

27th March 1946

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 27th March, 1946

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Rao Bahadur Sir Vangal Thiruvankata Krishnama Acharya Avargal,
K.C.I.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REFUND OF PASSAGE MONEY TO HAJ PILGRIMS AND OPENING OF CALCUTTA PORT FOR EMBARKATION

†1226. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is intended to open the Calcutta port for Haj embarkation of Haj pilgrims this year, if not, why not;

(b) whether the limitation imposed on the number of Haj pilgrims from India during the war is proposed to be removed from this year; and

(c) whether all intending pilgrims from British India, who deposited money but failed to secure passage, have got back their deposit moneys; and if not what the number of persons is to whom the deposit money has not yet been returned and what the total amount yet to be refunded is?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Subject to any unforeseen and insurmountable development, Government's provisional intention is to have one sailing from the Calcutta port this year.

(b) There used to be only ten pilgrim ships before the war out of which three were lost during the war. The maximum carrying capacity of the remaining seven ships is about 17,000 if they make two trips each. If the law requiring 18 square feet of accommodation per passenger is brought into force this year, this maximum capacity would be reduced to about 15,000. Government's provisional decision, therefore, is to arrange for about 15,000 Haj pilgrims this year. As the rush of pilgrims is likely to far exceed this number, Government's provisional decision is to continue the practice of allotting quotas to each Province and of registering and allotting passages to these quotas on the basis of priority of applications.

(c) Refunds for 1945 are still due only to 295 pilgrims. The total amount yet to be refunded is Rs. 30,810-14-0.

NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO APPLIED FOR HAJ PASSAGE

†1227. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state separately:

(a) the number of persons who applied for passage for Haj pilgrimage from each of British Indian Provinces last year;

(b) the number of persons who succeeded in securing passage from each Province; and

(c) how many of the above in each Province were females?

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

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) to (c). A statement giving the information is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

Name of the Province	Number of applications received.	Number of successful applicants	Number of successful applicants (Female)
Madras	403	154	25
Bombay	803	788	278
Bengal	4,815	1,601	97
United Provinces	1,282	1,072	352
Punjab	2,559	2,110	748
Bihar	163	134	41
Central Provinces	33	25	10
Assam	1,825	339	34
N. W. F. P.	432	301	44
Sind	1,024	950	268
Baluchistan	199	145	16
Orissa	1	0	0
Delhi	610	253	88
Ajmer-Merwara	36	11	5

NUMBER OF MUSLIM SCHOLARS FOR STUDIES IN AMERICA AND EUROPE

†1228. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Education Secretary please state:

(a) how many Muslim students applied for scholarships for advanced studies in America and Europe last year, and how many were selected; and

(b) how many of those selected have already been sent abroad, and how many are still waiting in India for want of a passage?

Sir John Sargent: (a) 1268 muslim students applied for Overseas Scholarships awarded by the Government of India in 1945. Out of these 90 were selected.

(b) 48 of the selected muslim scholars have so far proceeded abroad. Passages have yet to be secured for 42.

LARGE MARGIN OF RICE PROFITS POCKETED BY HOARDERS IN CALCUTTA AND MADRAS

1229. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the price of rice in Bengal (Faridpur) has shot up from Rs. 12/8/- to Rs. 25/- per maund, (*Hindustan Times*, dated the 26th February, 1946) and that in Royalaseema in Madras Presidency it had shot up in December-January from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 30/- per maund;

(b) whether it is a fact that peasants receive less than Rs. 10/- per maund in Madras and Rs. 12/- in Bengal; and

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

(c) what Government are doing to prevent the middlemen and hoarders from pocketing the margin of Rs. 10/- to Rs. 20/- per maund of rice?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) There was a rise in rice prices in Faridpur (Bengal) but not to the extent mentioned by the Honourable Member. In Royalaseema (Madras) there has been no abnormal increase in rice prices.

(b) The controlled rates provide a price of less than Rs. 10 in Madras and Rs. 12 in Bengal.

(c) In areas where prices have risen, the Bengal Government are releasing Government stocks at controlled rates in order to bring down prices. In Madras; whenever prices of any foodgrains rise beyond the normal level Government requisitions the holders' stocks at prices fixed by them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the source of the Honourable Member's information? I brought to the notice of Government some time ago a press statement in which it was stated that the price in Royalaseema (Madras) had gone up even to Rs. 50. The Honourable Member said he was going to make inquiries and now he says that there was no abnormal rise in the price of rice in Royalaseema.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have got reports from the Madras Government giving the retail prices. These figures do not show that there has been any abnormal rise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How far have they risen according to the Honourable Member's figures?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I will give the figures:

Bellary district	November, 1945	11.14
	December, 1945	10.98
	January, 1946	10.93
	February, 1946	10.86
Anantpur district	November, 1945	10.48
	December, 1945	10.62
	January, 1946	10.50
	February, 1946	10.34

