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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

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(8th February to 23rd February, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 14th February, 1945.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

†151*—191*

REVIEW OF THE CASE OF S. SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

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

(a) whether the case of S. Sardul Singh Caveeshar is being reviewed from time to time, and when it was reviewed last;

(b) whether any charge sheet was sent to S. Sardul Singh Caveeshar, and whether he has submitted any explanation in reply thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that S. Sardul Singh Caveeshar has, in his reply to the charge sheet, completely dis-associated himself from the activities of Babu Subhas Chander Bose which he had been carrying on after he disappeared from India;

(d) whether this fact was taken into consideration when his case was reviewed last time; and

(e) who reviewed his case; whether it has been done departmentally or there is some judicial machinery set up for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes. It was last reviewed in December, 1944.

(b) He has been informed of the grounds for his detention as required by Section 7 of Ordinance III of 1944, and has submitted his representation in reply thereto.

(c) Under Section 11 of Ordinance III of 1944, the contents of his representation cannot be disclosed.

(d) All the circumstances of the case, as required by law, were taken into consideration before deciding to keep the order of detention in force.

(e) The Central Government reviews his case. It is an executive, and not a judicial, function.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what has been the effect of this latest review by the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not understand the question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What was the out-come of the review?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: He has remained in jail.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: When was the case last reviewed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that question in part (a).

FAMILY ALLOWANCE FOR S. SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

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

(a) whether any family allowance has been sanctioned for S. Sardul Singh Caveeshar;

(b) whether it is a fact that he is not allowed to look after even his personal business through ordinary channels of correspondence or interviews; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider this point and permit S. Sardul Singh Caveeshar to look after his personal business through correspondence or personal interview?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given to Maulana Zafar Ali Khan's unstarred questions Nos. 18 and 21 on 12th February 1943.

†For these questions and answers, see pages 320-43 of these debates.

(c) As the replies I have just quoted made clear, the correspondence and interviews allowed are sufficient to keep him in touch with his personal affairs, but the rules do not permit him to carry on the business of the firms with which he is connected.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether a detenu is allowed under the rules to interview those with whom he is connected in business and not only relatives?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes: I have answered that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is not clear from the answer.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will repeat it:

"As the replies I have just quoted made clear, the correspondence and interviews allowed are sufficient to keep him in touch with his personal affairs, but the rules do not permit him to carry on the business of the firms with which he is connected."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the meaning of that reply? Is it that he is not allowed to see anybody else other than his relatives?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will have to ask for notice of that: I have not looked up that point.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is his business manager allowed to see him or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The rules do not permit him to carry on the business of the firms with which he is connected.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: In view of the attitude of the Government, may I know if they will permit him to have a branch office in jail?

(No answer was given).

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is the Government aware that he has large interests in the firm of which he is the Managing Director and so in a way it is his personal interest to look after the business of the firms in which he has a large number of shares?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are Government prepared to take up the responsibility for any damages that may be caused?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am sorry I have nothing to add.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT OF S. SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

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

(a) whether it is a fact that S. Sardul Singh Caveeshar is kept in virtual solitary confinement in an out of the way place;

(b) whether the Government of India will advise the Punjab Government to keep him in a jail where he can enjoy the company of other political prisoners; and

(c) whether it is a fact that he is not keeping good health in jail; when he was last examined and by whom and what the latest report about his health is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) He is kept along with another security prisoner in the hospital ward of the Dharamshala sub-jail, which consists of three rooms and a kitchen.

(b) Government do not propose to ask the Punjab Government to alter these arrangements.

(c) The latest medical report is that he is keeping good health, except for a complaint of slight pain in the left leg. He has gained 14 lbs. in weight since admission to the jail. He was last examined by the Civil Surgeon, Dharamshala on the 29th January, 1945 and is also examined daily by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Police Hospital, Dharamshala.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is he kept for purposes of health in the hospital? If I understood properly he is kept in a hospital?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That was what I said: he is kept in a hospital.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is he kept there for purposes of health?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I said he was in good health.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it not contradictory that he is in good health and yet is kept in hospital for bad health?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I imagine—I have not been to the Dharamshala jail myself.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do not imagine: give us the facts.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I imagine that the hospital was found a convenient place to put him in—it is probably a separate place and a nice place.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is there any hospital for healthy people?

(No answer was given.)

SENTENCES OF DEATH, TRANSPORTATION, ETC., UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT AND RULES

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

(a) the number of prisoners sentenced to death under the Defence of India Rules in all the Provinces;

(b) the number of prisoners sentenced to transportation for life in all the Provinces;

(c) the number of prisoners sentenced to over seven years under the Defence of India Rules;

(d) the number of prisoners sentenced to over one year under the Defence of India Rules; and

(e) the total number of prisoners convicted under the Defence of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (d). I have no information and the labour involved in collecting it would not be justified in war time.

(e) The total number of persons convicted under the Defence of India Rules from the beginning of this war up to 31st December, 1944 is 1,20,436. I may point out that a large proportion of these were convicted of offences, e.g., black marketing, breach of lighting restrictions, etc., which have nothing to do with politics.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Honourable Member will collect figures at least for people sentenced to transportation for life and to death for being connected with politics as he imagines?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will consider that. I do not know how much labour will be involved in that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether he has received any petitions for mercy in cases in which people have been sentenced to death?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Petitions for mercy go to the Provincial Governments: beyond that, to the Governor General in his discretion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they go through his Department?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it not a fact that if the Provincial Governments reject the same, the mercy petitions go to the Governor General?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Governor General in his discretion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the advice of the Honourable Member or of his Department taken in the disposal of those petitions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is a matter for the Governor General: some may come to me; some may not.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have any come to him till now?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Is it not a fact that the Law Member goes into these petitions?

(No answer was given.)

NEGOTIATIONS RE UTILIZATION OF INDIAN STERLING ASSETS IN ENGLAND

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

(a) at what stage the Government of India's negotiations with the Government of the United Kingdom are in regard to the utilisation of Indian sterling assets in England;

(b) what will be the extent of our sterling assets in England at the end of the current financial year; and

(c) the extent sterling resources that have been set off by imports of consumers goods in the course of the current financial year?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Dr. Sir Zia Uddin's starred question No. 66 on the 3rd November 1944. No programme for formal discussions has yet been arranged.

(b) I am not in a position to give a definite figure. The Honourable Member can inform himself of the latest position and of the rate of accrual by a study of the published weekly statements of the affairs of the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) The figures are not readily available in the form asked for by the Honourable Member, but information concerning imports into India will be found in the monthly accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India, which is a priced publication.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know in what form they are available, if they are not available in the form in which I have asked for them?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member asked for the extent to which sterling resources have been set off by imports of consumers goods in the course of the current financial year. On my understanding of that question, it would require a monograph of two or three pages to deal with. It would require some original research. The facts on which it would be based are largely given in a published document and I am afraid I must invite my Honourable friend to undertake the necessary research.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member has the necessary staff for this kind of research. The latest figures are not available to us. They are available only to the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think fairly recent figures are available of the imports.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the latest figure available in the published reports?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Up to October, I think.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has there not been a favourable balance of trade during the last three years?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How much of these sterling balances has been wiped out by the consumers goods?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is quite right. The sterling balances which have already been accumulated would not be wiped out at all unless the imports exceeded the exports, which is not the case. An increase in the imports tends to slow down the rate of accrual of the sterling balances.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I would submit to the Honourable the President that his reference to books is not really convenient to us. The books are not supplied to us and we are far away. I would submit that this reference to books should not be made. They must give us the figures. They have got the staff and the materials?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They are in the Library?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: They are here to give us information. In this way they can refer to some book in answering every question. I would ask you to direct that they should give us the facts and the figures.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The figures that the Honourable Member asks for could not possibly be given in that simple manner. As I

have already said, it would require a certain amount of research in order to establish anything like conclusions.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You will be all the better for the research.

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

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

- (a) whether Government have considered the resolutions of the Bretton Woods Conference regarding the institution of the world monetary fund; and
(b) if so, what conclusions they have come to in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The Government have under examination various aspects of the Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference in its relation to India.

(b) Until the scheme has been discussed by the American and British Legislatures it appears premature to attempt to formulate any final conclusions. Should the proposals be accepted by the United States of America and the United Kingdom an opportunity will be given to the House at a suitable date to discuss the question of India's adherence to the International Agreements in question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have you seen in the newspapers that the American Government have rejected these proposals?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Today's information is that the President of the United States has recommended the proposals to Congress.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will a copy of the Resolutions of this Conference be given to the Members?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am prepared to supply the Honourable Member or anybody interested with a copy. It will certainly be supplied at the time when the matter is taken up for discussion in this House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member indicate whether there would be any advantage to India in joining either the Fund or the Bank?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I intend that material should be placed before the House on the lines which the Honourable Member now mentions and which he previously suggested, when the House is invited to consider the question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member say how the formation of the International Bank will affect our Banking Legislation that has been set on foot here, so far as our Assembly is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As far as I appreciate the position, the scheme for an International Bank would not affect our domestic banking legislation.

TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT POST-WAR PLANNING

198. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether Government have come to tentative conclusions about post-war planning;

(b) whether the Government have considered the matter for arranging for trained personnel to execute these plans; and

(c) if so, what arrangements he has made in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The question is couched in too general terms to admit of a precise answer. The Honourable Member is requested to specify the points on which he desires information.

(b) and (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to a *Press Communique* which was issued recently regarding technical education of Indian students overseas. I place a copy of the *communique* on the table of the House. I also place on the table a copy of a letter sent recently by the Labour Department to Provincial Governments and to Industries through

Chambers of Commerce, Employers' Organisations, etc., regarding training abroad of skilled technicians, for post-war industrial development.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

1. Numerous enquiries are being received from students desirous of proceeding overseas for courses of study in the near future. As has already been announced by the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Planning and Development (Sir Ardeshir Dalal), it is hoped to send abroad in the autumn of this year about 500 students for courses in technical subjects directly related to the various plans for post-war development now under consideration or in preparation. Some of these students will be selected direct by the Central Government; others will be selected in the first instance by Provincial Governments. In the former case the Central Government will provide the financial assistance required to enable the students to complete an approved course. In the latter case the cost of such financial assistance will be shared equally between the Central and Provincial Governments. The selected students will be required to give an undertaking that on completion of the course abroad they will enter such employment in this country as may be indicated by the Central or Provincial or State Government as the case may be. Although no guarantee can be given, every effort will be made on the student's return to this country to find him employment on terms commensurate with the qualifications which he may have obtained.

A special selection committee will be established by the Central Government to deal with applications received. It has been suggested to Provincial Governments to appoint similar selection committees in Provinces. Special arrangements will also be made to place the students selected in suitable Universities or similar institutions abroad and to look generally after their welfare while they are overseas. Free passages and reasonable travelling expenses from India to the institution selected will be provided as well as return passages on the satisfactory completion of the prescribed course. The main courses for which awards will be available are set out below :—

1. Agricultural Subjects (including Animal Husbandry).
2. Educational Science and Practice.
3. Mechanical Engineering.
4. Electrical Engineering.
5. Civil Engineering.
- *6. Chemical Engineering.
- *7. Aeronautical Engineering.
- *8. Marine Engineering.
9. Architecture, Regional Planning, Building Construction.
10. Applied Chemistry (including preservation and distribution of food stuffs).
11. Applied Physics.
- *12. Geology.
- *13. Metallurgy.
14. Other forms of Applied Science.
15. Technical subjects not covered above.

Courses other than those set out above will be considered only if directly related to probable post-war needs.

(N. B.—Separate arrangements are being made by the Central Government in consultation with Provincial Governments in the case of students who may be sent abroad for courses in Medical Subjects. These will be announced shortly.) The numbers selected for each course will be strictly limited and will be determined solely by post-war requirements. Preference will normally be given to students who have already completed a degree at a University in India or elsewhere but this will not apply to students who possess special qualifications or experience that would make them suitable for one of the courses specified above. Advertisements inviting applications will shortly be issued by the Governments concerned and applicants residing in a Province are advised to comply with the instructions which will be contained in these advertisements as to the method of submitting applications. Applicants resident in the Centrally Administered Areas or areas administered by the Crown Representative (or those for awards for courses starred above) should submit their applications to the Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, marked "OVERSEAS STUDENTS".

The subjects starred on the above list at present concern the Central Government only, but there are other subjects in which both the Central and Provincial Governments are interested. Applicants for courses in these subjects may submit their applications either to the Central Government or to their Provincial Government.

2. It is anticipated that in addition to the students mentioned above who will be sponsored by the Central and Provincial Governments for technical courses in connection with post-war

developments, a large number of students will no doubt desire, as in the past, to proceed overseas for study at their own charges. Others may be sent abroad by firms or private bodies or persons who will bear the whole cost or will share it with the student. The Government of India are anxious to do more than has been done hitherto provide advice and guidance to such students in regard to suitable courses of training abroad, and as the qualifications which they would require for admission to such courses. With this end in view, the Central Government have asked Provincial Governments and Universities to set up Students Advisory Bureau as soon as possible with a view to affording such advice and assistance. It is also Government of India's intention to establish machinery for helping these students to obtain admission to Universities and other Institutions abroad and for looking after them generally during their stay in the foreign country. Here again it has generally agreed by the educational authorities both in India and in Great Britain and U. S. A. that students will derive the greatest benefit from courses abroad if they have first completed a degree at an Indian University and it is understood that preference will as a rule be given to those who have done this. It is therefore suggested that all students, who desire to proceed abroad at their own expense for courses of study as soon as travelling conditions permit, should ascertain from their Provincial Governments or from their Universities whether such Advisory Bureaux or Committees have been established, and if so, should take full advantage of the facilities offered. It is intended that these Advisory Bureaux should deal with all students, other than sponsored students, whatever the nature of the studies they may intend to pursue abroad.

3. It should be emphasised that the arrangements set out above apply only to British Indian subjects and not to subjects of Indian States. It is understood that a number of Indian States contemplate making similar arrangements. So far, however, as the placing of students in institutions abroad and looking after their general welfare are concerned the machinery referred to above will be available for those students from Indian States who desire to take advantage of it.

Education, Health and Lands Department.
New Delhi, January 27, 1945.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

No. TRCII—1140.

Dated New Delhi, the 12th December 1944.

From

S. Lall, Esquire, C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments and Administrations.

SUBJECT :—*Training abroad of higher technical personnel for post-war industrial development.*
Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter addressed by the Government of India to all Chambers of Commerce, Employers' Associations, etc., on the question of training abroad of higher technical personnel for post-war industrial development. The Provincial Government may desire to send their own technicians for higher training abroad in connection with their normal or post-war schemes and, if so, the Government of India would be glad to arrange the necessary facilities, but the full costs of such training will be borne by the Provincial Government. I am to request that if the Provincial Government have any technicians whom they would wish to send for higher training abroad, their names and other particulars may kindly be communicated as early as possible to this Department in the form attached to the enclosed letter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. LALL,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy to all Departments of the Government of India (except Legislative, Legislative Assembly, Commonwealth Relations and Military Finance Departments.) With the request that if they have any technicians requiring training of the kind referred to in the above letter the necessary particulars may kindly be sent to this Department as early as possible.

Copy to the Political Department (with a copy of the letter addressed to Chambers of Commerce, etc.), with the request that the scheme of higher training referred to therein may be communicated to all Indian States and the recommendations of the States regarding suitable technicians may kindly be obtained in the form attached to the enclosed letter and transmitted to this Department. It may please be pointed out to the States that the cost of higher training will be borne by them in full.

N. C. KUPPUSWAMI,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. TRCII-1140.

Dated New Delhi, the 12th December, 1944.

From

S. Lall, Esquire, C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

To

- (i) The Employers' Federation of India, Bombay.
- (ii) All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, New Delhi.
- (iii) Indian Engineering Association, Calcutta.
- (iv) Engineering Association of India, Calcutta.
- (v) All Chambers of Commerce.
- (vi) All-India Manufacturers Association, Bombay.

SUBJECT :—*Training abroad of higher technical personnel for post-war industrial development.*

Sir.

I am directed to address you on the action which the Government of India propose to take to make good the serious deficiency in skilled technicians particularly of the higher categories, which will constitute one of the most serious bottle-necks in the industrial development of the country. India will need, for example, large numbers of chemical engineers, mineralogists, electrical and other technicians, including those who can design and build machine tools of various kinds. For these higher technical posts the training for the present will inevitably have to be abroad. Steps will have to be taken to ensure that our technicians on their return to India will be capable of developing, planning, organising various branches of industry according to the needs of the programme of future industrial development.

2. With a view to ascertaining the actual requirements of industry certain preliminary enquiries were made in January last and on the basis of the information furnished, the Government of India have been exploring the possibilities of securing the necessary facilities. Unfortunately, it has been found that little progress can be made unless, in the case of each candidate definite information is available as to his theoretical qualifications, past industrial experience, the specific of the training required and also the industry for which this training is required. Unless these particulars are furnished training institutions and firms abroad are not in a position to indicate what facilities can be made available to Indian technicians.

3. The Government of India feel that, though there may be difficulties in the case of special trades, India's requirements in regard to advanced technical training can be met substantially in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. To enable them to take further action in the matter it is necessary to have the names and the full particulars indicated above of any candidates which your Association or any of your associate members consider should be sent abroad for higher technical training. The candidates will in most cases be persons with a University degree in Science or engineering or equivalent diploma and at least three years' industrial experience in India. The duration of the training abroad will be about a year but in special cases it may be extended up to two years. As regards the subject for training and its exact nature, the Government of India would be glad to have the suggestions of your Association in each case. The trainees may be required to take refresher courses in theory, but industrial experience in factories and workshops abroad of the kind on which they will be employed on return to India will constitute the most important part of their training.

4. As regards cost, the Government of India have no doubt that in most cases industrial firms, or associations will be able to meet the full expenditure on account of their own trainees provided of course facilities are secured through the Government of India in accordance with their requirements. In special cases, e.g., where training is required for new industries or industries whose development is considered desirable in the national interest and the industrial firm or association concerned is unable to bear the full cost, the Government of India would be prepared to consider giving financial assistance, where such assistance is necessary in respect of trainees who are sent during the war or within six months thereafter. From enquiries so far made, the cost per annum including passage, fees, allowances, etc., for each trainee deputed to the U. K. is estimated at roughly Rs. 7,500. In the case of the U. S. A. it is estimated at roughly 1800 dollars plus the cost of a return passage. These are, however, only tentative figures and the Government of India understand that in the U. S. A. it is possible that trainees may be offered stipends by firms during the period of training. A more detailed estimate of cost will be worked out for each trainee in consultation with the authorities in the U. K. or the U. S. A.

5. I am to request that your Association will kindly assist the Government of India in this matter by obtaining from your associate members a list of their recommendations and the full particulars of each candidate in the enclosed form. I am to add that individual firms are not being addressed as the Government of India hope that your Association and the other Associations to whom this letter is being addressed will be able to furnish the necessary information.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
S. LALL,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

PARTICULARS OF CANDIDATES RECOMMENDED FOR HIGHER TECHNICAL TRAINING ABROAD.

1. Name :
2. Father's Name :
3. Religion and caste, if any :
4. Province of domicile. District
5. Date of birth or Age :
6. Address :
Present :
Permanent :
7. General Education. (State Schools or Colleges attended and examinations passed).
8. Technical Education (give particulars of technical schools or colleges attended and examinations passed).
9. Details of Apprenticeship. (State the names of workshops or factories where apprenticeship was undergone and the period of apprenticeship).
10. Industrial Experience. (State the appointments held from time to time, duration of each appointment, nature of duties performed and pay).
11. Specific nature of Training required and the Industry for which it is needed.*
12. Whether the Employer is willing to meet the expenditure on training.
13. Remarks by the Employer.

*Note.—The types of training contemplated are given below, but the list is not exhaustive.—The Government of India would be prepared to explore the possibility of securing facilities for other types of training, if required.

1. Mechanical Engineering.
2. Electrical Engineering.
3. Radio-Manufacture.
4. Ship-building.
5. Aeronautical Engineering.
6. Marine Engineering.
7. Civil Engineering.
8. Structural Engineering.
9. Metallurgy.
10. Generation of Electricity.
11. Locomotive Construction.
12. Chemical Engineering.
13. Fertilisers.
14. Plastics.
15. Glass.
16. Steel Manufacture.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government have come to any definite conclusions as to the specific industries which they propose to set up in this country.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Government are appointing a large number of panels for developing a large number of industries and in answer to a previous question I think I have placed a statement to that effect on the table of the House.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Can you tell me whether any definite industry is proposed to be set up, so that they may make their arrangements?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It is a most comprehensive list of industries that are proposed to be set up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it also proposed to get some agronomists trained abroad?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: If a suggestion to that effect is made by any Government, it will certainly be considered. The list of persons to be trained is a comprehensive one.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether in appointing all these panels for various industries, labour in those industries will be represented on those panels?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: These panels are not meant to be representative of any particular interest or class or community or creed. They

are composed of people who are specially interested in those industries and of experts.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether in the opinion of the Honourable Member people who work in that industry at least for eight hours, if not more, have got no special knowledge of that industry and people who don't ever enter a factory are the specialists in those industries?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: We are not prepared to admit that those who work in factories are necessarily experts in those particular industries. If any such workers are found who are experts in those industries, we will certainly consider appointing them to the panel.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the people be sent for training solely on the recommendation of the Provincial Governments or will they be sent by Selection Boards?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Selection Boards are proposed to be established.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will they be sent on the recommendation of the Provincial Governments. The Honourable Member said that they will be sent on the recommendation of the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There are several classes of people to be sent. The Provincial Governments have been requested to select people whom they would subsequently employ for their own purposes. Their expenses will be paid by the Provincial Government and the Central Government but over and above that there are a number of people who want to go at their own expense. The Universities have also been addressed and they will appoint Selection Boards which will select such people. Government will not pay their expenses but they will arrange the passage, look after the training of the boys in the foreign universities and so on.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it not the duty of the Government to encourage even those who have never entered into the industry and who have not taken any part in the industry or is it the duty of the Government to encourage only those who have been in the industry so far?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There is no such intention on the part of the Government.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Then what is the proposal of the Government when the Honourable Member said it is not in the interests of any community or race or creed? What did the Honourable Member mean by that?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I think my Honourable friend has completely misunderstood me. The answer that I gave to the Honourable Member here was in connection with the composition of panels, whereas this question is with regard to the training of students.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the ordinary University academic qualifications are insisted upon for any one to qualify himself for a scholarship under question, will not the chances of the industrial workers who today are employed in these industries be blocked?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: As my Honourable friend will see from the answer, there are two different kinds of training. There is the training which is sponsored by the Labour Department for skilled technicians to acquire further experience in their own lines. Such training is a separate scheme from the training of students.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know if any batch has been sent so far?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, but individual students are going.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I ask to what countries the students will be sent—to the United Kingdom or to America also?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: To both, United Kingdom and America.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Manu Subedar
Question 199.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Sir, before that question is answered, I rise or a point of order. I should like to inquire whether in your opinion this question is in order, because Standing Order 15, among other things, says that the questions shall not be of excessive length.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have taken that point into consideration as it is for me to decide whether a particular question is or is not in order.

Indian News Parade AND INFORMATION FILMS

199. *Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the respective number of issues of the Indian News Parade produced and released in cinemas in this country during the official year 1943-44 and those released or contemplated to be released in 1944-45 and 1945-46;

(b) the actual or budgeted expenditure and income from the Indian News Parade in each of the years mentioned under (a);

(c) the respective number of Information Films produced by Government in 1943-44 and produced or contemplated to be produced in 1944-45 and 1945-46;

(d) the actual or budgeted expenditure and income from the Information Films in each of the years mentioned under (c);

(e) the respective number of non-Indian films certified under the Defence of India Rule 44-A in 1943-44 and certified or expected to be certified in 1944-45 and 1945-46;

(f) the actual purchase price paid for the films under (e);

(g) the actual or budgeted expenditure, in addition to the purchase price of the films mentioned under (e), and actual income derived or expected to be derived from them in each of the years mentioned under (e);

(h) the number of Information Films produced by Indian producers other than Government and purchased by Government for release through Government's own distribution establishments;

(i) the average price per film paid for films under (h) and the income derived by Government therefrom;

(j) the respective number of cinemas in British and Indian India in which the Indian News Parade and the Information Films have been shown in 1943-44 and shown or expected to be shown in 1944-45;

(k) the respective income from the cinemas in British and Indian India referred to in (j);

(l) what led Government to produce the Newsreel and the Information Films themselves instead of asking the Indian Film industry to undertake that responsibility;

(m) whether the industry ever agreed to produce and distribute on its own at least the Information Films; and

(n) whether Government propose to ask the industry to shoulder the responsibility hereafter of producing both the News Parade and the Information Films?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) to (k). Statements are laid on the table of the house.

(l) In the interest of war publicity and instruction in problems arising out of the war, Government considered it necessary to produce Information films and a newsreel. There was no documentary film producer or newsreel industry in India. The film industry had no experience of productions of this nature and technicians had to be trained specially for this purpose. Besides, for want of large profits nobody in the Industry was prepared to venture in this direction. Government was, therefore, obliged to make their own arrangements for the production and distribution of films and newsreels.

(m) Arrangement has been made for the production by the film industry of 60 shorts per year. There is no indication at present, however, of any organization set up by the industry to distribute these films.

(n) The scheme I have mentioned at (m) is evidence of Government's desire to encourage the production of short films by the film industry. Government cannot discontinue the production and distribution of shorts and newsreel until there are definite indications that shorts and newsreel of the required standard and in sufficient quantity are being produced by the trade.

Statements

(a)	1943-44	29
	1944-45	52
	1945-46	52

(b) and (d). Figures of expenditure are not available separately for Information Films of India and Indian News Parade. The total expenditure is as follows:

	Rs.
1943-44	10,27,587
1944-45	22,65,000
1945-46	24,13,000

The figures of income from Indian News Parade are as follows:

	Rs.
1943-44	50,064
1944-45	4,63,446
1945-46	4,63,446

The figures of income from Information Films of India are as follows:

	Rs.
1943-44	75,859
1944-45	3,63,629
1945-46	5,86,500

(Including revenue from films purchased by us or received free from other countries on a reciprocity basis)

(c)	1943-44	35
	1944-45	44
	1945-46	50
(e)	1943-44	18
	1944-45	50
	1945-46	50
(f)	1943-44	Nil
	1944-45	15,080
	1945-46	15,000
	<i>Expenditure</i>	
(g)	1943-44	Nil
	1944-45	2,00,000
	1945-46	3,00,000
	<i>Income</i>	
	1943-44	Nil
	1944-45	2,00,000
	1945-46	3,00,000

(h) Three already paid for. Purchase of two more sanctioned. Purchase of another two under negotiation.

(i) Average price paid per film is Rs. 7,200

Income derived from the films purchased by Government from the trade is Rs. 27,306. Against this should be debited the cost of dubbing the film in languages other than the original and the cost of the copies required for distribution to cinemas.

(j) 1943-44, Information Films of India: 1,119 cinemas in British India, 13 cinemas in the Indian States.

Indian News Parade. 832 cinemas in British India, 14 cinemas in the Indian States.

1944-45: Information Films of India: 1,216 cinemas in British India, 45 cinemas in the Indian States.

Indian News Parade: 1,069 cinemas in British India, 40 cinemas in the Indian States.

(k) Information Films of India films:

	1943-44:	Rs.
British India.	.	1,48,403
Indian States	.	1,788
Indian News Parade:		
British India.	.	49,230
Indian States.	.	834

1944-45

Information Films of India films :	Rs.
British India	5,30,498
Indian States	18,946
Indian News Parade:	
British India	4,46,730
Indian States	16,716

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do Government claim that what has been produced by them is of a superior standard as compared to what is produced by the film industry?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Even if that is so and whatever the circumstances may have been in the past, will Government consider the desirability of discontinuing this white elephant which they have set up and requisition the film enterprise of the country to do whatever Government desires to do?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I do not admit that it is a white elephant at all. Apart from that, the film industry has been given the permission to produce 60 shorts per year. If we find that they can produce satisfactory shorts, we will certainly give them more. As a matter of fact for 1945-46 also we are giving 60 shorts.

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

EXEMPTIONS FROM CUSTOMS DUTY AND INCOME-TAX IN RESPECT OF BRITISH ARMY, AMERICAN ARMY, ETC., IN INDIA

200. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that all ordinary commodities received in India for the consumption of (i) British Army, (ii) American Army, and (iii) Chinese, West African, Australian and New Zealand troops and personnel, are permitted to enter this country without duty?

(b) Is it a fact that no income-tax is charged to the personnel of the British, American, Chinese, West African, Australian and New Zealand Armies?

(c) If no customs duties and income taxes are collected from the above personnel, under what treaty, arrangement or law, and sections of the Indian Customs Act and Indian Income-tax Act, are these exemptions given?

(d) Have Government made any estimate of the amount of money lost to India in this manner?

(e) Does India get any credit anywhere, material or moral, in respect of these items?

(f) Is the expenditure incurred in the transport of the British, American, Chinese, West African, Australian and New Zealand Armies recovered by the Railway Department?

(g) If so, in what way and to whom is it debited?

(h) Is it regarded as a normal expenditure of India on defence, or, is it a special debit?

(i) Will Government lay on the table a statement of the amounts under (f) incurred in 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The troops specified by the Honourable Member do enjoy certain concessions in the matter of customs duty mostly on articles imported by Government for supply to them or sent to them as gifts.

(b) British Indian income-tax is not levied on the salaries paid to the personnel of the American, Chinese, Australian and New Zealand Armies. British and West African Army personnel serving in India, save those who are in transit or who are here only for very brief periods, do however pay tax.

(c) The Customs exemptions have mostly been given under section 23 of the Sea Customs Act. The income-tax exemptions are in the nature of executive concessions in line with the exemptions conferred by section 4(3)(x) and (xi) of the Indian Income-tax Act.

(d) No.

(e) Most of the concessions are on a reciprocal basis.

(f) Yes.

(g) By debit to the Defence Services Estimates.

(h) To the extent to which the expenditure exceeds the pre-war level it is regarded as abnormal expenditure arising out of the war, and is allocated between India and His Majesty's Government in accordance with the principles of the Financial Settlement. Such of this expenditure as relates to movements of United States of America Forces is, however, borne wholly by India under Reciprocal Aid arrangements.

(i) No separate records of expenditure by the different classes mentioned in the question are maintained. A statement showing the total expenditure on movements of personnel (other than United States of America Forces) in excess of the pre-war level in each of the different war years is however laid on the table. Separate figures have been given in the statement in regard to expenditure on the movements of United States of America Forces.

Statement

	In lakhs of rupees.
1939-40	12
1940-41	100
1941-42	238
1942-43	781
1943-44	1,200
1944-45 up to 31st December 1944	840
 The expenditure on movements of United States of America Forces in India is—	
1942-43	62
1943-44	271
1944-45 (up to 31st December 1944)	280

Mr. Manu Subedar: I think the Honourable Member said in answer to part (a) of the question that certain concessions are given in customs. May I ask what are those concessions? Is it the total exemption from duty or partial exemption?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a difficult thing to give in reply to a question, but what I indicated was that on articles imported by Government for supply to troops, customs duty was not charged on many such articles and on articles sent to the troops as gifts from overseas customs duty is not charged. That does not apply to certain types of articles. For instance, spirits as far as I remember, are never exempted from the customs duty.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (d) of the question, may I know why Government have made no estimate? Cannot the Honourable Member give us even a rough guess as to whether India is losing 2 crores or 5 crores by the concessions which he has just mentioned?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If you decide that income-tax will not be levied from certain categories of personnel, you do not then continue to maintain records of what the income-tax would have amounted to if you had levied it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Government in the Defence Department no particulars of the number of persons who are likely to be involved and could they not make some kind of estimates? What I want to know from the Honourable the Finance Member is whether India gets any credit, material or moral, for the sacrifices which she is making and which she is forced to make?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My reply was that most of the concessions are on a reciprocal basis.

Sir F. E. James: With reference to the answer to part (b) of the question, could my Honourable friend explain who are liable to British Indian income-tax

among those troops? I do not quite understand my Honourable friend's reply to that. What I want to know is which personnel serving in India are liable to British Indian income-tax?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I mentioned the nationalities of the troops which are exempt and which are not. Is that what my Honourable friend wishes to know?

Sir F. E. James: I really wanted to know whether the distinction is between British personnel serving in the Indian Army, and British personnel serving in the British Army but actually at present in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not the line of distinction.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if the transport charges incurred for American troops are borne entirely by India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It forms part of the reciprocal aid which is set off against lend-lease benefits received from U.S.A.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If lend-lease benefits are set off, then are they received by India or by the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am referring to the lend-lease benefits received by India on her own account.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said that on principles of reciprocity, income-tax is not chargeable for officers here. May I know how much we lose, or how much we gain by our officers being in those countries? How many of our officers are in those countries?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I cannot give figures for that. These matters are settled on the question of principle and not merely with reference to the actual amounts involved. I must point out that the question of levying a tax on salaries of troops sent to India who are engaged in war does involve a question of principle.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (g), may I know whether this question of set off of the charges that are likely to be debited to the American Government in respect of transport of the American Army is on the basis of definite mutual aid agreement or merely on the basis of an arrangement on the administrative level?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I have explained, I think, previously in this House, the mutual aid arrangements between India and U.S.A. are on a similar basis to the arrangements with other countries, but for reasons, of which I have no doubt, the Honourable Member is aware, India has not formally signed the mutual aid agreement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In certain quarters, India is accused of profiteering. May I know whether the Honourable Member would prepare an estimate of the sacrifices imposed on India in the directions mentioned in this question and place it before the House at the time of the Budget?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will consider that matter. But I must point out that from the point of view of the countries concerned, I doubt whether they would admit that to refrain from levying tax on armies which proceed to your country in order, among other things, to assist in the defence of your country, involves an element of actual loss.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is not what they would agree, but it is what we are likely to lose that we want to know.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I doubt whether I would agree.

Mr. Manu Subedar: People on this side have a feeling amongst all parties and that is why I am asking whether the Honourable the Finance Member, in view of the feeling in the country that undue sacrifices are imposed on this country, he will get these figures and place them before us at the time of the Budget?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already said that I will consider that suggestion.

Pro. N. G. Ranga: Since these concessions are supposed to have been made on reciprocity basis, is it not the duty of the Finance Department to keep

it constantly under their examination whether we lose more or gain more, or whether it is really *quid pro quo* between our Government and the other Governments.

(No answer.)

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is no answer to my question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is no question. It is an argument.

EXPENDITURE ON A. R. P., NATIONAL WAR FRONT, ETC.

201. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what expenditure has been incurred by, or contribution made by the Central Government, towards (i) A. R. P., and (ii) National War Front, during the years: (i) 1940-41, (ii) 1941-42, (iii) 1942-43, (iv) 1943-44, and (v) 1944-45 (up to December 31, 1944)?

(b) What were the measures of civil defence which were adopted, and what was the cost incurred by the Central Government towards this purpose in each of the years: (i) 1940-41, (ii) 1941-42, (iii) 1942-43, (iv) 1943-44, and (v) 1944-45 (up to December 31, 1944)?

(c) Have Government any information as to the expenses incurred by Provincial Governments over the items mentioned in (a) and (b)? If so, what are the expenses incurred by Provincial Governments during each of the periods mentioned?

(d) Is all the expenditure incurred over A. R. P., National War Front and Civil Defence included in the expenditure of the Defence Department?

(e) Is any of this expenditure reckoned with regard to the allocation of expenditure between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India over the question of defence?

(f) What is the existing position with regard to the defence expenditure incurred in India as between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India?

(g) Has any pressure been brought from the United Kingdom to alter this position? If so, at what time and in which manner?

(h) Have Government of India ever represented to His Majesty's Government the necessity of putting a ceiling on expenditure connected with the war, so far as India is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

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

(f), (g) and (h). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by me to parts (a) to (d) of his starred question No. 295 on the 13th November 1944.

