members' attention to the practice of tabling amendments as the debate proceeds from day to day. I do not like to insist upon notice—I am prepared to waive notice in the interests of having a better debate; but the general practice should be that amendments should not be coming in as the debate goes on. Of course, if there be an agreed amendment then certainly it may be brought in at any time. But the great disadvantage of tabling amendments as the debate proceeds is, to my mind, that injustice is done to Members who have already taken part in the debate. They have expressed their views and they lose the opportunity of expressing their views again over amendments that come in later. Today, I am allowing all these amendments without taking any objection as to notice being given; but I trust Members will help me by not tabling amendments as the debate proceeds. I may repeat again, that if necessary, agreed amendments may certainly come in, there is no objection to them.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal** (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, we appreciate your observation that if amendments are agreed ones they will be acceptable without notice; but then there ought to be an opening for the President's discretion also, because as you have said there will be difficulty in respect of particular Members who have already spoken and who have not had an opportunity of considering the new amendments. There will also be another difficulty by excluding them, because when the debate proceeds in a real and live manner certain questions come up and . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order. My observations of course do not exclude or do away with the authority of the Chair to allow amendments which are really necessary for the purposes of the debate. But it is better, if the proposition is duly considered before, that amendments are not coming in as the debate develops. It may be necessary in certain cases; but it will be a matter for the discretion of the Chair. I am just giving a general rule. I would now request Honourable Members to move these amendments and then they will speak, so that the debate will proceed on the assumption that all the amendments are before the House. Mr. Ishaq Seth will move his amendment.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani, the following be added, namely:  
'and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board.'"

**Mr. President:** Amendment to the amendment moved:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani, the following be added, namely:  
'and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board.'"

To this amendment there is an amendment that will be moved by Mr. Ayyangar.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the amendment proposed by Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Ishaq Seth, the following be added, namely:

'by sending—(with your permission, Sir, I omit the word 'a' and say)—competent Indians elected by the non-official members of this House from among its members or from outside.'"

**Mr. President:** Amendment to the amendment moved:

"That at the end of the amendment proposed by Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Ishaq Seth, the following be added, namely:

'by sending competent Indians elected by the non-official members of this House from among its members or from outside.'"

**Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava** (Ajmer-Merwara: General): Sir, I do not propose to move my amendment.

**Sri V. Gangaraju** (East Godavari and West Godavari cum Kistna: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir I move:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani the following be added, namely:

'and urges that the Government should so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the wholehearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations.'"

**Mr. President:** Amendment to the amendment moved:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani the following be added, namely:

'and urges that the Government should so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the wholehearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations.'"

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I move:

"That at the end of the original motion, the following be added, namely:  
'and having considered the same further urges upon the Government to take immediate steps to increase the production of foodgrains in the country by granting substantial subsidies to producers and by restricting if not prohibiting, the cultivation of crops other than foodgrains on lands where food crops can be grown, until the country becomes self-sufficient in foodgrains.'"

**Mr. President:** Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the original motion, the following be added, namely:  
'and having considered the same further urges upon the Government to take immediate steps to increase the production of foodgrains in the country by granting substantial subsidies to producers and by restricting if not prohibiting, the cultivation of crops other than foodgrains on lands where food crops can be grown, until the country becomes self-sufficient in foodgrains.'"

**Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar** (South Arcot cum Chingleput: Non Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the other day I was referring to the fact that the cost of cultivation per acre of paddy comes to about Rs. 180. This Rs. 180 is for crop rates on dry land including cost of irrigation. So far as wet land is concerned, it comes to about Rs. 90 to Rs. 100, and the total income which he derives by way of foodgrains is about Rs. 50; and including the cost of hay it will come to about Rs. 65 to Rs. 70. There is no provision for his supervision charges; and with all this, a man is expected to raise foodgrains on his land, losing Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 for every acre of crop which he raises. I do not think any sensible agriculturist will raise foodgrains on his lands on these terms. The Government must revise its policy of fixing the prices. They say they look to the interests of the consumer. What is obtained for one rupee from the producer is sold in the towns at Rs. 1-8-0 or Rs. 1-6-0. The co-operative stores

in our district which are entrusted with this task of procuring and distributing to the consumers make a profit of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 for every Rs. 65 worth of paddy that is delivered to them. I want to insist that if they are not in a position to raise the price which is now offered to the cultivator for foodgrains, they must at least try to subsidise and make the industry a paying one. Let them not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. They are not giving the agriculturists any help. His necessities are not provided for. Wages, cost of manure and the cost of cattle which are necessary for cultivation have risen by 400 per cent. and the cattle are not having their food. There is no bran and no cotton seeds available for the cattle. No tyres and no implements of iron and steel are supplied to the agriculturists, though a lot of propaganda is being made and it is being said that a lot is being supplied to the ryots. Then the Honourable Member for Agriculture said that loans and grants have been offered to the cultivators. To take a loan or a grant a cultivator has to spend nearly 75 to 80 per cent. of the loan he obtains from the Government. He has to spend a lot of time before he can obtain the money. There are other improvements which the Agricultural Department can resort to. Silt clearing in the channels which are to cover about 10 to 12 villages can be resorted to this year. I know for a fact that in my district a number of channels which irrigate about 10 to 12 villages have not been cleared of the silt. This has been remaining there for the last 10 years and nobody has taken care about it, in spite of the fact that the attention of the Department was often drawn to it. Even in Japan which is occupied by the Allies a calory amount of 2600 per head is provided for at the instance of General MacArthur. The Japanese are already having 2200 and this has been found to be insufficient by General MacArthur and he has insisted that 2600 calories should be provided per head for the Japanese. What is given in India is less than 1500 calories. Even that is now sought to be reduced by the department. They want to reduce it to 75 or 66 and  $\frac{2}{3}$  per cent. Today I find in the papers that the ration in Delhi town is proposed to be reduced to two-thirds of what it was till now. If this policy is adhered to and if only two-thirds of what is now being allowed is given to the producer, I am sure he will not be able to maintain himself and produce what is required of him.

So far as procurement and distribution is concerned, I shall draw the attention of the Honourable Member for the Food Department to the report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. This is what is said by that Committee on page 102 of their Report:

"We are unanimously of the opinion that any attempt to apply rationing in any strict, technical sense to the rural areas of India is hopelessly impracticable. The utmost that could be achieved could be to apply to rural districts the principle of an aggregate quota and to attempt to secure that supplies over and above this amount should be made available for the sustenance of the urban population. But we must not be implied as meaning that even the determination of an aggregate quota could possibly imply any significant lowering of the rural standard of consumption. The reason for this is surely very clear. It is impossible to raise the volume of food production in India, if the producer, already suffering from a shortage of producers' and consumers' goods, is to have his generally not too high volume of personal consumption reduced. The only effect of any such attempt would be a reduction in the ryot's willingness to produce."

Then in para. 19 on the same page, they go on to say:

"To attempt to distribute available supplies on the principle of giving every body a pinch of what is available is simply to dissipate scarce resources."

I would draw the attention of the Food Department to these relevant passages in the report I have mentioned. I would also draw the attention of the Department to an article appearing on page 10 of *Janata* of 3rd February 1946. This is what the article says:—I would like to ask the Food Member what he was doing since August and September when the monsoon failed—

"On November 11, 1945, Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, said, 'Unless the public allow themselves to be stampeded into an entirely unjustified panic, the Government of India and the Provincial Governments should certainly be in a position to prevent local shortage from developing, to honour their rationing obligations and to maintain full control of the situation.'"

[Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar.]

This is the statement which he made on the 11th November. On the 11th November, the Food Member was confident that he could meet the situation without people creating any scare in the country. On January 18th he had to revise his opinion—that is within two months. The Food Member admitted “that the food situation in the country at the moment is not too easy”. Even though he was aware that in August the north-west monsoon failed and he was not in a position to meet the situation, he was complacent enough till November and till very late in January. Then he realised that the situation was not easy. I draw his attention to the entire article on this page.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava** (Food Member): When did the monsoon fail in Madras?

**Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar**: In August, September and, I think, November.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava**: The north-east monsoon failed in November, if I may say so.

**Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar**: The Honourable Member must know that Madras gets the north-west monsoon. Malabar and Bombay have been affected and there is no water in Mettur Dam to provide for Tanjore and other districts to which electricity is supplied from the Mettur Dam.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: The Honourable Member does not know where Madras is.

**Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar**: In the Madras Presidency, for distribution of paddy and rice, the unit is 10 to 15 villages. One must realise the difficulties of those villagers if they are asked to walk 4 or 5 miles every day to take their supplies of rice. They cannot get it once a week or once a fortnight. Every day they have to walk several miles to get their supply. When we asked the persons concerned to make arrangements for distribution in each village, we were told that the Foodgrains Control Order stands in the way of licensing retail dealers. It was said that only those persons dealing in rice in 1943 and 1944 could get the license. This Government does not take a long time in passing all kinds of ordinances. All these ordinances regarding the control of foodgrains come under the Defence of India Rules. If only the Government takes it into its head to provide methods for easy distribution in villages, I do not think there will be any difficulty to amend this rule. I commend all these suggestions for the consideration of the Food Department and I close my remarks.

**Mr. Mohammad M. Killekar** (Bombay Northern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Masani from Bombay and the rider to that moved by the Honourable Member Mr. Sattar Seth. Sir, I have heard the speeches of the Food Secretary and also the Secretary for Agriculture very minutely and I have come to the conclusion that what European countries could do during the first year of war our Indian Government is able to do in the first year after the end of the war. We have not up till now completely stopped the export of foodgrains. We still find that certain commodities are exported from India to Ceylon and other countries. It has been pointed out by several Members in this House, that there is no proper control of the Central Government over the Provincial Governments. There are various instances in which the Provincial Governments have overlooked the Central Government and have not cared to obey the orders of the Central Government. Only last year a quota of about 53,000 tons of gram was granted to the Bombay Presidency from various provinces in India. But the total quantity of gram that my Presidency got was about 15 to 20 thousand tons only and the rest of the quantity was not available even though the traders and other interested persons were prepared to pay more than the control price. The Government of India could not help us in any way nor could the Bombay Government do anything in that direction. The control price for gram is about Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 in various provinces, but gram is not available at this price. It is being sold even in Delhi proper at the rate of Rs. 15 to Rs. 17

per maund in black market. Owing to the corruption the black market is thriving not only here but in all the places.