I have got figures for three other districts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I can only tell my Honourable friend that his figures are all unreliable.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member will please put his question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (c) my Honourable friend said that they try to requisition surplus stocks in order to keep down the prices. But what are Government trying to do to keep down the middlemen's profits in Royalaseema where there are no surpluses at all and where rice has to be imported from other places?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not sure that I have followed the question. If the contention of the Honourable Member is that where the market prices are above the controlled rates the profit is taken only by the middlemen, that is not supported by our experience. When there is a rise above the controlled rates not only the middlemen and traders but also the producers partake of the profit.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There are no producers. I may tell the Honourable Member that so far as producers in Royalaseema are concerned they are not able to take part in such rise at all; it is only the middlemen. Therefore what

special steps are Government taking to prevent this profiteering by middlemen in Royalaseema?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have replied to that in part (c).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The reply does not cover the question at all. In view of the fact that in Royalaseema there are no surpluses now available at the producers' homes, what steps do they take in order to keep down the prices to the controlled rates in that particular area?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have said that in Royalaseema there has not been any abnormal rise in prices. I have given figures and I have also said that where there is a rise above the controlled rates the method followed by the Provincial Government is to requisition stocks with the holders.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Wherefrom does the Honourable Member get these figures?

Mr. B. R. Sen: From the Madras Government, Sir.

DISGUISED EXPORT OF RICE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

1230. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the statement issued by Mr. Khemka of the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, contradicting Mr. B. R. Sen's explanation in the *Hindustan Times*, saying that excluding exports to Colombo, as much as 67,797 tons of rice was exported to foreign countries in May-October 1945; if so the Government's answer to this charge;

(b) whether similar disguised exports of rice still going on if so, in what quantities; and

(c) whether any exports of rice to Ceylon are still being permitted?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to Sri Satya Narayan Sinha's question No. 891, on the 12th March, 1946.

(b) and (c). No exports of rice from India are permitted.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Indian troops, whose existence in about ten different countries was mentioned the other day, are being fed from rice exported from this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Indian troops used to be fed from India before, but with effect from the 1st March no export of rice from this country for Indian troops is being permitted.

DAMAGE TO STOCKS OF RICE, WHEAT AND ATTA IN SUBSIDIZED GRANARIES.

1231. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) in how many state or subsidized granaries Government's stocks of rice and wheat or atta are being kept;

(b) since the last budget session, in what quantities such stocks were held;

(c) how much of those stocks were damaged; and

(d) what special steps are taken to prevent such damage?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Statements giving the required information in respect of the Central Government's stocks are laid on the table of the House.

(c) No damage has been reported.

(d) Steps taken are (i) maintenance of the godowns and stocks in hygienic conditions, (ii) regular inspection and classification of stocks according to the keeping quality of grain and arranging turn-over on this basis.

Statement

(a)	Delhi	35 godowns.
	Ajmer	24 "
	Bombay	8 "
	Calcutta	24 "
	Karachi	4 covered godowns and uncovered accommodation at Port Trust stacking sites giving a total accommodation for 200,000 tons.

(b) (in tons)

Stocks on	Calcutta		Bombay	Karachi		Delhi		Ajmer
	Wheat including wheat Products	Rice	Wheat including wheat Products	Wheat including wheat Products	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat and rice total of 12 months
1-3-45	..	...	..	61,918	7,716	...	...	...
1-4-45	6,996	...	..	60,801	9,227	5,363	3,018	...
1-5-45	8,734	...	..	39,382	9,134	6,398	2,803	...
1-6-45	12,161	...	..	23,659	11,946	6,758	2,553	...
1-7-45	8,703	...	..	25,303	19,603	13,770	2,401	...
1-8-45	15,994	...	..	16,446	20,908	11,402	2,180	...
1-9-45	23,906	...	..	19,225	12,187	13,675	2,461	...
1-10-45	34,089	...	..	7,493	8,187	19,747	2,214	...
1-11-45	30,984	...	..	8,313	6,629	19,432	1,343	...
1-12-45	24,399	...	..	13,170	2,945	15,134	1,489	...
1-1-46	26,152	...	14,783	24,340	2,923	12,447	1,537	...
1-2-46	28,452	...	3,919	7,370	2,739	10,196	1,917	...
1-3-46	23,223	*29,400	7,584	13,965	2,739	8,981	2,308	14,660

* Burma rice received during the period December to February.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the answer cover the stocks held in subsidised granaries also?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not follow what is meant by subsidised granaries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Member followed part (a) of the question?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have given figures in respect of the Central Government stocks. Those are the only figures that I can give at present.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Do the Central Government maintain any check on the granaries in the provinces, and have the Central Government any information about them and the stocks that are destroyed there?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We get information from time to time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government give subsidies for the establishment of those granaries and also to those granaries belonging to the Provincial Governments and co-operative societies?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not quite follow what the Honourable Member means by granaries. I have, however, given him the figures regarding stocks held by

the Central Government. The Provincial Governments also hold stocks as part of their distribution scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to those stocks held by Provincial Governments is it a fact that the Central Government does give subsidies?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No, Sir.