Statement

(a) Expenditure incurred or contributions made by the Central Government on (i) A. R. P. and (ii) National War Front:—

(i) A. R. P. and Civil Defence.

1940-41 Actuals	1941-42 Actuals	1942-43 Actuals	(Figures in lakhs of Rupees)	
			1943-44 Final Estimates	1944-45 Revised
7.71	67.43	600.30	503.40	325.71
(ii) National War Front—				
(i) 1940-41	.	.	.	* Nil
(ii) 1941-42	.	.	.	Nil
(iii) 1942-43	.	.	.	Rs. 24,72,067
(iv) 1943-44	.	.	.	Rs. 44,04,268
(v) 1944-45	.	.	.	Not readily available.
(up to 31st December 1945),				

(b) Expenditure on Civil Defence measures is the same as in reply to part (a) above. A⁸ regards Civil Defence measures adopted, a list showing broadly the various items of Civil Defence on which expenditure has been incurred is attached.

(c) The reply is in the negative so far as the National War Front is concerned. Figures of expenditure incurred in the Provinces on A. R. P. (and Civil Defence measures) are as follows :—

1940-41 (Actuals)	1941-42 (Actuals)	1942-43 (Actuals)	(In lakhs of Rupees)	
			1943-44 (Final Estimates)	1944-45 (Revised)
1 65	141.61	621.67	405.22	107.77

List showing the Headings of the Major A. R. P. and C.D. measures adopted in India.

1. Directive organisation and staff, e.g., A. R. P. officers, etc.
2. Wardens service.
3. Training and education of public.
4. Warning and control centres, including messenger service, and A. R. P. depots.
5. Lighting restrictions, except that owner (whether a Government, Railway Coy., Local body, or private party) has to meet the cost of actual shading or obscuration.
6. Fire-Fighting: Provision of—
 - (a) Equipment, opening of new fire stations, expansion of existing fire brigade only in so far as this is above peace time requirements. Payment to members of auxiliary Fire Service.
 - (b) Provision of reservoirs, utilisation and reinforcement of existing sources of water supply.
7. (a) First aid.
- (b) Casualty clearing hospitals for medical aid including ambulance service.
- (c) anti-gas measures (limited).
8. Rescue work.
9. Provision of shelters.
10. Disposal of unexploded bombs.
11. Evacuation.
12. Air Raid Precautions for public utility undertakings, e.g., water, electric supply, gas, sewers, etc :
 - (i) Where these concerns are privately owned no expenditure will fall on Government except in the case of structural precautions in electrical concerns which are ordered by the Electrical Commissioner under Rule 51C of the Defence of India Rules when 50 per cent. of the cost will fall on the owners of the concern and the remaining 50 per cent. will be pooled,
 - (ii) Where these concerns are owned by local bodies, the Provincial Government will determine the share to be paid by the local body and the remaining expenditure will be pooled, and
 - (iii) Where these concerns are owned by the Provincial Government the whole of the expenditure will be pooled.
13. Camouflage (civil share).
14. Care of persons rendered home by air attack (up to seven days in each case).
15. Provision of aids to movement in darkened streets.
16. Clearance of debris.
17. Salvage.
18. Repair of slightly damaged buildings.
19. Extensive demolitions and demolitions involving the use of explosives.
20. Regional plans in connection with food, fuel, sanitation, etc.
21. (a) Civilian war deaths organisation and recording and notification of casualties.
- (b) Corpse disposal.
22. Prevention of spread of epidemics arising out of damage by air raids to sanitary services.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Since 13th November, 1944, may I know whether there had been any communications between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India with regard to the excessive burden of defence expenditure on India and some means of reducing it?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider the advisability of representing to His Majesty's Government that beyond a certain ceiling figure, India cannot possibly bear the extraordinary military charges which are being imposed on her?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I believe the Honourable Member is also one of those who suggested that some limit should be placed on the accrual of sterling balances. Now, Sir, if you take both these propositions together,

you arrive at the position that the cost of the war is too great, in which respect I entirely agree with my Honourable friend, but I do not see that it is in my power not in anybody's power at the present time to reduce it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member is evading my question. I want to know whether the Government of India will represent to His Majesty's Government that India's capacity to bear the military expenditure has already reached its peak and that a limit must now be put to it? Will he make such representation, in view of the feeling which is universally held in this country in all quarters?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What the Honourable Member suggests is in effect a revision of the financial settlement in regard to military expenditure between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government. I do not think it would be to our advantage to raise that point.

Mr. Manu Sudebar: Cannot some ceiling be put without revising the financial arrangement?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It would be essentially a modification of the basis of the arrangement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is not a question of revising the arrangement, it is merely putting the maximum figure beyond which India should not bear the military expenditure, and the balance should be defrayed by United Kingdom. Cannot the Honourable Member represent to His Majesty's Government, whatever his own personal feelings may be, that in this country there is now a general feeling that defence expenditure is excessive and cannot be borne by this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: These are matters of argument which have been continually under discussion for a long time.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will he represent to His Majesty's Government?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In the current year, has there been any exception to the accepted general principles of financial arrangement. There was one that was pointed out in the Public Accounts Committee Report.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The one that was mentioned in the Public Accounts Committee report is not really an exception.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are these accounts settled year by year?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do the Government suggest that what was mentioned in the Public Accounts Committee report was in accordance with the accepted general principles?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir.

REFUGEES AND EVACUEES ARRIVED IN INDIA

202. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many refugees and evacuees from all countries between Poland and Hongkong have arrived in India (i) between 1935 and the beginning of hostilities, and (ii) since the beginning of the hostilities?

(b) How many of these are Jews?

(c) Under what law do such people acquire Indian nationality, and how many of them have sought to acquire this nationality?

(d) Which class of refugees and evacuees acquires as a matter of fact voting rights for (i) municipal and local purposes, (ii) Provincial Assemblies, and (iii) Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State?

(e) Are citizen rights in India free even to people who have not sought naturalisation?

(f) If the reply to the above is in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). British nationality limited to British India can be acquired under the Indian Naturalisation Act, 1926; British nationality not so limited can be acquired under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914.

The detailed information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

(d) A refugee or evacuee who is not a British subject is not qualified to vote at any election to the Provincial or Central Legislature. As far as I am aware the same condition applies in respect of elections to local bodies.

(e) I do not know what the Honourable Member means by "citizen rights" but if he means the right to franchise then the answer is contained in reply to part (d).

(f) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do these people acquire these rights merely by the period of stay here or by any definite legal process?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered this point in reply to parts (a), (b) and (e) of the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: All that the Honourable Member referred to was certain sections of the Act. I want to know whether Indian citizenship rights are so valueless that they acquire them merely by the length of their stay in this country.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: British nationality requires, I think a certain minimum stay. Subject to that, it is entirely within the discretion of the Government.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: How long does it require?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe it is five years, as far as I remember.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how many of these refugees have applied for acquiring Indian nationality?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The information is not readily available with me. We could find the number of persons whose applications reached the Government of India if we looked through all our files. A certain number are, I understand, withheld by the Provincial Governments owing to the fact that the applicants are not eligible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps are Government taking in order to watch these refugees that they are not enemy agents and they are not up to any mischief?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Adequate and full steps.

HEALTH OF CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN DETENTION

203. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the latest information about the health of Members of the Congress Working Committee now in detention?

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member has read the statement of Dr. Ghosh, dated the 15th of January?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: That deals with the health of the members of the Congress Working Committee?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: A supplementary question should have been put when I answered another question on the same subject four days ago.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if it is a fact that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is suffering from a spastic colon?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha's question No. 106.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member sure that this supplementary question was covered at the time when that question was answered. I am putting three or four supplementaries which were not answered at that time.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Fully covered.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had six attacks of fever during the last year?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether it is a fact that Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant is suffering from double hernia?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Answered in my previous reply.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if Dr. Sitaramayya has developed diabetes since January 1943?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Also answered.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, I seek the assistance of the Chair. My question is, "Will the Honourable Member please state the latest information about the health of the Members of the Congress Working Committee now in detention"? The Honourable Member referred to a previous question answered by him. Now the supplementary questions which I have put today according to my recollection did not arise when the previous question was answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have not got the answer with me. The Honourable Member says that he has given the answer.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I put certain supplementary questions about the health of four members of the Congress Working Committee. My information is based on what it was published in the press. I want to know from the Honourable Member whether this definite statement is correct and whether these particular persons are suffering from those diseases?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I submit that on the 10th of February I replied to a question on this very point. I gave full information about the health of the members of the Congress Working Committee. If any information had been required by the Honourable Member, he could have put supplementary questions on the 10th of February. But the question having been fully answered on the 10th of February, I do not see any reason why they should be repeated today.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I had given notice of this question long long before. The other question to which the Honourable Member refers was a Short Notice Question which was put subsequent to my question

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It was not a Short Notice Question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I would like to know from the Chair whether it is a bar to ask supplementaries to a question if supplementaries had not been asked on another question on the same subject on a previous day?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the information had not been supplied before and the Honourable Member is in possession of the information as regards the question which is now put, I think he might give it to the House.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It was given in the previous reply—I hope the Honourable Member will remember it.

(The Honourable Member then read out parts (a) and (b) of the reply given to Starred Question No. 106).

I would also call the attention of the Honourable Member to the item in today's newspaper that he is well.

(The Honourable Member then read out parts (c) and (d) of the reply given to Starred Question No. 106).

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I want to know whether Mr. Sitaramayya is suffering from Diabetes since his incarceration?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: At present he is well.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: As regards Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, may I enquire whether hernia is going to be operated upon and whether Dr. Joshi's hospital is not suitable for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: We are making arrangements to have Pandit Pant operated upon.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member has just now said that Mr. Sitaramayya is well at present, but is it a fact that he developed diabetes after he has been incarcerated this time, and has he been treated for diabetes and, if so, has he been cured of it now?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am not aware of his medical history. I only know his present state of health.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member is expected to give us as full information as he has got about the medical history of these eminent gentlemen who have been incarcerated in these two and half years?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If a question is put asking information about the medical history of any person, it will doubtless be answered, but that is not the question put.

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

PREVENTIVE DETENTIONS BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

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

(a) the total number of persons now subjected to preventive detention by the Central Government;

(b) how many such persons were released since the 1st November, 1944; and

(c) the total number of such persons in the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer, so far as persons detained under the orders, or at the instance, of the Government of India in the Home Department are concerned, is as follows:—

(a) 56 on February 1, 1945.

(b) 9.

(c) Nil.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know with reference to part (c) of my question that not a single person now detained in the North-West Frontier Province is so detained under the orders of the Central Government? Is that the meaning of it?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I did not follow the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I will be more specific: Is Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan being detained under the orders of the Central Government or the Provincial Government of the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer to the question was that there was no person detained by the Central Government in the North-West Frontier Province.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: There is some confusion. It has been given out by the Provincial Government that Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan is being detained under the orders of the Central Government and the Honourable the Home Member would have us believe that the Central Government has nothing to do with it

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question was about the total number of such persons detained in the North-West Frontier Province. I have not the least information whether Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan is detained, or whether he is detained in the North-West Frontier Province. But all I can say is this: that if he is detained by the Central Government—which, as far as I know, is not case—he is not detained in the North-West Frontier Province.

An Honourable Member: Where is he detained?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Though he may not be under detention today under the orders of the Central Government, was he at any time detained since his first detention, under the orders of the Central Government, and, if so, when were those orders passed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no idea.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan one of the 50 people detained under the orders of the Central Government.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I don't think so as far as I remember.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (a) of the question, are any of those 56 persons at present detained in the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I refer the Honourable Member to the answer I have just given.

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

INDIAN NON-COMBATANTS IN OUTSIDE THEATRES OF WAR

205. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state the status of non-combatants recruited in India and taken outside to theatres of war and to other countries in connection with the war?

(b) Have any of these groups of non-combatants been demobilised abroad, or is it a contract with Government that they will be demobilised after being brought back to India?

(c) What is the total number of such men taken outside India?

(d) What is the total number of such men who have not been brought back or who have been demobilised outside India?

(e) Have the services of Indian non-combatants been used for civil purposes either of the Allied Governments or of the countries in which they are at any time or in any place?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (e). When overseas, non-combatants are subject to the Indian Army Act and are members of His Majesty's Forces. They wear uniform but do not bear arms. They are included in the establishment of a Formation or Unit of the Army and therefore cannot be used for civil purposes, either by an allied Government or by the Government of the country in which they are.

(b) I have no information of any of these non-combatants being demobilised overseas, but the discharge of enrolled non-combatants while serving overseas is governed by section 18 of the Indian Army Act.

(c) Approximately 1,12,450 from the outbreak of war to the 31st December 1944.

(d) Approximately 44,500 are still serving overseas. The remainder have either been repatriated to India or have become casualties overseas.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member spoke of enrolled non-combatants. I want to know about the other non-combatants who are menials, taken by contractors, and anyhow, without any rights or protection and are thrown away, and whether such cases have not occurred?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am afraid I have not the information with me but I will enquire into it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are there with the forces any Indians taken from India who are not combatants and who are not enrolled as non-combatants?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Does my friend refer to non-enrolled non-combatants?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Yes.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: These are mainly employed by the Military Accounts Department and Military Engineering Service.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are they not sent overseas?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, they are.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what happens when for disciplinary or for any other reason they are thrown out and whether such labour corps have not been made use of by allied Governments and other foreign Governments, and if so, whether Government have any responsibility for the welfare of this particular section which is really Mr. Joshi's pigeon!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I was not listening.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I understood the question to refer to enrolled non-combatants. I will enquire into the position of non-enrolled non-combatants.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give the total number of the people I refer to?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not quite sure whether 112, 450 at (c) does not include non-enrolled non-combatants, but I will also enquire into this.

(At this stage Mr. Manu Subedar rose in his seat.)

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

INFLATION OF CURRENCY.

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

(a) whether the note issue of the Reserve Bank of India has exceeded 1,000 crores; if so, by how much up-to-date; and

(b) the reason for this expansion of currency and inflation when Government is making efforts to control inflation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the weekly accounts of the Reserve Bank which are published in the *Gazette of India*.

(b) The amount of currency in circulation depends upon a number of factors, such as the volume of cash disbursements on Government account, the intensity of commercial and industrial activity, the general level of prices, the degree of liquidity preference on the part of institutions and the public generally, and the effectiveness of the Government's anti-inflationary measures of a monetary character.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I did not want a textbook answer. I wanted to know the particular reason for this inflation inspite of Government's efforts to control it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member has a way of asking questions which he thinks are very simple and which can be answered in three words, but, which, in my opinion, require an essay.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the most important reason is the readiness of Government to pay for its war expenditure by printing currency notes and paying for them?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I did not notice that the Honourable Member was particularly helpful to me the other day in regard to our measure for obviating the printing of further notes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from the enforced collection for war efforts, what steps are being taken on the expenditure side to control expenditure so that it may not increase

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We are exercising continuous efforts to control expenditure on the expenditure side and on the revenue side we must depend on taxation and borrowing and the assistance of the country at large including my Honourable friends opposite.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Isn't it a fact that the continued increase in inflation can be checked if my Honourable friend will accept the suggestion of Mr. Manu Subedar by suggesting to His Majesty's Government that a ceiling should be placed to war expenditure for the Government of India in this country and abroad?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand that Mr. Manu Subedar was suggesting a financial ceiling. It is a fact that the Government of India have suggested a ceiling in terms of personnel to His Majesty's Government and that has been mentioned in previous Budget speeches. As regards the Honourable Member's suggestion, however, it is not the case that if a ceiling were placed on the Government of India's financial liability that would affect inflation. What affects inflation is the total outgo whether on the Government of India's account or on account of other Governments. It is the total outlay in India which affects inflation, regardless of the particular Government to whom that outlay is debitable.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not take the articles free of any cost instead of making these inflations, so far as war purposes are concerned!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the Honourable Member is prepared to make war supplies free of charge, I do not think he will find any difficulty on the part of the Government of India.

(At this stage several Honourable Members rose in their seats.)

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What steps have the Government taken to control the high expenditure on war contracts on aerodromes, etc., which is the real cause of inflation?

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

PROSECUTIONS, ETC., OF AMERICANS IN INDIA

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

(a) how many Americans have been prosecuted for offences committed in India, and how many of them have been convicted, and how many acquitted; and

(b) what sentences have been awarded generally?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The number of American service personnel prosecuted for offences against the civil population of India during the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 was 129, of whom 104 were convicted and 25 acquitted.

(b) The sentences have been those that the courts considered adequate.

Mr. Hoosainbhoj A. Lalljee: May I know whether they were tried in the British Courts?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: By Court-martial.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are the real cases of delinquents much more in excess than the real number of prosecutions launched?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I fail to understand the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are the cases of delinquents much greater in number than the cases of prosecutions launched?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no knowledge.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know what Court tries these cases—a British court or an American court?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As in the United Kingdom, American court-martials try these cases.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is there anyone on behalf of the Government of India to supervise those courts?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Courts are not supervised by the Executive in this country. We of course watch proceedings and satisfy ourselves that the result is satisfactory, and, Sir, we are so satisfied. Recently the Provincial Government of Assam reported that the sentences of these courts had often been very severe. The thing is watched and the result on the whole has been satisfactory.

(Several Honourable Members rose in their seats.)

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

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I know whether the sentences were of imprisonment or fine?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Up to life sentences.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What is the machinery for watching these proceedings on behalf of the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is principally the function of the Provincial Governments who are responsible for law and order. They know what the charge is and they know what the result is. Surely it is not their business to say where it is a question of a sentence of four months, and that the accused should have been given six months. The thing is being constantly watched.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there is any regular procedure by which these proceedings are being watched either by the Provincial Government or by the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is just the ordinary procedure: one watches what is happening and one gets a report.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

SETTLING OF LANGUAGE POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

208. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state, with reference to my starred question No. 170, put on the 8th November, 1944, in respect of Anti-Hindi policy of the All-India Radio and answers and supplementaries thereto:

(a) whether he has consulted the representatives of the Hindi Sammelan and representatives of the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi Urdu and his standing committee to settle the question of language policy of the All-India Radio and other matters connected with it; if not; why not; and

(b) in case there has been a consultation, what the conclusions arrived at are as regards language, personnel and the character of music to be broadcast?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communique, which is being issued by the Government of India today, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The Honourable Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed, Member in charge of the Department of Information and Broadcasting, met in special conference the representatives of the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-e-Urdu consisting of Dr. M. Abdul Haq, Dr. Abdul Sattar Siddiqui and Pandit Brij Mohan Dattatriya Kaifi and of the All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, consisting of Sri Pandit Sampurnanand, Sri Mauli Chandra Sharma and Swami Bhadant Anand Kausalyan, and the Honourable Syed Hosain Imam, Member Council of State, to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the Hindi-Urdu language problem in All-India Radio.

After giving very careful consideration to the views expressed by the representatives of the two bodies and by Mr. Syed Hosain Imam, the Government of India have taken the following decisions:

I. News, News Commentaries and Announcements.

(1) There should not be separate Urdu and Hindi broadcasts of news, news commentaries and announcements, the language used being of the simplest variety, which is understood by the vast majority of the listeners in Hindustani speaking areas.

(2) Where there is no appropriate Hindustani word, and a foreign word has to be imported, the basis of selection from an indigenous language, Persian, Arabic or English should be the widest intelligibility of that word in Hindustani speaking areas.

(3) Whenever foreign words are used, their deflections should conform to the grammar, not of the language from which they are taken, but of the grammar of Hindustani (*e.g.* if the word "station" were taken from English and adopted by Hindustani, the plural form should be "stationon" and not "stations"; similarly, "qaida" and "qaide" and not "qaida" and "qawaid"; "fikr" and not "afkar", etc.). No word should be deliberately rejected merely on the ground that there is another word which expresses the same meaning. This should, however, be subject to the general principles that the more widely understood words are to be preferred.

(4) As regards pronunciation.

(a) the more current form of pronunciation should be preferred to the purist literary and etymological form.

(b) the name of a person should, as far as possible, be pronounced as he pronounces it himself; and

(c) for names of places, rivers, etc., the most widely current form should be preferred.

II. Composite Programmes, e.g., Women's and Children's Programmes

The atmosphere of these programmes should not be exclusively allied to any one particular community.

III. Talks.

Talkers should generally be given latitude to use the style of language to which they are accustomed, but attempts should nevertheless be made to persuade them to use as simple a language as possible, so that the talk reaches the largest number of listeners.

In the selection of talkers every effort should be made to ensure equitable representation of talent drawn from all sections and communities and to reflect cultural and social needs and interests of the areas served by each station.

Information and Broadcasting Department

New Delhi, February 14, 1945.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN INDIAN NAVY AND ARMY

209. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the percentage in the Indian Navy of (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, and (iii) Sikhs amongst officers and other ranks;

(b) the percentage in the Indian Navy according to Provinces and States in India;

(c) the percentage in the Indian Army of (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, and (iii) Sikhs amongst officers and other ranks;

(d) the percentage in the Indian Army according to Provinces and States in India;

(e) the percentage in the Indian Air Force of (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, and (iii) Sikhs amongst officers and other ranks; and

(f) the percentage in the Indian Air Force according to Provinces and States?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (e); (b) and (f) and (d). I lay three statements on the table, giving such information as is available.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table in reply to starred question No. 708 by Mr. K. S. Gupta in the last Session of this House.

Statement showing the percentage of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs amongst officers and other ranks in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force [Reply to parts (a) and e.]

	Royal Indian Navy		Indian Air Force	
	Officers	Ratings	Officers	Other Ranks
Hindus	32·3	35·8	47·6	59·5
Muslims	18·1	42·8	16·6	17·0
Sikhs	3·5	1·0	11·7	4·2

Statement showing percentages of officers and other ranks in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force by Provinces and States [Reply to parts (b) and (f)].

	Royal Indian Navy		Indian Air Force	
	Officers	Ratings	Officers	Other Ranks
(A) Provinces—				
Madras	7·6	23·6	13·9	27·1
Bombay	30·0	12·3	10·0	10·4
Bengal	8·3	15·8	10·0	12·8
United Provinces	8·9	5·7	9·6	6·2
Punjab	25·5	18·3	32·8	15·8
Bihar	0·8	1·2	1·4	4·1
Central Provinces and Berar	3·1	1·0	3·0	3·9
Assam	0·5	1·4	1·0	...
North-West Frontier Province	1·5	2·5	3·0	1·3
Sind	3·5	0·7	...	0·4
Orissa	0·1	0·4	...	0·4
(B) States—				
Hyderabad	0·8	1·2	1·4	1·4
Jammu and Kashmir	0·3	1·2	1·2	0·5
Mysore	0·2	0·9	2·5	1·9
Travancore	1·0	8·1	1·7	7·0
Cochin	0·3	2·1	0·4	1·7
All other States	2·2	1·6	3·1	..

Statement showing approximate percentages by Provinces States of present strength of Indian Army [Reply to part (d)]

(A) Provinces—	Percentages	(B) States—	Percentages
Madras	17·8	Hyderabad	0·8
Bombay	4·1	Jammu and Kashmir	2·5
Bengal	6·4	Mysore	0·5
United Provinces	13·5	Travancore	2·9
Punjab	24·7	Cochin	0·8
Bihar	3·2	Eastern States	0·5
Central Provinces and Berar	1·9	Rajputana States	2·1
Assam	0·8	Punjab States	2·7
North-West Frontier Province	3·8	Central India States	0·9
Sind	0·4	Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States	1·2
Orissa	0·5	All other States	0·8

LEAVE RESERVE FOR TEMPORARY STAFF IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

210. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to my starred question No. 269 (d) of the 13th November, 1944, in which it has been stated that the leave reserve in Audit and Accounts Offices is 12½ per cent. of the sanctioned strength of each grade?

(b) Is it a fact that in all Audit and Accounts Offices the strength of the temporary staff in Upper and Lower Divisions is little less than half? Is it also a fact that no leave reserve is sanctioned for the temporary staff of the above two cadres? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that for want of leave reserve against the temporary strength leave to the entire temporary staff is sanctioned against the leave reserve sanctioned for the permanent staff in each grade and on this score leave cannot be freely granted to the permanent staff even on medical grounds and when medical certificates are produced they are sent to the Chief Medical Officers for countersignature?

(d) Do Government propose to sanction 12½ per cent. leave reserve for the temporary staff as well to mitigate the hardship caused to the permanent staff in the liberal grant of leave to them? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. But a considerable number are employed against permanent posts in deputation vacancies which are covered by the 12½ per cent. leave reserve. No leave reserve has been sanctioned for additional temporary posts, as the rules permit the recruitment of substitutes for temporary staff who may be given leave.

(c) No. Leave granted to temporary staff need not be counted against the permanent leave reserve for the reason given in my answer to parts (a) and (b). As regards countersignature on medical certificates I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply given to part (c) of his starred question No. 269 on the 13th November 1944.

(d) Government are prepared to consider the creation of a suitable leave reserve for temporary additional posts sanctioned for the duration of the war, should this be found to be in the public interest.

PAUCITY OF SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICE PASSED CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

211. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to my starred question No. 81 (b) of the 3rd November, 1944, in which it has been admitted that four Madras Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks were brought to officiate as Accountants in the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, on account of the paucity of the passed clerks?

(b) Is it a fact that the paucity of Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks in the above office was due to the transfer on deputation of as many as

over thirty Subordinate Accounts Service men to other offices in the last four years? If so, why so large a number of Subordinate Accounts Service passed men were sent on deputation from this single office?

(c) Is it a fact that two more Madrasi Subordinate Accounts Service passed men have been brought to officiate in the Subordinate Accounts Service cadre in the office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Simla, and in the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, during the last six months?

(d) Is it a fact that there are some most efficient and experienced non-Subordinate Accounts Service clerks in the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, who have at times officiated in the Subordinate Accounts Service cadre during the last six months? If so, why were Madrasi Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks brought from Madras and Nagpur?

(e) Do Government propose to reconsider the position and stop such immigration in the interest of economy? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). Thirteen men of this office who are members of the Subordinate Accounts Service or who have passed the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination are on deputation to outside offices, mainly offices directly connected with the war. If the latter offices are to be efficiently staffed, such deputations are an administrative necessity. The number in this case is not proportionately higher than the number of men sent from other postal audit offices.

(c) Yes, as a temporary arrangement to meet shortages.

(d) Clerks who have not passed the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination are not eligible to officiate in the Subordinate Accounts Service Cadre and do not so officiate. They are only allowed to hold charge of Subordinate Accounts Service posts till qualified men are available. No supersession of the claims of men in the Delhi Audit Office therefore took place.

(e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to part (e) of starred question No. 81, dated the 3rd November, 1944.

INADEQUATE DEARNESS AND WAR ALLOWANCES TO LOW PAID STAFF

212. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to my starred question No. 176 (d) of the 8th November, 1944, in which it has been admitted that the present rates of dearness allowance only compensate in part for the increased cost of living and that Government have the matter continually under review and state whether the official increase in prices is near about 238 per cent. over the pre-war rates?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government still consider the grant of present rates of dearness and war allowances to their low paid staff to be commensurate with the rise in prices over the pre-war rates to the extent of 238 per cent.? If not, will Government please revise the existing rates of dearness and war allowances commensurate with the rise in prices with immediate effect to mitigate the long and unbearable sufferings and hardships of their low paid staff? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) There is no all-India cost of living index at present and the rise in the cost of living has not been uniform throughout India as a whole. The increase in prices has however, been overstated in this part of the question.

(b) I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to the Honourable Member's former question on this point.

INADEQUATE DEARNESS ALLOWANCE, ETC., OF LOW PAID STAFF OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

213. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member read the statement issued by the Working Committee of the All-India Audit and Accounts Offices Conference of the 5th December, 1944, copies of which were also sent to the Honourable the Finance Member?

(b) Are Government aware of the growing unrest and disaffection that prevails in all Audit and Accounts Offices in India due to the meagre relief

afforded to the low paid staff whose maximum in their scales is up to Rs. 200 only?

(c) Will Government please state their decision in regard to the revising of the present dearness and war allowances and for the revision of the existing low scales of pay?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware that in these offices the measure of relief so far afforded to the lower paid staff is regarded by them as inadequate.

(c) Government cannot undertake a revision of pay scales at a time when the post-war level of prices is so uncertain. The situation has to be dealt with for the present by granting temporary relief in the shape of dearness and war allowances, revised from time to time in the light of major movements in the cost of living.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR REST AND RECREATION

214. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to my starred question No. 176 (g) of the 8th November, 1944, in which it has been stated that Government do not propose to give travelling allowance for rest and recreation to those who were in receipt of dearness allowance prior to 1st July, 1944, and state if it is a fact that dearness allowance of Rs. 14 per month is being paid to those of their employees who are getting pay up to Rs. 140 per month?

(b) Is it a fact that those of the Government employees who are getting pay from above Rs. 140 to Rs. 1,000, war allowance at the rate of 10 per cent. of their pay is being paid from the 1st July, 1944?

(c) Is it a fact that the grant of travelling allowance for rest and recreation has been refused to those whose pay was above Rs. 140 to Rs. 200 in all Audit and Accounts Offices although they were also in receipt of war allowance from the 1st July, 1944, like those whose pay was from above Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,000? If so, are Government prepared to reconsider the whole position with a view to extending the above concession to all officers of the Central Government whose pay is from above Rs. 140 to Rs. 1,000? If not, do they propose to stop this concession altogether?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes, in places which are classified as Area 'B' for the purpose of the grant of dearness allowance.

(b) Yes, except that single gazetted officers drawing pay up to Rs. 750 are paid the allowance at the rate of five per cent. of pay.

(c) The position is that the travelling allowance concession is not admissible to Government servants so long as they remain eligible for dearness allowance. The travelling allowance concession has from the very beginning been granted to persons not drawing dearness allowance, and the grant to such persons of the option to take war allowance instead of dearness allowance where the former is greater does not alter their position in this respect. This travelling allowance concession was introduced in order to assist and induce those, who had for several years together carried the heaviest responsibilities and suffered the greatest strain from work in war conditions, to take each year a period of leave for rest and recreation. With this object in view it was obviously logical to draw a line below which the concession was not essential for the war effort. There was the further practical difficulty that extension too low in the scale would have imposed an intolerable additional burden on lower class railway travel. The most appropriate line of demarcation was the pay limits for dearness allowance and these limits were consequently, adopted.

As stated in my reply to starred question No. 176(g) of the 8th November last, Government are unable to extend the scope of this decision by making exceptions from the criterion then adopted. Further, Government are not prepared to withdraw the concession from those to whom it has already been granted since Government are convinced that the need for it continues to exist.

CASUALTIES AMONG INDIAN FORCES DEPUTED TO GREECE

215. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the number of casualties among the Indian Force (number killed and wounded) that was deputed to Greece to quell the internal disturbances there?

(b) What was the number of Indian army deputed to Greece and under whose orders did they go there?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Indian troops were moved from Italy to Greece under the orders of the Commander to whom they were allotted, in order to follow up the German withdrawal. After arriving in Greece the Indian troops assisted in the task of distributing relief to the Greek population. Subsequently when trouble arose in Greece, they were necessarily involved in them, though happily to a small extent. It is not in the interests of security to disclose the number of troops deputed and the number of casualties among them, but I would add that the casualties have been very light.

MR. BOZMAN'S TOUR IN AMERICA

216. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Bozman, Secretary of the Information and Broadcasting Department, recently made a tour of the United States of America;

(b) the purpose of his visit;

(c) whether any scheme was evolved by him for inviting to India American and British journalists; and

(d) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, whether these journalists will be taken round India on a conducted tour?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) To inspect the work of the Indian Information Services in Washington, and to acquire first hand knowledge of publicity requirements in America.

(c) and (d). No such scheme was evolved. But since it is only natural that, as the European war draws to a close, more correspondents from both Britain and America will visit India and the Far Eastern war zone, arrangements have been made to assist them over such matters as travel, accommodation, etc. There is no intention to arrange conducted tours.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT MAGAZINES STARTED IN RUSSIA AND CHINA

217. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether the Government of India have started any magazine or magazines in Russia; and

(b) whether any magazine or journal has been started for distribution in China?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes. *Indian Chronicle* and the Russian versions of *Dunya* and *Mizan Newsletter*. Copies† are tabled.

(b) Yes, the magazine *India* was started for China; and *India 1944* and the *Mizan Newsletter* are also distributed in China. Copies† are tabled.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA CARRIED ON IN ARABIA, PERSIA, ETC.

218. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the type of propaganda carried on by the Department direct or through the British Ministry of Information in Arabia and Persia and in the Middle East countries?

(b) What amount of money is spent by the Government of India for propaganda in these countries?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The following publicity is carried on by the Information and Broadcasting Department in Middle East countries:

(i) News Services, Photographs, Photogravures, Pamphlets, and the periodical *Indian Information*—by the Bureau of Public Information;

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

- (ii) Magazine publicity by the Publications Division;
- (iii) Radio broadcasts by All-India Radio; and
- (iv) Documentary films by Information Films of India, and News Films by Indian News Parade.

A certain amount of this is done direct, but for the majority of it we are dependent on the good offices of the British Ministry of Information to facilitate distribution.

(b) In respect of the Bureau of Public Information, Information Films of India and Indian News Parade, it is not possible to separate from their budgets the exact amount which is expended upon publicity to these countries. The Publications Division spend approximately Rs. 4,00,000 a year on magazine publicity in the Middle-East. This includes production costs and salaries of special staff, and to it must be added a proportion (which it is not possible to assess) of the salaries of the general staff. The current budget for the Middle East broadcasts of All-India Radio is Rs. 2,15,000.

A payment of Rs. 50,000 per annum is made to the Ministry of Information in return for the services rendered by that organisation.

REFUSAL TO INTERVIEW THEIR RELATIVES BY DETAINED CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

219. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the fact that the Government version as to the reason why the Congress Working Committee Members in detention refused to have interviews with their relatives has been contradicted by Dr. P. C. Ghosh?

(b) Is it not a fact that they refused the interviews because of the general treatment meted out to them and their interviewers by Government?

(c) Is it not a fact that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is in correspondence about this matter with the Government of India?

(d) Would the Government of India release the correspondence to let the people know the true state of affairs since their version has been challenged? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Government have seen reports in the press to that effect.

(b) According to the letter sent by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to the Jail Superintendent, interviews were refused because "The general attitude of the Government towards us during the past 26½ months and the rigorous isolation to which we have been subjected even in spite of personal tragedies are not calculated to incline us to take advantage of this personal facility".

(c) and (d). Maulana Abul Kalam Azad addressed certain letters on this subject not to the Government of India but to His Excellency the Viceroy. The question of their publication is, therefore, not one for the Government of India.

HARDSHIP ON PEASANTS DUE TO PRESENT TOBACCO EXCISE DUTY

220. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware—

(i) that the present tobacco excise duty is hitting hard the peasant masses who have been smoking or using habitually neither cigarettes nor manufactured cigars but only the home made cigars or have been using chewing tobacco, habitually;

(ii) that even these peasants who grow tobacco for their own home use are being taxed if they produce more than four maunds or 100 lbs. per annum;

(iii) that most of the peasants need, at least three maunds per head per annum for their own consumption;

(iv) that they are obliged to supply freely chewing tobacco or home made cigars to their servants, to the tune of two maunds per head;

(v) that in certain parts their women too use chewing tobacco to the extent of one maund per head; and

(vi) that, therefore, the present maximum limit of exemption of peasant's production of tobacco is too low and, therefore, increases the total costs of cultivation and standard of living of peasants; and

(b) the special objections that Government have to exempting all that tobacco grown by peasants for their own family and agricultural use and not for commercial purposes from the present excise duty?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Tobacco grown for the personal consumption of the grower or members of his household is by Rule exempt from the payment of duty if the proper officer is satisfied that tobacco is intended for such consumption. The quantity consumed by growers varies, of course, from place to place and in order to guide assessing officers in operating this concession Collectors of Central Excise have, after investigating the habits and customs of the growers in the principal growing areas, fixed maximum limits up to which tobacco declared to be for the personal consumption of growers and their households can be exempted from duty under this provision of the Rules; and these limits are raised or lowered if in practice or on further investigation they are found to be too low or too high. In applying this concession provision is made for the female members of the grower's family, where it is the local custom for women to consume tobacco, and for such of his labourers as form part of his household. So far from imposing hardship on growers, the concession is, in general, being generously applied and the limits imposed by the Collectors have been liberally calculated.