With regard to Bombay city, I wish to say a few words. Bombay is not supplied with good quality of foodstuffs. Very inferior quality of wheat is given to the Bombay city, the red Australian small wheat, which is of very inferior quality, is supplied to the consumers in Bombay. In 1944 barley was given instead of wheat, which was subsequently discontinued and the same barley was given to cattle owners for feeding their cattle. Sir, the position of Bombay is very grave. Poor people do not get nourishing food for keeping up their body and the things which keep up the body like fat, milk, etc., are not available to them. Instead of that, skimmed milk powder is being introduced by the Government of Bombay for the use of the public. All the restaurants in the City of Bombay are forced to use skimmed milk powder in place of the whole milk. This skimmed milk powder is imported from Canada. Some of that quantity, which was imported some time back, was found to be so inferior that the Government of Bombay is now trying to feed with it the cattle which are kept in the Bombay City at present. Even the cattle-owners are not prepared to feed their cattle with that skimmed milk powder. They think that it is of very inferior quality and is harmful to the cattle. And yet the same skimmed milk powder was being given to the human beings in the Bombay City. Such is the condition prevalent in the City of Bombay. If proper quality of food is not supplied to the residents of Bombay, it will be very hard for them to maintain their health. Sir, the situation in Bombay, so far as the milk supply is concerned, is getting worse and worse every day. In order to maintain a regular supply of milk in the City of Bombay, there should be imported at least 6,000 fresh buffaloes every month, but at present we have hardly 1,000 to 1,200 buffaloes. I think, this is known to the Government of India also, but, I understand, they are helpless in this matter because they cannot press other Governments and particularly the Gujrat and Kathiawar States to release some of their cattle to be exported to the City of Bombay. The situation of food is worse but the condition of milk supply is still worse. During the last four months the supply of grass for cattle was rationed in the City of Bombay. The cattle was fed only on 10 lbs. of grass per animal per day, though the usual quantity should be more than 20 lbs. per animal per day. It was very hard for cattle-owners to maintain their cattle on 10 lbs. of grass per day.

I now come to the rural areas of my province, particularly the Northern Division. I know it for certain that the Government of Bombay is not giving a fair treatment to the residents of the rural areas. They are not supplying them with sugar in adequate quantity and no cloth of any kind is supplied to them. I know it for certain that Broach district is supplied only half lb. sugar per head per month; and the Government of Bombay expects the cultivator to come forward and give all the food he has grown for feeding the residents in urban areas. This is not fair. If the Government wants co-operation from cultivators, then the cultivators also should be given sufficient sugar for their use. I know it for certain that in Bombay City about 12 oz. of sugar is granted per head per week. I know in Broach city about 8 oz. of sugar is granted per head per week. I do not know why this discriminatory treatment is meted out to the cultivators and those who are residing outside city limits. It seems some favouritism is going on and I submit that the Government of India should poke its nose and try to mend matters. Several representations have been made by these people, but the representations are not taken into consideration and they are thrown into the waste paper basket.

Sir, the food problem is the problem of problems. There is no problem which is agitating the minds of people more than the problem of food. The absence of winter rains on which the supply of wheat mainly depends has made the position exceedingly serious. There is every chance of the repetition of Bengal famine if timely action is not taken by Government. There is no chance of getting any internal relief at the present moment. There will be no surplus to help the deficit provinces. There are no reserves. I therefore



[Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar.]

request the Honourable Member in charge to make every effort in order to get more wheat and more rice from foreign countries. He is taking a deputation to U. K. to induce people there to allow some wheat exported to India. An amendment has also been tabled requesting a seat on the committee. But I believe that the most effective method would be to appeal to the people as well and with this object in mind, I suggest that the committee which is going out for the procurement of wheat should have a representative of the Congress and a representative of the Muslim League parties. Official attempts are not always very effective. When the question of famine, of life and death comes in, then an appeal by the people themselves who are seriously affected will be more effective than an official report or official document.

The next thing which I would like to press upon the Honourable Member is the method of distribution. This requires serious consideration. Instead of giving small quantity of sugar irrespective of social position and irrespective of requirements, it will be more useful and economic if the two alternatives are adopted in distribution. Either give the quantity of sugar at scheduled price or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the quantity of gur at the same price. Sir, I am sure that a very large number of people, at least two thirds of the population will give up sugar and will take to gur and this sugar thus saved can be utilised in increasing the rationed sugar. The same thing applies to food grains. A larger number of persons would prefer to have bajra, jowar or macca in preference to wheat and we should apply the same alternative in this case also as in the case of sugar. That is, you take either schedule ration or take double the quantity at the same price and offer these alternatives to the people.

**Mr. President:** How long does the Honourable Member propose to take?

**Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar:** Only a few minutes more, Sir. I suppose the people will jump at this idea. The same thing applies to rice. You give two qualities of rice, the Bengal variety and the Punjab variety and give them the option either to have double the quantity of Bengal rice or to have the Punjab rice at the same price. This will be an equitable mode of adjustment. The best way for such kind of adjustment is the trade channel. I hope that this arrangement will soon be made in all the foodgrains, the option should be to have (a) larger quantity of inferior foodstuffs or (b) smaller quantity of superior stuff at the same price.

The last thing I would like to press, Sir, is the association of non-officials in the distribution of food. It should be distributed under the supervision of non-officials presided over by officials if the Government so desires. They will know the requirements of the people and I think there is a chance of minimising corruption if non-officials are associated to a larger extent than at present. Sir, I have done.

**Mr. President:** I should like to invite the attention of the Honourable Members to the fact that, I find so many Honourable Members are anxious to speak. The matter has been debated for two days and it should be brought to a close now. Almost all the points that can be made out in the debate have been made out by several speakers and I would wish that we bring the debate to a close as early as possible now. The House has heard the views of non-official members at great length. The House would like to hear from the Honourable Food Member all the details on this important problem. I would therefore like to give him as much time as possible so that he may not have to curtail his speech or refrain from giving information to this House on the ground of want of time. We are having an adjournment motion today at 4

1 P.M. o'clock. That means that this matter has to end before that hour after giving about 45 minutes to the Food Member or more if he wants. Then some time will be taken up by the voting on the amendments.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Thirty minutes will do for me.

**Mr. President:** I am prepared to give more.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** If you give me more I will be happy; but I will be concise.

**Mr. President:** My point is that the problem being a very important one it is desirable that the House should know the plans of Government as fully as possible; and therefore I would not like to curtail by even a single minute, the speech of the Food Member on this subject. I would, therefore, appeal to Honourable Members either to give up the idea of speaking or to be as short as possible; because I find the same points are being repeated over and over again, of course, in their different provincial application. But the general situation has been thoroughly discussed and I would appeal to Honourable Members to be very brief and not to repeat what has been already said.

**Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar** (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I suggest that the Food Member may speak now so that if there is any suggestion to be made after his speech there will be a little time for that.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** No, Sir, I should like to wind up the debate.

**Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar:** The Honourable Member can with your permission reply at the end to any point raised.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhamadan Rural): Sir, if you approve and the rest of the House agrees the Food Member may speak now for half an hour and go on till half past one, and the debate can continue after Lunch.

**Mr. President:** Looking at the course the debate has taken we will proceed as we have done without starting anything new at this stage.

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt** (Bombay: European): Sir, in rising to support the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson and apropos what you have just said, I am at some disadvantage in participating in this debate as I was not able to be present during its first day. That does not in any way lessen my appreciation of the gravity of the situation. As grave as is the situation created by food shortage, however, it is, unfortunately, not confined to the boundaries of India and, as my colleague Mr. Lawson pointed out a day or two ago, hunger not only stalks this land but many others throughout the world. It was but a few days ago that President Truman called the attention of the large grain producing countries—of his own, of Canada, the Argentine and Australia—to their responsibilities in the feeding of the deficit countries, for the greater tragedy of total war is yet to be enacted in the suffering it will cause to millions of souls throughout the world, through deficiency diseases due to shortage of food. The percentage of man power of the Allied countries normally engaged in the production of food that had been drafted into the fighting services, has proportionately reduced the volume of food grown as has also the virtual extinction of agricultural production in the vast areas that the war has devastated. The truth is that such countries as would normally have had a large exportable surplus of foodgrains are not likely to have a surplus until the fall of the current year. Let no man speak lightly of another total war which might well mean the virtual extinction of the human race. I have no doubt that there was implicit in President Truman's statement, to which I have referred, a hope that there will be forthcoming the whole-hearted co-operation and good will of every country with a normal potential surplus; and thus, one may well ask, whether in view of the world shortage of food the U. S. A. is rationing her own people to the extent that such a situation demands. Is she, for instance, rationing anything other than sugar and is her labour heading for a dislocation of transport which will retard the rapid distribution of food throughout the world? And are her farmers holding their produce for higher ceiling prices?

The food problem confronting India is a short term one, and, if I understand the position correctly, the shortage is likely to be between now and the end of

[Mr. Leslie Gwilt]

September. A delegation is proceeding to London and to Washington to seek a greater volume of imports of rice and wheat. I am sure that every Member of this House will wish them God-speed; but they may not be able to obtain all they desire. I have given reasons why exportable surpluses of the large grain producing countries may not—indeed will not, be normal; and for such stocks of grain as there are there will be that greater demand created by the virtual elimination of agricultural industry in the large devastated areas of Europe. In addition to the seeking of increased grain imports and despite what my Honourable friend Mr. Killedar has said, I would urge that the delegation also inquires into the world's potential of separated dried milk, and attempts to obtain a share of it for India. Such a potential exists in America, New Zealand and the butter producing countries of Europe such as Switzerland. Separated dried milk is not a whole food but it is a protective food providing a very important protein adjunct in dietary, specially of the vegetarian.

As the failure of rains and the cyclonic weather India has recently experienced must inevitably cause wide spread damage of grass lands, which will affect the volume of cattle fodder available during the current year, I have no doubt but that the delegation will make every endeavour to obtain supplies of cattle food. In these circumstances, I submit, that it is incumbent upon us to effect the best possible distribution of what food will be available to India. I believe, Sir, that having regard to the enormities of the difficulties with which they have been confronted, the Food Department has served the country well. If they have failed it is in the matter of enforcement of monopoly purchase; and I would ask whether in this respect the fault lies not with the Food Department but in the shortcomings of the provincial administrations and the breakdown or absence of adequate procurement measures in some of the surplus provinces? How can these administrative difficulties be removed? I suggest by the centralising of food control and by the formation of a central food committee, meeting at least once a month or more frequently if need be, and upon which every province shall be represented. Moreover, I suggest the mobilisation of every appropriate unit of the army as an emergency organisation to provide transport and distribution facilities not only for food but also for medical supplies and clothing.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Have you held it that reading of speeches in this House is in order?

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt**: Sir, I referred originally to the disadvantage under which I was suffering . . . . .

**Mr. President**: Order, order. A point of order has been raised by the Honourable Member.

I find that on a point of order raised previously, it was ruled by the President that speaking does include reading,—some such form of ruling is there. But I conveyed my own idea about this yesterday in the House that there should not be any written speeches read out here. I quite appreciate the difficulties of those who are not accustomed to speak, but the greatest difficulty of written speeches is, to my mind, that the debate loses its real character of a debate. People sitting in their own study rooms write on paper their own ideas and if such speeches are read out here, it is hardly an exchange of views, and there can hardly be any debate. The only thing that will come out in a debate of that type will be that we hear some textual essays written by different people. Really speaking that will not be a debate in the proper sense of the word. Therefore, I should invite the co-operation of Honourable Members—it is not a question of legal right; I don't at present dispute the view of the previous ruling,—and by convention the House can encourage oral speeches. It ought, to my mind, encourage them, if it wants to have a better discussion on any proposition and discourage the practice of reading out written speeches. Of course one may refer to ones notes.