Diwan Ohaman Lall: May I ask whether Government have considered the possibility of launching out a scheme for providing grain elevators throughout the country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question has been under investigation for sometime. There are difficulties but those difficulties are being investigated. We have examined this question as part of the postwar development.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are Government satisfied with the information they have received from the Provinces regarding the condition of the granaries; granaries mean the places where grains are stored?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Conditions are not quite satisfactory everywhere but we are doing our very best to improve the conditions.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that damaged grains are sold as cattle food to ordinary shop keepers who in their turn sell them in the market for human consumption?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have received such reports from time to time in the past.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering the advisability of giving subsidies to Provincial Governments in order to enable them to establish either those elevators or ordinary granaries?

Mr. B. R. Sen: As regards elevators, as I said, we have been examining the question and a lot of information has to be gathered. It will take some time before we come to any decision but that is a part of our post-war scheme.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With regard to the Honourable Member's reply to the supplementary question of my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa, may I know if the Honourable Member has received any report from the Government of Bombay to the effect that in one granary at Dharwar 2000 bags of paddy were found missing and that on investigation it was found that one rat was responsible for it?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have not received any such report.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering the advisability of giving subsidies for the establishment of granaries by Provincial Governments?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This is a matter primarily for the Provincial Governments. Where the Provincial Governments have any such scheme we will try and help as far as possible, but we have had no requests for assistance in this matter up to now.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What steps do Government take when information of the sort envisaged in the question of my Honourable friend Mr. Chaudhuri reaches them.

Mr. B. R. Sen: We take all possible steps to prevent the recurrence of such things.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Does Government get any reports about foodgrains procured at their instance by others being damaged?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There have been instances of grains being damaged both in the hands of Government agents and in the hands of Government. This is only natural.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Did they receive any report from the Madras Government that about 40,000 bags of cholam were damaged in the Coimbatore district recently?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have had no such information.

RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITH CONTINENTAL COUNTRIES.

1232. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that trade is resumed with continental countries; if so, with which of them;

(b) whether this trade is subject to any such pre-war controls such as licensing, quotas and barter arrangements;

(c) the most important commodities for export from us and import from them;

(d) since when this trade has been resumed with each of them;

(e) whether trade negotiations are carried on and agreements reached with any of them; if not, when they will begin; and

(f) whether our trade commissioners have been sent again to them?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (d). A statement showing the names of Continental Countries with which, and the dates from which, the resumption of private trade has been allowed is laid on the table.

(b) Imports from countries with which resumption of trade has been permitted are subject to the licensing procedure. Applications for grant of import licences are considered on their merits having regard to the essentiality of the goods applied for and their availability in the Sterling Area countries. The procedure to be followed in regard to exports to these countries is under the consideration of the Government of India, but individual applications are at present being dealt with on merits.

(c) A statement showing the principal commodities exported to and imported from Continental countries is laid on the table.

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, an international trade Conference has been convened and is expected to meet in the coming autumn.

(f) The countries with which trade has been resumed are at present under the jurisdiction of the Indian Trade Commissioner, London. Arrangements are, however, being made for posting Trade Commissioners at suitable places in Europe as soon as local conditions permit of such appointments.

Statement showing the names of Continental countries with which and the dates from which resumption of private trade has been allowed

Country	Dates from which resumption of trade has been permitted
1. France	7th May 1945
2. Belgium	7th May 1945
3. Luxemburg	14th September 1945
4. Holland	19th October 1945
5. Greece	19th October 1945
6. Italy	3rd November 1945
7. Finland	3rd November 1945
8. Denmark	3rd November 1945
9. Normandy	25th December 1945
10. Czechoslovakia	25th December 1945
11. Yugoslavia	6th February 1946

Statement showing principal commodities exported to and imported from Continental countries.

EXPORTS.

Oilseeds, raw jute, raw and waste cotton, raw hides and skins, oil cakes, jute manufactures, grain, pulse and flour, raw hemp, manganese ore, coir manufactures, mica and coffee.

IMPORTS

Machinery and millwork, coal tar dyes, paper and paste board, iron and steel manufactures, metals other than iron and steel instruments, apparatus and appliances, hardware excluding cutlery and agricultural implements, unset pearls and precious stones, vehicles, drugs and medicines, chemicals and chemical preparations, woollen manufactures, artificial silk manufactures, liquors, glass and glass-ware, cotton manufactures, clocks, watches and parts, provisions and oilman's stores, manure, rubber manufactures, tea chests and stationery excluding paper.

N.B.—Following is a list of some of the more important articles which are available and have been selected for import from the countries mentioned against them :—

France—Wines, brandy, synthetic stones, briar pipes, art. silk fabrics, dyes, drugs and medicines, domestic hardware, gold and silver thread, and textile machinery.

Belgium—Firearms, dyestuffs, sheet and plate glass, hardware, electric lamps, and lithopone.

Holland—Chemicals, beer, dyestuffs, electric lamps, Radios and parts, lithopone, starch, dextrine and farina.

Norway—Paper and pasteboards, machinery, hardware, ball bearings and potassium chloride, art. silk yarn, wines, drugs and medicines and textile machinery.