(b) As stated in reply to part (a) of the question, exemption is already granted in respect of tobacco intended for the personal consumption of the members of the grower's household. Tobacco intended for agricultural purposes is exempt from duty under item 9 I (3) (c) of Schedule I to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

DESIRABILITY OF RELEASING MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD, ETC.

221. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has lost 42 pounds in weight;

(ii) that Pandit Jawaharlal lost 15 pounds in weight and that his health has deteriorated considerably;

(iii) that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has been suffering from aggravated Spastic Colon and being an old man of 70, his condition should cause anxiety;

(iv) that Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant suffers from giddiness of head and pain in the spines, besides double hernia; and

(v) that Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramiah is suffering from acute diabetes; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India would see the wisdom of releasing the above leaders on medical grounds; if not, why not?

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

(b) Because in the opinion of the Government of India such grounds do not exist.

PAYMENT OF JOURNEY EXPENSES OF DEPENDANTS OF BRITISH MILITARY OFFICERS AND TROOPS IN INDIA

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

(a) whether the Government of India pay journey expenses of the wives and dependants of British Military Officers and troops in India whenever they travel and, if so, what the rules governing such payments are;

(b) if there is any annual limit to these payments, and whether they are made in cash or in the form of permits for travel by rail, road or air; and

(c) if the wives and dependants of Indian Military Officers and troops are also given similar facilities for travel; and, if not, the reason for the discrimination?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Wives and children of British officers are conveyed at Government expense:

(i) when the head of the family is moved on permanent transfer to another station;

(ii) on the death of the head of the family;

(iii) when proceeding to the husband's leave station each year up to a limit of 600 miles in each direction.

Families of British other ranks are allowed conveyance as in (i) and (ii) above. In addition they are moved to and from a hill station for climatic reasons during the hot weather.

(b) The amount of payment is dependent on the number of transfers and the distance travelled. Payment is made in cash for journeys of officers' families by rail and road. Families are not conveyed by air by Government. Families of other ranks travel on railway warrants.

(c) Families of Indian officers are also entitled to conveyance as in (a)(i), (ii) and (iii). Families of Indian other ranks are allowed conveyance as in (a)(i) and (ii) and when they accompany the head of the family granted sick leave or proceeding on discharge. Families of Indian other ranks do not go to the hills annually at Government expense as there is no demand for it in their case.

CARE AND WELFARE OF FAMILIES OF INDIAN OFFICERS AND TROOPS IN INDIA DURING WAR

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

(a) the arrangements made by the Government of India (i) regarding the care and welfare of the families of Indian Officers and troops in India during the war, and (ii) for ensuring that the families receive the allowance they are entitled to and are supplied with information about their relations in the Army whether they be stationed in India or abroad;

(b) whether the Government of India have appointed any authorities in the Provinces and Districts to maintain contacts with, and to reply to, all inquiries by the families of Indian Officers and troops; and, if so, whether these authorities submit a report of their work to the Government; and

(c) the facilities provided for free medical aid to the families of the British and Indian Officers and troops in India?

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

Statement

Part (a) of the question.

1. *Arrangement for the care and welfare of the families of Indian Officers and troops.* Two organisations have been set up to care for the welfare of the families of Indian Officers and Other Ranks. The first of these is a civil organisation known as the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board. The working unit is the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board established at the headquarters of a district. The Collector is the President of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board, the members comprising a certain number of officials and non-officials, and representatives of *ex-service* personnel nominated by the Collector. Each Board has a paid Secretary, usually an *ex-V.C.O.*, and a small staff to attend to the routine work.

2. The function of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards is to watch over the welfare of *ex-servicemen* and their families and the interests of service personnel absent from their homes. Their specific duties include obtaining and circulating information regarding educational concessions available for *ex-servicemen's* children, ascertaining the whereabouts of serving sailors, soldiers and airmen, procuring legal advice in the case of law suits against absent *ex-servicemen*, assisting the settlement of disputes out of court aiding in such matters as securing of medals, pensions, arrears of pay or family allotments, keeping a watch on the adequacy of the number of pension paying branch post offices and representing any inadequacy or deficiency in these to the appropriate authorities, and investigating cases for assistance or relief.

3. There are now altogether 158 District S.S. & A.Bs. in British India; at the beginning of the war there were only 85. A statement showing their location is attached. At the headquarters of the Provinces of Madras, Bombay, the U.P., the Punjab, the Bihar, C.P. and Berar and the N.W.F.P. there is a Provincial S. S. & A. B. whose duty is to co-ordinate, superintend and direct the work of the District S. S. & A. Bs. in their jurisdiction. At the headquarters of the Government of India, New Delhi, there is the Indian Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Board of which the Honourable the Defence Member is the *ex-officio* Chairman, and the members are H. E. the Governor of the Punjab, *ex-officio*, two other members of the Executive Council nominated by His Excellency the Viceroy, the Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, the Air Officer Commanding, India, the Adjutant General-in-India, the Defence Secretary and the Financial Adviser, Military Finance. The Secretary of the Central Board is an Under Secretary in the Defence Department. The functions of the Central Board are to co-ordinate the work of the Provincial and District

Boards. The Central Board receives a grant-in-aid from the Central Government for financing the organisation of the District S. S. and A. Bs. and it is generally responsible to the Central Government for seeing that the organisation fulfils the purpose for which it has been set up.

In addition, Indian States have their own Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards.

4. Since the outbreak of the war and consequent increase in recruitment and growing complexity of the problems confronting service personnel and their families, the Central Government have constituted a Civil Liaison Officers organisation whose function is to watch the welfare of service families in the broadest aspect. The Civil Liaison Officers Organisation and the District S. S. & A. Bs. organisation work very closely together and, are complementary in their functions and duties. The organisation consists of four Chief Civil Liaison Officers, one for the Northern Area (The Punjab and the N.-W. F. P. and Sind), one for the U. P. and Eastern Area (the U. P., Bihar, Bengal, Assam), one for the Bombay Area (Bombay, C. P. & Berar) and one for the Madras Area (Madras, and Madras States). There are also Civil Liaison Officers and Assistant Civil Liaison Officer to assist the Chief Civil Liaison Officers in their areas. All these are touring officers who tour widely to ascertain the problems confronting the families of ex-service personnel at first hand, and they represent matters requiring attention to the appropriate quarter. Under them work welfare officers, who are usually V. C. Os, and women welfare workers, who have been recruited in large numbers, particularly in the Punjab, Bombay, Madras and parts of the U. P. and who are under the immediate supervision of Inspectresses.

The I. S. S. & A. B. controls certain benevolent funds for the alleviation of distress amongst ex-servicemen and their families, and in addition certain Provinces have started their own benevolent funds. Applications for relief from these funds are made through the D. S. S. & A. B. or Civil Liaison Officer.

II. *Arrangements for ensuring that the families receive the allowance they are entitled to.*

The District S. S. & A. Bs. and C. L. O. Organisations look into all complaints relating to delay in the payment, or sometimes non-payment, of family allotment money orders; in every case they make a thorough enquiry and see that every thing possible is done to ensure speedy payment, and to remove the causes of complaint.

III. *The arrangements for supplying families with information about their relatives.*

Every recruit on joining a training centre is provided with one free postcard to report his progress to his next of kin. Thereafter he is encouraged by every means to write regularly to his next of kin. On arrival overseas a postcard is sent free of charge to next of kin informing the next of kin of his safe arrival and telling them to whom they should communicate if in difficulty about family allotments. Two free airmail envelopes are forwarded to the next of kin to enable them to write to the serviceman.

If a man becomes a casualty or is seriously or dangerously ill his next of kin is immediately informed by the quickest means including a telegram and further progress is communicated from time to time to the next of kin.

All difficulties about tracing the whereabouts of the relatives are dealt with by the District S. S. & A. Bs. or the C. L. O. Organisation who ascertain his address and communicate it to the family or person interested.

Part (b) of the question.

The organisation set up has been described above. All officers of the C. L. O. Organisation submit reports once a month to General Headquarters, which are also communicated to the Government of India. These reports cover the working of the D. S. S. & A. Bs. organisation. The Defence Department or the Adjutant General's Branch follows up all matters which these reports indicate as requiring attention.

Part (c) of the question.

The facilities provided are summarised below :

Definition of Medical Attendance.—The term "medical attendance" means :

(A) *The professional advice and treatment afforded to persons eligible for such during sickness and injury,*

(a) as out-patients at military hospitals, military families hospitals, dispensaries and medical inspection rooms.

OR

(b) At their quarters by their authorized medical attendant (see next paragraph)

The term includes :—

(i) Inoculation and vaccination, and the provision of necessary lymph, sera and vaccines at Government expense.

(ii) Laboratory and pathological examination in military laboratories and clinical side rooms.

(iii) X-Ray examination and treatment, where such is available in the station.

(iv) Anti-rabic treatment.

(v) Supply of such authorized medicines, surgical materials and appliances as are ordered by the medical attendant, and are available from military hospital or dispensary or a State-aided civil dispensary. (In the case of personnel not in active military employ and their families when treated in quarters in a Presidency town, this supply is inadmissible unless specifically provided for in their agreement).

(vi) The supply, by local purchase, in emergent cases, of unauthorized medicines materials and appliances when considered essential, or of authorized medicines, materials and appliances which are not available from military or State-aided (dispensaries) at the discretion of the authorized medical attendant. Bills for medicines etc., so purchased require the

sanction of A. D. M. S. (D. M. S. in case of Army and R. A. F. Headquarters) concerned; anything disallowed by him will be paid for by the patient.

(vii) The provision in exceptional cases (see detail in paragraph 257) of special nursing, (i.e. nursing provided by the employment of private nurses) in quarters.

(B) *Treatment in hospital* (subject to the recovery of such hospital stoppages as are authorized in Pay and Allowance Regulations).

Such treatment includes provision of,

(i) Any or all of the items mentioned in (A) (i-vi) above.

(ii) Diets and extras, (medical comforts in a non-dieted hospital).

(iii) Ordinary nursing, i.e., nursing which can be provided in hospital by members of the military medical and nursing services.

(iv) Special nursing (i.e. nursing provided by the employment of private nurses) in hospital, except where such is inadmissible. (See detail in para. 257).

2. Entitlement of different categories of personnel are :—

	Form of treatment entitled to.	Notes on cost.
(a) Families of officers (British and Indian).	Out-patient or at quarters . In military families hospital if accommodation available.	Free of charge. Wives of officers Rs. 4 per diem. Children over 12 years and below 18 years of age Rs.4/— per diem. Of and under 12 years of age Rs. 2 per diem. European <i>bonafide</i> servants of officers Rs. 4 per diem. Indian <i>bonafide</i> servants of officers As. 12 per diem. Indian <i>bonafide</i> servants of officers As. 12 per diem.
(b) Families of British Other Ranks.	May also be admitted in Civil and private hospitals. Out-patient or at quarters, or in military (including family) hospital if accommodation is available. In civil and private hospitals	Free of charge. Free of charge.
(c) Families of Indian Other Ranks.	In Indian Military Hospitals under the order of Officer Commanding station for serious illness if accommodation is available.	

The provision of treatment for B. O. Rs. families was rendered necessary owing to lack of facilities in India for their treatment.

Sanction of Government of India exists for the provision of a Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeon at each of 12 Welfare Centres for the purpose of medical attendance on Indian Other Ranks Families. Centres are at Abbottabad, Rawalpindi, Dehra Dun, Jubbulpore, Lucknow, Quetta, Peshawar, Jhansi, Karachi, Sialkot, Jullundur and Meerut.

Rates to the charged are as follows (when admitted into Indian Military Hospital) :—

Member of family of—	Per diem.	Maximum per month.	
Subedar Major	Rs. 2	Rs. 60/—	} Children under 12 years of age—half these rates.
Subedar	Rs. 1/8	Rs. 45/—	
Indian Warrant Officer, Class I.	Rs. 1/4	Rs. 37/8/—	
Jemadar	Re. 1	Rs. 30/—	
Indian Warrant Officer, Class II.	As. 8	Rs. 15	
Havildar	As. 3	Rs. 6/4	
Naik	As. 3	Rs. 5/8	
Lance Naik	As. 2	Rs. 4	
Sepoy	As. 2	Rs. 4	

3. Attendance at quarters is by authorized medical attendant only to places within 2 miles of limit fixed by a District of Brigade Commander.

4. *Definition of Family :*

Family, Officer's.—means, for the purpose of medical attendance, his wife, and his children under 18 years of age, which include his unmarried daughters, step-daughters, or daughters statutorily adopted or legitimated who are dependant on him, and his sons, step sons or sons statutorily adopted or legitimated. It also includes his servants. It does not include children adopted by an unmarried officer or children adopted out of the officer's own family nor children adopted by an officer widower unless he is already in receipt of marriage allowance in respect of such adopted children or unless he has other children or his own who are entitled to medical attendance. The children of a divorced officer are not included unless the officer has been made their legal custodian, even though he may contribute to their maintenance.

The wife of an officer, legally separated from him, and his children (under 18 years of age) in her custody will also be so included, so long as the officer is responsible for their maintenance.

Family, British Soldier's.—means, for the purpose of medical attendance, his wife, and his children under 18 years of age, which include his legitimate (or legitimated) children, step-children and children statutorily adopted by the soldier or by his wife before her marriage to him. It does not include (i) children adopted by an unmarried soldier or by a widower who is not already drawing marriage allowance in respect of a child or children or (ii) children statutorily adopted out of a soldier's own family. It includes his wife legally separated from him and his responsible children (under 18 years of age) in her custody, so long as the soldier is responsible for their maintenance.

Family, Indian Soldier's.—means, for the purpose of medical attendance, his wife, and his children under 18 years of age, which include his legitimate children, adopted children and step children if wholly dependent on him. It also includes his wife legally separated from him and his children (under 18 years of age) in her custody, so long as the soldier is responsible for their maintenance.

DISTRICT SAILORS', SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S BOARDS.

1. Punjab (P. S. S. A. B.).

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ambala. | 14. Karnal. |
| 2. Amritsar. | 15. Lahore. |
| 3. Attock (Campbellpur). | 16. Ludhiana. |
| 4. Ferozepore. | 17. Lyallpur. |
| 5. Gujranwala. | 18. Mianwali. |
| 6. Gujrat. | 19. Montgomery. |
| 7. Gurdaspur. | 20. Multan. |
| 8. Gurgaon. | 21. Rawalpindi. |
| 9. Hissar. | 22. Rohtak. |
| 10. Hoshiarpur. | 23. Shahpur (Sargodha). |
| 11. Jhelum. | 24. Sheikhpura. |
| 12. Jullundur. | 25. Sialkot. |
| 13. Kangra (Dharamsala). | 26. Jhang. |

2. United Provinces (P. S. S. A. B.).

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Agra. | 24. Lucknow. |
| 2. Aligarh | 25. Mainpuri. |
| 3. Allahabad. | 26. Meerut. |
| 4. Almora. | 27. Muradabad. |
| 5. Azamgarh. | 28. Muttra. |
| 6. Ballia. | 29. Muzaffarnagar. |
| 7. Bara Banki. | 30. Partabgarh. |
| 8. Bareilly. | 31. Rai Bareli. |
| 9. Basti. | 32. Saharanpur. |
| 10. Bullundshahr. | 33. Shahjahanpur. |
| 11. Cawnpore. | 34. Sitapur. |
| 12. Dehra Dun. | 35. Sultanpur. |
| 13. Etah. | 36. Unao. |
| 14. Etawah. | 37. Benares. |
| 15. Fatehpur. | 38. Budaun. |
| 16. Farrukhabad (Fatehgarh). | 39. Banda. |
| 17. Fyzabad. | 40. Bahraich. |
| 18. Ghazipur. | 41. E. Gorakhpur at Deolia. |
| 19. Garhwal (Landsdowne). | 42. Hamirpur. |
| 20. Gonda. | 43. Mirzapur. |
| 21. Gorakhpur. | 44. Jaunpur. |
| 22. Hardoi. | 45. Jalaun. |
| 23. Jhansi. | 46. Badaun. |

3. North-West Frontier Province (P. S. S. A. B.).

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Hazara (Abbottabad). | 4. Nowshera. |
| 2. Kohat. | 5. Peshawar. |
| 3. Mardan. | 6. Waziristan (Dera Ismail Khan). |

4. Bombay (P. S. S. A. B.).

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ahmednagar. | 10. Poona. |
| 2. Bombay City. | 11. Ratnagiri. |
| 3. Belgaum. | 12. Satara. |
| 4. Bijapur. | 13. Secunderabad (Deccan). |
| 5. Dharwar. | 14. Sholapur. |
| 6. East Khandesh. | 15. West Khandesh. |
| 7. Kolaba. | 16. Ahmedabad. |
| 8. North Kanara. | 17. Surat. |
| 9. Nasik. | |

5. Central Provinces (P. S. S. A. B.).

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Amraoti. | 7. Chindwara. |
| 2. Akola. | 8. Bilaspur. |
| 3. Nagpur. | 9. Saugor. |
| 4. Buldana. | 10. Jubbulpore. |
| 5. Hoshangabad. | 11. Yeotmal. |
| 6. Raipur. | |

1. Champaran.
2. Patna.
3. Ranchi.
4. Santal Pargana.
5. Saran (Chapra).
6. Bihar (P. S. S. A. B.).
6. Shahabad (Arrah).
7. Singhbhum.
8. Gaya.
9. Muzaffarpur,
7. Madras (P. S. S. A. B.).
14. North Arcot.
15. South Arcot.
16. Salem.
17. Malabar.
18. Coimbatore.
19. Trichinopoly.
20. Tanjore.
21. Madura.
22. Ramnad.
23. Tinnevely.
24. South Kanara.
25. Bangalore.
8. Assam.
4. Goalpara.
5. Nowgong.
9. Bengal.
6. Tippera.
7. Faridpur.
8. 24-Parganas (Alipur).
9. Calcutta.
10. Darjeeling.
10. Delhi.
11. Rajputana.
12. Sind.
3. Hyderabad.
- Ajmer-Merwara (Beawar), Ajmer.
1. Karachi.
2. Sukkur.

STATE SAILORS', SOLDIERS' AND AIRMEN'S BOARDS.

- Kashmir.*
3. Poonch (Palandri).
- Rajputana.*
6. Mewar.
7. Bundi.
8. Dholpur.
9. Kotah.
- Punjab.*
6. Malerkotla.
7. Nabha.
8. Patiala.
9. Chamba.
- Hyderabad (Deccan).*
Deccan States.
4. Sangli.
5. Sawantwadi.
- Central India.*
2. Ramnagar (Benares State).
- Madras States.*
2. Travancore.
1. Jammu.
2. Mirpur.
1. Alwar.
2. Bharatpur.
3. Bikaner.
4. Jaipur.
5. Jodhpur.
1. Bilaspur.
2. Faridkot.
3. Jind.
4. Kapurthala.
5. Loharu.
- Aurangabad.
1. Kolhapur.
2. Kurundwad (Junior).
3. Phaltan.
1. Gwalior.
1. Cochin,

†224*

BRITISH WOMEN FROM THE A.T.S. IMPORTED INTO INDIA

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

(a) if the report in the Press is true that large batches of British women from the A.T.S. are being imported into India and new posts are being created for employing them;

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

(b) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, the number of such women who have already landed and will arrive in India, and the number of posts already created and proposed to be created, and if a limit has been fixed to their total number;

(c) the duties, responsibilities, salaries and emoluments attached to these posts, and what the total expenditure from Indian revenues arising from them will be;

(d) if it is a fact that His Majesty's Government have demanded of the Government of India to provide employment for such British women as and when the British War Office may send them out to India through the India Office at the expense of the Indian Government;

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the negative, whether the Government of India have any definite scheme for importing and employing in India, women from Great Britain; and, if so, the reason for it, and if the same has been approved by the Defence Council and if the Government will place a copy of it on the table for the information of this House;

(f) the prescribed qualifications for these posts, and how and by whom the women are selected and appointed; and

(g) if it is a fact that these women are being imported into India to be given ultimately permanent employment in India to mitigate unemployment in Great Britain after the war?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No, Sir. The number of British women of the Auxiliary Territorial Service who have so far come to India is 22. Of these, one is for the post of Director of W.A.C.(I.), who has two A.T.S. Staff officers. The remaining 19 officers have been brought here temporarily for training purposes. All of them are filling vacancies in existing establishments. They are of course, paid by the Government of India. A statement showing their salaries and the cost on their account will be laid on the table as soon as possible.

(b) to (g). The position is that since the number of W.A.C.(I.) recruits is nothing like adequate to the demand, the Government of India have asked His Majesty's Government whether they can supply A.T.S. women and, if so, in what number. His Majesty's Government have themselves an insufficient number of A.T.S. for their own requirements, and if they agree to provide them for India, will do so at considerable sacrifice. In any case it is unlikely that they will be able to meet our requirements in this respect.

FINANCIAL BURDEN ON INDIA DUE TO INCREASE IN EMOLUMENTS OF BRITISH TROOPS SERVING IN THE EAST

226. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to refer to starred question No. 91 of the 3rd November, 1944, regarding the financial burden on India due to increase of emoluments of British troops serving in the East, and furnish the reply to the said question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The matter is still under consideration.

EXTRACTION OF MAGNESIUM FROM THE SEAS AROUND INDIA

227. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the latest scientific invention that every cubic mile of sea-water contains 2,800 tons of metallic magnesium?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether he is considering the advisability of appointing scientists to explore the possibilities of extraction of magnesium from the seas around India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The occurrences of magnesium salts in sea water is a long established fact.

(b) Government will consider this proposal.

POST-WAR PLAN PREPARED BY PRINCIPAL S. N. AGARWAL

228. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state whether he has seen the Post-war Plan prepared by Principal S. N. Agarwal entitled "The Gandhian Plan of Economic Development"?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether he considers this scheme also worth attention in his Post-war Reconstruction Scheme?

(c) Does he consider it advisable to invite Mr. Agarwal to elucidate the scheme to the Government?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes.

(b) As an exposition of a school of thought in this country it is certainly worth attention.

(c) That is not necessary.

MONEY AVAILABLE FOR POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FROM CENTRAL REVENUES

229. *Mr. R. B. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state generally the data on which the view has been based by the Honourable the Planning and Development Member that a sum of 500 crores of rupees shall be available for post-war reconstruction projects from the revenue surplus of the Central Government during a period of five years after the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 6 of Part II, page 16 of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning.

MEMBERS OF FORWARD BLOCK UNDER DETENTION

230. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state how many members of the Forward Block are under detention in each Province in India?

(b) How many of them have been in detention for four years and more?

(c) Are all of them placed in the same class or is any difference made, and, if so, why?

(d) Are any allowances given to the families of such detenus with particular reference to Madras detenus, and, if so, what is the maximum amount so given?

(e) Have anyone or more of them been released as a result of the half yearly reviews, and, if so, how many?

(f) Are all or any of them detained under the orders of the Central Government?

(g) Is there any general policy to detain them till the end of the war in the East or West?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (f). I have no information of the total number of members of the Forward Block detained in the various Provinces. So far as the Central Government is concerned, five of the prisoners detained under their orders are members of the Forward Block.

(b) None.

(c) and (d). For the purposes of classification and family allowances, they are treated in the same way as other security prisoners. None of the five gets a family allowance as their circumstances do not justify it.

(e) One.

(g) No. The policy is to keep them in detention only so long as is necessary in the interests of security and the efficient prosecution of the War.

SECURITY PRISONERS DETAINED UNDER ENEMY AGENTS ORDINANCE

231. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many security prisoners are there detained under the Enemy Agents Ordinance in the whole of India and particularly in the Madras Province?

(b) Where are they confined at present in the Madras Province?

(c) How many of them have been placed in the A, B and C classes, respectively, and what is the amount of ration allowance to the prisoners of the respective classes in Madras?

(d) How many of them have been found not guilty by the Tribunals and still have been kept under detention?

(e) Are they allowed interviews and letters, and, if so, how many per month?

(f) Are they allowed any clothing allowance, bed and cots or are they obliged to lie down on the floor?

(g) Has there been any alteration in the rules for the worse in regard to their treatment?

(h) Can any or all of them supplement their diet at their own cost?

(i) Are these cases reviewed from time to time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (i). No one is, or can be detained without trial under the Enemy Agents Ordinance. Any person charged with an offence under that Ordinance is brought to trial in the ordinary way.

VAZIR, A SECURITY PRISONER AT VELLORE

232. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether one Vazir, a security prisoner at Vellore, Madras Province, was in the B class, and was getting a monthly personal allowance of Rs. 5 in addition from the Government?

(b) Has he since been transferred to any other class, and, if so, to what class and why?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Vazir is a refugee from Singapore and went to South Africa to eke out a living but that he was not given a passport and was brought to India?

(d) What is the amount of daily allowance that he is getting at present for rations? Is he supplied with bedding and clothing and a cot by the jail authorities?

(e) Is it a fact that he has become a chronic neuresthenic patient?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information. These matters are the concern of the Provincial Government which ordered the detention.

COLLECTION OF FUNERAL EXPENSES FROM THE FAMILIES OF DETENUS DYING WHILE IN CUSTODY

233. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is the policy of Government to collect funeral expenses from the family of detenus, even though they die while in custody of the Government and inside the jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is not the policy of the Government of India.

SCHEMES OF INDO-AMERICAN COLLABORATION IN INDUSTRIAL SPHERE

234. *Mr. R. B. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the views of the Government of India in regard to possible schemes of Indo-American collaboration in the industrial sphere, specially with reference to those industries in which technical assistance and process plants can most advantageously be available from the United States of America?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Subject to the limitations of exchange Government can have no objection to the collaboration of Indian industrialists with American interests if technical assistance and plants can be more advantageously secured from that source than any other.

STEPS FOR REMOVAL OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST ANTI-HINDI POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

235. *Mr. R. B. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the steps he has taken to satisfy the grievances of the Hindi-knowing public against the alleged Anti-Hindi Policy of the Department?

(b) Is it a fact that a large number of All-India Radio-employees have resigned and those invited to give talks have declined due to the Anti-Hindi-Policy of the Radio? What is the number of employees who have thus resigned and the number of persons who have refused to give talks?

(c) Are Government trying to introduce other Hindi-knowing elements in their place?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me earlier this morning to Mr. Deshmukh's Starred Question No. 208.

(b) No. Only one member of the regular staff of All India Radio has resigned on the pretext of the language policy of All India Radio but probably to avoid dismissal for inefficiency, orders in regard to which were about to issue. The total number of talkers who have refused to broadcast talks on this account from all the five Hindustani stations of the All India Radio, i.e., Delhi, Bombay, Lahore, Lucknow and Peshawar, is 40.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of All India Radio, as a broadcasting organisation to introduce fresh talent, including Hindi-knowing talent, in its programmes. This effort, however, is conditioned by the willing co-operation of the talkers, writers, etc., who are invited to contribute to All India Radio's programmes.

PROTESTS AGAINST ANTI-HINDI POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

236. *Mr. R. B. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to give the number of protests received from the Hindi public regarding the Anti-Hindi policy of the All-India Radio?

(b) Is it a fact that the Department is contemplating introducing separate Hindi programmes?

(c) What was the opinion of the Committee convened by the Honourable Member for Broadcasting on the matter under reference?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Government have received a number of protests of the nature referred to by the Honourable Member. They do not, however, propose to collect specific data of the nature referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me earlier in the morning to part (b) of Mr. Deshmukh's starred question No. 208.

GIRLS WORKING IN W.A.C.(I) DEPARTMENT

237. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state how many girls are working in W.A.C.(I) Department?

(b) How many of them are in Navy's Wing and how many on Army side?

(c) How many of them are Commissioned Officers and how many in the other ranks, separately?

(d) How many of them are Indians, Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indian-Christians?

(e) What food is served to the Indian girls, and is it according to their religious sentiment and taste?

(f) Is it a fact that they are served with English food including beef and pork?

(g) Is it a fact that those who do not like this kind of food are not given the food they choose?

(h) Is it a fact that some of them are dissatisfied on this account but, owing to their agreement of service, they cannot leave the service?

(i) Do Government propose to watch this kind of treatment from time to time and remove the complaint?

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

(e) There is a special ration for Indian girls, which includes bread, rice or *atta*, butter, *ghi*, *dall*, milk, fruit, vegetables, potatoes, onions, mutton, jam, sugar, tea, coffee, and suji. As regards the last part, no objection has been raised by any of the Indian girls.

(f) No.

(g) An alternative is always provided.

(h) Government are not aware of any dissatisfaction, nor have they received any application for discharge on these grounds.

(i) No complaint has come to the notice of Government. I may however, add that Government always pay careful attention to this question and are training special mess caterers for the W.A.C.(I).

- (a) 10,046.
 (b) 720 and 7,664 respectively.
 (c) 1025 and 9021 respectively.
 (d) The numbers are :

Indians	1,411.
Europeans (British)	2,210.
Anglo-Indians	3,959.
Indian Christians	2,079.

WAR SITUATION

238. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to make a full statement on the condition of the war on all Fronts during the time since the last Budget Session?

(b) How many Indians, Commissioned Officers and other ranks were employed, and how many Americans and Britishers, separately, were employed on the Far Eastern Front during the aforesaid period?

(c) Are the Railways in Assam and the British re-occupied territory being worked by the Americans?

(d) How many times during the aforesaid period were bombs thrown in Assam, Akyab, Cox Bazaar, Chittagong and Calcutta and with what casualties and results?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) For a resume of the course of the war during the period from the Budget Session 1944 up to the last Session of this House, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his starred question No. 61 on the 3rd November, 1944. I lay a statement on the table covering the subsequent period.

(b) In the interests of security, I am unable to disclose the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

(c) and (d). These parts should have been addressed to the Honourable Members for War Transport and Defence respectively.

STATEMENT

Introduction.—In the three months that have elapsed since the last statement in this House on the course of the war, the cause of the Allies has continued to prosper. In the eloquent words of the Prime Minister of Great Britain in a recent speech, “both in the West and in the East overwhelming forces are ranged on our side. Military victory may be distant, it will certainly be costly, but it is no longer in doubt.”

War in the West.—As the House is aware, the ding-dong Battle of Germany has risen to new heights of fierceness and intensity during these winter months. Having chased the Nazis out of France and Belgium, right up to the borders of Germany proper, Allied armies have been engaged in the grimmest sort of fighting for the mastery of the Rhineland. The German war-machine still capable of delivering severe blows, put in a counter attack which at the time appeared to take us by surprise and which might have had serious consequences had the enemy been able to break through our lines in depth. Fortunately, the courage of our fighting men and the strategy of our Generals brought this counter-attack to naught and the battle of the Ardennes Bulge has now been decided in our favour. The Prime Minister has said that doom from the West has not been delayed by Von Rundstedt's stroke in which a large part of the flower of Germany's last armies has been thrown away.

Italy.—In Italy our forces are hampered by difficulties of terrain and weather which have equally operated to prevent the Germans from regaining any of their lost ground. Although progress in this theatre of war is slow, it nonetheless occupies an important place in the higher strategy of the Allied Commanders, because it keeps tied up under Von Kesselring in Italy a large number of Divisions which would otherwise be available to reinforce the German armies on the Western Front or against Russia. General Alexander's armies are continuing their dogged onslaughts and the House will be glad to know that the Indian Divisions under his command are adding more laurels to their fame.

Russia.—Perhaps the most promising of recent developments in Europe is the tremendous success which has attended the armies of our Russian allies in their great winter offensive through Poland and into East Prussia itself. For the first time since the Germans overran an unsuspecting Poland in 1939, their gains in Eastern Europe have been wiped out and the war is being carried right into Germany. Warsaw, Cracow, and other great cities have fallen into Soviet hands. The Russians have now crossed the Oder, the last great water barrier before Berlin on a broad front, and the battle is approaching the capital itself. The German winter line would appear to be broken once and for all, and the Nazis are being made to pay for their excesses and atrocities.

Pacific.—Turning from Europe to the Far East, here again we have substantial gains to our credit. In the Pacific our American allies have redeemed General MacArthur's pledge

to return to the Philippines. They have done so in fine style, thrashing the Japanese soundly in the battle of Leyte where heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy both in the land fighting and in frustrating by air and sea attack his numerous attempts to reinforce the island. Now the war has been carried on to the main island of Luzon and American Forces have already entered the capital city of Manila. Although the Japanese penchant for carrying on a war of attrition to the bitter end is well known, it seems likely that before long the reconquest of the Philippines will be complete—at a terrific cost in casualties to the enemy. When this comes about, it will change the whole conception of the Pacific struggle, because the Philippines stand athwart Japan's lines of communication with her ill-gotten gains in Malay and Polynesia. Mastery of the Philippines is the key to victory in the Pacific and the Americans are already turning that key in the lock.

China.—Coming to the mainland of Asia, I cannot do better than reiterate my observation made in this House three months ago, that the picture is in some respects brighter and in other darker. In China the Japanese now have a strangle-hold over a vast area of the interior and have succeeded in linking up their forces in the north and the south. In doing so, they have deprived General Chennault's air forces of some of their advanced bases from which they had been striking at targets in Japan, Manchuria and at shipping in the China Seas. To some extent this loss has been made good by the development of a great air base in Saipan in the Mariannas from which the Japanese mainland is being well plastered. But nonetheless the situation in China itself is none to reassuring at the moment.

Burma.—This is where the significance of our recent victories in North Burma become more apparent. With the capture of the key towns of Myitkyina and Bhamo the new Burma road which leads from Ledo in the north-east of Assam to Wanting on the Sino-Burma border and thence through Kunming to Chungking will now be open to traffic. Already more than a third of Burmese territory has been liberated. General Slim's Fourteenth Army has fought its way down the Irrawaddy and Chindwin Valley till it is now on the outskirts of Mandlay, the capital of upper Burma. In doing so, the 14th Army has inflicted terrific losses on the Japanese. It has wiped out a number of Japanese divisions and has broken the back of enemy resistance in North Burma. At the same time our amphibious operations in the Arakan are proceeding successfully and Akyab and Ramree, providing important air and naval facilities have fallen into the hands of 15th Indian Corps. It is fitting that all three of India's fighting forces have played a part in this capture. The Indian Air Force has continued to search the skies over Burma and bring back vital information. The Royal Indian Navy has played a prominent part in the seaborne assault; its sloops have bombarded enemy positions; its "little-ships" of the Arakan Coastal Forces have harried the Japs and cut their lines of communication in the network of rivers beyond Akyab, and its recently formed Landing Craft Wing has had its baptism of fire in the fight for Myebon and has acquitted itself with credit.

These are no mean achievements and I feel sure the House will agree with the Prime Minister's tribute to the Supreme Commander Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten and his men. In a recent speech Mr. Churchill said: "Admiral Mountbatten and his dauntless armies have made greater advances than were required or expected of them up to the present by the directions of the High Command." We in India likewise take pride in the achievements of these forces, knowing as we do that they are overwhelmingly Indian in composition. Our Indian soldiers fighting side by side with the British units in their Divisions, have exploded once and for all the myth of the invincibility of the Japanese. To the fame gained by the Fourth, Eighth and Tenth Indian Divisions in Africa and Italy, is now added the fine reputation built up by several other Indian Divisions on the Burma front. Among them is the Fifth Indian Division which first fought in Africa and can thus claim to be the most travelled Division. The exploits of the Third Indian Division, formerly known as the Chindits, are well known; apart from giving valuable support to our American and Chinese allies they helped in the capture of Mogaung and isolated Myitkyina. Other Divisions which have rendered stalwart service in the Burma campaign and which security considerations permit me to enumerate are the 7th, 17th, 20th, 23rd, 25th and 26th Indian Divisions.