I may also clarify the position as the point was placed before me, that there may be important statements, for example the Finance Member's Budget

speech or other important statements of policy whether by Government Members or other Members. They may have to be read. There, the wording of the announcement has to be very exact, but barring such exceptions, ordinarily the practice should be that there should be no written speeches read in the House. I think that is the practice also in the House of Commons. My difficulty is created by the previous ruling which I should not like to disturb, if at all I am inclined to depart from that practice, so early. I should take some time to reconsider and set a different convention. I can certainly appeal to Members to co-operate with me in this respect.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** I submit that an exception may be made in the case of Englishmen. They find it difficult to speak their own language! The only person on the European benches who can speak English is a Welshman.

**Mr. President:** Is the Honourable Member likely to finish his speech within a minute or so?

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** If you will permit, Sir, I would like to go on. I will take four or five minutes more.

**Mr. President:** It is about Quarter Past One; the House may adjourn now and meet at 2-30.

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

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

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**Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** Sir, I was saying before the House adjourned that I would suggest the mobilisation of every appropriate unit of the army as an emergency measure to provide the transport and distribution facilities, not only for food but also for medical supplies and clothing, and that the Quarter Master General's Branch should work in close collaboration with the Food Department. It was at the intervention of His Excellency the Viceroy that the army rendered such invaluable service in 1943 in this respect, and my proposal merely follows the lead which His Excellency then gave. The army, I submit, is the only organisation within the country capable of handling a task of the magnitude that India is likely to be called upon to perform and in Major General Dunsford, India has an administrator of the highest calibre, with great experience that he has had with the central army in the handling and distribution of large scale food supplies. I would also inquire whether the expansion of military farms and dairies will be permitted to continue at the rate at which they were progressing during the war and until the present crisis is past. As a lesser measure I would ask what other Provincial Governments are taking steps similar to those of the Bombay Government in the salvage of calves in urban buffalo stables. That is a long term measure, but one, I submit, which is of importance. Moreover, what measures are the Food Department taking to put into effect the increase of the potato yield in hill tracts?

The urgency for the greater enforcement of food control measures will not have escaped Government's attention and I have no doubt but that since this debate began there are individuals throughout the country who have commenced the hoarding of food grains. So much for the short term measures.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without again paying my tribute to the Food grains Policy Committee, and particularly to its Chairman, Sir Theodore Gregory. Time has shown the wisdom of their recommendations. They made their report during the war when a return to normal conditions seemed a far cry and when tens of thousands of tons of shipping was being sent to the bottom every month. I believe that if they were to meet again now they would urge that at the earliest possible moment India's stock pile of food grains reserves should be increased from their recommended figure of half a million

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tons to two million tons, and that this should be stored at strategic points throughout the country. Much of our present difficulties is due to acts of God, to droughts and tempestuous weather and they will occur so long as the world exists.

And now for another long term recommendation I would like to enlarge upon a point that was made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Lawson—that of the urgency of action of Government to ensure not merely in the present emergency but as a long term policy, that the cultivator receives a fair price for his grain. It is of course allied to the subject of monopoly procurement. I would reiterate what I said when speaking on the food debate in this House on the 15th November, 1943, when I made the suggestion, which I repeated when speaking on the general budget on the 7th March, 1944—that the Government of India should study the methods designed to this end and adopted by the Governments of South Africa and Argentine. As I understand it, the system that obtains in South Africa is that the cultivator sells to Government and receives 50 per cent. in cash of the price at which the Government estimates the grain will fetch in the world markets. The grain is eventually sold by Government and the cultivator in due course receives the price paid to Government less selling commission, which I believe does not exceed one per cent. Unless, therefore, there is something radically wrong with Government's forecast of international grain prices, Government could hardly be the loser, for a 50 per cent. fall in grain prices in a matter of months is an extremely unlikely eventuality. By this method which, I believe, closely approximates to that in force in Argentine and the South African Government, the Government have not only encouraged the growing of foodstuffs within their dominions; but what is equally important, they have greatly increased the standards of living of their cultivators; and were those methods adopted in India, I submit that they would go far to equalise the balance of wealth between the urban and agricultural areas.

Before I end I would express my appreciation of the manner in which the Bombay administration have handled the food situation within their province. They have made the best possible use of their resources and their procurement and distribution methods are, I submit, an example to other provinces and I believe that had they been followed by others much of what has happened for ill in this country would have been avoided.

In conclusion—and I say this with all the sincerity that I can command—a heavy responsibility rests upon every Member of this Honourable House. This is no time, I submit, for political recriminations, for the dividing line between bare necessity and the destruction or damage by starvation of millions of souls is such that any obstructive methods employed by any group of men, whoever they may be, either for political or financial gain, must inevitably result in damage to human lives in numbers which will make pale in significance the toll taken of them by the war.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Sir, it was not my intention to speak at this stage. I was thinking of speaking last, so as to be able to answer most of the points made by the Honourable Members. But since you have called upon me, I rise to make such remarks as I can at this stage.

I have listened to the debate which has gone on for three days now with the attention which it deserved and I wish to congratulate the Honourable Members who have participated in the debate on the restraint which they have shown. They realised, I feel, that the situation in the country is grave and it is not right that we should indulge in language which would make the situation worse. The Honourable House knows that whenever there is scarcity, the worst enemy is panic; and it is important that we should restrain ourselves at this stage and rather unite in devising ways and means to meet the scarcity. I do not wish to defend the Food Department in all it might have done or not done. I realise that no organisation which has been built up during the stress of the war can be perfect. We have our defects and imperfections, but I submit that during

the last three years the Food Department has deserved well of the country. (*An Honourable Member*: "Question!") I say this not because I want any praise for myself, but because I feel that those who have worked under me have given of their best in a very difficult job. I would therefore beg of the Honourable Members not to discourage those who are engaged in a very vital task. It is necessary that at a time like this, they should feel that they carry the support of the Legislature with them and of the representatives of the people with them. I entirely agree that in dealing with a matter like food the Government should be identified with the people. That was one of the conditions laid down by the Leader of the Opposition when he spoke four days ago. I entirely agree with him. But as things stand today, the work of feeding the people of India has to be carried on and I submit that the Food Department has tried its best to carry with it all sections of people. We have debated food in this Assembly so many times, for days together, and we have taken careful note of all the suggestions that have been made in this House. We have a number of bodies with which the public are associated, and let me assure everybody that we have not brushed aside their advice. We have given most serious attention and consideration to whatever advice has been given to us.

The other day we laid down what the future policy of the Government with regard to food would be. We issued a statement which was published in the papers at some length, and I would like to say in connection with that statement that, for the first time, the Government of India have accepted their responsibility that there should be food for all; and not only food in sufficient quantities but also food of the right kind. I do not think that this responsibility was accepted by any Government in India before this. As the House is aware, food is primarily a provincial responsibility, and although we have had popular ministries in many provinces—all of them at one time—yet I do not think it was considered necessary that the Government should assume responsibility to provide food for all. (*Interruptions.*) Sir, I do not say this in any spirit of controversy, but I only want to repeat what I have said before, that I believe it is the responsibility of Government: the first responsibility that there should be food for all. Now, that is our long range policy. That policy has gone unnoticed to some extent. A great many of the things which are stated in our memorandum have been carried out during the war. But I am not going to enter into those. I feel those who have an unbiassed mind, those who want to examine the statement on its merits, will find that out for themselves. The policy has been laid down so that in future India will have sufficient food for everybody and that everybody should get the right kind of food—a balanced diet. I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for pointing out that we should enlist the support of science in matters concerning food. We are already doing that: we have more than one scientific expert working on these problems and I hope when the results of their labours emerge it will be seen that we have made some contribution towards the solution of the food problem of India.

Now, talking about the present emergency. We have laid all our cards on the table. Mr. Sen, in making this motion placed before you what the exact position in the country is. We have concealed nothing from you. Although it was problematical as to whether at this time we should give full publicity to the scare which the scarcity has caused, yet we decided in favour of telling you everything. The situation is serious but I do not think it is so serious as to be beyond all of us: all of us, I say, you and me together. We are the victims of major catastrophes. Some one argued as to why we did not know of this before and I was quoted as having said in the month of November last that the food situation in the country was not too bad. That is quite right. In November last I visited Bengal. I visited eighteen districts in Bengal. At that time there was a scare on in Bengal and after seeing arrangements that were made there I came to the conclusion that there would be no famine in Bengal and made bold to say that.

**Seth Sheodass Daga** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Did you go in the interior?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Yes, I went to eighteen districts. I toured the interior of eighteen districts in Bengal.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** How did you tour?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Just about that time a cyclone swept the north of Madras and we did not know how devastating it had been. Then a drought set in in the southern parts of Madras and in Mysore and in the Carnatic. We kept on gazing skywards. They thought if there was rain in the month of December they could save some of the crops. But the rain never came, with the result that a great deal of the crop was damaged.

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban):** Did you visit those districts?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Sir, the full survey of the extent of the loss was made in December. I deputed the Director General of Food, Mr. Sen, who visited all that area and he gave us a report. I immediately deputed the permanent Food Secretary, Sir Robert Hutchings, to Washington to argue before the Combined Board and get us more rice and more wheat. He left at twelve hours notice on the 4th January. I also called a conference of the representatives of the various Governments and went with them into the question of supply and procurement. This conference took place about the middle of January. The representatives attending it, especially those from Madras, Mysore and Bombay, told us that things were going to turn out to be much worse than they had anticipated because of the continued drought. There is no rain still. I visited about the same time Sind and the Punjab where the Rabi crop was suffering from want of rain and where procurement had stopped on that account. Sir, I wish to assure the House that we have left no stone unturned and we have lost not a minute. But I cannot legislate for monsoons or cyclones. The magnitude of the catastrophe which is facing us is not yet properly realized. It all depends on whether we shall have some rain or not in the near future. I was told by a friend that never during the last thirty years have December and January been without rain in the Punjab. This time, I am sorry to say, Sir, there has been no rain in the Punjab during those two months.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan):** Was it not possible for the Government to build up a big reserve to meet this contingency?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am coming to the question of reserves and imports. The House has rightly laid a great deal of stress on the question of imports. I quite agree with the figures given by Mr. Masani. We have not got in the past sufficient imports and so we have not been able to build up reserves.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural):** Why?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Because there has not been enough food to go round. There have been shipping difficulties. But we have tried our level best. I am not satisfied. I am not trying to defend either the Combined Food Board or His Majesty's Government. But I am relating the facts. In spite of our best efforts we were unable to secure more than what we got. Whatever we received went into current consumption, and, Sir, I would put it to you, that even if we had been able to build up a reserve of half a million tons or so, that would not have seen us through a calamity of this kind. It would certainly have been a help.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** How much?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** We are short of three million tons today.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** For 1945-46?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** For this year, 1946, taking into account all these various shortages in the country, computing them all, we need three million tons.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): All grains combined?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Yes: everything—rice, wheat and millets. That is roughly the extent of the shortage and I am doing my best to meet whatever portion of it I can.