Finland—Insulate building boards.

Luxemburg and Greece—There are so far no requirements from these countries.

Denmark—Cement making machinery, Dairy equipment, and beer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that certain quantities of machineries are available at cheaper prices on the Continent and representations to this effect have been made to this Government, may I know what steps are being taken in order to give hard currency for all such imports?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: There were probably one or two cases where very limited quantities were available. Whenever it has been brought to our notice we have done our best to help the importers. If any specific case is brought to my notice I shall certainly look into that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inform my Honourable friend that certain equipment which was available at £22,000 in Sweden was available at £30,000, not as good, in the United Kingdom and that permission was refused and if that was on currency grounds, what steps are Government going to take in order to make hard currency available and save the money of this country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have taken steps to get things such as cement manufacturing machinery and dairy equipment from Denmark, certain kinds of articles from Norway and also certain machinery from other parts of Europe. But I cannot answer off hand with reference to any particular country or particular item. If a specific case is brought to my notice, I shall do my best to help the importers.

Seth Govind Das: Do Government propose to export cloth to foreign countries with a view to getting foodstuffs from those countries?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think any such bargaining spirit is involved in the export of cloth, particularly because the countries to which our cloth is going can hardly give us any machinery.

Seth Govind Das: I am not talking about machinery. I want to know whether cloth is exported to those countries from where we can expect foodstuffs in return.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am prepared to accept anything from any country, from where we can get anything that is needed by India.

Seth Govind Das: Has it not been said again and again in this House that Government were exporting our cloth so that we might get foodstuffs from other countries?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think my Honourable friend is under a misapprehension as to the actual food position of this country. Food imports to this country have to be done through a Combined Food Board, which consists of several other countries as well and they make plans about their food exports to other countries. We on our part are doing our best and it is really with a view to help that situation that we have to adjust and accommodate ourselves with reference to our cloth export.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that most of the Continental countries require raw materials and other things from India but are not in a position to give the currency required for the payment of such raw materials which they take from India, will Government now consider actively the question of negotiation of barter deals with some of them for machinery and equipment which are so badly wanted by India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I shall certainly have that question looked into, as to what extent in the year 1946 it is possible to enter into barter transactions.

FOOD RATIONS IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.

1233. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that rations of food allotted to people in rural areas are smaller than those allotted to the urban people;
- (b) in what provinces and districts such distinctions are being made, and why;
- (c) in what way the rations differ; and
- (d) the latest quota of ration allotted to the people in rural and urban areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) to (c). The answer is in the negative except in certain areas where there are what are called "Provisioning" schemes in operation.

(d) Generally the scale of cereal ration is 12 ozs. per adult per day except in the case of defined heavy manual workers who are allowed a supplementary ration of 4 ozs.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Is it a fact that in those places where Government have introduced informal rationing, they do not guarantee the supply?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is correct.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that a very nominal quantity of sugar is allowed in village centres on the ground that the villagers should be satisfied with molasses?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is also correct.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In how many and in what rural areas has informal rationing been introduced?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Many districts in the Madras Presidency are covered by informal rationing. In the course of the next few months the whole province will be covered. The whole of Bombay Presidency is covered by informal rationing and parts of Hyderabad and Mysore.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that according to all these orders, the rural people are to be satisfied with rations which are smaller than the rations allotted today to the urban people?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The question which I was asked is whether the scale of rations in the rural areas is the same as in the urban areas. My reply is in the affirmative. But in the informal rationed areas it depends upon the supplies available. If at any time supplies are inadequate, the shortage is equally distributed among all the card holders.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What exactly is the difference between areas that are informally rationed and those that are formally rationed? Is it a fact that in the informal rationed rural areas, the peasants are not allowed to keep stocks that they themselves have produced?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is not correct. But I may explain here that while in informal rationed areas the ration card holders get according to the supply available, they can supplement that by going to the open market, unlike in urban areas where they are fully rationed

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Where is the local market when he is supposed to procure everything.

Mr. President: When they are supposed to procure.

Mr. B. R. Sen: In these areas we do not procure every bit of grain.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: The procurement is difficult in these areas because of your not guaranteeing the supplies after taking away their grain.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Supplies come not only from the local areas but also from other areas. If at any time Government have not enough supplies to give full rations, then it is open to the cardholders to buy in the open market.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

VEGETABLE GHEE PLANTS IN INDIA

†1234. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to his answer to starred question No. 590, dated the 28th February, 1946, regarding the number of vegetable ghee plants in India, will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) which Provincial Governments have complained at the manner in which capitalist enterprisers hailing from outside their respective Provinces were encouraged to float Companies for starting Vanaspati factories;

(b) what action was taken to meet their objections and to encourage local enterprise; and

(c) whether any instructions are being given to these concerns to colour their Vanaspati in such a way as to distinguish it from natural ghee?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The Government of Madras objected to an import licence granted to one party and to the issue of capital on 'long range' to another.