Within India itself the Indian Army is training vigorously. Its latest advance is in the air, and Indians serving as paratroops are now embodied in the newly formed Indian Parachute Regiment. As in the comparable sphere of mechanised warfare, where the Indian Armoured Corps, heir to the fine traditions of the Indian Cavalry, has acquitted itself creditably armed with the latest Sherman tanks, so in this latest form of warfare, where airborne troops bring new terror to the enemy, our countrymen have shown their capacity to master a dangerous and exacting technique.

India as a Base.—Quite apart from its achievements in the fighting zones, India has played a fitting part in bringing about Allied victory by the immense development of its resources as a base for campaigns directed against the Far East. This country is today a veritable arsenal of democracy. Its resources are harnessed to this end. In field and factory throughout the land many hundreds of thousands of our countrymen are playing their part in forging the weapons and producing the supplies essential to military victories in the field. As the House is aware, this tremendous effort has imposed a strain on the country's economic life but the end for which we are striving—the defeat of dictatorships and the right to order our own lives—makes our sacrifices well worthwhile.

EXPENDITURE ON AND ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL WAR FRONT

239. ***Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what amount of money has

been spent for the National War Front Organization since its inception, giving the details of the heads of expenditure in different provinces?

(b) Who is responsible for the policy and programme of the activities of the National War Front in the Provinces?

(c) Has the Central Government issued any circular to the different Provinces guiding their activities in general?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The expenditure on National War Front Organisation was Rs. 24,72,067 in 1942-43 and Rs. 44,04,268 in 1943-44. The figures for 1944-45 are not yet available. I place a statement on the table of the House giving details of the heads of expenditure in different Provinces.

(b) The Provincial National War Front Organisations are under the supervision of Provincial Governments. The policy and programme of work is determined by Provincial Leaders in consultation with local Government while paying due regard consistently with local conditions, to general publicity directives issued from time to time by the Central Organisation.

(c) The Central Government issued to the Provinces in February 1942, *i.e.*, at the time of the formation of the National War Front a letter outlining a general scheme of procedure. No such general guidance has since issued.

Statement showing expenditure incurred on the National War Front Organisation in Provinces since 1942-43 giving details under various heads.

	National War Front Organisation.		Propaganda Vans.	Total.
	Provincial Organisation.	District Organisation. (included in (Provl: Org.)		
1942-43.				
Madras	2,47,400		65,900	3,13,300
Bombay	1,49,285	73,000	85,700	3,07,985
Bengal	1,10,000	1,24,400	87,000	3,21,400
U. P.	97,500	2,11,900	99,000	4,08,400
Punjab	91,483	87,615	75,000	2,54,098
Bihar	63,486	92,600	67,700	2,23,786
C. P. & Berar	48,000	71,200	53,500	1,72,700
Assam	90,860	(included in Provl. Org.)	37,280	1,28,140
N. W. F. P.	48,827	27,844	64,758	1,41,429
Orissa	19,205	400	41,000	60,605
Sind	41,000	25,000	18,000	84,000
	10,07,046	7,13,959	6,94,838	24,15,843
1943-44.				
Madras	9,50,700	(included in Provl. Org.)	21,340	9,72,040
Bombay	2,34,765	do.	21,000	2,10,828
Bengal	1,51,821	2,00,000	21,322	3,73,143
U. P.	1,22,419	2,72,400	2,800	3,97,619
Punjab	2,55,732	(Included in Provl: Org.)	26,000	2,81,732
Bihar	90,121	1,86,771	28,994	3,05,886
C. P. & Berar	50,502	54,550	20,819	1,25,870
Assam	3,82,853	Included in Provl: Org.)	13,963	3,96,816
N. W. F. P.	72,200	20,597	31,182	1,23,979
Orissa	78,058	(Included in Provl. Org.)	16,060	94,118
Sind	48,180	20,700	7,725	76,604
Less Recovery from Bombay Government	24,67,351 22,551	7,55,018	2,11,305 22,486	33,58,636
TOTAL	24,44,800	7,55,018	1,88,819	33,58,636

SCHEDULED CASTE CANDIDATE UNDER TRAINING IN INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE
PROBATIONERS TRAINING CAMP

240. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 659 on the 28th March, 1944, will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the name, caste and Province of the scheduled caste candidate referred to who was under training in the Indian Civil Service Probationers Training Camp;

(b) whether the candidate is still under training; if not, whether he has been declared successful in the final examination in the Dehra Dun Probationary Course in 1944 or not; and

(c) if the candidate has been declared successful and whether he has been nominated to the Indian Civil Service; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Name:—Subodh Kumar Mallick, Caste:—Namasudra, Province.—Bengal.

(b) and (c). The candidate has completed his training, has been declared successful in the final examination and nominated to the Indian Civil Service.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS

241. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the total strength of the Indian Civil Service officers in India and how many of them are Scheduled Castes, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians and others?

(b) Are Government satisfied with the present representation of the Scheduled Castes in the Indian Civil Service? If not, what special efforts have been made to secure their due share in the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) A statement showing the total strength of the Indian Civil Service and its communal composition on the 1st January, 1944, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Government have already shown their concern for the interests of the Scheduled Castes by the very special steps which they have taken to secure the admission of one of their number to the Indian Civil Service.

STATEMENT I

Statement showing the Communal of the Indian Civil Service on the 1st January 1944.

Name of Service, etc.	Europeans. No.	Composition of Minorities								Total	Remarks	
		Hindus		Recognised for purposes of Communal Representation.								Other Communities.
		Hindus other than Depressed Classes.	Depressed Classes.	Muslims.	Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.	Paras.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Indian Civil Service.	546	359	1	105	6	10	(a) 28	13	(b) 2	(c) 1073	(a) Includes 2 Ceylonese Christians. (b) Includes 1 Ceylonese Buddhist and 1 Indian Jew. (c) Includes 3 officers of mixed Indian and European descent but of non-Asiatic domicile who are unclassified and not shown under any other heading in the statement.	
Indian Officers . . .		359	1	105	6	10	(a) 28	13	(b) 2	(c) 524		

NOTE:—The following members of various communities were appointed to the Indian Civil Service in November, 1944:—

Hindus	4
Scheduled castes	1
Muslims	3
Indian Christians	1
	9

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF STAFF OF THE CONTROLLERS OF SUPPLY ACCOUNTS OFFICES

242. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total strength of Gazetted officers, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and other clerical staff in each of the following offices and the communal representation including that of the Scheduled Castes and the Sikhs therein :—

(i) Office of the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts; and

(ii) Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and other places?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: A statement is being laid on the table of the House giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

	Euro- peans	Caste Hindus	Scheduled castes	Muslims	Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians	
<i>Office of the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts, New Delhi</i>						
Gazetted Officers		1	1	..		
Superintendents		5	..	1		
Asstt. Superintendents		4	..	..
Clerks		23	..	12		
<i>Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, New Delhi</i>						
Gazetted Officers		13	..	5		
Superintendents		45	..	7		
Asstt. Superintendents		27	..	15		
Clerks		276	2	163		
<i>Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Bombay</i>						
Gazetted Officers		10	..	1	..	
Superintendents		29	..	..	..
Asstt. Superintendents		19	..	1	1	
Clerks		223	2	17	1	
<i>Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Calcutta</i>						
Gazetted Officers		18	..	..	..
Superintendents		45	..	2	..	
Asstt. Superintendents		37	..	8	..	
Clerks		396	8	72	1	
		Sikhs	Indian Christians	Parsis	Other Communi- ties	Total
<i>Office of the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts, New Delhi</i>						
Gazetted Officers	2
Superintendents	6
Asstt. Superintendents	4
Clerks		1	..	..	..	36
<i>Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, New Delhi</i>						
Gazetted Officers	18
Superintendents		5	..	..	..	57
Asstt. Superintendents		3	1	..	..	46
Clerks		26	3	..	..	470
<i>Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Bombay</i>						
Gazetted Officers	1	..	12
Superintendents	3	..	..	32
Asstt. Superintendents	2	..	..	23
Clerks		1	26	4	..	274
<i>Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Calcutta</i>						
Gazetted Officers	18
Superintendents	2	..	..	49
Asstt. Superintendents	45
Clerks	12	..	6	495

†243*-245*

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE
HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

246. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether he has taken or contemplates to take any steps to give adequate representation to Sikhs in his Department where their representation is quite insufficient as was disclosed in his reply to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 262, dated the 13th November, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The Honourable Member's inferences are not warranted by the answer given to Sardar Sant Singh's Starred Question No. 262. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the communal representation rules, copies of which are available in the Library of the Legislature. It will be observed that, in the light of these rules, Sikhs are not under-represented in the services in my Department.

CIVILIANS, MILITARY OFFICERS, ETC., SENT TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

247. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the number of (i) Civilians, (ii) Military Officers, (iii) Naval Officers, and (iv) Government Officials sent to the United States of America since the outbreak of the war by the Government of India?

(b) What is the amount of money spent in the years 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 on the above propagandists to the United States of America by the Government of India?

(c) Are the Government of India aware of the British propaganda machine spending millions of pounds?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Four Indian civilian lecturers were sent to the U. S. A. last year. They have since returned. No military or naval officer has been sent to the U. S. A. by this Department; but three military officers (one British and two Indian) were sent to the U. S. A. by the Directorate of Public Relations at different times during the last two years to deliver lectures on the achievements of the Indian Armed Forces. One officer (an Indian) has recently been posted to the U. S. A. by the Directorate of Public Relations to organise publicity of the Indian Armed Forces. Sir Frederick Puckle visited the U. S. A. in February, 1943, and Mr. Bozman in 1944.

(b) The expenditure incurred on the four civilian lecturers amounted to approximately Rs. 59,000. In the case of the military officers sent by the Directorate of Public Relations, no special expenditure was incurred apart from their pay, allowances and cost of passages. The same applies to the visits of Sir Frederick Puckle and Mr. Bozman.

(c) The Government of India have no information regarding the expenditure of H. M. G. on publicity.

SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS, ETC., TO LIBERATED PART OF BURMA

248. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether the civil population of any part of Burma which is being recovered from enemy occupation is being or will be supplied with foodstuffs, clothing and other articles of civil consumption from India?

(b) If so, has any definite policy been laid down in this matter and has any estimate been made of the nature and extent of the liability that India will undertake in this behalf as the process of the reconquest of Burma goes on?

(c) To what extent will any policy of the Central Government in this matter affect the position of supplies available for the civil population of India in regard to each category of articles concerned?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), (b) and (c). The policy of the Government of India is not to supply any articles of civil consumption for civil relief in

†These questions were postponed to be answered on the 1st March, 1945.

Burma except items of which India is sole producer and an estimate is being made of India's liability in this respect. If, however, cases arise in which India is the only practicable source of supply for other items and the Government of India for this reason agree to supply, it will be their aim to ensure that India receives corresponding relief in other directions. Government will ensure that the interests of the civil consumer in India are fully safeguarded in this connection.

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

WRITTEN ANSWERS

ACTION ON SARGENT REPORT

151. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether Government have considered and approved the Sargent Report on educational reconstruction; and

(b) if so, what further steps they propose taking in the matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on 'Post-War Educational Development in India' is still under consideration by Government.

FOODGRAINS REQUIREMENTS OF INDIA

152. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the approximate amount of foodgrains necessary for this country as a whole;

(b) how much has been grown in the present financial year;

(c) the annual wastage of foodgrains according to the calculation of Government; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Government to avoid this wastage?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I can answer the Honourable Member's question in two ways. Calculated on the basis of a cereal ration (excluding gram and pulses) of 1 lb. per adult per day and allowing for seed and wastage, the requirements in 1945 would be about 62 million tons. On the other hand, before the war the average annual consumption requirements of cereals calculated by adding average *net* imports to average production including minor millets was about 54.5 million tons.

(b) I have not yet complete information about the *Kharif* harvest but the total yield of *rabi* and *kharif* grains excluding gram and pulses but including minor millets is likely to be about 54.5 million tons.

(c) It is not possible to give a reliable estimate of wastage but it would vary between 3 and 4 per cent., *i.e.*, between 1.6 to a little over 2 million tons.

(d) We are encouraging and helping Governments to improve and expand their storage for foodgrains and are building ourselves and helping private merchants to build. The substance of technical advice on the subject has been embodied in a Manual which has been placed in the Library of the House.

RECENT FAMINES IN INDIA

153. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) which are the areas in India that suffered from famine for want of foodgrains in the years 1942-43 to 1944-45;

(b) the estimated deaths in these years;

(c) what have been the after effects of these famines;

(d) the diseases or epidemics that have come as an after effect of these famines, and the probable number of deaths in these epidemics; and

† The meeting of the Legislative Assembly that was to be held on the 13th February 1945, having been cancelled, the answers to Starred Questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House to-day.—*Ed. of D.*

(e) the worst affected areas, and what steps Government have taken to bring relief?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Serious food shortage, amounting in certain cases to famine conditions, occurred in Bengal, parts of Orissa, the Deccan districts of Bombay, the ceded districts of Madras, Travancore and Cochin during the period mentioned—mainly in 1943.

(b), (c) and (d). A statement showing the number of recorded deaths for all provinces during the years 1942 to 1944 together with the average for the previous quinquennium is laid on the table of the House. Deaths due primarily to famine are not recorded separately. Famine conditions lowered the vitality of the people in the affected areas and rendered them more liable to attack by certain diseases, like small-pox, malaria, cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea.

(e) The worst affected area was Bengal. I made a fairly full statement regarding the steps taken to control epidemics and provide medical relief in my speech during the debate on the food situation in the 9th November last to which I would invite the Honourable Member's attention. Since then Provincial Governments have continued the measures which I then described.

Statement showing the number of recorded deaths during the years 1942 to 1944 together with the average for the previous quinquennium

Name of Province	Average 1937-41	1942	1943	1944 up to 30-9-44
Cholera—				
N.-W.F.P.	431	5	83	86
Punjab	1,436	32	803	1,844
Delhi	69	..	4	276
U.P.	36,667	7,662	25,705	28,084
Bihar	23,211	26,010	51,684	71,864
Orissa	6,149	8,908	20,502	11,600
Bengal	44,137	78,391	214,175	40,919
C.P.	13,447	21,177	1,467	5,576
Bombay	6,803	11,096	10,780	556
Sind	745	2	18	14
Madras	10,120	52,380	117,039	15,086
Coorg	4	5	1	..
Assam	6,181	12,806	15,454	3,443
Ajmer-Merwara	8	23	63	223
British India	149,408	218,496	457,778	179,576
Small-pox—				
N.-W.F.P.	760	172	198	552
Punjab	3,865	754	784	1,774
Delhi	311	25	624	480
U.P.	9,368	4,479	5,928	8,879
Bihar	10,961	4,813	3,066	7,419
Orissa	4,162	4,165	4,244	7,340
Bengal	12,624	4,781	22,005	134,819
C.P.	1,797	1,210	1,396	3,413
Bombay	5,448	2,744	3,898	5,931
Sind	707	151	392	697
Madras	2,981	3,413	7,925	13,810
Coorg	18	113	36	67
Assam	1,556	294	1,692	10,448
Ajmer-Merwara	430	23	133	344
British India	54,988	27,137	52,321	195,973
Plague—				
N.-W.F.P.	..	..	..	..
Punjab	1	..	1	39
Delhi	..	..	..	3
U.P.	14,979	8,953	7,556	13,544
Bihar	1,283	108	266	785
Orissa	..	..	..	..
Bengal	1	..	..	3
C.P.	687	129	144	734
Bombay	2,654	680	715	601
Sind	3	..	..	..
Madras	1,100	701	4,885	1,416
Coorg	8	6	23	6
Assam	..	..	..	..
Ajmer-Merwara	..	..	..	..
British India	20,716	10,577	13,590	17,131

Name of Province	Average 1937-41	1942	1943	1944 up to 30-9-44
<i>Fevers—</i>				
N.-W.F.P.	41,794	41,768	40,493	26,160
Punjab	439,591	651,259	579,923	394,093
Delhi	5,304	5,364	4,910	3,991
U.P.	841,555	833,853	884,071	637,336
Bihar	583,052	449,297	461,786	358,120
Orissa	103,789	102,998	117,700	92,191
Bengal	746,667	782,312	1,123,838	815,423
C.P.	299,892	320,986	286,885	210,231
Bombay	174,613	188,356	180,489	138,866
Sind	28,861	29,593	32,036	20,670
Madras	295,998	287,944	301,775	228,649
Coorg	2,949	2,713	2,434	1,985
Assam	102,167	87,520	93,939	80,725
Ajmer-Merwara	11,009	10,282	9,666	7,734
British India	3,677,241	3,794,245	4,110,945	3,016,194
<i>Respiratory diseases—</i>				
N.-W.F.P.	3,178	2,515	2,353	1,617
Punjab	69,660	57,068	60,699	50,293
Delhi	5,386	5,690	6,249	5,491
U.P.	42,960	38,116	30,901	27,710
Bihar	2,938	1,957	1,971	1,547
Orissa	4,851	4,596	4,821	3,390
Bengal	91,011	72,810	76,912	59,252
C.P.	45,907	41,635	35,902	25,386
Bombay	111,112	102,134	100,706	66,499
Sind	8,933	9,031	9,788	6,936
Madras	99,580	96,157	106,271	76,504
Coorg	192	131	108	76
Assam	5,883	4,256	4,816	4,205
Ajmer-Merwara	2,940	3,026	2,670	2,069
British India	494,431	439,952	450,167	330,975
<i>Dysentery and Diarrhoea—</i>				
N.-W.F.P.	395	327	322	321
Punjab	11,735	16,488	12,517	7,439
Delhi	1,296	2,733	2,472	1,417
U. P.	18,048	16,595	17,040	13,533
Bihar	3,604	2,984	2,892	2,220
Orissa	17,511	15,635	19,165	13,978
Bengal	55,487	53,255	91,972	47,612
C. P.	32,351	30,441	19,061	14,760
Bombay	27,284	26,376	21,522	13,911
Sind	1,204	1,124	1,158	1,033
Madras	85,631	88,570	93,446	66,195
Coorg	130	110	90	103
Assam	10,980	9,538	10,577	8,623
Ajmer-Merwara	768	146	561	411
British India	266,324	264,922	292,795	191,556
<i>Total deaths (all causes)—</i>				
N.-W.F.P.	52,163	49,116	47,922	32,105
Punjab	628,916	822,541	737,270	516,136
Delhi	17,479	21,319	22,611	18,246
U.P.	1,104,418	1,033,429	1,087,445	807,033
Bihar	734,141	568,905	594,154	488,558
Orissa	199,038	194,726	233,584	171,403
Bengal	1,187,064	1,222,164	1,873,749	1,279,284
C.P.	538,154	567,262	472,906	362,165
Bombay	515,337	516,548	502,531	345,488
Sind	50,596	52,159	53,025	36,531
Madras	1,086,308	1,120,129	1,270,687	866,269
Coorg	3,905	3,847	3,429	2,618
Assam	1,105,084	148,240	159,591	133,188
Ajmer-Merwara	17,042	15,928	14,980	12,177
British India	6,299,645	6,336,313	7,073,884	5,071,201

RAW CINEMA FILMS SUPPLY TO NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

154. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

- (a) the policy of the Government in the matter of supply of raw cinema films for full length cinema pictures;
- (b) whether any applications for such films have come from the North-West Frontier Province;
- (c) the action taken on such applications;
- (d) whether the North-West Frontier Province has been denied the supply of such films; if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government will reconsider the matter and supply a quota of such films to the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply to part (b) of Dr. Habibur Rahman's starred question No. 716 on the 30th March 1944.

(b) Yes.

(c) Licence has been refused.

(d) and (e). Do not arise as raw film is not allotted on provincial considerations but mainly on the basis of the past production record of individuals as evidenced by the censor certificates.

PUBLICATION OF NEW CENTRAL ASSEMBLY ELECTORAL ROLLS IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

155. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state:

(a) whether the dates for the publication of claims for and objections to, the New Central Assembly Electoral Rolls in the North-West Frontier Province, as announced in the last session, were adhered to;

(b) if not, the date of publication, and how and where the same was published; and

(c) the last date for the submission of claims and objections?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (b). The Provincial Government have reported that it proved impossible to publish the electoral roll on the 1st December, 1944, and that its publication, by the means and at the places specified in regulation 5 of the regulations for the preparation and publication of the electoral roll, will now be effected about the 25th February, 1945.

(c) The Honourable Member has already been informed that the relevant regulation requires claims and objections to be presented within 15 days of the date of publication of the roll.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF CENTRAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FOR ACCOMMODATION IN WESTERN COURT ROOMS

156. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether certain rooms in the Western Court and other accommodation are primarily intended for the Honourable Members of the Central Assembly attending the Sessions or Select Committees;

(b) whether in allotting accommodation for the Select Committee on the Insurance Bill, the claims of the Members have been ignored and the Members of the National Defence Council have been given preference; and, if so, why; and

(c) whether due regard to the prior claims of the Members of the Central Legislative Assembly will be paid in future?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 19 rooms in the Western Court and 69 quarters are reserved for the Honourable Members of the Indian Legislature during the sessions. During the non-Session periods, 7 rooms in the Western Court and 8 quarters are reserved for Members visiting Delhi in connection with the work of the Central Legislature.

(b) No; the rooms in the Western Court were allotted to the Members of the National Defence Council in the absence of any intimation of the meeting

of the Select Committee on the Insurance Bill in January 1945 or of any demand for accommodation from the Members. Arrangement was however made to accommodate the Members of the Select Committee who asked for accommodation in the Western Court.

(c) Arrangement is always made to accommodate the Members of the Central Legislature provided timely notice is given.

WORK FOR SHIPPING POLICY COMMITTEE

157. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is not a fact that the Shipping Policy Committee has no concrete proposals to discuss?

(b) Is there any prospect of early resumption of their work?

(c) Is there any policy of the Government of India with regard to reservation of coastal navigation? If there is one, would it be placed on the table? If not, why not?

(d) Is there any special significance of the following terms (i) an increase of the coastal trade, (ii) a substantial share in the near trades, and (iii) a fair share in the trade between India on the one hand and Europe and America on the other?

(e) What is the percentage of India's indigenous enterprise with regard to (i) coastal trade, (ii) near trades, and (iii) trade between India on the one hand and Europe and America on the other—prewar and during the years of war?

(f) What is the percentage of the above trades with regard to (i) British, and (ii) non-British foreign trade in the years 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). The first meeting of the Shipping Policy Committee was purely an exploratory one and a memorandum containing certain provisional views was placed before the Committee for consideration and as a basis for discussion. The various points raised at the meeting are at present under examination and it is intended that a further meeting of the Committee should be convened as soon as the examination has been completed.

(c) In view of the replies given to parts (a) and (b) of this question, the Honourable Member will appreciate that Government are not yet in a position to announce their post-war policy.

(d) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Memorandum placed before the Shipping Policy Committee. The words quoted by him carry their ordinary meaning.

(e) No official figures are available but the share of Indian shipping is estimated to be about 20 to 30 per cent. in the Coastal Trade and 'nil' in the near trades or in the trade with Europe and America.

(f) I regret that information is not available except what I have given in answer to part (e).

DISSATISFACTION ABOUT SHIPPING POLICY OF GOVERNMENT

158. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Commerce Member aware of the extreme dissatisfaction and bitter comment of the shipping policy of the Government of India?

(b) Will Government consider the advisability of reserving the entire coastal trade to Indian shipping? If so, what are the measures adopted or contemplated to be adopted to bring the policy to a successful issue?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I am aware that there has been criticism.

(b) The general question of measures to be taken for the development of Indian shipping is under examination in the light of the views expressed by the Post War Shipping Policy Committee.

CERTAIN GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN NATAL

159. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations aware of the following resolution passed by the Natal Indian Congress by about the middle of December, 1944:

"This meeting records its deep sense of disappointment at the attitude of the Prime Minister who, while admitting that the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance is in conflict with the Pretoria Agreement is nevertheless not prepared to veto it, but prefers to repudiate the Pretoria Agreement, thereby breaking his word with the Indian community."

If so, have the Government of India examined their policy with regard to South Africa, if it is in tune with the sentiments expressed in the above resolution?

(b) Are the Government of India aware of the resignation of Messrs S. R. Naidoo and A. I. Kaju from the Natal Indian Judicial Commission? What are the circumstances under which they had to resign? Is there any correspondence between the Natal Government and the India Government? If there is any, would it be placed on the table? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The answer to both parts is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes., Messrs. Kaju and Naidoo resigned on the ground that they thought that the reports of the post-war Works and Reconstruction Commission and the ordinances had anticipated the Judicial Commissions work and forestalled its recommendations. There has been no correspondence between the Natal Government and the Government of India on this matter.

GRIEVANCES OF BERAR-MADRAS COTTON-GROWERS

160. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact (i) that the Berar-Madras Cotton-growers, especially those who raise short staple cotton, are complaining that due to the unwillingness of Government to prescribe and maintain a minimum price on a sufficiently early occasion in the year, middlemen are reaping huge profits and millowners are being benefited at their cost, (ii) that in most cases cotton-growing has become uneconomical, (iii) that so far as the cotton-growers of the Rajalaseema (formerly known as Ceded Districts of Madras Presidency) are concerned, not even the slight protection or compensation for shifting over from cotton-growing to food production is given; and (iv) that the area under cotton, though diminishing, is still very considerable in Rajalaseema because of the special place occupied by cotton in their diversified crop economy and rotation?

(b) Do Government propose to accord at least the same protection to Ceded Districts peasants as is being given to Berar and Bombay cotton-growers and also to prescribe and enforce the minimum price for all short staple cotton from the beginning of the cotton-marketing season? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (I) Government are aware that there have been complaints from Berar and Madras cotton growers, especially those who raise short staple cotton, but they do not think the complaints are justified because—

(i) Government undertook to buy various descriptions of cotton when the Hedge Contract was traded in the Bombay market at Rs. 400 per candy.

(ii) Government's policy was announced in November 1943.

(iii) Although conditions under which Government had undertaken to buy were not fulfilled, they bought at their discretion, in April, 1944.

(iv) Government not only implemented their undertakings but did so generously by buying earlier than was necessary within the terms of their announced policy.

(v) The allegation that middlemen reaped huge profits and Millowners benefited at the cost of the farmer is not correct. It is more likely that most of them suffered losses. Regarding benefits obtained by mills it may be stated that it was necessary for mills to obtain cotton from areas more distant than the Ceded Districts of the Madras Presidency because mills were unable to use cotton grown in these districts as it was of unsatisfactory quality. It was the mills' inability to use this unsatisfactory cotton which was a major cause of the price decline.

(II) This is not correct. Only the growing of bad quality cotton for which there is no market has become uneconomical.

(III) No. Cotton cultivators in the Ceded Districts of Madras have been offered a subsidy for switching over from cotton to foodcrops or for growing cotton mixed with foodcrops at the same rate as is admissible to other parts of India.

(IV) Cotton covers only 15 per cent. of the area under major crops. It is not a fact that cotton alone occupies a special place in the diversified crop economy and rotation in the case of Rajalaseemas.

(b) The same protection as that given to Berar and Bombay cotton growers is already given to the Ceded Districts peasants provided they grow cotton which comes within the Government's quality stipulations. Under no circumstances, however, is it Government's intention to prescribe minimum prices for unwanted short staple cotton. The growing of such a cotton represents a diversion from more useful crops with no corresponding benefit to the country, and no encouragement for its production will be given.

†161*.

Haj Pilgrimage Cinema Films

162. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations been drawn to the editorial of the Navajug, Calcutta, dated the 21st November, 1944, regarding exhibition in certain cinema houses in Calcutta of films of Haj pilgrimage last year?

(b) Are Government aware that—

(i) the Officer on Special Duty in the Education, Health and Lands Department addressed a letter D. O. No. D. 154-Haj/41(c), dated Simla, the 6th October, 1941, to me as Chairman, Port Haj Committee, Calcutta, for eliciting opinion of the Port Haj Committee on the production of a film dealing with the Haj pilgrimage as it started and ended in India;

(ii) the unanimous opinion of the Port Haj Committee, Calcutta, which was expressed in my demi-official letter, D. O. No. 4925, dated the 16th October, 1941, was against the filming of the Haj traffic; and

(iii) the Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Education, Health and Lands intimated to me in his D. O. No. 154-Haj/41, dated New Delhi, the 4/8th December, 1941, the decision of the Government not to pursue any further the proposal to produce a film dealing with Haj Pilgrimage?

(c) If the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons that led Government to fall back from their decision intimated to me in their demi-official letter cited in (b) (iii) above?

(d) Was the filming of the Haj Pilgrimage done at the initiative of the Government or at the personal responsibility of Mr. Mohd. Yakub Butt, Pilgrim Officer, Government of India?

(e) If the answer to (d) above be that the film was taken at the initiative of Government, what were the reasons for doing so?

(f) If the answer to (d) above be that the film was taken by the Pilgrim Officer at his own initiative and responsibility and without the consent of the Government of India, what action do Government propose to take against the arbitrary decision of the Pilgrim Officer?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The letter referred to was overlooked.

(d), (e) and (f). The film was arranged by the Haj Officer in consultation with the Government but, as has already been pointed out, attention was not drawn to the letter referred to by the Honourable Member.

Suitable action is being taken against the Officer responsible for the oversight.

Haj Pilgrimage Cinema Films

163. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that the Pilgrim Officer, Mr. Mohd. Yakub Butt, has been shown in the film garlanded and in a jolly smiling mood?

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

(b) Is it a fact that the proposal for filming the Haj traffic was put to the Haj pilgrims for opinion who opposed the idea tooth and nail, and that the Company which filmed the traffic was in a dilemma?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Pilgrim Officer realising the hesitancy of the film Company encouraged them by remarking "should respect be paid to the sentiments of these fanatic people, surely most of the good things on earth will have to be left cut"?

(d) Is it a fact that, in spite of the Haj pilgrims tendering a radically opposite opinion to take the film, the Pilgrim Officer made secret arrangements for filming the Haj traffic?

(e) Did Government consult the various Port Haj Committees before filming? If not, why not?

(f) Are Government prepared to issue immediate orders to ban the exhibition of this film throughout British India and Indian States?

(g) Are Government prepared to issue a statement to the Press clarifying their position in regard to the filming of the Haj traffic?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) A majority of pilgrims who were consulted before the film was taken were in favour of it.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) No. Through oversight.

(f) Yes. Necessary steps have already been taken.

(g) The film is not likely to be exhibited any more and Government do not consider any public statement necessary.

U.N.R.R.A. HELP IN RECONQUERED INDIAN AND BURMA TERRITORIES

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

(a) whether any assistance has been rendered to the inhabitants of the territories in India and Burma reconquered from the Japanese by the U.N.R.R.A.; if so, what; how it is administered; and

(b) whether the Government of India was consulted in the matter before the relief work was started?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The other parts do not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

REFORMS SECRETARIAT

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

(a) whether the Reforms Secretariat is still working; and, if so, what work it has been doing during the last five years;

(b) whether it is collecting any material for the framing of the next constitution; and

(c) who is in charge of this Secretariat, and whether he submits any annual report of its working?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to part (b) of my reply to Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall's unstarred question No. 18 on the 7th February, 1944.

(c) The Reforms Secretariat is part of the Governor-General's Secretariat and is in charge of the Reforms Commissioner; he does not submit any annual report.

IMPORT OF COTTON ROPES, TAPES AND BANDINGS

166. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state under what circumstances the import of cotton ropes, tapes and bandings has been permitted?

(b) What is the total amount of import licences issued in connection with these in 1943-44 and up to December, 1944?

(c) Why is this import permitted when correct facts and figures were mentioned before the Textile Directorate by the Textile Stores and Machinery Merchants Association, Bombay, and it was demonstrated that these particular articles were produced in this country and all the wants in connection with them were being supplied from locally made goods?

(d) Is this not a serious departure from Government's profession that industries, which have come into existence during the war and which have supplied essential needs, will be protected?

(e) How do Government propose to reconcile their present action with their general policy, and what is that policy?

(f) On what basis are import licences given?

(g) Who decides the effect of such licences on local manufacturers?

(h) Is there any attempt made at control of prices of these articles as are manufactured and control of prices of these articles as are imported from abroad?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Imports are permitted on the advice of the Millstores and Priority Assistance Committee of the Textile Control Board, which is fully representative of the Indian Merchants' Chambers and Millowners' Association. Textile mills essentially require strong ropes, tapes and bandings for power transmission and for driving machinery, and the Indian product is not considered as being sufficiently suitable for all these purposes.

(b) The industry's annual requirements were originally estimated at 5,500 cwts., and this figure was recommended for import during the calendar year 1943. The figure was however reduced to 3,000 cwts. in August 1944, as it was considered that indigenous production could meet the balance of the demand.

(c) The representation from the Textile Stores and Machinery Merchants Association was placed before the Millstores and Priority Assistance Committee of the Textile Control Board and on their advice the opinions of representative mills were invited as to the possibility of discontinuing imports completely. Most of the mills replied that the quality of the local product was not suitable for their needs. In view of these replies the Committee recommended that there should be no reduction in imports. It was accordingly decided that a complete cessation of imports was impossible. The imports asked for, were, however, restricted to a figure of 3,000 cwts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) I am not clear to which policy the Honourable Member is referring. If he is referring to the policy underlying the Import Trade Control, I may say that the Control was imposed with a view to the conservation of difficult currency and shipping space and for ensuring an equitable distribution of the limited supplies available from the exporting countries.

(f) Import licences are normally granted on the basis of past imports and also on consideration of merits.

(g) If the Honourable Member has in mind the protection of Indian industries, the decision will be taken by the Government of India.

(h) Yes, through 'Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance'.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR MILL STORES

167. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is it a fact that the Honourable the Commerce Member has given import licences for mill stores on the basis of importation from the United Kingdom and has denied import licences to Indian merchants, who were importing their goods from other countries including countries now at war?

(b) How many import licences for mill stores are given?

(c) What are the values for the years 1942/43, 1943/44 and 1944/45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

(d) How many of them are given to Indian firms and how many to non-Indian firms?

(e) What is the ground for such discrimination against Indian businessmen in the matter of giving import licences?

(f) Why does the licences issuing Department give them to European firms?

(g) Why should trade quota be reckoned with reference to a specific country and not as a whole?

(h) What would Government lose if it was reckoned on the basis of a total trade and then licences were divided amongst the whole trade?

(i) Do Government wish to encourage monopoly in the hands of non-Indian firms in the matter of mill stores?

(j) Have they received any representations on the subject?

(k) What is the reply given by Government to such representations?

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

The Government of India on 24th April 1942 set up an Advisory Committee. The personnel of the Committee was chosen in consultation with the Indian Merchants Chamber, the Mill-owners' Association and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, each of whom were asked to nominate a person to sit on the Committee and each of whom did so. Every step taken in connection with the provision of raw materials and stores for the Cotton Textile Industry including all administrative measures in connection with the import of such items as could not be manufactured in India has been taken in accordance with the unanimous recommendations of this body and its successor, the Millstores and Priority Assistance Committee of the Textile Control Board. This second Committee came into being in place of the first one on the formation of the Textile Control Board in consequence of their unanimous recommendation that the personnel and the functions of the old Priority Assistance Advisory Committee should continue in the same manner under the aegis of the Textile Control Board. In pursuance of the recommendations of this Committee the office of the Textile Commissioner recommends to the Commerce Department to grant licences.

(b) 92.

(c) The annual requirements of each category of essential millstores are communicated to the Secretary of State who authorises exports through the usual channels of distribution *pro rata* to the quantities taken by these channels in the pre-war year 1938-39. The licences do not therefore, specify the value of the goods which they cover, and figures of actual imports under the licences are not readily available.

(d) 53 to Indian firms and 39 to non-Indian firms.

(e) There is no discrimination.