The House is aware, Sir, that there is a world shortage of foodgrains. Europe is starving, Malaya is starving, China is starving and many other places are starving today and all the food resources of the world are distributed by the Combined Food Board at Washington. They have got all the food resources and it is for every country to go and plead its cause before that Board. We sent the Food Secretary to do that, and, although I would not say that his mission has failed, yet I think it is necessary for us to do more, to shout more, probably, and to press our case more strongly, if we are to get all that we need.

With this object in view it is my proposal that I should go myself to London and then to Washington. I want to take with me as members of a delegation representatives of the Governments of Madras, Mysore and Bombay. I would also like to take with me two or three non-officials. I shall be very grateful if the parties in the House will give me two or three representatives. I propose, after the debate is over, say tomorrow, having a talk with the Party Leaders on this subject. Why I want non-officials is that I realise that they can put forward the popular point of view better. In fact I would be very grateful for this assistance. I see that that suggestion has been made by several Members of the House. There have been various speculations about the composition of the delegation but I have all along been of the view that the delegation must consist of non-officials along with officials. (Interruption.) The officials must be there, because it is they who can answer as to what is the deficit, what is the distribution that they want to get. It is they who can answer the relevant questions. It must not be forgotten that on the Combined Food Board there are representatives of most of the starving nations and international experts and so we have got to go there with a well prepared case, we have got to argue with them, convince them and then get what we can from them. It is not as if there was a lot of stuff lying about and that it was at the sweet will of some one to give it away. It is not that at all. There is a world shortage of foodgrains and unless we can make out a very strong case indeed, our claim is not likely to receive serious consideration.

Sir, I have decided to go, because I feel that so much depends on the question of imports. If we can get sufficient stuff, then I am quite sure that we can ward off the disaster. When I say this I do not mean that we should not adopt in this country measures which would enable us to fight the trouble with our own resources.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil:** They have already started in Delhi with a 1/3 cut in the rations.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Sir, I will now tell the House the steps which we propose taking in this country in order to meet the situation.

Sir, reference has been made to the cutting down of the scales of ration. I wish to assure the House that it is very distasteful to me as also to everyone in my Department to have to make a cut of that kind. But unless we conserve our resources, unless we economise now, we won't be in a position to fight the demon of starvation two months hence. It is true that cuts in rations are going to be very unpopular. We shall not indulge in them unless we are absolutely driven to it or compelled to do it. So far as Delhi is concerned, we have started the cut so as to set an example to the Provinces. I hope Honourable Members here will not mind if they have to go with one bread instead of two. . . .



**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh:** Will that help the delegation?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** . . . . in the interest of the poorest of the poor in the country. Sir, let me tell you that with regard to the reduction which we propose to make, we are consulting the Provincial Governments. It will be on an all-India basis, it would not be confined to one province only. It would be a uniform reduction all over India as far as we can do it.

**Several Honourable Members:** Including the Punjab and Sind also?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I have taken it up with the Punjab too. The House knows that the Provinces have a good deal of freedom in these things but still I want to bring them into line on a matter of this kind.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhamadnan Rural): Will the Indian States also be included in this?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Yes, we shall bring them in too. That is one measure which ought to give us a fairly large quantity of foodgrains. The House knows that we are today rationing about 60 million people and saving in the scale of rations will result in a good deal of grain for the common pool to feed the deficit areas.

Then, Sir, as I said in the beginning, I do not apprehend that famine conditions will set in in the near future but there is a risk and a grave one and we must prepare from now if we are to save the country. With this object in view, we have set up at the Centre a Co-ordination Committee with the Secretaries of the departments which may be called upon to deal with famine conditions. I shall myself preside over this Committee and it will meet regularly once a week. We shall thereby be able to co-ordinate all those different departments whose assistance is necessary in fighting famine, like the Army Department, the War Transport Department, the Agriculture, Health, Finance and Political Departments. We want team work and I think the House will appreciate that this is very important—that there should be co-ordination at the Centre.

The next thing we are doing is to set up a special Co-ordination Board for the affected areas at Bangalore. On this Co-ordination Board there will be representatives of the Governments of areas which are affected so that there is team work in regard to the measures to be adopted for those areas. We hope that this committee which will be presided over by a high ranking officer would be able to co-ordinate and correlate the activities of the different provinces which are affected by famine conditions.

Then, Sir, I propose calling together a conference of the Party Leaders of this Assembly from time to time to keep them posted with the situation as it develops. I do not want to conceal anything from them and I shall be very glad to lay before them all that we have been able to do or that we have failed to do. Sir, I hope that I may be able to have one such conference before I leave for Europe and the U.S.A.

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Will you enforce the procurement policy on the Punjab and Sind?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am coming to that. We have taken up with the Punjab and Sind the question of the adoption of monopoly procurement. They have so far resisted us on grounds which are peculiar to them but food is not the property of any one province. It is all-India property in my view and I think the time has come when they should fall in line with the rest of the country.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** (Assam: European): It is two years overdue.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** We have tried our level best and if we have failed it is not our fault (*An Honourable Member:* "Pass an ordinance.") The Punjab and Sind are the defaulting provinces and my own province of U.P.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** There you will have two chhataks a day.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** There the procurement has broken down. There must be some kind of compulsion introduced in the matter and we have taken up the matter with the Governments concerned. I hope that when the new crop comes in we shall see some kind of monopoly procurement functioning in these provinces.

Then, Sir, I am grateful to my friend Mr. Gwilt for several useful suggestions. We shall mobilise the resources of the military and I hope if there be need we shall see that the military will come to our rescue.

**An Honourable Member:** How?

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Demobilise them and then you will get everything.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** As the House knows they were extremely useful in Bengal in providing transport, medical facilities and in other ways. They were the only people who were able to save a whole lot of people from dying. They distributed foodgrains, they provided transport and hospitals all over the place and they did a lot of other work. Those who have seen the Bengal famine will, I am sure, give them a great testimonial for what they did.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** I come from Bengal and I do not know of any hospital run by the military in Bengal.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I could give you the names of a dozen places which I myself have seen. I am surprised to hear that the Honourable Member did not see this organisation working. They saved many lives.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** We are prepared to give credit for what they have done and certainly we won't accept things which were not done.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil:** Tell us what you propose to do for the future.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** The Famine Commission Report gives a description of the work done by this body.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** In other parts the same state of affairs will be allowed to come in which had come about in Bengal on account of the inefficiency of the Government and then the military will be called upon to help?

**Mr. President:** That is not the implication of what has been said.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am not assuming anything. I am keeping them ready, so that in case any dire necessity arises they should be able to help. That is the only thing that I have said. We are not utilising them at this stage. I hope the necessity will not arise and I hope and pray that it will not arise.

Well, Sir, we have taken up with the Governments concerned such questions as organisation of medical relief, destitute relief and so on, so that we do not have a repetition of what happened in Bengal.

Sir, the Agricultural Department has given you a detailed account of what they have done in the matter of the Grow-More-Food Campaign. I hope the House is satisfied that under very difficult circumstances they have been able to achieve a great deal. If you do not see surplus today, it is not because more has not been grown but it is because of the reasons explained by Sir Pheroze Kharegat. I won't repeat them. We have taken up actively the question of putting down short-term crops and vegetables particularly. In case we are not able to give a sufficiency of cereals, we want to have protective foods and vegetables and things like that ready. I hope we shall succeed in this. We are instituting a real drive to that end and we have asked the military that they should keep on the farms. In fact, some of these will be extended and utilised for this purpose. Sir, these are some of the steps which we are taking to meet the present emergency; but I realise that in fighting a menace of this kind, I want—and any Government would want—the support of the people.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh** (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): You cannot get it.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil:** Not support, but substitution.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am prepared to be substituted tomorrow; come and take it. Sir, the subject-matter is too serious. We are doing our best. It is not a political matter at all, I feel. There is no room here for wranglings of any kind. I feel that every man, woman and child ought to unite in saving the people from starvation. That is the call of humanity itself and I do not see that there is any room for argument here. As I started by saying, I wish the National Government had been here, if it is not here it is not my fault. In fact, in June last, I remember, I was jubilant that I would be able to hand over the Department to my successor in a very satisfactory state of affairs and I was sure that my successor would bless me for what I was going to hand over to him. The food situation of the country was under control. There was no shortages anywhere. Our cup-boards were full.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Only there was no reserve.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am sure at that time I would have made over my charge with a much clearer conscience. But in a country like India where the food is dependent on so many factors one cannot be sure of what the morrow has in store for us.

Well, Sir, I would stress once more that I attach the greatest importance to this Delegation going to London and Washington.

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh:** Have you good hopes of the Delegation succeeding where Sir Robert Hutchings has failed?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Well, Sir, I cannot answer that question. It is given to us to try. The cause is too sacred and we must do our best.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer** (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): We wish you Godspeed.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** If you had no hopes of success, you would not go. Why don't you say that?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** My Honourable friend is a doctor and I suppose he knows that even a dying patient is always in hope.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** So you are dying!

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** In this particular case, there is still time and I am sure that if the matter is put to the United Nations in the proper way, we may get at least a part of what we need.

Sir, I would make a last appeal to you. . . .

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan** Before you make that last appeal, please answer one question. Why are you going to London? Are you going there to get food, potatoes or to get mere advice?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** My friend obviously does not know the way these things work. There is a Food Board in London and it deals with the food resources of the British Empire. I have got to go to that Board first. It is called the London Food Council. If they agree, then I have got to go to Washington. That is the way these things work. I do hope that the parties in this House will lend me their support over a very important matter of this kind. I will not take up any more of the time of the House but I will say this that this is a matter over which there should be no difference of opinion. I do hope the House will give us the support which I feel I have a right to claim of you.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh:** Sir, the question of foodgrains, as we all know, is very serious. We know that in this House most of the speeches that have been made, have been made from the consumers' point of view and it has even been thought proper that the producer should be paid as little as possible and all his resources should be commandeered and monopolised by the Government.- I can fully appreciate the difficulty of providing foodgrains for the whole country and that some sort of measures will have to be taken to compel the agriculturist to sell a portion of his produce after allowing him to retain as much as is necessary for his own needs. What I am afraid of is that in this anxiety, we may kill the hen that lays golden egg. The producer, if he is hard hit and if his resources dwindle so much that he will not have enough seed at the time of sowing or if he is compelled to fall into the temptation of stealing that seed or eating it, if he is driven to the extreme of not having enough seed to grow new crop, then I think you will perpetuate this famine in the country.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** They are already spreading famine in rural areas.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh:** I am referring to this long statement for which we are much obliged to the Secretary of the Department. But he seems to be very much mistaken. On page 5 of his statement he says, "during the war, the prices of agricultural produce have gone up three or four times and the producer can now meet his obligatory charges by selling a small proportion of his crop". Sir, this is wrong.