(b) As the import licence was issued on the terms of the Press Note of 23rd December, 1944, of the Commerce Department, the Government of Madras did not press its objection. In the other case, the Government of Madras was informed that the provisions regarding capital issue should not be used to regulate the development of industry, which was capable of independent legislation by the Provincial Government. Seven local firms selected by the Government of Madras have been assisted by the Food Department in obtaining import licences and controlled materials.

(c) No. Addition of sesame oil as latent colour will be made compulsory on all Vanaspati produced as soon as the technical details of the test, now under active examination, are finalised.

ESTIMATED RICE PRODUCTION IN INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD BOARD ALLOCATION.

1235. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the estimated rice production in India for the current year?

(b) Is the United States Board of Agriculture's estimate of India's production correct, namely 25,000,000 tons—an increase of 1,116,000 tons?

(c) Is it a fact that the International Food Board rice allocation for India for the first quarter of 1946 had been closed and that Board's Officials are

reported to have said that it was not likely that they would be opened "unless an emergency of far greater dimensions than that reported exists"?

(d) Is it a fact that the rice allocation for India for 1946 is not over ten per cent of India's pre-war rice import?

(e) Is it a fact that India is specifically requiring rice and that the situation is considered almost desperate by Government?

(f) What are the Indian rice allocations for the second quarter of 1946?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The present estimate is about 25 million tons.

(b) The position has been fully explained in a press note on the subject a copy of which is placed on the table of the House.

(c) I have seen a report to that effect.

(d) and (f). The allocations for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters of 1946 have not yet been decided.

(e) Yes, India needs more rice than wheat.

UNOFFICIAL NOTE

No. F. 47/1/46-D.P.S.

INDIA'S RICE PRODUCTION

"The estimates of rice production in India attributed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture which have recently appeared in the Press are likely to give a completely erroneous picture of the situation and are based on a misunderstanding", stated a representative of the Food Department on his attention being drawn to the figure of 25,890,000 tons which was stated to be India's production of rice in 1945-46 and above the pre-war figure by about 1,116 000 tons. It was not known how these figures had been arrived at, but possibly the production in 1945-46 had been compared with that of a single pre-war year 1938-39, when India's rice production was extremely low. As compared to the average pre-war production which was about 26,500,000 tons the figure for 1945-46 actually shows a decline of about 1,500,000 tons. In addition it was pointed out that according to the Famine Inquiry Commission, Bengal's pre-war figures were under estimates, and if this was taken into account the average pre-war production would be higher and the deficiency would be even greater. After taking into account the damage caused by the cyclone in Madras, India's rice crop in 1945-46 is estimated to be between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 tons less than the average of the immediate pre-war years.

It is emphasised that in making comparisons of pre-war and present production, due consideration must be given to the absence of carryovers from previous harvests. Formerly India could rely on substantial reserves and large imports of Burma rice to carry her through lean years.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to (c), has India's Food Delegation brought home to the notice of the Combined Food Board in Washington that there exists in India an emergency of this nature?

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

REASON FOR INDIAN SHORTAGE OF FOOD

1236. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Has the Food Secretary seen a report of a statement by a prominent member of the United States Department of Agriculture which said that the main reasons for the Indian shortage of food were (i) increased Indian population, (ii) increased buying power of the Indian public, (iii) rice hoarding by both consumers and merchants in India, and (iv) the action of the British authorities in setting a price for the Burmese rice that Burmese merchants consider low?

(b) Has the Honourable Member any other reasons for the Indian food shortage?

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

(b) None in addition to what has already been said on behalf of Government in course of this Food Debate and in reply to questions and adjournment motions bearing on these points during this session in the House.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to (a) (i) of the question, may I know if Government are taking any steps in order to control the increase of Indian population and are they giving any advice on the subject to persons concerned in accordance with the recommendations of the Bhole Committee?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Apart from the mismanagement of the famine situation!

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

INDIA'S MAXIMUM GRAIN ALLOTMENT FROM COMBINED FOOD BOARD

1237. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Food Secretary please place on the table a full report of the statement made in Washington on the 15th February by a high official of the Food Department of the United States of America who declared that "India's chances of securing the maximum grain allotment from the Combined Food would be greatly heightened if Indian political factions gave some evidence that they are cooperating to meet the crisis", and that he "greatly deplored the Indian Congress Party's action in dissociating itself from the Srivastava Mission which will profoundly weaken the Mission's effectiveness here in Washington"?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Government have no information on the subject except what has appeared in the press. A copy of the press report is placed on the table of the House.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1. Name of paper—*Statesman*.
2. Published at—New Delhi.
3. Dated—18th February 1946.

DISSOCIATION BY CONGRESS DEPLORED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—An American food official today told the United Press of America that India's chances of securing the maximum grain allotment from the Combined Food Board would be heightened if Indian Political factions gave evidence that they are co-operating to meet the crisis. The informant emphasized that food allotment towards India would in no way depend upon or would be connected in any way with political settlement, since it was purely an affair between India and Britain.