(f) Licences are given to European as well as Indian firms on the basis of their previous imports from the United Kingdom as explained in the reply to part (c) above.

(g) Quotas for imports from a particular country are normally based on previous imports from that country, mainly for the following reasons:

(i) Manufacturers prefer to maintain their established connections and are reluctant to supply goods to firms who have not traded with them before.

(ii) Licences to new firms are likely to remain infructuous and if the firms succeed in obtaining the goods not direct from the manufacturer but through a merchant or through an intermediary, the goods will be obtained at a higher cost as the intermediary's commission will have to be paid in addition.

(h) The probable result of dividing licences amongst the whole trade would be that some licences would prove infructuous and enough millstores would not be imported to keep the textile industry in full production.

(i) No.

(j) Yes.

(k) Government have regretted their inability to change their policy. But in view of the slight easing of the supply position in the United Kingdom, Government are enquiring whether it might be possible to add more importers to the list without jeopardizing the regular supply of such goods.

PUBLICATION OF INDIAN EDITION OF "VERDICT ON INDIA"

168. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has any application been made to the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies in respect of permission for printing paper for the book "Verdict on India" by Beverley Nichols?

(b) Is it a fact that fifty thousand copies of this book are to be printed in this country and that Government have gone out of their way to provide paper?

(c) Who is the publisher?

(d) How many copies of this book have Government purchased in the past and how many copies are on order for any Department of Government so far as the future is concerned?

(e) Is it a fact that price lists and circulars between merchants and their constituents are restricted and that representations have been received by Government asking for a relaxation of this rule?

(f) Is it a fact that posters and other paraphernalia used in book and other trades have also been restricted and representations have been made to Government to relax these rules?

(g) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to stop the printing of this book in India so far as the availability of paper from the meagre stocks now in India is concerned?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) Government have no information as to how many copies of the book are to be printed in India, and have not given any assistance for providing paper for this purpose.

(c) I understand that the book has been published by *Thackers*.

(d) Four. No further copies are on order.

(e) and (f). Yes.

(g) Does not arise since Government have not given any assistance in providing the paper.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN DEPARTMENT UNDER THE HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

169. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether he has taken or contemplates to take any steps to give adequate representation to Sikhs in his Departments where their representation is nil as disclosed in his reply to Sardar Sant Singh's starred questions Nos. 218 and 219 during the last session?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sikhs come under the heading "Other minority communities". Representation of this group in the total strength of officers in the Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies Department is in accordance with the percentage laid down by Government. If suitable Sikh candidates are forthcoming when new posts have to be filled, their claims will be given due consideration. The statements which I laid on the table in reply to Sardar Sant Singh's Starred Questions Nos. 218 and 219, will show that within the salary groups mentioned by him there are two Sikh officers employed in the departments with which I am concerned.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE HONOURABLE THE LAW MEMBER

170. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state whether, in view of the fact that the Sikh representation in his Department is zero as disclosed in his reply to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No 217, dated the 10th November, 1944, he has taken or contemplates to take any steps to give adequate representation to Sikhs in his Department?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: It is not a fact that Sikh representation in the Department is zero. Sardar Sant Singh's question related to posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 or more and there are three Sikhs employed in the Department on lower salaries. The posts embraced by Sardar Sant Singh's question fell into four categories. There are first the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, two Deputy Secretaries and four

Solicitors. Communal considerations are not taken into account in filling these posts, for which the most suitable incumbents available are selected. Secondly, there are two Assistant Secretaries, four Superintendents and three Assistants. These posts are filled by promotion from the ministerial ranks on considerations of merit and seniority, and at present there is no Sikh in the ministerial ranks of sufficient seniority to entitle him to be considered. Thirdly, there are four posts of Council Reporters and Stenographers. Vacancies in these posts are filled in accordance with the model Communal Roster approved by the Home Department but the turn of the "other minorities" has not yet come, while the selection for the one unreserved vacancy was made on the result of a competitive examination conducted by the Public Service Commission at which the successful candidate was not a Sikh. The last category comprises the ten members of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and the Registrar of that body. These posts are filled in accordance with the Home Department Resolution of 1934, and on the occasion of the only vacancy to date which fell to be filled from "other minorities", the candidates recommended by the Public Service Commission did not include a Sikh, nor was any Sikh recommended in the case of any of the unreserved vacancies. In the circumstances, the Honourable Member will realise that there are no steps which I can appropriately take to secure the appointment of Sikhs to the posts embraced by Sardar Sant Singh's question.

TRADE MISSION HEADED BY SIR AKBAR HYDARI

171. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether it is a fact that a trade mission headed by Sir Akbar Hydari has gone to the United Kingdom to arrange for the import of consumers goods to this country?

(b) What is the list of those consumers goods which are likely to be imported, and are Government satisfied that those goods cannot be produced in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) A Mission headed by Sir Akbar Hydari has gone to the United Kingdom. The object of the Mission is to devise methods to relieve the strain of war demands on Indian economy. It is not possible to state at this stage what shape the final decisions will take.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a) of the question does not arise.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR SOLDIERS AND NON-COMBATANTS

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question should have been addressed to the Defence Department. A reply will be given on the 19th February.

COTTON TEXTILE AND OTHER CONCERNS ADVISED TO CLOSE DOWN DUE TO COAL SHORTAGE

173. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain cotton textile manufacturing concerns have been officially advised to close down their mills-

for some time in view of coal shortage? If so, will the Honourable Member please state the names of the concerns and the circumstances in which this advice has been given, indicating at the same time how the advice has affected different producing regions?

(b) To what extent will the supply of cotton textiles for consumption in India and export abroad, respectively, be affected by this measure, and how long will it take for the resumption of normal production by the mills concerned?

(c) Has any jute mill been advised to discontinue its working temporarily at the same time as certain cotton mills have been. What are the other industries that have similarly been advised to close down, or curtail their output, simultaneously with the cotton mills concerned? And if discrimination has been made in this regard, what are the reason for it in the case of each particular industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). No official advice was given to the mills. In view of short supply of coal and with a view to avoiding closure of mills for short periods at frequent intervals, Textile Commissioner suggested in January to Panel Members of the Cotton Textile Control Board, excepting U. P. and Madras where the coal situation was considered to be satisfactory, to advise mills in the areas concerned, if they so considered necessary to have organised closures for short periods to enable them to build up a small stock and to maintain continuous production thereafter. Briefly, during January, the mills in Ahmedabad City remained closed excluding closed holidays for 4 days, in Indore for 6 days, and those in other areas were closed for varying periods. The total loss of production due to closure during January was in the neighbourhood of 23.7 million yards of cloth and will to that extent reduce supplies of cloth to civil population. Government, is however, satisfied that the loss of production has been kept to a minimum by this policy and was less than what it would have been otherwise. Work has been resumed everywhere since long.

(c) Government themselves have not advised any Jute mill to discontinue working on account of the coal shortage. Any curtailment in production due to short deliveries of coal is arranged by the Jute Mills' Association and without reference to any Government authority. In accordance with the arrangements made by the Association some of the jute mills are working on full production; some on partial production, and some are on a maintenance basis only. The Association arranges the day to day distribution of coal to various mills from its Central pool into which all supplies of coal for these mills are sent.

No instructions were issued or suggestions made by Government to any industry other than the Cotton Textile Industry for a closure or curtailment of output, and individual concerns were left to take action on their own initiative as the state of their respective stocks required or in accordance with advice given by their trade associations as in the case of Jute Mills' Association.

There was no discrimination against the Cotton Textile Mills and the advice given to them was only in the interest of maximum orderly production.

POSITION OF AVAILABLE SUPPLIES OF COTTON TEXTILES FOR CIVILIAN CONSUMPTION

174. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to make a statement indicating, Province by Province, the present position of the actually available supplies of cotton textile goods for civilian consumption, and the extent of effectiveness with which the control measures have enabled the civilian population to secure supplies in the different Provinces?

(b) To what extent do black market conditions prevail in each Province in the controlled textile trade and what actions have been or are being taken to minimise such conditions?

(c) What are the complaints, if any, that have been received during recent months in regard to the actual availability of supplies of controlled cotton

textiles in the different Provinces, and what actions, if any, have been taken to remove such complaints?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is not possible to give exact figures by Provinces. India has, however, been divided into convenient geographical areas for the distribution of cloth on consideration of transport factors mainly, and figures of despatches to these areas are given in a statement which I lay on the table.

The Textile Commissioner, who is a Government of India's Officer, is responsible only for the distribution from the Mills to Provinces or States and the Statement laid on the table will show that he has been able to ensure a reasonable distribution to all areas. Within Provinces and States control is a matter for the Provincial or State Governments and their success varies considerably with the strength of the black-market in the areas and the efficiency of their own organization. It may, however, be said that the Provinces of Bombay and Madras have been particularly successful in seeing that the consumer obtains his reasonable requirements at the proper price.

While the overall picture of supplies to the different areas is not altogether unsatisfactory, supplies of fine cloth have everywhere been very much below the demand owing to the inadequacy of production in relation to demand and the extensive hoarding and blackmarketing of the dealers in fine cloths.

(b) Blackmarketing is everywhere in India primarily the responsibility of the wholesale trade. There has been very little blackmarketing by the Mills and although there has been a considerable amount by the retailers, this has largely been forced on them by the high prices charged by the wholesalers, except in Bengal, where the blackmarket is at its worst, and all the dealers seem to be equally responsible. Apart from Bengal, blackmarketing is worst in Cawnpore and Delhi while until recently it was very bad in Ahmedabad and Bombay. Recent measures taken at these latter places have greatly improved the position and in Bombay there is now very little blackmarketing and in Ahmedabad it is confined to the finer qualities.

Action was taken by Government first of all in Bombay City where profiteering in the wholesaler market had been particularly rampant. The Textile Commissioner, therefore, issued an order on the 16th December, 1944 under which 20 per cent. of Bombay production was allotted to local market and the balance of 80 per cent. had to be sent outside. All despatches outside were brought under the direct control of the Textile Commissioner through the institution of the permit system under which the buyer has to be authorised for a definite quantity by his Provincial or State Government and has to get his authorisation countersigned by the Textile Commissioner.

The measure had a considerable amount of success and therefore the Textile Control Board at its last meeting recommended that similar schemes should be instituted for all other manufacturing centres also and this recommendation has been accepted by Government and the details are being discussed with a meeting of Provincial representatives on the 13th and 14th February.

The Textile Control Board further recommended that since one of the reasons for blackmarketing was that the wholesaler in the manufacturing centre and the Commission agents were allowed far too high a share of the total distribution margin of 20 per cent., their percentages should be cut. This has been done and cloth must now leave the producing centres at *ex-mill price plus* three per cent. instead of four per cent. *plus*, where commission agent is employed, a further half per cent. instead of one per cent.

In order to make this new scheme of control still more effective in abolishing blackmarkets dealers in the producing centres entitled to direct supplies from mills are being asked to form themselves into groups each under a leader who will be responsible for the actions of his group. By thus reducing the number of individual persons whose behaviour the control authorities have to watch it is hoped to make supervision very much easier.

As corollary to this it has been decided to cut out the great wholesale centres which have also been the centres of blackmarketing and the Provincial and State Governments have been asked to nominate in consultation with dealers themselves dealers who will make direct purchases in the producing centres and will then do the local distribution to the retailers. This will permit of the Provincial Government and the district authority keeping an exact check on every bale coming into the district and what has been done with it and it will also save a considerable amount of transport and handling.

These new measures should come into force within a month or so.

(c) Complaints of shortage have been received from every Province and they are inevitable since only 12 yards of cloth per head per year is available as against pre-war demand of about 16 yards and the present estimated demand of 25 yards. The complaints have been particularly made in relation to supplies of fine cloth. The production of fine cloth in India is limited and even before the War several hundred million yards of fine cloth were imported. These imports have now been cut off, and the demand has greatly increased owing to more people being able to afford fine cloth.

The only action possible under these circumstances has been to divide the available supplies of cloth as fairly as possible and this has been done first by the institution some months ago of a quota system by which a definite quantity of cloth based on population was allotted to each of the areas mentioned in para. (a) of this answer, and now by new distribution measures outlined in para. (b) of this answer which should ensure that the cloth so allotted reaches the consumers for whom it is intended.

Statement 'A'

Details of actual deliveries of cloth for civil purposes into each surplus area and deficit zone as defined in the Cotton Cloth Movements Control Order, 1943, during the five months ending 31st October, 1944.

S. No.	Geographical divisions as defined in the Cotton Cloth Movements Control Order, 1943.	Cloth requirements in thousands of yards on the basis of quota allotted.	Total cloth available for civil consumption in thousands of yards.
1	2	3	4
I	Bombay Surplus Area—		
	Total	246,400	316,999
	{ Western India States Remainder }		
II	Sind Deficit Zone—		
	Total	28,495	74,462
	{ Sind Baluchistan }		
III	Punjab Deficit Zone (including Delhi)	337,975	425,457
IV	U. P. Deficit Zone	233,120	269,130
V	Bihar Deficit Zone	151,415	122,627
VI	Bengal Deficit Zone—		
	Total	302,130	356,985
	{ Bengal Assam }		
VII	Orissa Deficit Zone	67,945	28,990
VIII	C. P. Deficit Zone	102,130	104,225
IX	South Deficit Zone	338,210	400,214
X	Rajputana Deficit Zone	113,230	110,320
	<i>All India Total</i>	1,921,050	2,207,409

EXPORT QUOTAS OF COTTON TEXTILES FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES

175. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to refer to my starred question No. 420 of the 15th November, 1944, and state:

(i) the details of the export quota of cotton textiles for the different foreign countries to be supplied from India and the grounds on which the particular quota has been agreed to by the Government of India in each case; and

(ii) whether these foreign countries approached the Government of India direct in this matter, and, if so, at which time and through what channels and for what types and quantities of textiles in each case?

(b) Has any quota of cotton textiles been fixed for civilian consumption in the different Provinces for the current year? If so, how does it work per head of population in the case of each Province, and how does it compare in each case with the pre-war standard of consumption of cotton textiles in the years immediately preceding the war? In the case of the Provinces of Bengal and Assam, is the quota likely to be increased in view of the possibility of consumption of a comparatively large quantity of textiles by military and semi-military personnel employed in increasing numbers in these Provinces in the shape of ready-made garments and otherwise? Is it a fact that Red Cross and hospital requirements in these Provinces are also to be met from the Provincial quota?

(c) What was the approximate production of handloom cloth in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam, separately, during 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944?

(d) What is the extent of shortage of yarn available for the handloom weavers in Bengal and Assam, respectively, of which complaints have been made from time to time recently, and what steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

(e) What are the quantities of cotton yarn, if any, actually exported in 1944, as also earmarked for 1945, for the benefit of foreign countries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) Details of quotas fixed for each country are confidential. Quotas are fixed after a consideration of several factors, including the supply position in India, the minimum needs of the importing markets and the availability of alternative sources of supply.

(ii) All foreign countries do not state their requirements to the Government of India but quotas are determined in accordance with a global planning scheme which is discussed with His Majesty's Government and subsequently considered by the Combined Production and Resources Board, Washington. The types of goods licensed for export against quota are controlled by the Government of India in the light of supply position in the country.

(b) The quotas fixed per head for each Province are as follows:

<i>Name of Zone.</i>	<i>Allocation per head</i>
Bombay Surplus Area (including W. I. States).	18 Yds.
<i>Sind Deficit Zone—</i>	
Sind	12 "
Baluchistan	24 "
Punjab Deficit Zone (including Delhi)	18 "
U. P. Deficit Zone	10 "
Bihar Deficit Zone	10 "
<i>Bengal Deficit Zone—</i>	
Bengal	10 "
Assam	10 "
Orissa Deficit Zone	10 "
C. P. Deficit Zone	12 "
South Deficit Zone	10 "
Rajputana Deficit Zone	12 "

These figures of allotment are now under discussion with Provinces with a view to such modification as may be necessary. There are no exact figures of pre-War consumption but estimates are that it was 30 yards in Bombay and the

Punjab, 25 yards in Sind and 10 to 12 yards elsewhere. It will, therefore, be noticed that the main cuts have been made on Bombay, Sind and the Punjab whose consumption before the War was the highest; the reason is that it was felt that it was easier for Bombay and the Punjab to accept a 40 per cent. cut from 30 yards than for Bengal to accept any cut at all from 10 yards. The questions of increasing the Bengal and Assam quota because large quantities may go to Military and semi-military personnel and of whether the Red Cross and Hospital requirements in these Provinces should be met from the Provincial quota or not are under consideration. No special allowance has hitherto been made for these factors but the Textile Commissioner is now investigating whether it might be possible to make some special allowance.

(c) There are no figures for production in any of these areas except those given by the Fact Finding Committee in its report. They estimate Assam production at 31,600,000 yards and Bengal production at 148,206,000 yards. These presumably refer to 1941 production.

(d) There is no definite information about the shortage of yarn available for handloom weavers but complaints have been made that it is considerable. The reason would appear to be black-marketing by dealers as the following quantities of yarn have been sent to Bengal in the last four months:

September	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,831 bales.
October	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12,672 bales.
November	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6,519 bales.
December	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7,081 bales.

This gives an average of 8,043 bales which compares with an estimated requirement of 6,143 bales and a quota of 7,100 bales.

The Bengal Government recently passed an Order freezing all yarn on entry into Bengal and it is hoped that this will by giving Government a better control over the activities of the dealers ensure that the yarn actually reaches the weaver.

It is not possible to give an adequate separate reply about Assam as all supplies of yarn for Assam have hitherto been passed through Bengal and the position in Assam separately is, therefore, not altogether clear. It is, however, possible that Assam is generally worse even than Bengal, but amelioration is expected once the new Scheme of yarn distribution is put into operation. In the meantime the Textile Commissioner is endeavouring to improve the supplies by making *ad hoc* releases to Assam from Bombay controller Mills' stocks, while the Assam Government have posted their Deputy Director, Textiles, in Bombay to assist in procurement both at Bombay and Madras.

(e) Actual figures of exports are at present treated as confidential but I may say that the total quantity of cotton yarn exported in 1944 amounted to less than one per cent. of the production in India. The quantity of cotton yarn to be licensed for export during 1945 has not yet been finally decided.

EXPORT QUOTAS OF COTTON TEXTILES FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES

176. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies to a supplementary question asked by me in connection with starred question No. 420 of the 15th November, 1944, to the effect that the decision as to quota and quantum of export for the benefit of foreign countries was taken after consulting the Textile Control Board, will he be pleased to lay on the table extracts from the proceedings of the Textile Control Board testifying to their approval of the policy underlying such export and of the quantum thereof, in respect of each of the foreign countries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My statement that the decision as to the quota for export was taken after consulting the Textile Control Board is not strictly accurate; but it is a fact, however, that the export trade welcomes the facilities for exporting this quantity and the Textile Board has been kept fully informed since its formation.

TREATY OF NAVIGATION AND COMMERCE WITH UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

177. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to Press statements from more than one Indian Delegates to the recent International Business Conference held in the United States of America, to the effect that the Government of the United States of America have been willing, since 1939, to enter into a treaty of commerce and navigation with India under which Indians may be able to enjoy the same rights as at present enjoyed by Americans in India in these spheres and that the Government of India have evinced no interest in this matter?

(b) If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to explain the position in detail in so far as it may be within the knowledge of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Answer to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is in the affirmative. I do not, however, accept the suggestion that Government of India have evinced no interest in the matter.

(b) Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies given by me on the 9th February 1945, to starred question No. 55 by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum and the supplementaries.

CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD TO IMPERIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT MUKTESWAR

178. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if there is a proposal to construct a cart or motor road to the Imperial Research Institute at Mukteswar in the Naini Tal district?

(b) If so, what will be the length of the road and the cost of construction?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) There is no such proposal before this Government.

(b) Does not arise.

UNSUITABLE SITUATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER, WAR RISKS INSURANCE, BENGAL

179. *Babu Baij Nath Bajoria: Is the Honourable the Commerce Member aware:

(a) that the office of the Special Officer, War Risks, Insurance, Bengal, is situated at 164C, Bokul Bagan Row, Calcutta, far away from business centres and that the commercial community of Calcutta is greatly inconvenienced thereby; and

(b) that representations have been made by Chambers of Commerce for the shifting of this office to a suitable central place in Calcutta? If so, what action have Government taken to this effect?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). The office of the Special Officer, War Risks Insurance, Bengal, is situated at 164C, Bakul Bagan Road, Calcutta, which is not in the business centre. Representations were made from time to time by Chambers of Commerce for shifting this office to a central place. The Central Government have tried to find a more suitable accommodation, but owing to the dearth of suitable houses in Calcutta, they have so far not been able to move this office to a better locality.

INCREASING NEED FOR TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AND MEDICAL MEN

180. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands considered the large number of technical engineers and medical men who will be required in his planning scheme?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that a large number of technical engineers and trained medical men is required now and they will be required even in larger number after the war?

(c) What steps, if any, has he taken to send suitable Indians for training abroad?

(d) What financial assistance will the Government of India give to those who will be sent out to the United Kingdom and the United States of America?

(e) What will be the machinery for selection?

(f) Will Government take assistance of the universities to select suitable candidates for foreign studies?

(g) Is the Honourable Member contemplating to appoint agencies in the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the admission of these students in suitable colleges and universities?

(h) Is he contemplating to send these students in the year 1945?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the *Press Communique* issued by the Department of Education, Health and Lands on the 27th January 1945, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(e) and (f). The question is still under consideration.

(g) and (h). Yes.

FOODSTUFFS OFFICIALLY DECLARED UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN BENGAL

181. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member in a position to give an approximate idea about the total quantity of foodstuffs that have so far been officially declared to be unfit for human consumption in Bengal?

(b) How much of the quantity approximately has been destroyed, and how much sold, with the concurrence or knowledge of officials concerned, and to what use has the latter category of foodstuffs been put or is expected to be put, and what precautions have been taken to see that this latter category of foodstuffs is not utilised as human food either in the shape of adulterants or otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

QUOTAS OF YARN FOR SUPPLY TO WEAVERS

182. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to make a statement indicating the quotas that may have been fixed, from time to time, of yarn for supply to weavers in the different Provinces of India, separately?

(b) Is it a fact that the quotas has been scaled down in recent months in the case of certain Provinces? If so, to what extent in each case, and for what reasons?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that an acute situation has arisen in Bengal due to the shortage of the supply of yarn to the weavers, large sections of whom are reported to remain idle?

(d) Is it a fact that certain conferences have taken place between the Textile Commissioner, representatives of the Government of Bengal and representatives of the trade, to discuss questions regarding the supply of yarn and its distribution in the Province of Bengal? If so, will the Honourable Member please make a statement on the points at issue and the decisions arrived at?

(e) Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the complaints regarding the methods of distribution of yarn in Bengal? If so, will the Honourable Member please explain the situation, indicating what action has been, or is proposed to be, taken to bring about an all-round improvement in the situation in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No such quotas have hitherto been fixed. The following quotas are, however, now to be allotted under the new Yarn Distribution Scheme recommended by the Textile Control Board at its recent meeting:

Provinces	(Figures in bales of 400 lbs. each)		
	Single Yarn.	Folded Yarn.	Total.
1. Assam	1216	89	1305
2. Bengal	6686	414	7100
3. Bihar	3817	505	4322
4. Bombay	9504	569	10073
5. C. P. & Berar	4604	437	5041
6. Delhi . . . . .	...	...	...
7. Madras	15084	1349	16433
8. Punjab	2743	440	3183
9. Sind	171	25	196
10. U. P.	9094	1120	10214
11. Orissa	2907	213	3120

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

(c) There is some general shortage of yarn particularly the fine counts which, before the war, were largely imported. It is especially severe in Bengal owing to hoarding and profiteering by merchants.

(d) Conferences between the Textile Commissioner of the Government of India and representatives of Provinces and States have been held in order mainly to exchange views and to decide on courses of action relating to Textile Control. No special conference or meeting between the Textile Commissioner for India and representatives of the Government of Bengal and representatives of the trade has so far been held to discuss the question of supply of yarn and its distribution in Bengal. The supply and distribution of yarn has, however, also been under discussion at meetings of the Textile Control Board, and this has now resulted in the quota scheme mentioned in the answer to (a).

(e) There have been persistent complaints, which appear to be fully justified, of hoarding and black-marketing, especially by Calcutta merchants, disturbing the normal course of distribution in the Bengal Yarn Trade. The Bengal Government has already taken certain steps to meet this by freezing new stocks coming into Calcutta and only permitting them to be sold under permit, and the new scheme for provincial quotas whose distribution will be under the control of the Provincial Government, should remedy most of the abuses which have hitherto prevailed.

TRIAL AND SUPPLY OF PENICILLIN IN INDIA

183. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware of the fact that 'Penicillin' will appear on the market in the form of tooth-paste and lipsticks to combat bacteria as per the statement of Professor Fleming, its discoverer?

(b) Has the drug been tried in India on the following diseases: (i) venereals; (ii) pneumonia; and (iii) blood-poisoning, etc.? If so, what is the result?

(c) Is the drug available in India in sufficiently large quantities to meet the requirements of the ailing public? If so, would it be freely supplied to hospitals and private practitioners on application?

(d) Is it not a fact that this drug is available from Parke Davis and Company, Bombay, and Messrs. Spencer and Company, Madras?

(e) Is it a fact that they are not permitted to supply to any and every registered medical practitioner on application? If so, why?

(f) Is there any assessor appointed by the Government for every district to issue permits?

(g) Is not the practising doctor given the privilege to use the drug as and when it is required by him to administer?

(h) Would Government consider the advisability of keeping stocks of this drug with the medical officer of each district to facilitate easy supply when necessary?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) Penicillin has not been used in India in the treatment of venereal diseases among civilians. It has been used with satisfactory results in the treatment of pneumonia and blood-poisoning cases where the infecting organism is sensitive to the action of penicillin.

(c), (d), (e) and (g). Supplies of penicillin are available with a number of leading importers and are at present adequate for reasonable requirements. As production is limited the United States of America authorities have agreed to release penicillin for civilian use in India only on the understanding that the use and distribution of this drug are controlled by Government on lines similar to those employed in the United States of America and that it is ensured that the available supplies are equitably distributed throughout the country and reach patients to whom its administration is justified according to current medical practice. Penicillin is supplied to those institutions which have been approved for the purpose by the Penicillin Control Board. Private medical practitioners can also obtain it from any authorised importer on the certificate

of an 'assessor' whose duty is to certify whether a particular case is suitable for Penicillin treatment and to prescribe the necessary quantity.

(f) The appointment of assessors is not yet complete. As far as possible assessors will be appointed in every district if suitable persons are recommended by Provincial Governments.

(h) This is a matter for Provincial Governments to consider.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE, STAFF

184. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the number, separately, of permanent and temporary gazetted and non-gazetted officers at present employed in the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, and how many of them are Scheduled Castes, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others?

(b) Is the Honourable Member satisfied with the present representation of the Scheduled Castes? If not, what special efforts were and are being taken to secure their due share in the establishment of the Director General, Indian Medical Service?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Two statements giving the information are laid on the table.

(b) No. Advertisements in the press inviting applications from members of the scheduled castes have been issued nine times but candidates possessing the minimum qualifications necessary are not forthcoming. Efforts are still being made to secure suitable candidates of the scheduled classes.

Statement I

Statement showing the number and community of gazetted officers employed in the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service

	Community	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Scheduled Castes
Hindus	4	8	12
Muslims	1	1
Sikhs
Others	2	14	16
Total		6	23	29

Statement II

Statement showing the number and community of non-gazetted officers employed in the Office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service

	Community	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Scheduled Castes	4	4
Hindus	32	172	204
Muslims	13	60	73
Sikhs	1	17	18
Others	1	4	5
Total		47	257	304

UNFAIR TREATMENT TO SCHEDULED CASTE CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE

185. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: (a) Does the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands know that Scheduled Caste Clerks are not fairly treated in the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, by their immediate Superior Officers?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to make an enquiry into this matter with a view to see that Scheduled Caste Clerks are properly treated in the said office?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No.

(b) No. If specific complaints are made they will of course be enquired into

SUBSIDIZED SALES OF WHEAT IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

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

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that in Madras Presidency and in particular in South Arcot District subsidized wheat is being sold at a price which is lower than the price of inferior quality of rice produced in that area;

(ii) that such subsidized wheat is being consumed and can be consumed under the present conditions mostly by the richer and middle classes, benefiting not the poorer classes;

(iii) that such enforced and subsidized sales of wheat are depressing the prices of paddy and rice of the area concerned; and

(iv) that such a policy is benefiting consumers of both rice and wheat and harming the producers of paddy, irrespective of their economic conditions; and

(b) whether Government will consider the advisability of subsidizing rice of the lowest quality which is generally consumed by the poorest people instead of subsidizing wheat; if not, why not?

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

(ii) No, Sir. Wheat is being subsidised especially to bring its price within the reach of the poor.

(iii) No, Sir.

(iv) The inference is not correct.

(b) Retail prices of rice are reasonable and it is not considered necessary to subsidise them. To subsidise rice will increase the demand for a commodity already in short supply.

KEEPING LOWER PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

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

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that the Madras Government has not raised the prices of paddy and rice of the Kristna, West and East Godavari and Nellore Districts and have kept them down to the uneconomic level of Rs. 10-8-0 for the ordinary quality of rice (Chinna Kusuma) even though, for Guntur District, it has been raised to its former level of Rs. 11-0-0 per 166 lbs. of paddy without the sack and excluding carting expenses; and

(ii) that this policy has been adversely affecting the poorer peasants who are obliged to sell their paddy at the prevalent lower prices in order to pay the land revenue, rent and meet cultivation expenses; and

(b) whether Government propose to see that a uniform price policy is pursued in all the surplus paddy districts and that the former net price of Rs. 11 is re-instated as an initial piece of justice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The answer is in the negative.

The same prices have been fixed for Kristna, West and East Godavari and Nellore Districts as for Guntur District.

(ii) No, Sir. The Madras Government report that prices were fixed with due regard to the increase in the cost of cultivation or other relevant factors

(b) Does not arise, in view of answer to (a).

SUSPENSION OF LICENCES OF CERTAIN CLOTH DEALERS IN BOMBAY

188. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether he is aware that in Bombay licences of nearly thirty cloth dealers are still under cancellation and the quota of goods allotted to them is being delivered to other people who are deriving benefit on the formers' account?

(b) Is it not a fact that according to the new orders no goods are to be delivered to any other party which is not entitled to that particular quota?

(c) What is the object of keeping the licences of the cloth dealers referred to above still under suspension?

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

(b) No.

(c) These licences were cancelled by the Government of Bombay because they had reason to believe that the holders were connected with the black-market. It is for the Bombay Government to decide whether there is any justification of their reinstatement.

PER HEAD QUOTA BASIS FOR SUPPLY OF CLOTH TO DISTRICTS

189. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bombay have fixed quota of cloth supplied on per head basis to districts and had arranged distribution on district basis directly from Bombay?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, is it not a fact that, in doing so, they have cut off all the normal trade channels of trading in cloth?

(c) Is it not a fact that, as a result of the same, in Cawnpore alone more than 500 shops will have to remain closed and more than 15,000 people will get out of job or profession?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that if this policy is followed in the whole of the country more than 60,000 firms will have to be closed down, which will ultimately mean unemployment and worklessness of at least one and a half million people in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Under the Cloth distribution scheme it is proposed to make such arrangements for distribution as would economise transport and make indulgence in blackmarket practices difficult. This might have the result of direct distribution from producing centres such as Bombay to Districts. This may have the effect of cutting across existing trade channels which is unavoidable.

(b) Some normal trade channels will certainly be eliminated.

(c) The All India Distribution Scheme has not yet begun to function and it is too early to say how many shops will have to be closed or how many people will be thrown out of employment.

(d) In the light of replies (a), (b) and (c) this does not arise.

DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT METED OUT TO A EUROPEAN FIRM FOR ALLEGED OFFENCE UNDER CLOTH AND YARN CONTROL ORDER AND CLOTH DEALERS' LICENSING ORDER

190. *Mr. R. R. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether he has seen a report published in the *Free Press Journal*, dated the 23rd September, 1944, alleging discriminatory treatment meted out to a European Firm against an Indian Firm in the same offence alleged to have been committed under the Cloth and Yarn Control Order and the Cloth Dealers' Licensing Order?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether he himself has any information in this respect?

(c) Is it not a fact that three firms of Bombay were found contravening the Provisions of Clause 14, Sub-clause (1) or (2) of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order?

(d) Is it not a fact that one Indian firm was deprived of its licence and its partner was convicted and sentenced under the order referred to above while another European firm was let off and their licence was returned back?

(e) Is it not a fact that in the case of the European firm the discriminatory policy of allowing them to explain their position was adopted?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) The action in this case was taken not by the Government of India but by the Bombay Government. I, however, understand that the facts are as follows:

M/s. Madhavdas Govindji & Co., had kept unopened 35 bales of untext-marked cloth right up to the 11th March, 1944 and they were therefore prosecuted for contravention of clause 14(1)(a) of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order, 1943 and the Proprietor was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 2,500 in default to undergo six months R. I. The accused had offered the bales to the Textile Commissioner but long after the offer was rejected had failed to open up the bales. The Bombay Government considered this a flagrant breach of the Order and the Firm's licence was cancelled.

M/s. Jack S. Nessim, are being prosecuted for alleged failure to declare six bales of untextmarked cloth as required in the Bombay Government, Finance Department (Supply) Notification No. 651 of the 6th December, 1943 and the licence of this firm has been suspended in accordance with the usual practice of suspending licences when prosecutions are sanctioned.

M/s. Jethabhai Hirji & Sons were ordered to be prosecuted by the Bombay Government for alleged contravention of clause 14(2)(a) of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943, and the firm's licence was suspended until the conclusion of the proceedings.

(d) It is correct that the licence of the firm M/s. Madhavdas Govindji & Co. was cancelled and its proprietor was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 2,500 in default to undergo six months R. I. The European Firm to which the Honourable Member refers is presumably M/s. Ralli Bros. Their licence was never suspended as they had committed no offence. Their untextmarked cloth was entirely covered by valid export quotas from the Export Trade Controller and by exemption certificates issued by the Textile Commissioner. No question could therefore arise of taking action against them.

(e) No discretionary policy is followed.

TREATY OF NAVIGATION AND COMMERCE WITH UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

191. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) When did the Honourable the Commerce Member represent to His Majesty's Government the desirability of having a Treaty of Navigation and Commerce with the United States of America?

(b) Is it a fact that a draft of such treaty was received sometime in 1939, and is it a fact that the Government of India said that they were not in a position to proceed with the treaty because of the war?

(c) What were the difficulties which Government experienced in formulating a treaty?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) In 1937.

(b) A draft prepared by the Government of the United States of America was received by the Government of India in 1940 and the answer to the latter portion is in the affirmative.

(c) Honourable Member's attention is invited to my replies on the 9th February 1945 to the Starred Question No. 55 by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum and the supplementaries.

TRANSFERRED UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.†

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS *re* CONSERVATION OF LIVE STOCK, ETC.

6. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the instruction issued to the Provincial Governments regarding the conservation of live stock and improvement in the breed stock referred to by him in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 138 of the 7th November, 1944?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: A copy of the letters issued to Provincial Governments is placed on the table. In addition, nine provinces have now imposed restrictions on the slaughter of useful cattle.

†The meeting of the Legislative Assembly that was to be held on the 13th February, 1945, having being cancelled, the answers to the unstarred Question for that day was, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House to-day.—*Ed. of D.*

COPY OF LETTER No. F. 10-16/44-P., DATED THE 24TH JULY 1944, TO ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS

Grow More Food—Work bullocks.