**Mr. President:** May I invite the attention of all Honourable Members who wish to speak to the fact that we have an adjournment motion at four o'clock. We have discussed this subject for three days and I think it would be better if we can finish this subject before four o'clock.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh:** I will not take more than ten minutes, or if you so desire, I shall finish sooner.

**Mr. President:** As I have already said the debate has been going on for three days and no new points practically are coming in. I would suggest to the Honourable Member to take as short a time as possible so that the Mover may have his say. He must be given some time.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** His boss has said everything.

**Mr. President:** Technically he has the right to reply,

**Sardar Sampuran Singh:** I shall conclude soon, Sir. I was saying, Sir, that the things which the producer has to buy have become much dearer than what he has to sell. Therefore he is not saving by selling his things. He is only spending it. Personally I am of the opinion and I say this from my long experience in agriculture that in ordinary years, farming does not pay at all. The farmer goes on farming because he has nothing else to do. He does not like to leave his farm, he is so much attached to it that even though he has small acreage, he stays on there and works year after year.

The other point which I should like to touch upon is that this parity of prices is a great problem and that was why this famine in Bengal was so severe. When the price of wheat in Lahore was Rs. 9, it was about Rs. 22 in Calcutta. It costs only about one rupee to take wheat from the Punjab to Calcutta and there was no reason why such high price should have been allowed at that place. I am glad to know from the statement of the Secretary that they are trying to remove this disparity, but I am afraid I cannot congratulate the Government on having started this obvious thing so late.

**Mr. B. B. Sen** (Government of India: Nominated Official): It was started two years ago.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh:** But you have achieved very little. With these few words, I have finished.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): Mr. President, as a matter of fact, it was not my intention to intervene in this debate because Food is not my subject, but as the Honourable Food Member has made an appeal to this House, I think I may just as well tell him what we feel about it. I need not remind Honourable Members of this House that the primary responsibility for providing food to the entire population of the country is that of the Government, whether it be this Government or any other Government. In this particular instance, I find that it is not this Government that is responsible for administering the food question in this country but it is another Government sitting somewhere, 6,000 miles away. It is their duty to see that this country gets its food. It is no use asking us to associate ourselves with the Government to get necessary food. It is the duty of England to get the necessary food for India. When war broke out, the British Government said that it was their responsibility to defend India. Well, Sir, in defending India, they have reduced this country to the plight in which we find it today. Now, I ask them to find the necessary food for this country. Thirtyfive lakhs of people died in Bengal and many are likely to die according to Government's fears. Now that is their responsibility and not ours. Who created these conditions? In so far as the question of influencing the Combined Food Board is concerned, it is quite obvious that it will listen more to His Majesty's Government than to this Government. If they go there, they will cut no ice, because the Combined Food Board may say, "we know somebody else and that somebody else is not saying the same thing as you are saying". If H. M. G. do not succeed they must clear out of this country, and if we take charge, we shall see that we get what we want. The Honourable Food Member asks us further that in this state of emergency we must co-operate with him. But what are we asked to do? Are we to dig there and find food out of nothing? If he has not imported enough food, if he is not prepared to get food from outside, in what manner can we help him, I ask? As for the history of the emergency that has been created, we have to look backwards. I do not wish to waste the time of the House. I should just like to remind this House of one particular incident. Lord Linlithgow was brought here as an agricultural expert. He was in this country for two years touring all over India, and produced a fat report. He then came out to this country as the Viceroy and in what condition has he left this country after 7½ years of rule. If any other person had left the country in such a bad plight, he would have been impeached publicly in any other country. But what I want to know is this. What has the British Government done in that respect? After having studied the conditions of the country, after having put forward certain proposals after Lord Linlithgow had been here for over 7½ years, what did he do beyond producing and presenting bulls all round? One third of the entire cultivable land of this country according to the Agricultural Commission report lay fallow. I ask my Honourable friend Sir Pheroze Kharegat how much of this was brought under the plough during Linlithgow regime? What did his Government do to produce more food? Today you are talking of scarcity. Scarcity there is bound to be if you do not utilise fully the fallow land which has never been brought under cultivation. It is no use now my castigating those who are not here. It is no use my castigating you who are here as their successors. You should never have taken charge of Government. You should not have been there. You should have asked H. M. G. to do the job themselves. Even now, your duty is to resign and ask the British Government to produce food which is so urgently needed in this country.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall** (Leader of the House): Is the Honourable Member addressing the Chair?

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I am addressing them all. Let them do it. Let the whole Treasury Bench resign. In so far as the question of delegation is concerned, the attitude of my Party is that we are not going to associate ourselves with them. Let them carry their own burden. But if they wish to do something in this country, let us know what their proposals are. They have put

forward no proposals for co-operation of any kind whatsoever. What is needed is, in my opinion, an urgent and immediate conference of representatives of consumers and producers. It is not a case of merely asking for representatives of this Government or that Government. Why did they not send for the ex-Premiers of various provinces to a conference? Why did they not ask them to come together and tell them about the needs of the provinces and how to get on? It is the representatives of the people, whether they are in the legislatures or outside, who can advise them properly. They come and talk to us about delegations; they want to take some for a jaunt all over the world, and then do what? They will come back and say, "The popular representatives were with us, we had their prestige, but even then we could get nothing. Even though we have not been able to get what the country wanted, we did all that we could." So they get the credit and we get the blame. No, Sir, we are not prepared to associate ourselves with any such effort, and this is my reply to the invitation. I think we had better proceed to the voting now because there is not much time left.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Sir, I had no intention of speaking at this stage but now that certain points have been raised I think it is as well that I make those points clear. My Honourable friend who spoke last said that no useful purpose would be served by a delegation proceeding to the U. K. and the U. S. A. at this stage. I think I may explain the international mechanism of distribution of supplies at present.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Sir, on a point of order, Honourable Members are required to speak from their own seats, but my Honourable friend has monopolised the front seat.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** Sir, I crave your permission to speak from this seat.

The Combined Food Board was established some time in the year 1942 when supplies of the united nations were getting short owing to sinkings and also loss of territories both in the east as well as in the west. The Combined Food Board was originally composed of a representative of the United States and a representative of the British Government. A year later a member was added from Canada. Under this Combined Food Board, there are commodity committees, *i.e.*, committees to deal with different commodities like rice and wheat, and the membership of these commodity committees is drawn from various nations which are interested. It is the function of these commodity committees to make a survey of supplies available and the comparative needs of the different areas, and it is in these committees that proposals for allocations are formulated. So far we have had no representation on these committees; we had been represented by the British Food Mission which had looked after our interests as well as the interests of other Empire countries. It seems to us that it would be useful if a delegation now proceeded to the U. K. and the U. S. A. and approached the Food Board as well as the commodity committees and placed the case of India before them; and I think we can legitimately expect this House to support us in sending a delegation which will be able to serve its purpose. The argument has been that this Government had been responsible for food administration in the country, and now that there is this difficult situation in the country it is this Government who should face it and not try to enlist the assistance of political parties. But, as the Food Member has explained, the situation in the country is such that it is the duty of everybody, whatever may be his political loyalty, to help in the common endeavour.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Let the whole Government resign first.

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** If any useful purpose could be served by this Government resigning I am sure they would have done so by now.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why don't they do it?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** There are several other points raised in the course of the debate but I have no intention of replying to them in detail. There is one

[Mr. B. R. Sen.]

particular point raised which I might mention, *viz.* the one raised by my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. He said that if a province like Bombay did not get the food it wanted it should be allowed to use a commodity for which it had a monopoly as a bargaining counter with the surplus provinces. This argument was supported by more than one speaker from Bombay. I do not know whether those speakers were in earnest but I am sure that no patriotic Indian like Sir Cowasjee Jehangir or Mr. Haroon Jaffer would argue that this is the time for starting an economic warfare between provinces,—because this will amount to an economic warfare. What we want now is not economic warfare but economic understanding between the different provinces. What will happen to those provinces which have no bargaining counter as Bombay has in textiles or Bengal has in jute? The policy that the Government of India have adopted is that the shortage in this country should be equitably distributed all over India, whether surplus or deficit, and I am sure we will have the support of this House in continuing this policy.

Sir, I do not think I have very much more to say on any of the other points. I think the speech of the Food Member has covered the entire ground. I would only appeal for the support of the House in the steps that we are taking in trying to meet the shortage in this country.

**Mr. President:** We have before us several amendments to the original motion and the others are amendments to the amendments. The amendments to the original motion are in the names of Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, Mr. Masani, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Ayyangar, and the others are amendments to these amendments. I will first take the amendment of Mr. Masani and before I put that, I will first take the amendment.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Sir, in view of the fact that if my amendment is carried the other amendments will drop, that should be taken up first. If the other amendments are carried along with my amendment, the position will be difficult.

**Mr. President:** If the other amendments are carried, the Honourable Member's amendment will fail. The result is the same whichever is taken first.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** We always take votes on the highest cut.

**Mr. President:** I will first put the amendments to the amendment of Mr. Masani. The first amendment stands in the name of Mr. Ishaq Seth to which an amendment has been moved by Mr. Ayyangar.

Mr. Ishaq Seth's amendment runs thus:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani, the following be added, namely:

'and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board'."

To that an amendment has been proposed by Mr. Ayyangar which I will now put.

The question is:

"That at the end of the amendment proposed by Mr. H. A. Sattar H. Ishaq Seth, the following be added, namely:

'by sending competent Indians elected by the non-official members of this House from among its members or from outside'."

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. President:** Now I will put the amendment of Mr. Ishaq Seth.

The question is:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani, the following be added, namely:

'and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** Now I will put the amendment proposed by Mr. Gangaraju to Mr. Masani's amendment.

The question is:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani, the following be added, namely:

'and urges that the Government should so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole-hearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations'."

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** If you put it, as you have done, it will mean that Mr. Gangaraju's amendment will be added after Mr. Ishaq Seth's amendment has been added.

**Mr. President:** That is what it will come to. Of course verbal alterations will be necessary. The question is:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani, the following be added, namely:

'and urges that the Government should so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole-hearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** I will now put Mr. Narayanamurthi's amendment.

The question is:

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr. M. R. Masani between the words 'deficit areas' and 'and records' the following be inserted namely:

'and to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** I believe that completes all the amendments to the amendment of Mr. Masani. This is how the amended amendment will stand:

"That at the end of the Motion the following be added namely:

'and having considered the same, this Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government of India to import adequate supplies of foodgrains for building up a reserve and meeting the needs of deficit areas and to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports, and records its grave apprehension that, unless substantial imports are immediately made available, a situation will arise, particularly in the Southern and Western parts of the country, in which the existing ration, which is already inadequate, will be endangered and large sections of the people will face starvation, and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board, and urges that the Government should so reorganize its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole-hearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations'."

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** I suggest that after Mr. Gangaraju's amendment, after the word 'and', 'further' be added.

**Mr. President:** Ordinary verbal alterations will be made. I hope the House will agree to that.

**Some Honourable Members:** Yes, yes.

**Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban):** Sir, in order to avoid our perpetrating a literary monstrosity, would you kindly have a new sentence for each of the clauses?