However, the official said, the consensus of the United States authorities is that the acuteness of India's food situation should find political differences laid aside temporarily in a combined Anglo-Indian effort to stave off famine, adding that otherwise it might have a "bad psychological effect" on the Food Board members.

One official particularly deplored the Congress Party's reported action in dissociating itself from the Srivastava Mission asserting that this might weaken the mission's effectiveness here. He hoped that following the Viceroy's talks with Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah, an expression of unity on the efforts to meet the food crisis might be forthcoming.—*U. P. of America*.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the Governor General is going to carry on his original plan of appointing a committee of four to consider the serious situation in India, irrespective of the fact that the Congress has refused to co-operate with the Viceroy on this subject?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have no more information than the Honourable Member has.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I have no information. I want to know whether the Governor General is

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is referring to what His Excellency the Viceroy is going to do. The Honourable Member for Government is not responsible for that.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The Honourable Member is unaware of any development in this country?

Mr. President: He is not responsible.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The questions are intended to be put to the Government and the Honourable Secretary represents the Honourable Member. Because the Member in charge of this Department happens to be a Member of the Council of State, the Honourable the Secretary represents the Honourable Member in charge. Is the Honourable the Secretary or the Honourable Member in charge unaware of the situation?

Mr. President: What situation?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Whether His Excellency the Viceroy proposes to form a Committee of four

Mr. President: That is just the point of difference which the Honourable Member seems not to have caught. He is asking about the intentions of His Excellency the Viceroy, which is not the concern, of the Honourable Member replying or even if it is the concern, the Honourable Member replying is not responsible for what the intentions of His Excellency the Viceroy are.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: After all the intentions of His Excellency the Viceroy are the intentions of the Governor General.

Mr. President: Not necessarily. He has replied that he has no further information. He has stated so. That means that he has no information so far as the Governor General in Council is concerned.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does that mean that the Honourable Member does not enjoy the confidence of the Governor General?

Mr. President: That does not arise. Next question.

FUTURE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA THROUGH A SINGLE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

1238. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware of the warning issued by the leader of the Muslim League to the British Government in recent weeks, in connection with the portion of His Excellency the Viceroy's recent speech in this Assembly, where His Excellency said that the British Government would in the near future try to decide the future constitution of India through a single Constituent Assembly;

(b) if the Government are aware of the warning that the ten crore Muslims "would resist to death any such attempt" on the part of His Majesty's Government and "would fight to the last man"; and

(c) if Government are aware that certain members of the Parliamentary Delegation who visited India gave the assurance to the Congress leaders that His Majesty's Government has finally resolved to proceed in the manner outlined by His Excellency the Viceroy in his recent speech?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have seen in the Press statements to this general effect.

(c) No.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: With reference to part (b) of the question, what does the Honourable Member who put the question mean by "would fight to the last man"? Does he mean a violent or a non-violent fight?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Violent, of course, not non-violent. Sir, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. President: Next question.

AMENDMENT IN THE RENT CONTROL ORDERS IN DELHI

1239. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to January, 1944, the Rent Control Orders in Delhi permitted a landlord to get a tenant ejected if the house was required for his own use;

(b) whether it is a fact that the above mentioned orders were amended in January, 1944, and the revised orders precluded landlords residing in Delhi from ejecting tenants even if the houses were required for their own use; if so, the reasons for the amendment;

(c) whether their attention has been drawn to a letter from a house-owner in the *Hindustan Times* of the 22nd December, 1945;

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of restoring to landlords the right to eject a tenant in case they required their houses for their own use; and

(e) if it is a fact that house situation has become easier than before in Delhi and that Government have consequently decided to demolish temporary Government buildings constructed during the war?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes; a landlord could get a tenant ejected, under the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939, only when the Rent Controller was satisfied that the house was reasonably and in good faith required by the landlord.

(b) Yes; the expressions 'reasonably and in good faith' occurring in the Old Clause of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order 1939 gave unscrupulous landlords an opportunity of forcing tenants to pay more than the controlled rents. It was also found necessary to debar landlords from evicting tenants of long standing, (whose presence in Delhi was essential), especially when the landlords were already residing in Delhi. Consequently clause 11-A of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939, was enacted.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. Not till the housing position in Delhi improves.

(e) The answer to the first half of the question is in the negative.

Government propose to demolish buildings only when are no longer required for any essential purpose, or where it is considered essential in the interests of the housing position itself that temporary structures should be replaced by permanent buildings.

Mr. Maau Subedar: May I enquire whether Government will look into this question: when a tenant rents out to a sub-tenant, even then do Government propose to leave the tenant secure in the possession of his house, even when the tenant is profiteering?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall consider that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are not interested in the demolishing of these temporary Government buildings. Are these house owners or the Government themselves interested in their demolition?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I did not follow the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Part (e) of the question says, "If it is a fact that the house situation has become easier than before in Delhi and that Government have consequently decided to demolish temporary Government buildings constructed during the war?"