I am directed to say that the present shortage of work bullocks in the country as a whole is likely to prove seriously detrimental to the Grow More Food campaign. It is therefore necessary to take steps to conserve the present stock and to increase the production of good breeding stock; this includes the preservation and more intensive development of the young stock till it reaches maturity. The Provincial livestock staff are doubtless aware of how these objects can be attained. The suggestions of the A. H. C. which are appended will be found useful. In view of the enhanced prices prevailing today and in face of his own pressing need for work bullocks, the cultivator is probably more willing to receive advice and more ready to act upon it than he has ever been in the past. I am accordingly to commend these suggestions for the consideration of the Provincial Government and to request that the Livestock Department may be instructed to take necessary action along the lines advocated. A report of the action taken by the Livestock Department to give effect to each of these recommendations may please be submitted by the end of the year (31st December 1944).

THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY COMMISSIONER

(1) The more rigid enforcement of the Government of India recommendation concerning the restriction of slaughter of certain classes of cattle. If only animals over 10 years of age are killed, it is most improbable that any useful bullock or breeding cow will be sacrificed. Inspection of all slaughter cattle by veterinary surgeons should be arranged as far as practicable. There is a tendency to consider that military contractors are mostly responsible for evasion of the regulation but that is by no means the case and strict inspection of cattle for civilian consumption is called for.

(2) The custom of slaughtering cattle while in poor conditions is wasteful in that it involves the use of a larger number of stock than is necessary and at the same time yields only inferior meat. It has been shown that provided the animals are healthy, even old cattle can be brought up to slaughter condition within the course of some three months if they are stall-fed. The buying up and fattening for slaughter of what are recognised to be otherwise useless cattle should be organised wherever circumstances permit.

(3) The use of dry cows for draught work should be encouraged.

(4) The most serious loss of work animals is occasioned by sickness and by contagious diseases. The extent of such losses can be modified almost in direct proportion to the degree or in which disease can be anticipated and forestalled by preventive measures. Thus the importance of early notification of outbreaks of disease should be again emphasised and all practical means should be made available to facilitate notification and to allow of the prompt marshalling of adequate veterinary aid to the scene. With the present shortage of veterinary surgeons more stockmen should be trained and used. The employment of such men nary surgeons more stockmen should be trained and used. The employment of such men who have received some months of practical training has proved most successful.

(5) Many cultivators, other than regular breeders, are again turning their attention to the rearing of their own bullocks. The fact is not generally appreciated by them that an animal retarded in early life will never develop properly no matter how generously it may be treated later. It is often difficult for them to spare sufficient whole milk and they rarely realise the value of skim milk and other milk derivatives.

The knowledge acquired in western countries during the war about the use of whole milk substitutes and of calf meals may in many cases be adapted to Indian needs, and livestock officers should be urged to consider how far they are able to devise adaptation to meet the requirements of their districts in this respect. Para. 10 may please be seen in this connection.

The importance of feeding roughage of good quality to young stock should be made more widely known.

The benefits which follow the feeding of good silage are striking and every opportunity should be taken of arranging demonstrations of silage making and feeding.

(6) Schemes should be promoted such as the one under consideration by the Madras Government in which it is proposed that male stock below one year old should be bought by Government and reared in forest tracts, which are inaccessible to other cattle and where grazing is plentiful, until they are fit for work.

(7) The importance of an adequate food supply to cows in calf, especially during the last third of the period of pregnancy, is now well recognised. If she receives sufficient for her maintenance and for the foetus she is carrying it ensures the birth of a good sized vigorous calf likely to grow well and to flourish even in adverse conditions. It will also do much to improve the initial milk yield of the cow and it is the greatest natural stimulus known to promote regularity in the reproductive cycle. The total amount of food required is not great, and silage of good hay will meet it, but failing that in either quantity or quality a small supplement of a well balanced, mineral enriched cheap concentrate will meet the requirements.

(8) The knowledge which has been acquired in the last decade concerning diagnosis and treatment of bovine sterility should be disseminated to the widest possible extent by literature, demonstration and practical instruction to all veterinary personnel who are in

a position to apply it. Successful treatment by manipulation and glandular derivatives needs practice and experience and post-graduate instruction in this subject should be arranged whenever possible.

(9) Sufficient is not yet known of the difficulties which are likely to be experienced in practising artificial insemination in India to allow of its exploitation to the full and it would be injudicious to advocate its general use or to hope for spectacular results in the meantime. The difficulties however are mostly associated with the storage and transport of semen, and while knowledge is being acquired concerning these points and other refinements of the process, veterinarians at selected centres should be provided with the comparatively inexpensive apparatus required and should be encouraged to make themselves familiar with its manipulation and the collection and handling of the semen and to study the factors which are likely to operate in their district against the successful introduction of the practice. Thus while paving the way for future development, they could in the meantime though probably to a very limited extent increase the use of what good bulls are available at their station.

(10) Notes upon the literature of the different subjects referred to in this communication are being prepared at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute and will be circulated as soon as possible.

No. F.10-21/44-P.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH & LANDS.

New Delhi, the 12th October 1944.

From

Prem Krishen, Esquire, I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments and Local Administrations.

Grow More Food—Cattle

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Department circular No. F. 10-16/44-P., dated the 24th July, 1944, and to say that the present position in respect of cattle is causing considerable anxiety to the Government of India and it is apprehended that unless action is taken at an early date, the situation may become considerably worse in the course of the next 2 or 3 years and an acute shortage of plough cattle may develop. A recent census in one province has shown a decrease of 20 per cent. in the number of young stock which cannot but be regarded as alarming. The following suggestions are offered for the consideration of the Provincial Government; the question of cattle slaughter has been dealt with separately and will not be referred to here.

2. In some areas bulls are in short supply. This defect can easily be put right by reducing the number of castrations or by bringing in bulls from other areas. It is however necessary to ascertain in the first instance if there are any such areas and where exactly they are situated.

3. In certain tracts the cattle population has been decimated by rinderpest. Orders can be passed making it compulsory to inoculate all cattle against rinderpest with goat tissue virus. Here again, it is necessary to determine which areas should be tackled first and to arrange for the production and supply of the necessary vaccine and see that there is adequate staff to carry out these inoculations.

4. Other diseases which are probably responsible for sterility and for long intervals between calvings are endometritis, foot and mouth disease and contagious abortion, Antiseptic douches can be used to cure the former which is easy to detect and inoculation for the prevention of contagious abortion can be arranged for on a big scale. In case, of irregular oestrus, the use of special hormone injections may prove beneficial. It is for the veterinary staff to look into these matters and take suitable action. The Provincial Government would naturally have to provide an adequate veterinary staff and the necessary equipment (vaccine, sera, etc.). A detailed note on the subject of diseases and their prevention and cure will follow.

5. A deficiency of vitamin E in the diet may also be responsible for lengthening the dry period in cows. This can easily be put right.

6. All these efforts will however lead nowhere if suitable arrangements are not made for the proper rearing of young stock. In particular, military farms which produce some 50,000 young animals a year consider that it does not pay them to rear these calves and they desire to slaughter them. Again, when cows and buffaloes are taken to city stables, with their young, the latter are not looked after and usually die, an early death. This type of wastage must be prevented. Accordingly it is suggested that Provincial Governments should set up nursery cattle farms, where young stock can be reared and supplement these by arrangements with reliable breeders for rearing young stock made over to them, by giving them subsidies if necessary. The latter would probably be cheaper than Government nursery cattle farms. A further step may be that when buffaloes in milk are sent to cities, their calves should be kept behind in the villages; the objection to this is that buffaloes will for a few days give less milk without their calves; but as this is only a temporary phase, the difficulty is perhaps not very serious.

7. For the immediate present, where there is a shortage of plough cattle, the use of barren cows for ploughing may be encouraged.

8. For a longer term policy, Government must set up an adequate number of breeding farms for the production of pedigree animals of the required type. Key villages have then to be selected where none but approved bulls will be kept. Subsidies may be given for the maintenance of a proper rearing of the offspring of selected animals or guarantees given to the breeders that the offspring of selected cows would be bought up by Government when they reach a particular age at an attractive price to be stated in advance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient servant,

P. KRISHNA,

Deputy Secretary.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

VIOLATION BY GOVERNMENT OF TERMS OF DELHI RAILWAY STATION HINDU REFRESHMENT ROOM CATERING CONTRACT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): **Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall** has given notice of an adjournment motion to discuss the conduct of the Governor General in Council (Central Government) in violating the terms of the agreement between them and the Contractors for catering at the Hindu Refreshment Room at Delhi Junction Station inasmuch as the term providing the period of notice for three months was curtailed arbitrarily with one month and five days against no allegation of bad working or otherwise brought against them.

If there has been any such violation of the terms of the contract there is always the court open where the aggrieved party can have redress. The motion is disallowed.

GRANTING WAR ALLOWANCE FOR SENIOR MEMBERS OF INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next adjournment motion is by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari relating to the granting or the proposal to grant by the Government of India war allowance for senior members of the Indian Civil Service drawing salaries between one thousand and two thousand rupees per mensem.

I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether there is any such proposal?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Sir, I understand that this adjournment motion is based on the news item in the *Hindustan Times* (Evening News) dated yesterday. The news item is headed "War Allowance for Senior Civilians" and the Special Correspondent of the news says "I understand that senior officers of the Indian Civil Service and other Imperial Services recruited by the Secretary of State, drawing salaries between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000, will also get the benefit of war allowance henceforth". And then he goes on to make a few conjectures as to what that allowance will be and how it will operate. My difficulty is this. Certain proposals are under the consideration of the Government for increasing war allowance and dearness allowance. Both hang together—the war allowance for better-paid officers and the dearness allowance for lower-paid officers. The proposal as a whole has not yet been sanctioned. It requires reference to Provincial Governments and we cannot put the whole scheme before anyone. What we are now asked to discuss is a leakage as regards a part of the scheme in the papers. We cannot discuss the whole scheme. You may condemn one particular part of the scheme or you may support any particular part of the scheme.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Condemn the scheme.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Condemn the scheme as a whole before you know the whole scheme! Even Prof. Ranga would not condemn a scheme that he has hardly heard about.

You cannot make any comment on the financial results of the proposal which, I understand, is what the Honourable the Mover is particularly interested in. If, when the whole scheme is announced the Honourable Member wishes

to move an adjournment motion, I have no objection whatever but, at the present moment, we cannot discuss the whole scheme.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, my submission is this. that on the 31st October 1944 the Standing Finance Committee discussed a proposal with regard to the granting of war allowance to people drawing Rs. 1,000 and less. In fact, at that time, when a question was asked as to what the financial commitment involved therein would be, the Government replied that no adequate answer could be furnished. Now, Sir, this question has come up, viz., the question of granting a war allowance to people drawing salaries between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000. This question has nothing to do with the grant of dearness allowance to lower-paid employees of the Government mentioned by the Honourable Member and so far as this particular question of granting a war allowance to higher paid officers is concerned, whether it might be 17½ per cent. or more or less, the Honourable Member did not deny it. As the proposals are before him he knows what they are. I think, Sir, this question has a far-reaching influence on this demon of inflation which we are all trying to combat. We would like to know at this stage before the matter becomes a *fait accompli* and grants incorporated in the Budget what the other Departments concerned have got to say, what the Honourable the Finance Member has got to say about it and I feel, Sir, that this is the most opportune time for the House to discuss the proposals. Whatever the proposals may be, the Honourable Member may reveal these to us in their skeleton form and what we are really perturbed about is not as to what the ultimate shape of these proposals will be but about the very idea underlying the proposal.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think that if the Honourable Member wishes to have further information than what has been given, the best way would be to put down a short notice question and then the House will be in a position to know what the facts are. I understand that at present there are several proposals, not particularly confined to this class of officers but covering also other categories of officers, which are under consideration and the Government of India have not arrived at any decision on the point. In a matter like this the best course for the Honourable Member would be to try to get more definite information than has been given, if he thinks that that will help him to understand the situation better. Under these circumstances I cannot allow the motion.

DECLARATION DIRECTING CERTAIN BUDGET HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OPEN TO DISCUSSION BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that His Excellency the Governor General has passed an order under sub-section (3) of section 67-A of the Government of India Act as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, directing that the heads of expenditure specified in that sub-section, other than those specified in clause (v) thereof, will be open to discussion by the Legislative Assembly when the Budget for the year 1945-46 is under consideration.

APPOINTMENT OF THE HONOURABLE SIR EDWARD BENTHALL TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS OF THE FINANCE MEMBER AT RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform Honourable Members that His Excellency the Governor General has, under rule 2 of the Indian Legislative Rules, been pleased to appoint the Honourable Sir Edward Benthall to perform the functions assigned to the Finance Member under rule 46 of the said Rules on the occasion of the general discussion appointed for Monday, the 19th February, 1945, of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of Railways.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following Notifications in accordance with section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:

- (1) No. 1, dated the 13th January, 1945.
- (2) No. 1-Camp, dated the 20th January, 1945.
- (3) No. 2-Camp, dated the 27th January, 1945.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 13th January 1945.

NOTIFICATION.

CENTRAL EXCISE.

No. 1.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

In rule 64 of the said Rules, for the words “and where such boxes or booklets are issued in packets, each packet also shall bear a banderol appropriate to the class of Matches contained in the packet” the words “and where such boxes or booklets are issued in packages, each package reckoned by the manufacturer as his minimum unit of distribution shall bear the manufacturer’s trade label and a mark clearly showing the class of matches contained in the package” shall be substituted.

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

1/No. 1(33)-C.Exc./44.

Copy forwarded to:—

The Collectors of Central Excise,
The Secretary to the Government of Sind, Revenue Department.
The Political and External Affairs Departments.

The Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for publication in the Indian Trade Journal.

Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excises.

By order, etc.,

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

New Delhi, the 20th January 1945.

NOTIFICATION.

CENTRAL EXCISE.

No. 1-Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

In Rules 145, 152, 157 and 160 of the said Rules, for the words “two years” the words “three years” shall be substituted.

H. GREENFIELD,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

1. Camp/C.No.19(4)-C.Exc.(T)/44.

Copy forwarded to:—

The Collectors of Central Excise.
The Chief Commissioner, Coorg.
The Secretary to the Government of Sind, Rev. Department.
The Political and External Affairs Departments.

By order, etc.,

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 27th January 1945.

NOTIFICATION.

CENTRAL EXCISE.

No. 2-Camp. In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 12 and 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944 namely:—
In the said Rules:

I. After rule 9, the following rule shall be inserted, namely :—

“9A *Alteration of duty or tariff valuation.*—The rate of duty and the tariff valuation (if any) applicable to goods cleared on payment of duty shall be the rate and valuation (if any) in force on the date on which duty is paid, or, if the goods are cleared from a factory or a warehouse, on the date of the actual removal of such goods from such factory or warehouse.

Provided that if the goods have previously been removed from warehouse under bond to be rewarehoused and the duty is paid on such goods without their being rewarehoused, the rate and valuation (if any) applicable thereto shall be the rate and valuation (if any) in force on the date on which duty is paid, or if duty is paid through an account-current maintained with the Collector under Rule 9, on the date on which an application in the proper Form is delivered to the officer in charge of the warehouse from which the goods were removed”.

II. After sub-rule (2) of rule 224, the following sub-rule shall be inserted, namely :—

“(3) Except in special circumstances where the Central Board of Revenue, by general or special order in writing, otherwise directs, the quantities of excisable goods cleared for home consumption from a factory or from a warehouse (including quantities cleared under the proviso to Rule 9A during transit from one warehouse to another) during the month of February each year shall not exceed the following percentages of the total quantity cleared for home consumption from that factory or warehouse during the first three months of the previous year :—

First fourteen days.....16 per cent.

The whole month.....32 per cent.

If no excisable goods were cleared for home consumption from that factory or warehouse during the first three months of the previous year, the clearances during the month of February shall not exceed such quantities as the Central Board of Revenue may declare to be reasonable in the circumstances.”

H. GREENFIELD,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

THE HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume further consideration of the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, the question before the House with reference to this Bill is whether this monster of sagotra and sapravara, which is vitiating Hindu life and sapping the vitality of the Hindus should be allowed to continue or this monster should be annihilated. The sagotra business is such a superstition that it has vitiated the whole fabric of Hindu society. Like a thief, it has appropriated the province of marriage altogether and it is not satisfied with this theft of the province of marriage in the Hindu social system but it has also like a thief thrust its hand out into the different branches of the Hindu social system, such as adoption and succession with regard to property. In my speech of the other day, I tried to the best of my abilities to prove that this sagotra business has nothing to do with blood relationship, although ignorant Hindus will believe, and interested persons will put forward that sagotra means endogamy, in-breeding; and therefore our ancestors were very wise in bringing in this sagotra business. I have gone over the ground on that day and I have no desire to go over the whole ground again. I mean to prove to-day that this sagotra business is not religious—religion has absolutely nothing to do with it. For to begin with, what is the meaning of sagotra? It might be more easy to understand if I let the House know the way in which I am going to treat the subject. Connected with this sagotra intimately is this question of sapravara and sapinda; and to this clay god of sagotra I find that the Draft Hindu Code Committee, although it consisted of many eminent persons, and has made very many good suggestions, when they came down to this wall of superstition or bogey of sagotra, they also seem to me to have gone down before this clay god; and all that they have done is that they have taken this sagotra and sapravara business in the draft code as it is, without trying to understand, without trying to analyse what this really means. To give you a case in point: I find in the tentative proposals in the draft committee, on page 2,—“Gotra and pravara have the same meanings as in the Hindu Law before the commencement of this Code”. But what is the meaning? What meaning has gotra and pravara got? I think

[Dr. G. V. Deshmukh.]

it was the duty of the draft Hindu Code Committee to go into this, to say exactly what gotra and pravara mean and if it had any meaning to lay it down; but if it had no meaning then to throw it out altogether. Further on, I find in the same tentative draft code report, in sacramental marriage, suggestions have been made,—I do not say they are not in advance; but my point is that when you appoint a codification committee at the end of 4 or 5 years, when you say that the whole codification will come in as a whole, because we have put forward all these efforts and therefore we must accept the code as a whole—it behoves us, it is the duty of the Members of this House to see that proper attempts were made when this draft has been put forward. In this House we as individual members tried our best—it may not be perfect for us, but each and every member having the interests of the society and of the country at heart tried his best to make whatever suggestions we could. In 1939 or 1940 we appointed this codification committee; then they carry on their efforts for two or three years and at the end of that period, they have come forward with this kind of thing—I say it is the duty of us all to go into these and see what actually has been done.

With regard to this sagotra and sapinda and sapravara, on page 4, the parties must be within the degree of relationship prohibited by this chapter. The parties must not also be sapindas of each other; but further on at p. 15, if the parties are members of a caste having gotras and pravaras they must not belong to the same gotra or have a common pravara. This is going about the whole business in a blind and superstitious way, and not in any efficient way; and if our codification committees are inclined to go about in this fashion and merely codify and put together some laws which are already obviously quite plain, then I say we are not going about it in the proper way. Somebody has suggested that the legal mind is engaged in explaining the obvious and expatiating on the common, I think my legal friends will admit that that is a remark made against the legal mind—that it interests itself in illustrating the obvious and expatiating on what is common. If that is the qualification of a legal mind, then I say in certain respects the codification committee has gone about it according to its tradition. Therefore I would like to prove to the House that neither blood relationship nor religion has anything to do with this sagotra or sapravara business; and why? What is the meaning of the word 'gotra'? We need not be frightened as soon as something is said to be sagotra and therefore we should not touch it. Gotra really comes from the Sanskrit words 'go' and 'tra'; the derivative 'go' means a cow. It also means the earth—prithvi—and 'tra' means in Sanskrit 'to protect'. 'Gotra' has therefore nothing to do with blood relationship or anything else. As I suggested the other day, and as has been expounded by some of the Hindu legal luminaries in this country who want to go to the root of things—they say it originally meant a common place where the cows used to graze; and at the stage at which Hindu community was then, gotra really meant not even a family, but the place where cows were protected; and there is sufficient proof for this, because even in the Rig Veda—the oldest book on literature—we find that this word has been used in this meaning—that it means a place where the cows were protected. Further on I said it may also mean a school where pupils were taught. I say there is justification for that. But in the Hindu literature right up from the Rig Veda Sutras, through the Brahmanas and the Upanishads, through the Dharma Sutras, we cannot deny that gotra in this sense has been used. Later on gotra became what I might say, according to the history of the world, common; and it connoted altogether a different thing from what it originally meant; and it came to be used as a family or a group. Originally gotra had no connotation either religious or racial: it does not mean anything like blood relationship or has any religious meaning. Again, when you go into the history of gotras, what do we find? We find to begin with that there were only 7 gotras; and later on, with the inclusion of the great Rishi Agastya, it became 8 gotras. Later on, when we come down to the Sutra period, even Bodhayana, the great authority on

whose saying Hindu daughters and sisters were denied the right of inheritance, himself says that the gotras are in hundreds—'sahasrani'.

Now, if gotras were something sacred and religious, we will not find the gotras starting with 7 and going on to 8 and then going on to 10 and later on becoming innumerable. Therefore can there be anything religious or something fundamental about this gotra business? Not only that. When they say that people having sagotras should not marry, is it according to the history of the Hindus? I should like to know whether Vasudev and Devaki, the father and mother of the Great God, Krishna, the philosopher and the warrior who gave that jewel of thought, the Bhagavad Gita, to the Hindus and not only to the Hindus but to the whole philosophy of the world, did they not belong to the same gotra? If they belonged to the same gotra, that is, if the father and mother of the great Lord Krishna himself belonged to the same gotra, then what is the meaning of the ignorant present day Hindu community saying that sagotra marriage means marriage of blood and it means degeneration of the race. If a sagotra marriage of the parents of Krishna can produce a brilliant specimen, a model, a God like person, a philosopher and warrior, whom everybody could follow, whom every Hindu is proud to follow, whom I for one is proud to follow, is sagotra marriage to be condemned? If that is not enough, let me point out another instance to you. What about Pandu and Pritha. They were sagotra marriages. Then let me come down to the marriage of Arjuna and Subadra. Was it not sagotra marriage? What did it lead to from the point of view of children? The boy warrior Abhimanyu, that any Hindu child is proud of, one solitary person fighting innumerable hordes of enemies. That is the result of Sagotra marriages. If you leave Mahabharat and come to Ramayana, there again what do you find? Rama and Sita are Hindu God and Goddess. They married and belonged to the same gotra.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Where do you get it from?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I never speak without authority. My friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is a Sanskrit scholar and he will appreciate my point that Rama and Sita belonged to the same gotra. Not only that, Rama's brother Lakshmana and Urmila belonged to the same gotra. Therefore, Sir, the point is quite clear. If the Law Member accepts my proposals, then I shall not take up more time of the House. My point is this. When you appoint a committee of modern men to investigate this subject, what do you find? They say that this sagotra and pravara prohibitions will continue.

When we come down to the Pravaras, we find that the position is much worse. I am bold enough to say that nobody understands what pravara means. There are different interpretations. One set of Rishis and authorities will put down that pravaras mean ancestors for three generations; but there are other texts which say that pravaras are the descendants of those who profess the same gotra. Are you going to yield to all this? To begin with, pravaras have no solid foundation. In one text, it is said that those originators of the gotras, their fathers, grandfathers and their great-grandfathers, the three generations, they become the pravaras, the pita, pitamaha and the prapitamaha. On the other hand in the history of pravaras we find that even the descendants seem to be designated as pravaras. To give you an instance from our own history. Mandhata's, nephew and his great grand nephew, they become his pravaras and Angiras, he becomes the pravara of the father. Now, there is this uncertainty about the pravara. We do not know whether it means the ancestor or the descendants for three generations both ways. They are neither the originators nor the descendants. My own explanation would be that the pravara does not mean either the ancestor or the descendant but some upstarts who have been tacked on to those families and if the Hindu Codification Committee think that this thing should be retained, then it does not seem the right thing to do in this 20th century.

After this sagotra and pravara business, let me come down to something which is more intimate, at least something which we can understand, a third

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division with regard to marriage and that is the sapindas. One would have thought that at least in the case of sapindas, the position might have been made clear. I myself personally think that so far as religious authorities are concerned, what they mean is perfectly clear, and that is persons related by blood, whichever is born from the same originator. Here again unfortunately, according to the tendency of the learned Hindus, the things have been distorted. My daughter is my sapinda and if that is so, she must inherit in preference to many of the outsiders; but advantage has been taken of the language of Sanskrit, which like many other ancient languages has been derived from roots. Therefore you go back to the root and interpret it in a different way and attach a different meaning to it. You deprive your daughter, the flesh of your flesh of the right of inheritance. Sapindas are interpreted as those who are entitled to give rice balls to the ancestors. Not only that. This kind of interpretation was put by early English judges in the province of Bengal from which my distinguished friend, the Law Member, comes from. These English judges wanted that things should be done according to the usage and custom of the Hindu law and many of our modern Sanatanists think that the Hindu religion starts from the time of the interpretation of the Hindu texts by the English High Courts then established in Calcutta.

Now, in the case of sapindas we may say: "Very well, after all is said and done, there does seem to be a certain amount of force that the sapinda marriages might be prohibited so far as the in-breeding is concerned". But what do we find here? We find that if it is a sapinda, then there should be seven generations from the father's side and five generations from the mother's side. Here, again, there is something for which the All-India Women's Association and other women's associations might fight it out. Here also it seems to me that women have not been treated on a footing of equal basis, because men have been given the privilege of seven generations and the women of five generations only. There should be equality of rights. Besides, these seven generations from the father's side and five generations from the mother's side have been taken as something divine, as something that has been given as a divine inspiration by the Rishis and therefore we cannot change it. With the growth of mental science in the twentieth century I have tried to devote a little attention as to how this divine inspiration has come, and I do not think that the explanation is lacking even with regard to these seven and five generations. To give you a very short explanation of it.

If you sit down and think about it, you will find that a good deal of this so-called divine thinking is nothing but elementary thinking and what in logic might be called "thinking by analogy". You might also call it from the mind's point of view magical type of thinking. It is nothing divine if you analyse it. Now, do you know what my explanation of seven and five generations is? If you read Manu's smriti you will find that many of these so-called divine ideas are nothing but thoughts based on the analogy of agriculture, in the case of inheritance and also in the case of marriage, what are the ideas? You will find they are the ideas of seed and the field and we are inclined to think that these seed and field ideas are divine which have been given in the smritis. Nothing of the kind. They are the ideas which have been derived from the analogy of the seed and the field. The male element is considered to be the seed and the female element is considered to be the field. And from the very beginning greater importance is attached to the male element, that is, the seed, and necessarily the seed must be stronger than the field, the female element. Therefore, there must be seven generations from the father's side and five generations from the mother's side. There is even a better explanation than that. As the seed is stronger, therefore the son is 50; the grandson will be 25 and his son will be 12½ and in the sixth generation it becomes less than one. Therefore, they say seven generations from the father's side.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Mathematically, it will never finish.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: In that way it can never be reached. All of us, including yourself and myself, are derived from Brahma himself, and in that way in-breeding can never be prevented. As I was saying, from 50 to reach down to zero, it becomes exactly seven generations. Now, you take the female element or the mother element of the child. It is necessarily weaker. Therefore, you start from 25 and when you come down to zero, you have five generations. Therefore, five generations are prohibited. That is really the divine thinking behind this sapinda business. Even in the case of sapindas, my own opinion is that in-breeding is nothing like the evil that is thought of by the society or by the common man. I gave you the instance of Darwin in my last speech, which was a product of in-breeding. Today I have given the examples from our own history. Krishna himself is a product of in-breeding. If the Hindu society wants to have better children, with these illustrious examples I have given, all I can say is that they are hoping for an instance which has not been produced in all the previous centuries.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: May I interrupt the Honourable Member for certain information? I should like to know if on account of these sapinda marriages any man in any court has been prohibited from inheritance. Is there any recorded case on that point? If the Honourable Member knows it, will he kindly enlighten the House on that subject?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am glad to notice that my idea as to how the Hindu society is going about this business is correct. I do not know whether my Honourable friend is a lawyer. Even if he is not, he is sharing the faults of a common man and he shares it with very distinguished lawyers. That is to say, he is more interested in inheritance and succession than in the happiness of the human beings. I am dealing with the marriage question and inheritance may come to only a few. Everybody does not inherit. It is only in the case of those who have large estates that this question crops up.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You inherit debts!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The question of inheritance is more important in the opinion of a common man and in the opinion of a capitalist and I very much regret to say even in the opinion of the Hindu Law Committee. If an attempt was made for the common happiness of human beings, we would have got a very much better report than this. I am not concerned with inheritance and successions. To me the question of the happiness of human beings is of much greater importance than the question of inheritance and succession. Therefore, under the circumstances, the best thing we can do is to eliminate the sagotra business altogether. I appeal not only to my Hindu friends but also to the members of other communities to support us wholeheartedly against the obstinacy and the obduracy that is to be found in our society. I do not care who is responsible for it. It may be the priest, or the authorities or the Law Courts or the Government or the Law Department of the Government. But this is my appeal to them. I say that we are trying our best to see that our social system is raised and we are trying our best to get out of these evils.

We know now that with the advance of science and with the advance of research some of the things which are existing in Hindu society are absolutely unreasonable, they are absolutely superstitious. The best thing we can do is to eliminate them. My reason for eliminating some of these superstitions is mainly this. Ever since the time when we met last time, I have had some persons come to me and say, why do you worry about this sagotra Bill. After all in this country of 400 millions, there cannot be more than 400 instances of sagotra marriages. Why are you worrying yourself about these? What does it matter if it goes on? I said these are inhibitions which create a mentality in Hindu society of keeping on to their useless lumber of their religion and that the sooner they are eliminated, the better will it be for them and the more healthy will Hindu society become. Therefore it is not a question of slight importance. When once we proceed on these lines, we will soon shed many of our useless

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lumber which is keeping us weak, which is keeping us infirm. Therefore you cannot get into the mentality of cleaning yourself too quickly. That is my reason for this sagotra business. Since then, I see the Hindu Law Committee meeting, and they also have gone down before these clay gods and refuse to take note of these things. My intention was still more strengthened, and I thought it was absolutely vital at this stage that we should begin as soon as possible to get rid of these useless customs, and that we should not wait till the whole codification of Hindu law comes in. I have explained to the House sufficiently, I have given the House the rationale as to why no insistence should be made on retaining these provisions of prohibition of marriage on account of sagotra or sapravara. I am glad to find that even Manu, the great Hindu Law Giver, does not insist either on sagotras or sapravaras. All that he says is that a girl should be married who does not belong to the same sapinda. Pinda means body. At this stage there should be no marriage between sapindas of fifth or even seventh generations. I agree with that, although my personal views are different. All that Manu says is that there should be no marriage when they are sapindas. Not only that, we find the same view expressed in the oldest Purana—the Vishnu Purana, which according to Prof. Wilson, the great Oriental scholar, is the oldest Purana, the most ancient of the Puranas. Even there the restrictions are not with regard to sagotras or sapravaras, but the prohibition is only with regard to sapindas. That being so, at the most, if people are insistent that sapindas must not be allowed to marry—although it is wrong to insist according to me—one may agree. But so far as sapravaras and sagotras are concerned, the sooner they are eliminated, the better.

Whenever proposals for such reform are brought forward, we find mainly three kinds of objectors. Those who object to any kind of reform, the old sanatanist, the genuine sanatanist, for whom I have every respect. He believes in what he says. He does not oppose anything so long as there are no coercive laws. "Leave me alone", he says. He prays to his God and he believes in what he says and what he does. I do not deny he is genuine in his feeling. He does not want any change. But he has no objection to permissive laws, so long as there are no coercive laws. He says, you believe in your views, I believe in mine, but please do not force anything on me. Even as regards the Child Marriage Restriction Bill, I can tell you there were the old sanatanists who really believed that if they allowed their daughters to remain unmarried beyond the age of 10 or 12, they will not go to heaven. All I say is that I have absolute sympathy with them. I admire their conviction, although I may not agree with them. I have every respect for them. The second class of objectors are the pseudo-sanatanists.

An Honourable Member: Are there any in this House?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am not talking about any in this House. I am talking about my community outside this House. I do not want to waste any time of the House by going into details. I am relying on Members of this House who are Hindus to eliminate this sagotra and sapravara business and I appeal to those Honourable Members who are not Hindus to be with us, even though the Government may oppose this measure for reasons best known to them.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Who are the pseudo-reformers?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I was referring to the genuine sanatanists and the pseudo-sanatanists. The pseudo-sanatanists are those who want to adhere to the decisions of courts for the past 150 years. They want to adhere to the present state of things. This is what they think to be sanatanism. If you tell the pseudo-sanatanist that in the older smritis and dharma sastras, sagotra and sapravara marriages were allowed, but due to some unavoidable circumstances, they became modified later on and that what passes for Hindu law in the present days is not real Hindu law according to old smritis and dharma sastras, he will not believe it. I do not say that he will not believe it, but he will not agree to it. He says, no, this is sanatanism. When it was pointed out to him that

provision actually existed before in Hindu law giving right of property to women and that there was no restriction to women acquiring and keeping property—in the older schools, this right was given which I pointed out in my first Bill—the pseudo-sanatanist will not agree. When I brought forward my Bill for giving one-fourth share to daughter in her own absolute right and that this right should not be modified or fooled away by the camouflage of dowry, the pseudo-sanatanist did not agree. The pseudo-sanatanist is one who has acquired money recently and he thinks that he will control religion as well as politics by means of his wealth which he has accumulated. Because a few decisions of the Privy Council help him, he thinks there should be no change in the Sanatanism which he believes. I have nothing but utter disgust and shame for these kinds of pseudo-sanatanists. The majority of those who are not genuine sanatanists and who borrow this kind of pseudo-sanatanism belong to this class. I will tell you the third class of people who will object to this measure.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You plead for daughters.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: When I was pleading for their cause, you brought forward a Bill behind my back. You did not have the courtesy to take into confidence those who had worked right from the beginning.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: That case was big enough.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: It was done behind my back. I will not say how because it is a painful history—we were kept absolutely in the dark. I am referring to that modification which came subsequent to Women's Rights of Property Act. I say that was the state of affairs. I make bold to say that there was nothing in this Codification Report which was not put in by a layman like myself in my first Bill. There is the absolute right, there is the right of succession. I do not claim any originality for this. I do not even claim it as a reform. All I did was to go back to the old literature. I did not rely on the decisions of the High Courts and on the precedents of the Privy Council Reports. I went back to the old literature. I have seen in my life the injustices that have been done to the daughters and the women of my society—flesh of my flesh and blood of my blood—and I wonder how any society could have existed for a long time in this state of affairs. When I went back to the old literature, I found that nothing new was wanted and I thought that if I could only point out that this exists, the House will accept it. But imagine my disappointment when I came to know that it could not be done. When I came to this House I thought all that I had to do was to point out the real sources of Hindu Law and that the so-called Sanatanists—these pseudo-sanatanists, as I now call them—would accept it, but imagine my disappointment when I came to know that that was not the case. According to law we could not change. Distinguished lawyers and Pandits talked to me and I came to the conclusion that with a society like this wherein nothing but self-interest is masqueraded as religion, the only thing to do is to do it by law; force it down their throats, compel them and then only they will see the fair tenets of their own religion.

Now I come to the intellectuals. This is the third class which opposes any kind of reform. They do so in a very subtle way and their process is very easy for anybody who can see: they will put forward best as the enemy of good. You suggest something and they suggest something better. They will say 'this is insufficient; in this you won't make enough progress; what is the good of accepting this; if you accept this you are likely not to get the best; why not try for the best?' These are the intellectuals. To this class belong—according to their bringing up and traditions—many of the bar associations and legal associations. These legal associations, I may point out, seem to be non-existent and sleeping from the beginning of one decade to the beginning of another decade, but let any private Member come here and introduce a Bill and then they seem to wake up. Their job is, as somebody has defined, illustrating the obvious and expatiating on what is common. Their job is, as soon as something is put forward, they will put forward a number of objections that can be raised

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in connection with it, and they will prove and explain the obvious. Beyond that they will do nothing. This is the third class. Therefore, I say, you have to steer clear of all these difficulties and obstacles.