**Mr. President:** It cannot be done immediately at the moment. It will require some consideration but I will see that there is no literary monstrosity. At least I shall try to reduce as much as possible the hideousness of it.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban):** May I rise to a point of order. I wonder if the Chair has the power to alter the language of an amendment or a motion already agreed to by the House.



**Mr. President:** If that is the sense of the House and if that amendment is verbal, it can be done.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Under what rule?

**Mr. President:** The proceedings are to be conducted in a manner best conducive to the business of the House.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** It is about the monstrosities that I am talking about. Verbal alterations do not matter.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** I do not say it in an obstructive spirit, but it is a very dangerous precedent to start having changes made in the motions agreed to by the House. And in any case in spite of making alterations this motion will still remain a literary monstrosity. Nothing could make it anything else.

**Mr. President:** I will try to reduce its hideousness as far as possible. Now I will put the amended amendment. The question is:

"That at the end of the Motion the following be added namely:  
'and having considered the same, this Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government of India to import adequate supplies of foodgrains for building up a reserve and meeting the needs of deficit areas and to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports, and records its grave apprehension that, unless substantial imports are immediately made available, a situation will arise, particularly in the Southern and Western parts of the country, in which the existing ration, which is already inadequate, will be endangered and large sections of the people will face starvation, and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board, and urges that the Government should so reorganize its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole-hearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** The amendment of the Honourable Member, Mr. Lawson, is practically covered by one of the amendments, though not in words but in substance.

**Mr. O. P. Lawson (Bengal: European):** I do not think, Sir, that anywhere in the amended amendment, as you have read, is this amendment covered.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member's amendment refers to the representation on the Combined Food Board. Unless the object of that is to urge upon the United Nations Organisation to grant assistance to India, the amendment would be meaningless. The Honourable Member will refer to the first amendment by Mr. Ishaq Seth, namely "and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board".

**Mr. O. P. Lawson:** I am inclined to agree, Sir, that it does cover my point and if the House wishes I am prepared to withdraw that amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Mr. President:** Now I will put Mr. Ayyangar's amendment. The question is:

"That at the end of the original motion, the following be added, namely:  
'and having considered the same further urges upon the Government to take immediate steps to increase the production, of foodgrains in the country by granting substantial subsidies to producers and by restricting, if not prohibiting, the cultivation of crops other than foodgrains on lands where food crops can be grown, until the country becomes self-sufficient in foodgrains.'"

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** The abolishing of the Food Department is the next amendment. That does not survive.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I would myself have withdrawn it by giving good reasons. But now you have killed it. You put the other amendments to the vote first whereas you should have put my one first.

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

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** It does not appear to me to be inconsistent. We can abolish the Department and still urge upon Government to do this or that.

**Mr. President:** To me it appears that it is inconsistent. The matter ends there. I have already explained the position. If the House was inclined to accept this, it would have rejected all other amendments.

The original motion, as now amended and after making verbal alterations, reads as follows:

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration and having considered the same, this Assembly—

- (a) expresses its dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government of India—
- (i) to import adequate supplies of foodgrains for building up a reserve and meeting the needs of deficit areas, and
- (ii) to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports;
- (b) records its grave apprehension that, unless substantial imports are immediately made available, a situation will arise, particularly in the Southern and Western parts of the country, in which the existing ration, which is already inadequate, will be endangered and large sections of the people will face starvation; and
- (c) urges upon the Government—
- (i) to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board,
- (ii) to so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole-hearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations, and
- (iii) to take immediate steps to increase the production of foodgrains in the country by granting substantial subsidies to producers and by restricting, if not prohibiting, the cultivation of crops other than foodgrains on lands where food crops can be grown, until the country becomes self-sufficient in foodgrains."

The question is that the motion as now read out to the House be adopted.

The motion was adopted.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** My amendment was never put to the vote. Please put this on record.

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

### RIGHTS OF INDIANS IN KENYA COLONY

**Seth Govind Das** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan):  
Sir, I move:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

On the 12th December 1945 a White Paper regarding the inter-territorial organization of East Africa was issued by the Colonial Office. It is being opposed by the White Settlers of East Africa headed by Lord Francis Scott, the Executive Councillor and a Member of the Kenya Legislative Council. And while this opposition of the white settlers is going on, the Government of India is keeping mum on the whole affair. Sir, we also do not support this White Paper—but on different grounds, namely (1) this White Paper might be the first step of the Colonial Office to give effect to the Pan-African White Plan of Field Marshal Smuts which he proposed in the year 1944 (2) proper justice has not been done in this White Paper as far as the Indians and natives are concerned.

Now, Sir, let us see what this White Paper contains. We are told that the proposals include an East African High Commission consisting of the Governors of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and a Central Legislative Assembly of these three territories with 36 members, 12 officials and 24 non-officials. Sir, out of these 24 members, 6 will be European members elected by the territorial Legislative Councils, 6 Indian members elected by the territorial Legislative Councils, 6 members, as many as possible of whom would be Africans nominated by the High Commission as trustees for African interests, 2 from each territory, 2 members nominated by the High Commission to represent Arab interests and 4 members nominated by the High Commission.

[Seth Govind Das]

Now, Sir, let us take the figures of the population of these territories into consideration. According to the Dominion Office and Colonial Office List of 1939 this was the position of the population of East Africa:

Kenya :	Natives	32,53,689
	Asiatics	61,231
(Of these Asiatics, 42,368 were Indians)		
	Europeans	19,211
Tangyanika:	Natives	51,82,289
	Asiatics	33,019
(and though the figure of Indians is not given, but it is about 90 per cent)		
	Europea	9,128
Uganda:	Natives	36,92,127
	Asiatics	17,256
(out of these 13,000 were Indians)		
	Europeans	2,111

Sir, we do not understand how equal representation of all these three major communities is proposed in this Central Assembly which is going to be formed according to this White Paper. Then, why should these natives be nominated? I have met these natives personally, Sir, when I was in East Africa and I say that they can certainly elect their own representatives to the Central Assembly which is being proposed. Then, Sir, why should there be as many as twelve officials in this Assembly? But leaving this matter where it is, because I am not going to deal with each recommendation or each proposal of this White Paper, I am surprised to see that even this proposal is being opposed by the White Settlers of East Africa, and Sir, what does the Leader of this Opposition, I mean Lord Francis Scott, say? He says that this is a direct attack which has been made on the political position of the British colonists who were virtually threatened with reduction to the level of disloyal Indians and illiterate Africans. Sir, we the Indians, are disloyal! In the last war and the present war, Africa has been saved by us. Before these white settlers entered that land, much before that, we were there. When centuries ago, Vasco de Gama visited East Africa he found Indians trading on the coasts of Kenya. What did we not do for that land? We taught cultivation to the people there. We built railways there. Our currency was current there and so was our penal code. The Europeans entered that land in the year 1866 and even after their entry up 1895 the expenses of the administration as well as of the military were borne by India. I ask the Government to look into their own records to see whether what I am saying is or is not a fact.

And what do we get in return? The Highlands of Kenya are reserved for the Europeans, though their number is much less than ours. Immigration has been stopped from India from the time the war started. At that time it was said that this measure of stopping immigration was a temporary one. On the 6th November 1944, the Honourable Dr. Khare said in this respect:

"The regulations have been enacted for one year for the present and that period is due to expire within the next three or four months. The Government of India would make every possible effort to prevent the extension of these regulations."

Though these regulations were to lapse within a few months (and that is what the Honourable Dr. Khare said on the 6th November, 1944) you will be surprised to learn that these regulations are still there, still the immigration of Indians is not allowed.

Then, Sir, something happened more recently. In the Executive Council of Kenya though there were non-officials, yet these members were without portfolios. Recently the white members of the Executive Council of Kenya have been given portfolios, while the Indian members of the Executive Council of Kenya are still without portfolios. May I ask the reason for the discrimination? In spite of these discriminations the Government of India are sitting tight: they are not doing anything.

Before this White Paper was issued, the Standing Committee of the East African Indian Congress urged the British Government to send a Royal Commission to investigate the whole matter. The British Government did not do anything in this respect and I do not know what the Government of India did and what they urged on behalf of the Indians of East Africa. Sir, while Lord Francis Scott and the white settlers are opposing these proposals of the Colonial Office on the ground that equality is given to Indians, the Indian Government is not fighting on our behalf and telling them that this is an injustice that equality is given to Europeans with Indians, while Indians are in a much greater number than the Europeans there. Sir, the whole history of East Africa shows that the Government of India have never taken into consideration what has been happening there and the same thing continues today. Hence, Sir, I move that this House do now adjourn and I want to censure the Government of India and charge them with callous disregard as far as the Indian question in East Africa is concerned.

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee** (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): Sir, the idea of a closer union of the three East African colonies is not a new one. Honourable Members who are conversant with the history of this matter would recall that a similar proposal was made in the twenties. In 1924 an East African Commission, commonly known as the Ormsby Gore Commission, was appointed. In 1927-28 was appointed the Hilton Young Commission which submitted its report in 1929. This Commission investigated how closer union and co-operation between these three territories could be best secured. The recommendations of this Commission provoked controversy in all quarters and Sir Samuel Wilson was sent to examine possibilities of the maximum measure of agreement that might be secured in East Africa on those proposals. When such proposals were made in the past, the Government of India took special measures to ensure that the interests of the Indian community were safeguarded in any new constitutional schemes that might be adopted. For example, the Government of India deputed Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh and Mr. R. P. Ewbank to help the Indian community in preparing and presenting their case before the Hilton Young Commission. Similarly the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri was deputed by the Government of India to act as a liaison officer between the Indian community and Sir Samuel Wilson. I refer to these details to indicate to the House that the Government of India have even in the past been quite vigilant in respect of any such developments not only in East Africa but also in other countries of the Commonwealth, where there are large Indian populations and Indian interests. The Government of India are fully cognisant of the fact that the Indian community of East Africa have always looked askance at any idea of the closer union of the three colonies. This has been mainly due to an apprehension on their part that with the union of the three colonies the policy of exclusiveness, if not of discrimination, adopted in Kenya might vitiate the policy of all the three colonies. Kenya, as the House is aware, is the major partner in East Africa and the Indian community have always feared that with the unification of the three territories the policy of the new Government might also be Kenyaised to the detriment of the Indian community. We fully recognise this danger. Our view has always been that while we could not legitimately claim to stand in the way of any natural constitutional evolution of the three East African colonies we must take every possible precaution to safeguard Indian interests. The same is our policy now. I hope, Sir, I have told the House enough to meet the first charge that the Honourable Mover of the motion levelled against the Government of India that they have failed in their duty in this respect. I hope, Sir, that the House will agree that this charge has been levelled at the Government rather prematurely on this occasion. The White Paper was published on the 12th December. At the time the publication of this paper was considered, a representative of our department, our Controller General

[Mr. R. N. Banerjee]

of Emigration and Joint Secretary, happened to be in London and he had an opportunity of discussing this matter unofficially with the Colonial Office. We have an assurance from the Colonial Office that full opportunity will be given to our Government to examine these proposals and to place before His Majesty's Government any suggestions and views that we may have with a view to safeguarding the interests of Indians in any new scheme of co-ordination.