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I did not say that Government has decided. I said that the Government will not demolish temporary buildings unless it is found that they are not required for essential purposes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering the advisability of renting out these buildings to the local public who are in need of housing accommodation as soon as their official use is over?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If they are not essential for the purposes of Government and if the public is prepared to take them on hire, Government will be pleased to consider that.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: How long is this Rent Control Ordinance of June 1944 going to remain in force?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend knows that it will last as long as the emergency lasts.

Mr. President: Next question.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, with your permission, I would answer question No. 1240,* which has been passed over already, 1255 and 1263 together. They more or less deal with the same point. If I answer them together it will save the time of the House.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can do so.

NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS

1240. ***Mr. Ali Asghar Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state as to how many Trade Commissioners have so far been appointed?

(b) How many of them are Muslims?

(c) Why has no attention been paid to the Muslim quota in making these appointments?

(d) What are the qualifications of the Hindus appointed to these post?

(e) Is it a fact that no Muslim is available with these qualifications?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: There are at present eight Trade Commissioners functioning abroad of whom seven are Indians and one British. Two of them are Muslims. Two have been drawn from the public and six from regular Government service. A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

The qualifications of candidates are considered at the time of their appointment.

The number of pensioners among the Trade Commissioners is one. India has no consular representatives abroad. The Indian Government Trade Commissioners at New York, Toronto and Buenos Aires are under the administrative control of the High Commissioner for India in London. His Majesty's Government have absolutely no connection with or control over Indian Trade Commissioners. As regards the point raised in part (c) of question No. 1263, Government do not agree that Trade Commissioners drawn from Government services have not proved a success. They propose to continue to recruit Trade Commissioners and Trade Agents from both Government services and non-official ranks, the case of each individual being considered on its merits, with due regard to the interests of the public service.

Statement

Name	Qualifications, Experience, etc.
1. Kirpalani, Santdas Khushiram, C. I. E. (Indian Government Trade Commissioner, New York)	B. A. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1922 and served in various capacities under the Punjab Government till April 1941 when he was appointed as Joint Secretary to the Government of India, (then) Supply Department. In May, 1944, he was appointed as Indian Government Trade Commissioner, New York.

*This question has however, been printed serially in these Debates.—Ed. of D

Name	Qualifications, Experience, etc.
2. Ahuja, Mulk Raj. (Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Toronto)	A Graduate of the Punjab University, he was making his mark in business, when at the age of 34, he was selected by the Federal Public Service Commission for the post of Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Milan in 1931. He worked for four years as Officer on Special Duty in the offices of the Director of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta and the High Commissioner for India, London before taking up his appointment in Milan in 1935. He left Milan at the outbreak of war with Italy in 1940 and was appointed Deputy Indian Trade Commissioner, London. While in London he also officiated as Indian Trade Commissioner, London for some time. In 1941, he was selected for the post of Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Toronto.
3. Saksena, Ramji Ram. (Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Sydney)	M. A., LL. B. Belongs to Imperial Customs Service, which he joined in 1930. He held various posts of responsibility in U. P., Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi till 1934 when he was appointed as First Secretary to the Central Board of Revenue and ex-officio Under Secretary in the Finance Department, Government of India. In 1936, he was appointed as First Secretary, C. B. R. and ex-officio Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department (Central Revenues). Was selected for the post of Indian Trade Commissioner, Japan in 1937 and received necessary training in the office of the Director of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta. He had held the post of I. T. C., Japan for over 3 years, when he was appointed to his present appointment in 1941.

Seth Govind Das: With respect to the reply of the Honourable Member that only two out of eight Trade Commissioners are from public men and the rest are from Government servants, may I know if any effort was made to get these posts filled only by public men and not by Government officials?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As my friend is fully aware, quite a large number of men are engaged in the black market, but those who are not so engaged and on whom we can draw, will not go abroad at the present time.

Seth Govind Das: Was any effort made in this respect?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes. I have been trying my best to draft men from non-official sources not only for these posts but for quite a number of other posts but I am up against a stone wall. I cannot get the men from non-official sources.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who controls the Trade Commissioner—the Honourable Member himself or the High Commissioner in London?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is administrative control first by the High Commissioner and then by the Commerce Department here.

DEFENCE OF INDIANS IN MALAYA AND BURMA BY HINDU AND MUSLIM LAWYERS.

1241. ***Mr. Ali Asghar Khan:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state how many lawyers have been deputed to defend Indians in Malaya and Burma?

(b) How many of them are Hindus? Why no Muslim has been selected for this job?

Mr. E. N. Banerjee: (a) Five lawyers have been sent to Malaya but none to Burma.

(b) Four are Hindus. The non-selection of any Muslim is not intentional. There were no special reasons for insisting on including Muslims in the panel of lawyers. Our Representative in Malaya has, however, been asked to consider the appointment of a local Indian Muslim lawyer, if necessary.