Sir, it is a very long subject and I do not want to take more time of the House. There is one thing that I would like to point out to the Legal Department. I find that again and again it has been said that the reform should not be piecemeal. Nobody will be more pleased than myself if the whole codified Bill will get through. I admit that this codification business, as it has come before us, except for a few blind spots, is good. They have taken many of the suggestions which were put forward by Members of this House before the Codification Committee came into existence, and therefore nobody will be more pleased than myself if the whole codified Bill passes through. But I also feel that by attaching the Section of Marriage with succession and property, you have done a very wrong thing so far as women are concerned, because I gather from press reports as well as from my talk with different people that there is going to be a great deal of opposition so far as the question of succession is concerned. When you say that the whole Bill should get through, I can give any bet to the Law Member that he will not be able to proceed with the whole Bill—i.e. the marriage section and the section on succession. There are many parts of this draft Code which can be separated. The marriage section can be separated from the succession section, and if that is done, it is likely that many of the blemishes of the Hindu society could be removed, lives of Hindu men and women could be made happy. And I think there would be no objection to separating these sections

Pandit Nilakantha Das: If you think of marriage without children.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That is for you and men like you.

So far as the adoption section in this draft Code is concerned, I do not see how any sensible man can oppose the adoption section. Sir, I request the Honourable the Law Member that if he will only be good enough, graceful enough and bold enough to separate the adoption section from this and will not insist on the whole Code being passed as such he will get the full support of this House and not only of this House but of the whole public.

Similarly, with regard to this marriage section. I think there are many provisions—provisions of monogamy, provisions of maintenance of residence, provisions of divorce, etc.—to which no reasonable section of the Hindu community can take exception. I say there are blind spots, but on those blind spots I am sure the House will help him, and intelligent opinion also will help him to remove those blind spots. Today we are talking about one blind spot and that blind spot can easily be removed without interference with and repercussions on the other parts of the Codification that is before us. Therefore, I request the Legal Department and the present Law Member, who, I am very glad to say, being a Hindu will be able to appreciate my point of view better, that he should separate many of the clauses from the draft of the Codification Committee. I do not wish to be misunderstood. It is likely that in my speech on the subject I might have been vehement but I hope the Legal Department and the Law Member will attribute it more to the importance of the question than to temper on my part. I am here to help the Law Department. I do not look on the Law Member as somebody who is apart from me. I look upon the Legal Department and the Law Member as my own and perhaps although the manner of suggesting may not be as it should be, I want him to believe that I want to help the Law Department as much as I can, so that my society will be helped better, and if the Law Member will only accept this suggestion of getting parts of this Code draft with which he is not likely to meet so much opposition from the public and on which intelligent opinion is agreed, then I think all the disabilities of society, so far as Hindu society is concerned, can be more conveniently removed.

1 P.M.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): I thought the Hindu Code was wanted and the Hindu Law Committee has been drafting the entire Hindu Code.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I wish to say instead of Hindu Code the Hindu Law Committee suggestions.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: It is called the Hindu Law Committee.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: You understand what I mean.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: If you will read the first paragraph of the explanatory statement you will see how they come into being.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I quite see that. I am also encouraged by reading it because the draft is supposed to be tentative. They are not wedded to any provisions but they are prepared to take many other suggestions. Therefore, my suggestion is that of the suggestions made, do not let Government, for reasons of form or for the appearance of being constitutional, be so much wedded to this idea that we will have the whole code and nothing but the whole code, and that if we separate them it will be piecemeal. My request to the Law Member is that this part can be subdivided without injuring the whole, the aim being to get the whole thing gradually. If they think they can get whole code through, do it by all means. But from the experience of what has happened in the country at the present time, it does not seem to me that if the succession and the marriage thing are put together, there is a likelihood of them going through without much opposition. If you separate the marriage part and the adoption from the succession part it will not have any influence on your succession. On the other hand it is more likely that you will be able to get the marriage and adoption provisions through more easily.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: But my Honourable friend does not seem to be aware that when separate Bills were introduced regarding intestate succession, and marriage, the opinion seemed to be that there should be one comprehensive code and these Bills should not be taken separately. From that the Hindu Law Committee have prepared the Code and now my Honourable friend says 'don't let us have a Code: let us have those individual Bills separately'.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That opinion came from the so-called intellectual class. I am talking to you now for those who do not belong to that intellectual class which keeps on explaining the obvious or expatiating the common. It is from the point of view of the practical man who has had a little bit to deal with society. This is the request I am making to you. Separate the succession part, the inheritance part and the property parts from these other parts, and I am sure from what I can see and also from the support that the older religion gives to you that it will be easier for you to get through the marriage part and the adoption part than the succession part. If you do that I think you will be doing the right thing from the humanitarian point of view because then we will not be so much concerned with estates and successions and all the other wordy things. But we would be dealing more successfully with the happiness of individual beings of the society, which is after all far more important than the other things.

I belong to that great religion which says that the greatest sin is to hurt others and the greatest merit is to make others happy:

"Paropkaray Punyay Papaya Para Pidanam".

The whole of religion and human ethics has been centered in the Mahabharat in this light and what would you say if you keep on hurting the one section of your community—the women folk of your society who after all are your flesh and blood, your own bone, your own everything. Let me point out to you that if hurting any other person is a sin, the greatest sin is that which when you hurt somebody belonging to you. I have no doubt that inspite of the knowledge and light we have gained now, if we persist in this kind of attitude, the choicest hell that Hindu religion has found will be held out for those Hindus.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I thought after the Bill was withdrawn on the last occasion it would not come up again for discussion in this House, at least in this form. A Select Committee was proposed last time and I find another Select Committee has been proposed here and I was amused to see a bit of a difference. I did not understand what it exactly meant. Perhaps the Committee has been sought to be made more democratic under the modern practical, non-intellectual and non-Sanatani ideas. In the last Committee there were names like Bhai Parma Nand and of poor myself and others. We are Brahmins. But the Committee was not found to be democratic and persons like my friends Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, Sir Ratanji Dalal and Mr. Hoosainbhoy Lalljee have been included. I am glad they are there. It is more democratic today. But in India the general phrase is "all castes and communities". This is not the occasion but if the motion comes to be put I shall probably propose half a dozen other names, which will include castes which have not been included here. It is a very peculiar and rather important thing and it struck me. Perhaps this is the practical way of achieving reforms in Hindu society. There are some people who are not wanted and others are wanted for democratic purposes. The latter will help the reform of the Hindu society better.

My friend Dr. Deshmukh always quotes law-givers like Manu. Perhaps he desires that he should be a Manu or that there should come Manus in this House.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: How do you know that I am not Manu himself reincarnated?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Let me assume that you are. Yet I do not know whether you know that Mr. Manu or rather Dr. Manu had to labour under very different circumstances. He never had a legislature like this where views are legislated and enforced. The Hindu culture is based on a different organisation and it is different in conception from other cultures. Manu gave some ideals to a small section of the society. My friend has quoted instances like Vasudeva and Devaki, Pandu and Kunti. I am sorry he forgot to tell the House that our Lord Sri Krishna connived or allowed his own sister to be stolen away by his own cousin Arjuna.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I did mention Arjuna and Subadra.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I am sorry I did not hear it. He has not probably heard of Svetaketu and I may remind him that in those days a guest in a host's house could enjoy the latter's wife, if he liked, even sexually.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): You are getting to be vulgar.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: That is also in the Puranas and in the Mahabharatha. It is in our tradition. The Puranas record events and customs from the days when human sacrifices were offered to the days of even Dr. Deshmukh, himself.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Why do you pride yourself on that? It existed all the world over in primitive societies. There was no such thing as marriage or even a home in those days.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, I was saying

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: We cannot hear.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will you please speak up?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I was speaking of Ancient Law-givers like Manu. They had a very uncommon sense of discrimination in selecting and stabilising customs and institutions. But on this abstruse issue I need not labour to convince persons like the Honourable Member who spoke this morning—I gave

the illustration of Swetaketu. Some of my friends objected to my giving that illustration, for in their opinion marriage had not been developed by the time of Swetaketu. That may be disputed. But take the illustration of Draupadi. Manu never allowed a marriage like Draupadi's marriage in Hindu society. He has given no injunctions to the society to have polyandry. The conditions of society which prevailed then were different. To say that we should all be Manus and we should be recognised as Manus may well serve to tickle our vanity, but personal vanity and truth do not go together. If I may go back to history, my friends like Dr. Deshmukh will perhaps accept that in those days the Aryan people who conquered some portion of northern India wanted the cultural absorption of the foreign people among whom they lived and had to propagate their race: their sense of racial purity achieved by such absorption was an outstanding fact: even today some of those who think they are Aryans—I mean the Germans—have their sense of racial purity as an Aryan tradition. In order to preserve their racial unity at the time the Indian Aryans had to marry even their cousins and to keep the unity in absorption they legitimised all sorts of children. But it does not follow that the eight forms of marriage of which Manu has spoken should be treated as precedents for some law which you now want to enact today.

My friend has given some illustrative interpretations which are, in my opinion at least, *prima facie* wrong. I will say how. In explaining *gotra* he goes to the root, but the branches and the fruits he cannot see, because he looks below at the root always. *Gotra* is made up of 'go' and 'tra'i'—that is a fact; and he knows that 'go' means cow as well as earth, 'tra'i' means to save, to keep secure. But how he makes it out to mean grazing ground I cannot understand. It is the man who keeps secure both land and cow. I assume that my friend is versed in the puranas and shastras. In those days the properties of our Aryan ancestors consisted in a plot of land, perhaps adjoining the house or homestead or in the jungle somewhere for cultivation of a little rice or barley. Their *dhanam* or money was the cow. The cow was considered the coin or currency and so the name 'Godhanam' is so very common in our ancient shastras. So the man who keeps secure the property—cow and land—of the family was the *Gotra*. He was the head of the family: under Roman law also you find that the father was the man who was responsible for keeping secure the property of the family and so he was the head of the family. *Gotra* does not mean a plot of grazing ground.

Then he says that the *gotras* were first five, then seven and then eight and then became numerous and he says there is no meaning in it. I am sorry he does not care to understand—or perhaps does not care to say what he understands—that there were first a few families only and therefore a few *gotras*, and then as the families spread and went to different places and settled down, the number of *gotras* increased: the fathers became more and more; and so it is not a fact that *gotra* has nothing to do with our blood. Whether you accept it or not at this distant date after many generations, is a different question; but do not deceive yourself and deceive your audience by saying that *gotra* means a plot of pasture ground.

Then he gives his interpretation of *pravara*. He does not understand what it is. If it means anything it means the father, grand-father and great-grand-father of some man who was living somewhere in ancient times. I could not follow him. He did not go to the root—a man who is so much addicted to roots did not go to the root and its meaning here. *Pravara* means most prominent, *pra-vara*—from which comes the word 'bara' meaning big. One *gotra* has been divided into so many branches naturally in course of time, to indicate the particular line, *pravaras*, or prominent men of that line are mentioned. My *Gotra* is *Kausika*. My *Pravara* is, or more correctly *pravaras* of my line are *Krusika*, *Aghamarshana* and *Viswamitra*. The meaning of it is not as stated by my friend. So, he should be better advised to study these things and to discriminate things properly, if he likes to be, if not a Manu, at least one like Manu in this age.

[Pandit Nilakantha Das]

Then I was surprised, when he was supporting his brother's Bill, to see him saying that marriage has nothing to do with children. What is the meaning of marriage as a social institution? Marriage in law means legitimacy for those that will come out of the marriage. If you mean that you should marry only for the pleasure of the union, then it has nothing to do with law or legislation.

Then, I particularly wanted to know if on account of this pravara or gotra there has been any difficulty in society. He said nothing on that point, I am sorry to say. With some flourish of words he wants to make a name for himself or his brother. There is nothing else.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): You are making a name for yourself by making this speech.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I say that there has been no difficulty in society owing to the lack of this reform. That is my contention. Pleasure of individuals in union is not the ideal of marriage as a legal or social institution. Rather, limitations have got to be put upon such union to make it a social institution.

Then again Sudras are excluded from this gotra business. They have nothing to do with it. This is a Brahminic institution, it is an institution of people of high castes. (*An Honourable Member:* "What is high caste?") You are not governed by Hindu law. You have not got to think of gotra or paravara. My friend should understand that even the highly cultured Bengali Kayasthas are excluded from this category. They are not governed by this gotra or pravara business. It is only the high caste Hindus and Brahmins who are affected. (*An Honourable Member:* "What is the definition of 'high caste Hindus'?") High Courts now say who is high caste and who is not. Sudras are not to think of Gotra or Prabara in marriage and highest courts have said that even Bengali Kayasthas are Sudras. Then for whom in India is this law wanted?

Then my friend appeals to all communities to help him. What does he mean? No other community is concerned. Only the Brahmins are concerned. This is being trumpeted as a very important piece of reform. What reforms is this? What importance is there? Why should this House be insulted with so insignificant a thing like this, I do not understand. You are outraging the Hindu feeling for nothing. If there is some utility, one can understand it. Last time, the Mover of the Bill was well advised to think of Civil Marriage Act, or some kind of Registration in cases which are cases of extreme hardship, according to him. There is also Arya Marriage Act. But being a Brahminical institution how can this come under sacramental law? I am a Brahmin. So are Deshmukhs. When Dr. Deshmukh was given the hand of his bride by the bride's father or guardian he must have known the *mahavakaya* or the great utterance. In this the father of the girl has got to say the gotra of his family and then that of the bridegroom's family with all the solemnity of a Vedic rite. What will happen if the same gotra is to be repeated in case of the bridegroom? The gift will be invalid and as soon as it is repeated, the priest and the 'prompter', i.e., the *Pushtakacharya*, will be horrified and probably go away. So I say this being purely a Brahminic institution, why not in the exceptional cases, if any, take to civil marriage or the Arya Samajist form of marriage which is also a form of Hindu marriage. Why do you come and outrage the feelings of the poor Brahmins of the country. I know in some communities first cousins marry. (*An Honourable Member:* "Some Brahmins do that".) But I do not think agnates marry.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Agnates do not marry. Sagotra marriages do not exist even in Madras.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: You can speak for Madras. I am not an authority on what prevails in Madras.

Then I say that the drafting of the Bill is very defective. I do not know what is behind the back of the mind of the Mover of the Bill. He says:

"Notwithstanding any custom, rule or interpretation of the Hindu Law, a marriage, which is otherwise valid, shall not be invalid because—

(a) it is between Hindus belonging to the same gotra or pravar; or".

I want to know where does it exclude Sapindas? Of course, I am not a lawyer, but the drafting of the Bill seems *prima facie* very defective.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: If you are not a lawyer, then do not talk.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Where does it exclude explicitly the sapindas? That ought to have been mentioned.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: What is not included is excluded.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: It is also likely to be contended that all Sapindas are not otherwise excluded. You must have specifically mentioned that. Cases will go to the High Courts; it is not a joke and you will not be there to interpret it. You have not said that and therefore somehow there will also be a loophole for the cousins to marry.

Then, there is another thing, the sub-castes. I have never heard in my life that any sub-caste marriage, that is, a marriage between sub-castes within the same caste, has been objected to by anybody. Perhaps some conservative caste men sometimes object and take Rs. 5 or Rs. 500. That might be the only barrier, but I have never seen such a marriage ever falling through. Sub-castes have never objected and inter-marriages are going on, for it is considered to be one caste. So, I want to tell my Honourable friend that he was very well advised last time to have withdrawn the Bill and I request him to do the same thing today. I ask both the brothers not to be very keen on these pseudo-reforms.

Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy President, I will not detain the House for more than a few minutes. Sir, from the eugenic point of view objection is taken to the Bill before the House—the Hindu Marriage Disabilities Removal Bill that blood relatives should not be allowed to marry. But I may point out that this Bill prohibits marriages amongst the Hindus belonging to the same *gotra* up to the seventh degree of consanguinity, and that the Shastric injunction is not to recognise the tie of relationship after the seventh degree of consanguinity. But, Sir, let alone the seventh degree of consanguinity. Let us examine the first degree of consanguinity, namely, cousin marriage. Questions are often asked—would such a marriage, namely, cousin marriage, have any adverse effect upon the possible family? Would the children be peculiarly liable to any defects, mental or physical, or to any disease in particular? Sir, marriage between blood relatives differs from any other marriage only because the partners tend to carry more of the same hereditary factors than unrelated people do. There is no doubt that in the human species, there exist many undesirable recessive genes. Now, Sir, let me explain to the House the expression "recessive gene". A gene is an invisible transmitted germ or hereditary factor. A recessive factor is a factor possessed by one of the parents of a hybrid, which may not appear in the hybrid but is latently present and is capable of being transmitted to the descendants. A hybrid is the offspring of the union of a male of one community with a female of the other community. Sometimes the word "hybrid" is used in medicine, for example, German measles is a hybrid between measles and scarlet fever, that is to say, in German measles symptoms of both diseases measles and scarlet fever are present.

Now, Sir, I shall recur to my point. I said, there is no doubt that in the human species, there exist many undesirable recessive genes. Should one partner carry such a gene, the chance that an unrelated person will carry the very same gene is very small indeed. Only when both partners carry such a gene, can the defect appear in the offspring. The possibility that an undesirable recessive trait may appear in the offspring is one of the inescapable risks.

[Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal.]

inherent in any marriage. The risk is certainly much increased in a consanguinous marriage; but harmful recessive genes are not numerous enough to make that risk more than a small one absolutely. It does not appear to be the sort of risk that ought to deter cousin marriage. He must be a bold physician who would advise against a cousin marriage simply because it was a cousin marriage. Therefore, taking into consideration all these circumstances I see no objection to the Hindus belonging to the same *gotra* being allowed to marry.

Sir, I must confess that I know nothing about the castes and sub-divisions of castes amongst the Hindus, much less about the *gotra*, *sagotra*, *prawar*, *sprawars*, *sapindas* and *nishā* systems prevalent among the Hindus.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How did you know all these names?

Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal: So, I feel that I cannot possibly make any useful contribution in the event of the Bill being referred to the Select Committee. In these circumstances, I earnestly beg that I may be allowed to withdraw myself from the Select Committee; but I am nonetheless grateful to my Honourable friend Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh for including my name in the Select Committee.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion of my Honourable friend from Nagpur. My Honourable friend Pandit Nilakantha Das, if I understood him right, said that this Bill was an insignificant thing and it was not proper for this Assembly to deal with it. I have come from a sick bed to tell this House that, though this Bill is a simple measure, it deals with a very urgent and important piece of social reform for which we have been agitating for a long time and it must be passed into law without delay. Honourable Members who have spoken in support of this Bill have already replied to the argument that may be put forward against this Bill, namely, that piecemeal legislation of this kind should be abandoned because the Government have promised to give us the Hindu Code. I agree with my Honourable friend that the uncertainty of the Government implementing this promise is so great that it is not possible for us to wait indefinitely when the need for this reform is very urgent. I am glad therefore that my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh is persevering in urging this House to refer this Bill to a Select Committee.

My Honourable friend the Law Member accused the Honourable Mover of this motion for not sticking to his part of the bargain. What is this
 3 P.M. bargain? Does the Honourable the Law Member expect Honourable Members of this House to abstain from bringing forward legislation to deal with matters which come within the purview of the Hindu Code, just because Government have promised to give us the Hindu Code some day? I am afraid my Honourable friend forgets that representatives of the people in this House have a serious responsibility and they are in duty bound to strive their very best to serve the interests of the people, and that when they realise that there is urgency for a measure of this kind, it is their duty to ask this House to deal with it without delay. Also, as my Honourable friend from Benares pointed out, young people who want to get married, or parents who want to get their sons and daughters married cannot wait indefinitely for the codification of the Hindu Code to remove restrictions about *sagotras* and castes. I would also remind this House of the experience we have had with regard to the Hindu Code, which proves who it is that has failed to keep his part of the bargain. The Hindu Intestate Succession Bill was referred to the Select Committee two years ago with great flourish of trumpets. During the following session the House was given a chance of having just a bare glimpse of the Select Committee's report before it was whisked away on the plea that it had to be circulated for eliciting public opinion. I now find that as far as this House is concerned, the

Bill and the Select Committee's report have both gone into oblivion. If we enquire of the Leader of the House who was responsible for introducing that Bill, as to its fate, he shrugs his shoulders with a smile which it is difficult to interpret.

The Marriage Bill, the second part of the Hindu Code, was referred to a Select Committee about a year ago, and in doing so the Government showed great haste and impatience. Discussion on the Bill was curtailed on the understanding that if the Bill was referred to the Select Committee during that Session the report of the Select Committee would be ready for the following autumn Session. But we do not yet know whether the Joint Select Committee functioned at all, or will function or when it will function. Apart from any bargain with individual members that the Government may have with regard to this kind of legislation, I ask the House to consider whether the Government have implemented their own assurance which the Honourable Member said he gave in unmistakable language to the House.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: What assurance?

Shrimati K. Radhabai Subbarayan: That the Hindu marriage Bill would be referred to the Select Committee and that the report of that Committee would be circulated for eliciting public opinion last year.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I see

Shrimati K. Radhabai Subbarayan: There seems to be a kind of mystery about the promised Hindu Code. We receive information only from press reports which tell us that the draft Hindu Code and the Hindu Law Committee are moving about in the country, the former apparently to collect hostile opinion and the latter to gather evidence from witnesses. At the same time, the press tells us that there is a sudden rush of meetings and statements and new organisations for opposing that Code. In this state of affairs, it is I must confess, very difficult to understand what the real intentions of the Government are with regard to the Code.

Another peculiar feature which I would respectfully point out, and I hope the Honourable the Law Member will forgive me for doing so, is the silence of the Honourable the Law Member himself on this subject. I think this House is aware that it has become a habit with Honourable Members of the Government of India to speak on the policy of the Government though in vague language with regard to subjects in their charge when they go on tour to different parts of the country. But my Honourable friend the Law Member has been discreetly silent on the subject of the Hindu Code.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In that matter, he is better because other people make speeches which we do not approve of.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Yes, I am afraid my file of press cuttings is becoming too bulky with regard to some of the other Honourable Members of the Government! This silence gives the impression that the Government really have no definite policy or programme about the Hindu Code and that decisions are taken as and when occasions arise, to secure postponement of the consideration of the Hindu Code. There is an impression prevailing in the country, to which the opponents of the Hindu Code give expression with great jubilation, that the Government are really opposed to the Hindu Code and that they are adopting dilatory tactics to put off, what in their opinion, is the evil day. What is the need for evidence from witnesses at this late stage? The Hindu Code and the measures of reform that it recommends have been before the public for several years and those who are interested in them have replied to questionnaires and sent in their opinion. In fact the agitation for social reform has been going on since the days of our great social reform leader, Rajah Ram Mohan Roy. The Indian National Congress has repeatedly supported this demand and has declared that it stands for the removal of all kinds of disabilities and inequalities, social, economic and legal. Why should Government at this late hour insist on a lengthy procedure of collecting evidence all over the country? Honourable Members of this House represent vast constituencies and surely they understand what the feelings of their

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

constituents are. The All-India Women's Organisations of repute and long experience, have been consistently demanding legislation for these reforms. What more evidence can we have? There is a little opposition but it comes from a small section which as my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa pointed out, belongs to the older and passing generation who are not affected by this legislation. That there is difference of opinion between the older and the younger generation was seen clearly the other day at Bombay when a father and son, both learned and distinguished members of the Bar gave contradictory evidence. I think this is true with regard to opposition from a section of women also. With all due respect to the new organisations of women who oppose the Code, may I point out that they consist mainly of members of the older generation of wealthy and titled women and their dependents who have hardly any contact with the general public and who cannot understand the feelings and thoughts of the great mass of our women. It may be that these women are merely repeating the views of their husbands from an exaggerated sense of devotion and loyalty to their husbands as they must have been brought up to believe in the maxims which are supposed to have been laid down by our ancestors thousands of years ago, maxims such as: that the highest duty of women is to obey the husband and that if a woman disagrees with or displeases her husband, she will not go to his world after death.

Sir, Government rush through legislation dealing with matters affecting the day to day life of our people, without going through all this elaborate procedure that they have for the Hindu Code and very often they impose laws and taxes against the wishes of the people and contrary to the clear verdict of this House. They have no hesitation in levying pilgrim taxes or in prohibiting Hindus from attending the celebration of their festivals in certain places of religious fame. But when they are asked to undertake legislation for social reform and progress in this country, they develop a peculiar kind of conscience which makes them hesitate to deal with the matter. It is obvious that the Government find that the policy of non-interference in social and religious matters is a convenient cloak for their unwillingness to improve conditions in India. I am reminded, Sir, in this connection, of what Mahatma Gandhi stated on this subject in the *Young India* of 13th of October 1927:

"In pre-British days there was no such thing as rigid Hindu Law governing the lives of millions. The body of regulations known as Smritis were indicative, rather than inflexible, codes of conduct. They never had the validity of law such as is known to modern lawyers. The observance of the restraints of the Smritis was enforced more by social than legal sanctions. The Smritis were, as is evident from the self-contradictory verses to be found in them, continually passing, like ourselves, through evolutionary changes, and were adapted to the new discoveries that were being made in social science. Wise kings were free to procure new interpretations to suit new conditions. Hindu religion or Hindu shastras never had the changeless and unchanging character that is now being sought to be given to them."

I would draw special attention of my Honourable friend, Mr. Nilakantha Das, to this portion:

"No doubt in those days there were kings and their councillors who had the wisdom and the authority required to command the respect and allegiance of society. But now the custom has grown up of thinking that Smritis and everything that goes by the name of shastras is absolutely unchangeable. The verses which we find to be unworkable or altogether repugnant to our moral sense we conveniently ignore. This very unsatisfactory state of things has to be, some day or other and somehow, changed, if Hindu society is to become a progressive unit in human evolution. The British rulers cannot make these changes because of their different religion and their different ideal. Their ideal is to sustain their commercial supremacy and to sacrifice every other interest, moral or otherwise, for the attainment of that ideal. Unless, therefore, Hindu public opinion clearly demands it and it can be made without any injury to their ideal, no drastic change in our customs or so-called laws will be attempted or countenanced by them."

When the attitude of our imperialist rulers, is apathetic if not hostile, with regard to matters of social reform and progress in this country, it behoves us who are striving for the advancement of our country to make every effort to secure legislation for social reform in this country.

I share the regret of my Honourable friend, the learned Doctor from Bombay that our educated and organised women are not energetic and active enough in striving for legislation to improve the condition of women. I think the reason for it is that in India we are liable to develop a weakness for what is called "spoon-feeding", depending on the Government to take the initiative in subjects concerning the welfare of the people. Political and social reform leaders have repeatedly warned us against this tendency. Mahatma Gandhi has stated that it is not this custom or that which needs condemnation but the inertia which refuses to move in the face of an admitted evil that needs to be removed and that educated women who have shed superstition and have become conscious of the wrongs that exist in our society have to do the constructive work of reform.

Sir, the custom prohibiting marriages between sagotras and sub-castes may have been necessary in every ancient times when conditions were surely different from what they are today. The origin of many of our social customs, if not all, is very obscure and I feel that it is wrong to insist on adherence to these ancient and hoary customs in modern days when we see with our own eyes the harm that the prevalence of such customs does to society in our country. Social customs and usages are not universal in our country. It has already been pointed out here that while marriages among sagotras, even when there is no blood relationship, are forbidden marriages among close relations, such as uncle and niece and first cousins are permitted in certain parts of the country. If customs and usages were really part of the Hindu religion, we would not have had these complexities and variations in our social life. I cannot understand why the continued existence of Hindu religion should depend on the observance of old customs which have become harmful to society. Religion, I believe is progressive and is intended for purifying, elevating and ennobling people. Surely it should not depend on the observance of certain ancient customs and usages which cause much trouble and hardship to the people.

There is another point, Sir, in regard to this Bill to which I would like to draw the attention of this House. When there are restrictions about marriages which this Bill seeks to remove, the field for selection of bridegrooms becomes very small and causes great hardship to parents in a society where marriage of girls is almost compulsory. Walls against castes and communities and sagotras for marriages narrow the range within which people can marry and the dowry system which causes much anxiety to parents who want to get their daughters married, becomes a real menace. There have been some tragic instances, Sir, in Hindu society when girls have committed suicide, either because they felt a deep sense of humiliation that young men had to be bribed with large sums of money in order to marry them, or because they could not bear the mental torture caused by the distress of their parents about the difficulty of getting them married. I feel, Sir, that this measure is therefore not only reformatory but also humanitarian and that it is the duty of every Member of this Honourable House to support this motion and help in placing this Bill on the Statute Book without undue delay.

Lala Sham Lal (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, Sir: I rise to oppose this measure under debate. I do so as vehemently as it is possible for me to do. I do not think I shall have to make any lengthy speech at this stage discussing all the *pros* and *cons* of this measure, but I would like to place before this House and for the consideration of the Honourable Members of this House a few points which I consider important before this measure is proceeded with further.

Sir, from the line of debate that has been carried so far, I am inclined to think that the Honourable friends in this House supporting this measure have been taking the institution of marriage amongst Hindus as only a social institution which is not the case. They have been talking of the evils of sagotra marriage as only a social evil, which is wrong. I want to point out to all sections of this House that the marriage institution as it prevails among Hindus

[Lala Sham Lal.]

is not a social institution at all. It is rather a religious institution based upon spiritual thoughts laid down in shrutis and Smritis and enunciated and declared by the sages and seers of India. That being so, no Hindu can tolerate that religious thoughts, religious sentiments and religious rites should be interfered with by Government or by any Legislature established by this Government. The undertakings by Government not to interfere with the religious sentiments of the people is a matter too well known to be repeated here.

Sir, the marriage institution as it exists today has got many forms. There are eight forms of marriages recognised under Hindu law: (1) Brahma, (2) Diva, (3) Arsha, (4) Prajapatya, (5) Gandharva, (6) Asura, (7) Rakshasha and (8) Paishach. Out of these eight forms, the last four forms, viz., (5) Gandharva, (6) Asura, (7) Rakshaha, and (8) Paishach are the forms in which hindrances to sagotra marriage are not placed and some of which have already been noted by the Honourable Mover of this measure in his Statement of Objects and Reasons. That being the case, he ought to be content that sagotra marriage among Hindus of certain classes is already permitted under the Hindu Law. But the Bill seeks to impose the very same conditions upon other forms of marriages that prevail mostly amongst the twice-born classes of Hindus which cannot be accepted. As pointed out by my Honourable friend

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): What is sati? Is it a religious institution or not?

Lala Sham Lal: I shall be coming to that.

Then, Sir, as pointed out by Pandit Nilakantha Das it is no business of a Government or the Legislature to thrust or impose the same conditions as prevailing in the last four forms of marriage upon the first four in which Sati Dharma and Pativrat Dharma predominantly prevail. With these forms of marriages the married couple is required to perform yagna religious rites and these mostly prevail in the twice born classes of Hindus. If we can force the rules of the last four forms of marriage upon the first-four forms, it would mean that the whole law of sacred thread yagnopavitra has to be thrown into the waste-paper basket and the rites yajna are altogether destroyed. In these first four forms of marriages totally religious thoughts prevail and these are called sacramental marriages. These marriages take place before the nuptial fire, the sacred fire. The rites in these four marriages are carried out according to Vivaha Paddadi consisting of Vedic Mantras and Smriti Mantras. These marriages are performed before the nuptial fire, before God, as if he were a witness. The differences of gotra of both the girl, the bride, and the boy, the bridegroom, are declared before the nuptial fire. There the ascent and descent of generations are counted and afterwards when the rites are gone through the girl expressly undertakes that she on account of certain undertakings has given up the gotra of her father and is going to identify herself with the gotra of her husband the bridegroom. These are the rites and ceremonies that have to be gone through before each one become the ardhngas of each other.

Now, these are the circumstances in which these sacramental marriages take place. These are based upon Vedic Mantras and, of course, Smriti Mantras also but such as are the fulfilments of the Vedas and not on every law as pointed out by Mahatma Gandhi and stated by my Honourable Sister Shrimati Radha Bai Subbarayan. The two statements given by Mahatma Gandhi and referred to by my Honourable Sister do not relate to sagotra marriages but they relate to the general social evils prevailing among the Hindus which cannot be denied. There are many of these evils, e.g., beggary, the treatment of husband to his wife and many others. It is only for those things that Mahatma Gandhi is writing that social evils must go.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I point out, Sir, that I referred to social customs, not to social evils alone.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If customs are good they will continue.

Lala Sham Lal: Social evils are different things, which Mahatma Gandhi would like to have removed. That is what Mahatma Gandhi means by the statement referred to by the Honourable sister. Mahatma Gandhi has never said that sagotra marriages should take place. He has nowhere stated that the religious doctrines laid down by the Smrities, such as are the fulfilment of Vedas and given in the Vivaha Paṅdadi should be abrogated. That is the position which I want to explain as regards the statement made by my Honourable sister.

Now, as regards the marriage institution amongst the twice born classes which is a purely religious institution, I wish to say that no legislation whatsoever in this connection ought to be undertaken.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Does not Mahatma Gandhi advocate anulama and partiloma marriages?

Lala Sham Lal: That is quite a different thing, which I will deal with when the time for that comes. The underlying idea in these sacramental marriages which should be performed according to these four forms of marriages is that both the bridegroom and the bride after undergoing certain rites, become one individual whole. They are then capable to perform duties towards God as well as duties to the world, *sansara*, in the natural order. They are not to satisfy their lust or passion. They are to perform duties towards God and to bring forth children who may similarly perform duties towards God, to be good citizens of this country and not to bring forth Varanshankaras, who may destroy the civilisation and culture of the Hindu society, the civilisation and culture which are, in spite of so many vicissitudes of time, living today and are destined to play an important part in the future evolution of the world.

Let me here examine the philosophy of sacramental marriage, in the terms of modern sciences also, physical science and astronomy. Now it is a well known fact that both the girl and the boy that are to be married have got distinct electric currents of animal magnetism. The girl has got *Vishan sakhti*, in other words negative current and the boy has got the *sham sakhti* or in other words positive current. There are magnetic currents both in the girl and in the boy and those currents have to be commensurate with the spherical currents, positive or negative. It is a physical law that likes repel likes and unlikes attract each other. Now *sham sakti* will repel *sham sakti* and *vishan sakti* will repel *vishan sakti*. But *vishan sakti* will attract *sham sakti* and *vice versa*. The positive will attract the negative but positive will repel positive and negative will repel negative. Now in the sagotra institution the underlying idea is that marriages between two persons who have got the same sort of magnetic current descended from the same blood would repel each other and marriages between different sorts of currents taking place would attract each other in the natural order. That is why according to asagotra marriages, on account of mutual attraction, the offsprings are capable of performing their duties towards God, of being good citizens of their country and of performing their part in world evolution. You may ask doctors and they will be able to tell you how the male fluid is caused by the nervous system and the nervous system is affected by electric currents that come from the sun and in regard to the woman she is affected by the currents from the moon. That is the law. The man derives the power to procreate from the sun and the woman to assimilate that power from the moon. Sun is he and the moon is she. The sun is the God of man and the moon is the goddess of the woman and hence she is required to worship the moon. That is the law that has been fully enunciated in the sacramental marriages. A woman can, under these circumstances, procreate right and godly children only when the negative and positive currents in both the man and woman, as ensured by asagotra marriages, are kept in order. As to these scientific laws, observations are going on in America tending to support the views expressed by me as above.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are there asagotra marriages in America?

Lala Sham Lal: That of course in time to come you will find. I am not going to make a detailed speech in this matter stating all the *pros* and *cons*. At any rate I want to tell my Honourable friend, let him be content as regards sagotra marriages with the four forms of marriages already existing under the Hindu law. Let him not attempt to impose the very same conditions upon sacramental marriages which have been prevailing amongst the Hindus from time immemorial. If legislation like this which touches upon the religious sentiments of a community,—if rules like these are to be imposed by legislation or by the Government, surely they will create confusion and muddle and it will create a position which will be worse than what exists at present. I pray that this measure should not be proceeded with further and even if proceeded with further the suggestions made by me here may be taken into consideration at the Select Committee meeting.