What is the position? As paragraph 11 of the White Paper would show these proposals have now been published for information and as a basis for discussion. The proposals have been published for eliciting public opinion particularly in East Africa and the House can rest assured that our countrymen in East Africa are politically puissant enough to see that their voice is heard. In any case, Sir, we are examining these proposals very carefully and we have been slightly handicapped in this matter by the absence of any accredited representative of our Government in these colonies. We have set action in motion to ascertain the views of the Indian community. You will agree that without first ascertaining the reactions of the Indian community it would not be possible for us to formulate our views. I would not take up the time of the House by entering into the merits of this proposal at this stage. All I want to emphasize again is that the Government is not sitting quiet over this matter. The Government of India are fully seized of this. They have been studying these proposals. They are in correspondence with the representatives of the Indian community and are expecting to obtain their views. It is possible that we may have an occasion to have personal discussions with some of their representatives and as soon as our views are formulated they will be placed before His Majesty's Government and we have at this stage every hope that our views will be carefully taken into consideration and whatever may be the final shape that these proposals take we have still good grounds for hoping that the interests of the Indian community will be duly safeguarded. Perhaps Lord Francis Scott, of whom the Honourable Mover of the Resolution seems to know a great deal and about whom I regret to say I do not know very much—perhaps Lord Scott has scented that even this representation of six non-official members given to the Indian community might be only part of the measures which the scheme provides for safeguarding Indian interests but I do not see how, at a stage when these proposals are published for the opinion of the people of East Africa, an expression of opinion by an individual like Lord Francis Scott should lay the Government of India open to the charge of neglect of duty. This is all that I have to say about the main proposal and I hope the House will be satisfied that after the explanation I have given there is hardly any case for pressing this motion.

Incidentally the Honourable Member referred to certain other measures aimed against Indians in East Africa. The grievances about the Highlands of Kenya is a very old one and I do not think I need say much more on the subject. As regards the emigration regulations, as promised in this House, we did urge their immediate repeal but the continuance of war conditions was pleaded and all that we could obtain was that permits for re-entry should be granted freely even to such old residents as had been absent from the colonies for even more than two years. That is the position even now and we have been recently told by the Colonial Office that these regulations will be finally repealed some time about the middle or a little later this year. The ground urged is that war conditions which necessitated the enforcement of this measure have not completely disappeared. Well the middle of this year or even the third quarter of this year is not very far and we have not thought it worth while pursuing this matter any further but we have every hope that these temporary regulations will disappear before the end of this year. The Honourable Member has also referred to the expansion of the Executive Council in Kenya in which Indian interests have not been proportionately represented. That is a legitimate grievance and we have taken it up with His Majesty's Government. We have urged that if in

practice two non-official European members were to occupy seats on the Executive Council and were put in charge of portfolios, either the present Indian councillor should be put in charge of a portfolio or the Indian community should be given increased representation on the Executive Council. The matter is still under correspondence and I regret to say that we have not yet had a final decision.

These are some of the points which the Honourable Member raised incidentally and I have given the House an idea of how matters stand. I hope I have said enough to make out that the Government have not been remiss in this matter and I can only end with an assurance that Government will pursue this matter and the Indian case will not suffer by default or on account of lack of vigilance on the part of the Government of India.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** (Assam: European): Yesterday when this House discussed the question of the legislation now contemplated in South Africa, my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy threw out a challenge, a friendly challenge perhaps but still a challenge, to the European Group and the British community, to state plainly where they stood with regard to this important matter. It is partly in response to that challenge that I rise today on a cognate issue to make clear once and for all our attitude towards this question of the rights of Indians overseas. Let me begin by saying that if our silence in the debate of yesterday was interpreted as meaning that we disagreed or were indifferent or were actuated by timidity or by political expediency, that interpretation was wholly unfounded. On the main issue then under discussion, we are entirely at one with our Indian friends. Our only reason for non-participation in the debate of yesterday is a long-standing dislike of discussing matters before we have in our hands full details with regard to those matters. We were unwilling to discuss legislation when we ourselves had not seen the draft and, indeed, understood that no such draft yet existed. It was for that reason and that reason alone that we took no part in yesterday's discussion. Today, too, I do not intend to embark on a detailed discussion for a very similar reason. There is much that we do not yet know about the details of the proposed legislation and about the detailed reactions of Indians on the spot to it. There are many connected matters which we can discuss better at a later date. In the meantime, I want to content myself by stating our general position. That position is simply this: that we stand entirely with India in demanding equality for Indian citizens in other parts of the Commonwealth.

**An Honourable Member:** Except in India.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** And in India too. Every member of this Group expects that it will be possible in the very very near future for that equality to be achieved in this country to the very last degree. We stand for this equality of rights because to us, such equality is implicit in the very notion of the Commonwealth. What is, after all, the main change, the main difference between the old conception of Empire and the new conception of a Commonwealth? Is it not simply this: that the conception of Empire was based on the belief that one country should dominate other countries; while the conception of the Commonwealth is based on the belief that all countries in that Commonwealth must be brought to equal status and must occupy positions of equal rights and equal importance. A Commonwealth, after all, means nothing more than this, that a series of countries, inhabited by people of different races, speaking different languages and with different cultural backgrounds are linked together, firstly, by a sense of common interest, secondly, by the intangible bonds of sentiment and, thirdly, by common allegiance and devotion to the King Emperor. Those intangible bonds and ties can mean nothing unless they are based on equality. And it is for that reason that to us it seems axiomatic, that if there is a British Commonwealth, then the claim of India to equal rights in that Commonwealth must be accepted. That view is re-inforced still more strongly in our minds by the part which India and the Indian army have played

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths]

in making victory possible, a victory without which neither rights nor claims for equality nor privileges would have meant anything to the peoples of the Commonwealth. We cannot accept an attitude which, in effect, would amount to saying to the people of India: "You are good enough to fight with us; you are good enough to fight for us; but you are not good enough to have the privileges which that comradeship would entitle you to." We will not accept a distinction of that kind. If Indian soldiers were good enough to fight under common cause then Indian citizens should be good enough to occupy the status to which they are rightfully entitled in the other parts of this great Commonwealth. So, for this Group there is no dubiety about this matter. Nor am I enunciating a principle stated by us for the first time. This Group has consistently, for years past, advocated the cause of Indian rights throughout the Commonwealth. Let me remind you that, when this matter was discussed in November 1944, my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, came out in no uncertain terms with his statement of our views on this question. He said:

"There will never be any racial harmony in the Union as long as important racial groups are excluded from every form of political representation and denied representation even on local and municipal bodies. These are rights which are fundamental to any minority or any community in the country, and as long as these are denied to Indians in any part of South Africa, there will be trouble not only in the Union but between India and South Africa."

That was our attitude then, that is our attitude today and that will be our attitude as long as the need for representation, for agitation and perhaps even for action, on this important matter remains. This is one matter with regard to which there can be no reasonable room for any difference of opinion between different sections of the House.

I wish myself that it had been raised in some other form than an adjournment motion, for an adjournment motion, by customary Parliamentary convention, implies censure and no Government is very ready to accept censure. I wish rather that the subject before the House had been put forward in the form of a Resolution, a Resolution asserting firmly that we in this House demand that India's rights shall receive just treatment and just consideration throughout the world. If a Resolution of that kind had been put forward, I take it Government would have had no hesitation in voting for it. It would have gone forth as the view of every single man in this House, British or Indian, official or non-official. I trust that the Government, in spite of the usual Parliamentary convention, will agree not to treat this adjournment motion as a censure but to regard it as a deep and forcible expression of something which they themselves feel and will thus make it clear that the spirit of this adjournment motion has behind it the support of everyone of us, of every Group in this House. If they will do that and if, having done that, they will make it clear to the countries concerned that they will not stop at words but that, if necessary, they will take whatever action is suitable and required to enforce India's will in this matter—if the Government will do that, they will have taken a very great step forward, they will have done something to make us feel that we are bringing India nearer the day when India will count among the nations of the world on an equality with any other nation and will occupy the position to which her greatness and her size entitle her.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the adjournment motion before the House. We had a full-dress debate on this issue only yesterday or at least on an issue which was similar to the one we are discussing now. We are really glad to see that Mr. Griffiths, the Leader of the European Group, has very strongly said that he shares those very feelings which we have in this House regarding the rights and privileges of our nationals in other countries. He quoted Sir Frederick James also, who made the same claim on an issue of the same nature which was raised in this House last year.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. P. J. Griffiths (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

Mr. Chairman, you thought that the adjournment motion was not the right thing for ventilating the feelings on a matter in which the Government of India and the representatives of this House were of the same opinion. When you were saying this, the Leader of the House said "Hear, hear", sharing the same feeling. This is certainly very gratifying, to us, but this adjournment motion has been brought to see that the Government of India's helplessness in this matter is removed. It will give a fillip to the officials of Government of India. I am not prepared to concede to the point which was raised by you Mr. Chairman, in the speech that you made just now before me that we should not give expression to our opinion as we have not got the documents of legislation of Africa before us. The White Paper is already there and the idea of the unification of those States is already there. Instead of making a *post mortem* examination when the legislation would have been passed in Africa we should express an opinion here and now. It is the duty of the representatives of this House to say exactly what our feelings are on this very important question, so that the Government of India's hands may be strengthened to approach the Colonial Office on the lines that we suggest. The speeches that we make here in the short time at our disposal not only give expression to the feelings that we have but also place the concrete suggestions that we want to be embodied for safeguarding the representatives of Indian nationals who are in other lands. Agreement would be secured in the best possible manner and in the same way as negotiations between two independent countries would do. This is the main idea behind this adjournment motion. The Honourable Mover has brought out very clearly the point at issue. I do not want to take up any more time of the House on this question. I would just say that as the Secretary in Charge of the Department was making his speech a few minutes ago he said the Colonial Office of His Majesty's Government gave the assurance that Government of India will be given full opportunity of representing the views they may have. The point is whether on the White Paper he has expressed any view so far. He says that he has no representative in some parts of East Africa and as such he has not been able to contact Indian opinion on that side. I think the White Paper has been out for a sufficiently long time, and this Government by this time ought to have been able to gather the reaction and the feelings of the people of our nationals in those parts of the world. Not having done so is a failure of this Government.

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** I made it quite clear that action is in progress for obtaining the opinion of the Indian community.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Exactly, but the Honourable Member did not say whether he received any opinion. The Honourable Member used a diplomatic sentence that 'action is in progress to secure opinion.' Well, I do not know in what stage of progress it is. We must know definitely what opinion you have received and whether you are taking necessary action to represent those views to the Colonial Government or not. Why should you be shy to make the statement, why try to make a diplomatic statement that would cover everything but mean nothing.

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** I made a clear statement that action is being taken. We shall formulate our views in consultation with the representatives of Indian community in East Africa and place them before His Majesty's Government. There is time for that yet.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** However, Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to take up more time of the House. Enough has been said by the Honourable Mover and by you. Sir, when you were speaking before I got up to join the debate and I think I need not make any further remarks. With these words, I support the Motion.



**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am glad you have put the case of Europeans in this House and also in this country as sympathetically as you possibly can. I am glad also that you have associated yourself and your community with the rest of us in this country in our anxiety to protect the interest of Indians abroad and also in our effort to try to achieve equality of status with all other peoples of all colours here as well as outside. But at the same time I cannot agree with you, Sir, in your eloquent plea in favour of British Commonwealth and its extreme anxiety to achieve this particular equality. I wish to remind you, Sir, of the fact that the British sense of equality of race and equality of people is rather very queer. For instance the present socialist government of England has suggested through this White Paper equality of representation both in the executive and in the legislature in this proposed sub-federation between Indians, Europeans and Negroes, the local people there. Sir, what is this conception of equality of races worth when you look at it in juxtaposition of their respective populations? If you take only Kenya, there are 30 lakhs of Negroes, they are to be treated as equal to 18,000 Europeans and also equal to 38,000 Indians. Is this their idea of equality? This is a very strange arithmetic indeed. It comes to this. They wish to convert a hopeless minority of people into an overwhelming majority of rulers. Two-third representation in the executive and in the legislature is to go to about 50,000 people, whereas only about one-third representation is to go to 30 lakhs of people. This is their idea of equality and since that is a fact, it is no wonder that all patriotic Indians in this country do not wish to associate themselves with this British Commonwealth and avow their loyalty to this Commonwealth and their wonderful conception.

Coming to the other point, why it is that so late as the year 1946, it is given to the Socialist Government of England to make this wonderful proposal and say this is a very liberal proposal. Till now Indians have been treated very badly in these colonies. Englishmen and other Europeans have been favoured in every manner and the Negroes were of course completely ignored. Now, Sir, the Labour Government comes forward with this proposal. In whose interest is this? It is certainly not in the interest of the Natives themselves. It is not even in the interest of the small minority of Indians. It is certainly in the interest of the absolutely insignificant minority, microscopic minority of Europeans. What is the idea behind it? In the name of equality of treatment between different races, they want to establish political and economic hegemony of Europeans in these colonies and yet they want to go and parade their conception of equality before U. N. O. I know, Sir, that Indians as well as Europeans are not Africans. Therefore, they ought not to be treated in any sort of favoured manner apart from the natives of the African Continent. Whereas Indians have gone there and are reported to have rendered some definite service to those countries, there is no such record in favour of Europeans. The Europeans themselves have stated that "Indian labour was responsible for most of the manual part of the original construction of Kenya Uganda railways. Indian contractors and traders have been there to develop the Kenya colony including native resources. Indian lorry drivers are pioneers to drive to any of the most outlying districts of the colony. I can add to this list in many directions." This was said by the Governor in 1940. The same thing can be said of India's contribution in other colonies also. Can the same thing be said about Europeans? They have gone there as exploiters, outright exploiters. Indians went there, it is true as traders, as merchants, as businessmen. They have gone there and they tried to give *quid pro quo* for all they received from the country. But what did the Europeans go there for to claim this one third representation in the new dispensation. Sir, I protest against this. Our friend Lord Scott is not satisfied with this one-third representation that he has got from socialist dispensation. Evidently he wants to get two-third representation from the next communist dispensation that may come in England tomorrow or day after. It is the duty of the Government to protest against this. I am rather surprised at

the unwillingness of the Government representative to tell the House in what respects he takes objection to this white paper. He wanted us to wait until he in his own good time makes his submission to Government in England or the Government in England comes . . . . .

**Mr. B. N. Banerjee:** Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I feel that that is an obvious misunderstanding of my speech because I made it quite clear that we are examining the proposals before formulating our views. The matter has a long history and we must take some time over it. And that I failed to indicate today what exact objections we have to these proposals, would not justify the suggestion that we are doing nothing in this matter.

**Prof N. G. Ranga:** Of course it is not true that my Honourable friend is not doing anything; he certainly interrupts my speech. But what a popular minister on that side would have done, according to my conception of his duty anyhow, is to take the House into his confidence in the matter of his reactions to this white paper proposal and then say that this is the result of his provisional examination and he is specially to be put wise by the House as a whole; and in the light of the remarks that fall from various members and also after other consultations that he may make, it will be open to him to make a fuller report to the authorities concerned either in England or in the colonies. Instead of that my Honourable friend, as has always been the case with his Government, simply comes and says, "We are going to consider it in good time later on. We shall make our representation and then it would be high time for the Britishers to have their own final decisions. Thereafter we shall come to this Legislative Assembly." Sir, I cannot accept that attitude of the Government of India. What is it that we want in these countries? That is another matter. Sir, I am not one of those,—and I think I can associate my party also in saying this,—I am not one of those people who wish my people to go into all these various other countries and gain undue advantages at the cost of the local people themselves. I do not wish to be a partner in this world's economic exploitation or political exploitation, with this British Commonwealth and its eloquent advocates like yourself. If we go at all into any other country we wish to go there with the consent of its people and for mutual advantage, in order to serve those people and at the same time to be served by them. And we wish to be there as welcome guests and as honoured guests of the people of those countries. But up till now unfortunately it is the British Government that has been dragging Indians into all those various countries as participators in their economic loot or the imperialistic loot. They have taken us into Burma, into South Africa and into all these other countries, first not as free men but only as indentured labour tied hand and foot, kept us there under a sort of contract and afterwards released us and would not even raise their little finger in order to protect our interests, our honour, our self-respect and our lives in those countries against the rapacity of your own countrymen the Englishmen and other Europeans. It is against this kind of injustice that I rise in my place, and my party is also here to protest and we will continue to protest until we are able to put an end to this kind of imperialist, economic and political exploitation. We also protest against this sort of enforced partnership of India in their economic loot. Sir, I support this adjournment motion and I hope the House will certainly pass it and make this Government awaken to the discharge of its own duties in a more satisfactory manner than it has been accustomed to.

Sir, one word more and it is this. Yesterday my Honourable friend Dr. Khare asked us what more he could possibly do. Well, why does he not resign? Why do not my other friends there resign? Those other powerful men in the Executive Council smile. The heavens are not going to fall if they resign. I am not going to impute to them any ideas of money or the attraction of high salaries, or anything like that. But they are there for some sort of imaginary kudos; in that I think these Executive Councillors are very foolish and they are suffering from a suicidal mania also. In Egypt they wanted something to be

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

done by England; they could not get it, and their ministers resigned. In Persia they could not get their way with Soviet Russia upon which they resigned and another ministry came in. They took a stronger stand and Soviet Russia was obliged to take these people into confidence in their discussions. Similarly it is one of the diplomatic things that are going on all over the world for any Government to have its own way to resign and express its resentment. An alternative Government comes into the country and goes with a newer mandate from the legislature and gives its point of view. If Dr. Khare were to resign and the news were to go there to the U. N. O. and the new Member were to take up this question with the U. N. O., certainly South Africa will be on a better behaviour and Field-Marshal Smuts will not behave in the smutty manner in which he has been behaving. Similarly in regard to this matter also, if and when the necessity arises, this Government must be prepared to take strong action and make a gesture by resigning and showing their resentment to the British as well as to the colonial Governments. Sir, I support the motion.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, a few brilliant speeches have been made on this subject and, if I may say so, your own speech has been a very refreshing one. In your outspoken speech you gave a definite and clear statement that your sympathies were with Indians,—not only personally of yours own but those of all the Europeans domiciled in this country as well. On that support and on the support which Government are willing to extend in this matter we should be very sanguine and hopeful about the result of the negotiations which are said to be going on between the Government of India and the Government of the colony. We should expect something really magnificent from these negotiations because if this House is united I think we can bring pressure upon His Majesty's Government and through them or directly upon the Government of East Africa, and in that way we may expect to bring about very favourable results. But when I look into the history of this connection of ours with the colonies of East Africa or South Africa, I find it is a very dark chapter in that history. We have had many set-backs; the only good association that we have in connection with these colonies is that we got our Mahatma Gandhi trained in South Africa who was so helpful to us afterwards. But even with all his sacrifice and everything else he could not achieve much in that country. Reading the past history of our relations with those parts and despite the hope that has been extended to us by the Honourable Member for Government I feel on the whole pessimistic. He feels happy not over promises but only over the idea that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will be glad to receive our representation and hear us before he makes any decision. Personally I think there is nothing in that. Any civilised man will listen to another person who has got to tell him something, although in the end he may agree or disagree with him. So I rather feel disappointed at this happiness of the Government Member just on that little promise or hope. I am afraid that if he starts feeling satisfied over such a small promise he will not be able to do very much for the Indians in the colonies. The only thing which we really need consider is what sanction we can bring forward in case the Colonial Office does not agree to our demand. When the question of exerting pressure upon them comes, when the question of reprisals comes, when the question of exerting force comes, the Indian Government will fail as it has always failed in the history of this country. What we expect from the Government is that they should treat the people of those countries as they are treating us. If they pick up some strength and are ready to take that attitude and if they are able to convince them that if they do not agree to the legitimate demands of Indians, India will certainly take reprisals, we can expect something, otherwise I do not think we need expect much.

5 P.M.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall** (Leader of the House): The House appears to be singly unanimous on these questions with one exception which is perhaps a matter of detail. The exception is that this motion has unfortunately

come forward on an adjournment motion which begins by referring to the "complete failure of the Government of India to take any steps." As to the substance of the idea behind the motion, we are, as the speakers have shown, entirely in agreement. I must reiterate again however that this White Paper, which was the origin of the discussion, was published quite recently "for information and as a basis of discussion" and what the mover seeks to do is to censure us for not taking action because some individual,—however important, but still an individual in East Africa—has said something against His Majesty's Government's proposals. Whether these proposals are adequate or not is not a subject on which the Government of India has yet expressed an opinion. They appear to be a distinct step forward, and I even understood the mover to indicate that he was satisfied with the measure of equality given by His Majesty's Government . . . . .

**Seth Govind Das:** On a point of personal explanation—I never said that we were satisfied with what has been said in the White Paper because the population of India is much larger there than those of Europeans and we cannot be satisfied with this sort of proposal.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Very well, the Honourable Member was not satisfied, but nobody has put forward precise demands as to what India does want. Until it has consulted the people on the spot Government is not itself in a position to say what precisely is wanted. But as I say the proposals appear to be a step forward and they appear at least to have the merit of rousing the anger of what appears to be one of the most conservative elements in Kenya. If this were—as you said, Sir, when you were speaking from your place—if this were a Resolution, we should have no hesitation in accepting it. It is unfortunately in the form of an adjournment motion which is a form of censure on Government, a censure which Government does not deserve, and I must therefore formally oppose it, but in formally opposing I do not do so with any heart because Government is in fact heart and soul with the sentiments expressed elsewhere in the House and particularly, Sir, so eloquently by yourself.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn".

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 7th February, 1946.