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official): Dr. Deshmukh in his speech, which started last Session and continued during this Session, referred to the attitude of women's organisations and deprecated the fact that they did not support piecemeal legislation and were swayed by the opinion of lawyers. With your permission, Sir, I should like to clear up first of all the attitude and the opinion of women's organisations in this respect. It is quite true that for some time, since 1932 to be exact, women's organisations have put forward a demand for the comprehensive codification and revision of the Hindu law, because they found that in many respects Hindu law had to be revised. The law of inheritance, the law of marriage, the law of maintenance and the law of adoption—all these are inter-related. It is seldom and very rarely that I find myself at one with my Honourable friend Pandit Nilakantha Das. But here I must agree with him that it is a fact that marriage laws are primarily for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of children. And inheritance and the marriage laws are inter-related. Piecemeal legislation too has given rise to anomalies in the past; but while saying this, let me also say that women's organisations express their gratitude to those great champions and liberators from the time of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who have come forward from time to time and brought in legislation that has in some ways helped to restore to Hindu women those rights that they enjoyed in ancient times. Both my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh and his brother Mr. Deshmukh whose Bill is under consideration today, hold a high place among these champions in recent times.

Sir, coming to a consideration of the Bill itself, I do not wish to enter into the details, because Dr. Deshmukh has done so very ably. So far as this Bill goes, it must of course have our fullest support, in so far as it seeks to remove a legitimate grievance. It is useless for Hindus to speak of national unity or even of Hindu unity, if we cannot face these very first steps that lead to a practical realisation of it. I do feel, however, that this Bill is very restricted even in that aspect of reform that it seeks to inaugurate. It only refers to sagotra marriage and marriages between members of the sub-castes and does not deal with intercaste marriage which is after all the primary consideration. The time has more than come when we must do away with these barriers between castes. It is no use our talking about unity if we are not really willing to bring in that unity in a practical shape.

The fact that there are grievances which need immediate redress have been mentioned by previous speakers. My Honourable friend Mrs. Subbarayan has referred to them in her speech and I will not go into the details of these; but I should like to stress the fact that it is one of the means, by which you can really bring unity into the Hindu fold. If we believe in the ideals of equity and justice, if we really mean what we say when we make so many idealistic statements, we cannot but support such a reform as this; but I have again to repeat that I am sorry that my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh's Bill does not even go far enough in that aspect of marriage reform that he has brought in: I wish he had included at least inter-caste marriage

as a whole. I should also mention that the daughter's right of inheritance, absolute estate for women and these provisions for dissolution of marriage under certain conditions, are also matters which need immediate reform and are as necessary as the reform that Mr. Deshmukh seeks to inaugurate. These are not necessary only in favour of some abstract ideal of rights for women, but so that women should be fitted to undertake their responsibilities as citizens of India. I will not dwell on the terrible injustices and grievances that have been and are crying out for redress, nor on the terrible fate to which so many of our sisters are a prey, due to the injustices of the law that is known as Hindu law today. Those who are working for the amelioration of conditions in this country are only too well aware of them—those who are really earnest about the freedom of their country, who want an India united and strong and who have sacrificed and have struggled to this end, cannot but be conscious of the great need for reform in the social structure that has become so imperative: those who believe in the finest traditions of our past, who want to retain all that is intrinsic and all that is best in Hindu law and who are impatient today for reform, realise that unless we are able to rid ourselves of the cancerous growths that have crept into Hindu society. Hindu law itself may be discarded ruthlessly in the future, the good tenets along with the cancerous growth that has brought demoralisation in its wake. Those people about whom my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh referred as being Pseudo-Sanatanists, and others who are opposing this Bill and such measures as the draft Hindu Code blindly, have given no thought to the fact—so it seems to us at least—that the time has more than come when, if they really want to retain what they say they so ardently desire—the best that is in Hindu law, they must readjust Hindu law, which has been elastic in the past, to the needs of our time. Some of these arguments have become almost immemorial—the arguments that have been brought forward time and again, against social reform. It was the same at the time of the abolition of the suttee, the same during the passage of the widow re-marriage Act; the same when Dr. Deshmukh brought forward his Hindu women's property Act; and as he himself said, it was circumscribed because of it and absolute estate for women which was included in his Bill did not find a place in the Act as passed. These arguments start off by saying that Hindu society is in danger. Hindu society is in great danger, but it is not the danger which they apprehend. It is in danger of stagnation and strangulation. Then, of course, the stock arguments have been practically the same. First of all we hear that women will become immoral if suttee is abolished: then, women will poison their husbands if the Widow Remarriage Act is passed, so that they can marry others; and if women are given property they will change their religion and become Muslims and so on. It is curious indeed in what high regard some of our men hold women of their own race. The question of the daughter's right to inheritance has become a matter of great importance today. It has again come in for condemnation and I am only sorry about one thing; that Dr. Deshmukh advocated this morning that we should not have a Hindu code all together on account of the fact that one part of this, that is, inheritance, has attracted greater opposition than the marriage and so it should be dealt separately. Does not my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh realise that those who will oppose the whole Code will oppose each one of these measures separately and to the same extent, and it will be much better to have a comprehensive code, as these subjects are inter-related and should come in together wherever possible?

I could understand these arguments that are brought up against the rights of the daughter to inherit, for instance, if the law of primogeniture was very common in this country. I could have understood this argument if we did not see that in every country in the world today, where capitalist States grow and flourish, where the properties are much larger than in India, the property does not get disintegrated though a full share is given to the daughter and yet we are told that if a Hindu daughter inherits property, it will get disintegrated. Fragmentation of land in this country is going on apace. In 40 per cent.

[Mrs. Renuka Ray.]

of the holdings in India are today 1 acre holdings. Agricultural reform has not come in and yet nobody has thought of doing anything about it so far. It only comes up for consideration when we are thinking of giving a daughter a share in her father's inheritance, of the natural right of a daughter being restored to her. Why not bring in land reform legislation by which land cannot be alienated in this manner, so that agricultural reform is possible. It is no question of whether a daughter, or a son inherits. It has nothing to do with it. Again, we find the argument put forward that if there is dissolution of marriage on the same grounds, mind you, that were allowed in the ancient texts of Hindu India, women will rush to divorce their husbands and re-marry. It is the same argument, as the one that was brought forward when the Widow Re-marriage Act was passed. It is practically the same. I have here before me a book written by that great man, Isharchandra Vidyasagar which is in Bengali. I do not know whether it has been translated or not. It is indeed a book worth reading today when the Hindu Code and measures of reform such as Mr. Deshmukh is bringing forward are before us for consideration. One finds that the mentality of those who opposed the reforms then and who oppose them today is just the same. It does not seem to change. The times are changing fast and the need for reform is becoming more and more urgent.

Sir, I can understand the impatience of a reformer of Mr. Deshmukh's calibre in regard to this Bill that he has brought forward. I am quite sure that had the Hindu Code been introduced in this Session my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh would have been the first to have withdrawn his Bill. It is indeed unfortunate that the Hindu Law Committee have not been able to finish their work and to present it in time to the Government, so that the Honourable the Law Member could have introduced that final comprehensive Code during this Session. It is with impatience that women's organisations and all progressive reformers are looking forward to the introduction of the Code and my friend Mrs. Subbarayan too feels the impatience. It is true to say that in the past the Government of India have not a record of wanting social reforms. It was the policy of the Government of India not to interfere in what they considered to be social and religious matters and it is for this reason that today Hindu law has become stagnant. There is no doubt that from the time of the British period, when the pandits and priests interpreted Hindu law according to their own lights that it became almost stationary and the rights that women possessed were still further curtailed. Many of my friends, who were Members of this House at the time, will remember that some years back the Congress Party brought a Resolution asking for a comprehensive codification of Hindu law. At this time there was an influx of Bills on different aspects of Hindu law and it was as a result of this growing popular demand that at last the Government appeared to change its policy and appointed the Hindu Law Committee who, within a year's time, were able to present their report. Soon after this, they drew up the first two Bills, the Intestate Succession and the Marriage Bill and after a time the Honourable the Law Member of the time introduced those Bills in this House but unfortunately the Hindu Law Committee was disbanded. This, of course, was dilatory tactics but again the Government conceded to popular demand and reappointed the Hindu Law Committee. It is very unfortunate, as I have said before, that the Hindu Law Committee have not as yet put their final comprehensive Code before the Government. As to what will happen in the future we cannot say but the delay now is due to the fact that the Hindu Law Committee have not placed their comprehensive Code before the Government for introduction in this House. I can quite understand that until such time as legislation of a comprehensive nature, which includes the provisions of Mr. Deshmukh's Bill, is brought before this House, this Bill should not be dropped or set aside and that is why Mr. Deshmukh is going on with the motion before the House today.

Lt. Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Not being a Hindu, it will be expected that I should make an apology for intervening for a short time in this debate but, Sir, I do not think I am called upon to make any apology, for I feel that marriage is a question which deals with the happiness or otherwise of a large number of human beings, of my countrymen and my country women and I think that it is a matter in which every one who loves his country, everyone who is interested in the youth of his country, should have a healthy interest.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh, when he was speaking this morning, said that what he was more afraid of, than anything else, was that this question should be dealt with from a purely intellectual point of view and at any rate the reasons which were brought up by people who took the purely intellectual point of view were to his mind the most dangerous. I fully agree with him. Marriage is not a matter of intellect. In the old days it may have been a matter of instinct but today it is a matter of practical commonsense and I think that if marriage was left to become a question of intellects and of intellect there could be very few marriages indeed. Every one realises that when a man is, what is known in common parlance, a confirmed bachelor, meaning thereby that he has got somewhere near the early or late 40's, his intellect grows. So that very few old bachelors fall victims to the charms of matrimony. Therefore this is not at all a matter to be treated from the intellectual point of view. In fact, I remember a highly intellectual man telling me that marriage is a form of insanity, because he could not understand why a man should be so mentally deficient as to undertake to feed another man's daughter. Therefore, I shall deal with this matter

4 P. M. from a practical and a commonsense point of view, and it is because I look on this matter from that point of view that I strongly support the Bill which is before the House.

Sir, I feel that it is really tragic that a Bill of this kind should come before a House constituted as this Honourable House is. I have heard and I have marvelled how certain speeches like those of my Honourable friend Mr. Sham Lal and my Honourable and old friend Pandit Nilakantha Das could have been made. I have come to the conclusion that a matter like this should have been referred to a House where at least half of the Members were in their twenties and certainly not more than one-third in their thirties. Then I also feel that the other part of the House should have been composed of women. I do not mind what ages they were. They certainly should have been the other half of the House. Then, I am sure this Bill would have had a very easy passage indeed. What is the point in elderly gentlemen or gentlemen of an uncertain age trying to make laws for people who are really vitally concerned and very few of them, as I look round, are present here to speak out their mind?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Old men are not so innocent as you think them to be.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: It is not a question of innocence, but it is a question as to who is concerned with these particular laws. Now, I am prepared to concede to my Honourable friend Mr. Sham Lal that marriage is to a great many people a sacrament. To be serious, I quite realise that to a vast number of men and women marriage is not only a civil contract nor a matter of mutual understanding but also what we describe a sacrament. But my Honourable friend would also agree that even if it is a sacrament, it is also a civil contract. It is a matter which really affects two people, and in most cases two young people only. It is a very good thing indeed that when two people have agreed to bind themselves in the bonds of matrimony, they should receive the blessing of religion. I think it is a very good thing and a very healthy check on certain difficulties and mal-practices that might arise, especially in the matter of the protection of the family and the protection of children. But to the vast majority of young people today marriage is a civil contract. It is so in a great many countries. For instance, take

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France. A marriage there is not complete, though it may have been solemnised in a Church, whatever that Church may be, unless it is either followed or preceded by civil marriage. I am not advocating civil marriage, but I will say this that marriage should not be hedged round with all these restrictions which have been imposed by ancient usage, I will not say by ancient religion.

Now, this Bill is only a small measure of relief and I agree with Mrs. Renuka Ray that the Bill does not go far enough. But the measure which my Honourable friend wishes to pass does give some relief and it is very urgently needed. Only a few days ago a daughter of a very old and dear Hindu friend of mine, who is a young and highly educated lady, came to me and said: "Would you and your wife come to my marriage which was to be held in the Registrar's Court and be the witnesses because you two were also present at my mother's wedding?" This young lady is a Hindu lady, belongs to a very good family and is very highly educated and is not bound by many restrictions. I said: "Why do you want to get married in a Registrar's Court? Why don't you get married in the beautiful manner in which your mother was married and where we were present and when the marriage ceremony finished at 4 or 5 in the morning?" She said: "The reason is that the man whom I have chosen to marry belongs to the same gotra as myself and therefore if I was married according to the Hindu rites, my marriage would not be valid. Of course, I want to be married by the rites of my religion, but I cannot be so married. Either I must give up this man or I must be married in a Registrar's Court". She said we must come and witness her marriage. So, we went and witnessed this young lady's marriage just as we had witnessed her mother's marriage but in different circumstances. Not one of her people was able to come although I knew that a number of them were living in Delhi, for the simple reason that they did not approve of this lady marrying a member of the same gotra. Now, I say this to you that even those of you who believe that marriage is a sacrament, is it not sending away the people belonging to your own religion who would otherwise have married under religious rites and obtained the blessings of the priest to the Civil Court because they belonged to the same gotra? Which is the lesser evil? That is what I would like to put to my Honourable friends who are opposing this Bill. (An Honourable Member: "Were they first cousins?") No, they were in no way related; they only happened to be members of the same gotra. Even if they were first cousins, it would not have been such an evil as you think it to be. They merely belonged to the same sub-caste. That is an instance which happened only during the last month. I want to put it to my Honourable friends and say: Does not an instance like this which is absolutely correct show that the measure of reform which my Honourable friend wishes to promote is overdue?

Then, I am surprised, and I speak with no desire to give any offence, that any one of my Honourable friends from the Congress Benches should oppose a motion of this kind. I have always understood that the Congress stands for a united India and that they would oppose any measure for the vivisection of India or for anything that would bring disruption or disunion among the peoples of this country. Is it not a fact, I ask that there is nothing more unifying than the institution of marriage? I feel that this country will not really be a united country nor a united nation or one nation till all restrictions about inter-marriages are removed. I, therefore, ask my friends who oppose it: How do they square it with their conscience and how can they oppose a measure of this kind and then say that they work for a united nation and a united India? If they are not prepared to remove these restrictions about marriages between sub-castes or intercastes, how can we believe that they are prepared to bring about a united nation within our life time? I feel that intercaste marriage is the only way in which you will be able to make a united nation.

That is one inconsistency. It seems to me that inconsistency is a virtue of great minds. And in the course of the speeches which I have heard today there have been such a number of inconsistencies. My Honourable and gracious friend Mrs. Subbarayan, whatever she did say on this subject with the exception of a few things, has my complete and entire support. On a matter like this Mrs. Subbarayan and Mrs. Renuka Ray have a right to be heard with the utmost respect. But there is one matter which I did not understand. She took Government greatly to task. On this occasion, I suppose Government is represented in the person of my learned friend the Law Member, and she tried to show that the real villain of the piece, or the people who would stand in the way of this reform going through, would be the Government because whenever any reform was asked for, Government pleaded that this was a matter of religion and they would not hurt the susceptibilities of any religion. Therefore, she tried to prove that all the responsibility lay on the broad shoulders of my Honourable friend, Sir Asoka Roy.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I was referring to the whole Government. I believe there is joint responsibility in the Government.

Lt. Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I take note that on this occasion it is the Honourable the Law Member who is the difficulty in the way. Soon afterwards, my Honourable friend Lala Sham Lal, who is sitting behind Mrs. Subbarayan, got up and was vehement in the claim that this was a matter of religion and that this was a matter in which he would fight Government interference to the last ditch and that he would even give up his life for it—I suppose he did not say so in exactly so many words. But he said he could prevent Government from interfering with the customs of this country.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: He would fight to the last Law Member.

Lt. Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: However, Sir, that is probably an inconsistency which is a small virtue of great minds. My point in bringing that up is this. I feel this is a matter in which Honourable Members opposite and those who believe in a united nation and those who believe that social reform should be pushed through should be of one mind in bringing about reforms. Even if it is the Law Member who is the villain of the piece, why strengthen his hands by saying in one breath that you want the Government to go on with this piece of legislation and in the second breath say that the Government must keep their hands off and should have nothing to do with any kind of social legislation. I am not ignorant of the fact that a great, shall I say, that a very intellectual Committee is at present sitting to deal with the whole field of Hindu marriage and other laws, and we are advised that we should wait till that Committee has done its work. I do not agree with this kind of argument. I remember being told once that whenever the devil wants to prevent a good piece of work being done, he suggests a committee. I do not say by that all committees are of the devil. But I do realise this that committees are the best way of delaying social reform. You can go on from one committee to another, and you can go on *ad infinitum* and see that no reform is carried out. Therefore, I feel that on this occasion let the other Committee go on in their wisdom and take as long as they like and bring in a much improved code of laws. But this is a small measure which, I showed from the practical instance which recently happened in the city of Delhi, is a measure which needs speedy passage. I hope that on this matter it will receive the wholehearted support of all those who are anxious to promote in the first instance human happiness and happiness of homes because I feel that marriage is a matter which ought to be left, largely and as far as possible to the participants, namely, to the parties themselves, who ought to be the best judges of their happiness. I also feel, Sir, that this perhaps is one of the first steps that are being taken or can be taken by legislation for the promotion of unity in this country.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (Sind. Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we have before us a very small Bill, a Bill which is very much restricted in its scope. We

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are covering a very wide field on this question of Hindu law. Several points have been taken, matters like divorce, matters like inter-caste marriages, marriages, by the upper layer of people and marriages in special cases and so on. The All India Women Association which is a very influential body has spoken through its representative in this House. We have nothing to do with them at all. We have a very restricted question before us and that is contained in the Bill which is being sponsored by Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, not the Doctor Deshmukh. (Interruption.) We are told that this question should be settled not by old men, but only by young men and young women. I may assure my friend Dr. Chatterjee that I am not that rash young man like Dr. Deshmukh, nor am I so old as to be a die-hard old man. I can find out a middle way to come to my own conclusions. The point before us is whether this Bill requires only one item of Hindu Law to be changed, and whether at this time it is necessary to go into all those contested questions raised by several speakers. I myself was a party to this marriage and succession questions being discussed in this House and then they were sent to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses.

[At this stage, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Now, therefore, Sir, there is some justification for myself to speak on this and other Bills that are being considered by the Rau Committee. The first charge that is levelled against the Government seems to be that the Government wish this Bill to be dropped and that they do not want to codify Hindu Law. It is further said that on that account dilatory methods are being adopted. I must say I do not agree with this contention. I know what is the wish of the people with regard to codification of Hindu Law. In this very House, Bills came one after another, individual Bills from several Honourable Members of this House to have the Hindu Law amended or improved. The House was of opinion that piecemeal legislation was not good, and that the Hindu Law might be revised once for all. Government took up that suggestion and though after sometime they considered the whole thing and specially those small Bills that were in the House, Government came to the conclusion that the draft Hindu Law Code should be adopted and for that purpose a Joint Select Committee of both Houses was elected to go into two questions. The first Bill was with regard to succession and the second Bill was with regard to marriage. Now, Sir, when these two Bills came before the Joint Select Committee we sat—I was also a Member of both these Committees—we sat twice and by that time a draft Hindu Code was prepared. It is said these matters should be disposed of soon. But there was no blame on the part of Government there. Because the Rau Committee to which the first Bill was sent they were considering the only question of succession. When that Bill came before the Joint Select Committee and by that time the Marriage Bill also came up there, it was the unanimous opinion of the Joint Select Committee that the draft Code that was prepared should be considered and a consolidated Bill should be prepared and piloted by the Government. The matter again went for consideration before the Rau Committee. As you all know, gentlemen, the Rau Committee is actually sitting in the Council House and they have been considering that question. It has been suggested by one Honourable Member that evidence should not be taken; that suggestion came from Mrs. Radha Bai Subbarayan. She said, why should evidence be taken. I was wondering why she should plead for hurrying the matter. It would have been another thing if a younger lady had suggested that, but this haste is coming from an older lady who is very experienced. Sir, I say that unless and until all the parties are heard and evidence is collected, the Bill will not be complete, and therefore the evidence has to be taken. The only thing that Government should do is to hurry up the Rau Committee to finish their labours so that this matter may come up before them and Government may not be blamed on this account.

Sir, I feel that wider field was covered by some Honourable Members who should not have their voice in these Hindu Law matters. One of them is Sir Ratanji Dalal, who is a Parsi and for whom I have regard . . .

An Honourable Member: He has retired.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: He has not. He is a big health officer, and he continues to be there.

My suggestion is that the Doctor should not have treaded on that dangerous ground. He gets up and says what objection is there if marriages are solemnized between two cousins. That is a matter on which he should not have expressed his opinion at all; he should have left this matter to the Hindus to decide. Therefore, my point is that this question—the question of civil marriage, its registration and divorce, as it is provided in that Bill—should not come up for consideration at this stage. We must consider at this time only this small Bill.

Coming, therefore, to the Bill itself, we find that it aims at:

“Notwithstanding any custom, rule or interpretation of the Hindu law, a marriage, which is otherwise valid, shall not be invalid because—(a) it is between Hindus belonging to the same gotra or pravar.”

(b) it is between Hindus belonging to the different sub-divisions of the same caste.”

In connection with these two points, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, in his opening speech, was very considerate in restricting himself on this question only and asking that this is a matter which should appeal to everybody and that it is such a matter which should be put a stop to. But so far as Dr. Deshmukh is concerned, he became violent over it; he put forward his case with as much violence as he could possibly import. He began to excite the orthodox people who are not in favour of it. On the other hand, he should have taken such a course that they would give way.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: It is not worth it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I know that Dr. Deshmukh, living as he does at Bombay, feels himself more or less Anglicized.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I repudiate the charge. I am a Hindu.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not cast personal reflections.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member prefers to say that he is a *pacca* Hindu, that he will die as a Hindu . . .

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: But I want to live as a Hindu first.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I do not know about that. That is what I am doubting.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am a perfect Hindu.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Well, I have seen him. When he brings forward questions about improving the condition of women, he becomes too solicitous to them. It seems as if he wants to please them all, but that cannot possibly be done.

Now, Sir, coming to the point before the House, I say that many of the Members have not understood it.

An Honourable Member: Only Mr. Lalchand Navalrai understands it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I will put the question plainly. What is gotra? Nobody has explained that. Even the Hindu Law Codes do not give any definition. According to Mr. Deshmukh, the Bill does not say what gotra is. It does not even say what pravar is. We have not got these pravars on our side, and therefore I cannot understand it. (Interruption.) But now I am speaking for the whole of India.

So far as gotra is concerned, I asked the Honourable Member privately. Now, I find that this Hindu draft Bill, which has been sent to us and which has been considered by such an able committee as the Rau Committee, does not give us the definition of gotra. It says that the definition is contained in the Hindu Law. I have gone through the Hindu Law and I do not find anything there. Then, Sir, there is an admission: Dr. Deshmukh said people will not understand what gotra is . . .

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Nobody understands because it does not exist.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It exists in the Hindu Law; it exists in the Shastras also. Therefore we cannot either ignore it or treat it so lightly.

What I am submitting is that gotra is not defined, and therefore I am not satisfied with the draft Code on that point. First of all when definitions are given in a draft code everything is defined but in this Code, the word gotra is not defined and we have to find out for ourselves what it means.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I hope my Honourable friend has given the Rau Committee his views on this matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: They have never asked me. They asked everybody and that means nobody.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Later on they will!

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: We expect them to be more expert. They are getting the evidence. They should give us the lead.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I understand that Pandit Nilakantha Das gave evidence before them yesterday.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I do not know whether he understands what gotra is. I find in this Draft Code that as the meaning of gotra is not given, the Committee have gone to suggest that marriage between the same gotra and pravar will be all right. Will it satisfy Dr. Deshmukh? No.

Now I will tell you what Mr. Deshmukh has told me is the meaning of gotra. In former days there used to be rishis who had followers or students. They used to give religious instruction. There were several of these rishis, one of whom was Keshab. The rule then was that any persons connected with a rishi or preceptor could not marry in their family circle. The same rule applied to the students of these rishis. But in those days these people lived in one place and they educated their people within their circle. Now if there are still any followers of these rishis they must be scattered all over India. Therefore, so far as gotra and pravar question is concerned, it should be considered properly. If it is that because once they were the followers of the rishis then they should not inter-marry, I do not think it is reasonable at all. I think even Mr. Nilakantha Das was not raising an objection to that.

According to Mulla, the word "sapinda" is used in two senses in the Mitakshara. So far as sapindas are concerned they are blood relations. Surely nobody would say that there should be inter-marriages among the sapindas. Even on that point the Hindu Code does not say that it should be so. In the larger sense, "sapinda" means a person having the same pinda or particles of the same body with the deceased, i.e., a blood relation. Therefore, I submit that so far as this Bill is concerned, we should be clear about the gotra and the pravar, and there should be no objection to this part of the Bill.

The second question is with regard to caste and sub-castes. I do think none will object if it is inter-marriage between the castes. The whole point is with regard to sub-castes and this point is before the Rau Committee. It is only reasonable that we should consider these sub-castes. Nowadays they are scattered very much all over the country and there are difficulties even in finding out whether a certain sub-caste belongs to that caste or not. It may be that they may have divided for a long time and there may not be evidence sufficient to prove it. In that case also this is a difficult question. It is directly between the orthodox and the advanced views. So far as that is concerned I find that there are some comments by the Rau Committee which is framing this draft code. They have no objection to marriages taking place amongst sub-castes. They say that a sacramental marriage may be solemnised between any two Hindus upon the following condition, namely, that neither party must have a spouse living at the time of the marriage. If either party is a member of any caste, the other must belong to the same caste. They have recognised that marriages between castes should be allowed but they have not said, anything about sub-castes. That means that there should be no ban on such marriages between caste and sub-caste.

What should we do with regard to this Bill? I have said that this very same substantial question in the same form was before the Rau Committee and they have been considering it. We have waited for the verdict of the Select Committee of both Houses and we have to wait until that draft Code is framed into a Bill on Hindu Law by Government. Now the question is, should we wait for this or not? If the Government intend to drop that altogether or shirk bringing the legislation on account of opposition from orthodox or other quarters, then in that case I think this Bill should be considered now for the purpose of sending it to the Select Committee. But if the Government were of the opinion that they will take a very long time, then there will be a necessity for this legislation. My friend Dr. Chatterjee cited an example but I wonder whether Dr. Chatterjee or the girl who went to him understood what gotra means, because he was told that she belonged to a sub-caste. So far as gotra and pravara are concerned I cannot understand that there should be, in these days, any hindrance to marriages. I suggest that if this Bill is sent to the Select Committee let the committee also consider for themselves the meaning of the words gotra and pravara. It may be that they may take evidence there for the purpose of finding out what gotra or pravara means. Therefore on that account I will support this motion. But if the Government think that the draft Bill is coming soon and that Government is going to put it in the form of a Government Bill, then perhaps my friend Mr. Deshmukh will not be so impatient as Dr. Deshmukh is. It is a matter between two brothers and let it be decided *inter se*.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I rise to support the motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. While speaking on this Bill I shall restrict myself to the provisions of the Bill, although the provocation for going over and covering a much wider field is very strong. The reform which this Bill seeks to make is a very small one. Many of us would have liked the Bill to be of a wider nature and Dr. Deshmukh should have attempted to remove many larger restrictions. However, although the reform designed to be made by this Bill is a small one, I think the House should support the reform which he seeks to make. He is trying to legalise marriages which take place between persons having the same gotra. I do not wish to try to define the word 'gotra'. Gotra means a family. Fortunately among the Hindus who observe gotras, the families have become too large and therefore it is difficult to say which persons are covered by what gotra. My own gotra is Atri gotra and I do not know how many persons there are, and what generations have passed between the original person who started this gotra and myself and others who belong to the gotra now. There cannot be any objection to such a marriage on the ground of consanguinity, because Mr. Deshmukh himself has not tried to legalise marriages between people who are considered to be Sapindas. I am told that he does not propose to legalise marriages between persons who have got consanguinity for seven generations and from the scientific point of view there should be no objection to the marriage of persons having the same gotra, so long as the sapindas are excluded.

I have not heard any arguments against marriages between persons having the same gotra and pravara except the one which my Honourable friend Mr. Sham Lal gave regarding the positive and negative electricity. Not being a scientist, I do not know what is the strength of the electric current which passes between persons who are separated by thousands of generations. I therefore think that there is no strong argument from the scientific side. From the eugenic point of view also, my Honourable friend Sir Ratanji Dalal pointed out that there can be no objection. The only other argument which was used was regarding the sentiment of some Hindus being offended by this Bill. I do not think that any Hindu who does not want to have sagotra marriages has any reason to have his feelings offended. By its very nature the Bill is only a permissive measure. If some Hindus do not like that there should be sagotra marriages this Bill is not going to compel them to marry in the gotra. It is only those who approve of the sagotra marriages that can take advantage of this Bill and therefore there is no justification for any people being offended by the passing of this measure.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

The second reform which Mr. Deshmukh seeks to make is to legalise marriages between persons belonging to the same sub-division of caste. Here again the reform he is seeking is a very small one: he is not seeking to legalise inter-caste marriages, although many of us would have liked him to do that. Whether marriages between persons who belong to the same sub-division of a caste is legal or not is a doubtful point. In many places such marriages are not regarded to be illegal at all; again caste is not defined; and whether a particular sub-division is a sub-division of the caste or they are separate castes is doubtful, and from that point of view it is better to have some law by which the marriages between persons who belong to the same sub-division of caste should be legalised.

Some arguments have been used that the Rau Committee is sitting and therefore this Bill should not be taken into consideration. This is a case of a big reform being the enemy of a small reform, and we do not know when the Rau Committee will report; we do not know whether the Rau Committee's Bill will be passed or not, and what sort of report that committee will make. Therefore it will be wrong to postpone this reform; if the reform is a good one and if we consider it a good reform we should not allow the appointment of the Rau Committee as an argument for delaying this measure.

Then it may be said that this House is not capable of making a reform in the sacred customs of the Hindus. I do not know whether there is any authority in India by which changes in the sacred customs of the Hindus can be made. Unfortunately there is no such authority. If there had been any authority in the Hindu community which can introduce reforms into the sacred customs of the Hindus, then we may have considered whether this Legislature should take up that work or not. Even then, I would have thought that this Legislature had a duty towards all communities, in giving them proper freedom for marriage; but so long as there is no authority in the Hindu community which can make changes in their customs, it is the duty of this Legislature to take up that work. I therefore feel that this small reform should be made, and this Legislature has a duty to perform in removing those restrictions which have become unnecessary. I hope therefore that the Bill will be referred to Select Committee.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I do not know to what category I belong: Dr. Deshmukh said there were three kinds of persons whose views have to be taken—Sanatanists, pseudo-Sanatanists and intellectuals. I am not a Sanatanist in the sense that I am wholly and absolutely religious and a pious man—I am not very well skilled in the Vedic lore and literature. Therefore I do not pretend to be a Sanatanist. Nor am I an intellectual. Unfortunately I will have to be in the middle category along with my friend Dr. Deshmukh: he is neither a Sanatanist nor an out and out reformist: he is attacked by both parties. He sought to introduce a measure in the second half of his Bill to validate intercaste marriages; but he is not an out and out reformist because he is not brave enough to say "Let there be no distinction between caste and caste: let marriages take place between one caste and another: let it be a Hindu or any other: enough if the marriage is between a man a woman: that is enough."

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: On a point of explanation, this Bill is not mine; It belongs to my cowardly brother. If I had been in his place, that Bill would have contained the clause you intend.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You cannot use that language even as regards your brother.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am only anxious that I should avoid any accusation from him outside or inside the Assembly that I am a pseudo-Sanatanist. I am trying to bring him in also in the same category: Both of us are pseudos.

Nor is he a Sanatanist because he wants to abrogate the ancient law and custom which we have been adopting in the matter of marriages. I ask any Honourable Member in this House who is a Hindu if he has not got a gotra. If today Hinduism remains, it is because every one of us belongs to such and such a gotra—let him be a Rishi or other common ancestor. I am really surprised at Mr. Navalrai's statement that he is still unable to know what his gotra is. . . .

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): He is a Sindhu—he is not a Hindu!

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Possibly, if he is a Sindhu he is also a Hindu. Here is an authority pronouncing what is a gotra. We are in a mixed audience and unfortunately this matter has to be placed before an assembly not consisting exclusively of persons who profess the particular faith to which this Bill relates. It may not be in this particular case—but it is dangerous in other cases—it will have an unfortunate tendency; However I am not now quarrelling with the composition of the Assembly. I am prepared to place my views before the Assembly for its adoption or rejection.

Now, what is a gotra? Gotra is very well known: that we, all of us, belong to a group which had a common ancestor: if he is a rishi we go by that name. A rishi is a seer, a man who sees for all time, a man who is in a sense not outside but inside as it were. Every Hindu claims descent from such ancestor: the rishis live for ever, and I am proud of the rishi to whose lineage I belong. . . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa: But the rishi must have a lineage also.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The rishis claim to have come from God. Let us not go into the region of the past. The rishis were born straight from God and not from mortals for whom the necessity is that there should be two persons joining together: they came straight from the mouth of God Himself. God willed and they came out.

Sir Muhammad Yamin: How many came like that?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As many as there were rishis. If my Honourable friend Sir Yamin Khan believes in his prophet, I believe in our rishis. I do believe in them and I am proud of them and of the heritage that we have got from them. I will answer any questions, but unfortunately this has become somewhat of a laughing stock and I would like to disabuse my friends here of their misconceptions. I say again we do have a heritage of which we may be justly proud and of which we will continue to be proud and we will try and convert other persons from other faiths who do not hold the same views as we do. I am proud of those rishis and their wisdom which we should follow properly and reasonably. I am not merely sticking on to whatever old customs there are. Our ancestors themselves have said—and I do quote the authority of Yagnavalkya and of other rishis—that it is open to Parishads and assemblies who want to modify the law or alter it according to circumstances; and if you regard this to be such a parishad, I have no quarrel. I ask, why do you not place this before other assemblies of Hindus and competent persons: call a congregation of Hindus and place this matter before them—orthodox, non-orthodox and others but of Hindus alone. Are we the any representatives of the Hindus? Why do you not have the courage to place it before others outside? I am not talking of Dr. Deshmukh because I want his assistance from time to time; but I am talking of his brother. It is improper to do like this. It is not right. Have we not got *matadhipatis* and Gurus to whom we owe allegiance. Have we not got reformers who are Hindus? Why does not the Mover of this Bill place this matter before them and before parishads and try and convert them? As a matter of fact this Bill consists of two parts—the latter part is unnecessary and the former part is improper.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: They have not dared to break the law. ●

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The latter part is absolutely unnecessary: it only shows that my Honourable friend only talks and talks and does not do anything to put a reform into effect. Then, Sir, the latter part is for legalising inter-sub-caste marriages. It is said that they are not allowed. Well, Sir, when you yourself were a judge of the Madras High Court, the Privy Council held that such marriages were valid. There is no doubt about this matter. It is all conservatism that stands in the way of such marriages taking place. The law can never remove this. It does not prevent one Smartha man from marrying a Vaishnava woman, one Reddi marrying a Naidu, one sect of Kshatriyas marrying in another sect of Kshatriyas and so on. There is absolutely nothing to prevent it. Then why are you blaming the poor rishis who have gone away. If today we are slaves, it is because we are not following them. I am proud of the rishi from whom I have descended and it is their sayings that have been translated in various languages.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Are sub-caste marriages legalised?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no question of legalised marriages. At this age you can marry if you like in any sub-caste.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 15th February, 1945.