ABOLITION OF BRICKS CONTROL ORDER IN DELHI

1242. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the news item in the *Hindustan Times* of the 3rd March, 1946, regarding revised brick prices;

(b) if he is aware of the statement in the budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member regarding the immediate necessity of putting up buildings as rapidly as possible for housing accommodation and the necessity of releasing all controlled materials in this regard;

(c) why the sale of bricks is still controlled, and why it is necessary that so long after the cessation of hostilities permits should be taken for purchase of bricks in Delhi; and

(d) if he proposes to consider the desirability of abolishing all controls in his Department before the end of this financial year, that is, 1st April, 1946, in view of the urgent necessity for additional house accommodation for the vastly increased population of Delhi and New Delhi, if not, why not?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). Continuance of price control and distribution control was considered necessary in order to ensure that the price of bricks was maintained at a reasonable level and that the disposal of the bricks from the Government and private stocks was carried out in an orderly manner. The entire subject is, however, now under further consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is not the Honourable Member responsible for the building of houses and all these things in the centrally administered areas, and if so, will he try to apply the same consideration to the other towns in the centrally administered areas also?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall bear in mind what has been said by my Honourable friend.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that all control orders have been abolished in Bombay, will Government inquire why they could not be abolished all over India, and why particularly in the centrally administered areas the Honourable Member should not now abolish them?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall make inquiries.

STOPPAGE OF EXPORTS OF FOODGRAINS AND OIL SEEDS

1243. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state in view of the policy enunciated by Government and the opinion expressed by this House at the time of the Food Debate to stop exports of all foodgrains and oil seeds, what immediate steps Government are taking in the matter?

(b) Is it a fact that the British Ministry of Supply are making purchases in India of foodgrains and oil seeds including groundnuts, pulses and condiments and the same are being shipped out even now?

(c) Is it a fact that the British Ministry of Supply are asking for supplies of Indian foodgrains and oil seeds including groundnuts and pulses? If so, when was the last request made, and what answer have Government given?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) All exports of cereals are banned except for small quantities required for provisioning ships sailing from Indian ports and for certain stations on the passenger air line routes.

Export of groundnuts has been totally suspended pending a re-examination of the position and that of rape and mustard seeds stopped. As regards linseed an export quota is being fixed in consultation with provinces as India is surplus in this seed. Gingelly seed is also allowed to be exported upto 1941-42 level as we have a surplus to spare.

(b) The Honourable Member refers, presumably, to the British Ministry of Food. It is not a fact that the Ministry are making any purchases in India of foodgrains or pulses. They have purchased some groundnuts and rapeseed against the quotas originally allotted to them but the exports of these unshipped quotas have also been stopped.

Export of condiments was decontrolled with effect from 3rd November, 1945, as the supply position was expected to be easier with the reduction in the requirements of the Defence Services and as these are important articles of commerce, export of which would not materially affect the food situation. The Government of India have no information whether the Ministry of Food are making any purchases of condiments in India.

(c) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government give an assurance to this House that the export of groundnuts, which has been suspended, as my Honourable friend says, will not be resumed till after October next, when we shall have been through the most acute famine situation?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We shall take the Honourable Member's suggestion into account.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am not happy with the word 'suspended', because I know that the British Ministry of Food is actively collecting groundnuts all over India even today while we are talking, and that causes apprehension, and I am asking the Government to give us a categorical assurance that at all events until the most acute period of famine is over, whatever the result of that re-examination may be, no groundnuts will be permitted to be exported from this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to give any such assurance at this stage; there are many factors which will have to be taken into account.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I then know whether while people are going to die in this famine the Government will consider any other factors and permit the export of groundnuts? Why is my Honourable friend not in a position to tell us that Government will definitely consider the famine situation which is the only factor to be considered?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is certainly the overriding factor, but even taking that factor into account, it may not be necessary to stop export of groundnuts altogether.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is it a fact that the British Supply Mission is putting pressure on the Indian Government to remove this suspension?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are being taken by Government to see that merchants and middlemen do not unduly depress the prices of groundnut, now that all exports are stopped?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question does not arise out of this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It does.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that there are huge quantities of groundnuts and oilseeds lying in Hyderabad State and other States in India, and if so will he consider the desirability of obtaining these from the States into British India by way of requisitioning or something like that?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir. The quantities not exported will be consumed in India, not necessarily only in the producing States.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does the suspension of the export of groundnuts cover the Indian States as well as British India also?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is the Honourable Member aware of the newspaper report that the U. K. is alleging that we are using the suspension of groundnut export as a lever for getting more food?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have seen a newspaper report to that effect.

SAFEGUARDS FOR INDIAN PLYWOOD INDUSTRY

1244. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the effect that the importation of tea chests and plywood panels, as at present allowed, is likely to have on the indigenous plywood industry which has developed during the war;

(b) the Government's policy in allowing the imports of tea chests, *etc.*, if the Indian Industry is in a position to meet the country's demand; and

(c) what safeguards Government propose to afford to the Indian Plywood industry, if it be prejudiced by the present import policy?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). Government have no reasons to believe that the controlled importation of tea chests and plywood for tea chests for the time being affects adversely the interests of the indigenous plywood industry. Import licences are issued to the extent necessary to meet the essential demands of the tea industry after taking into consideration the productive capacity of the Indian plywood industry.

(c) Licences for import are issued for six monthly requirements at a time and this procedure enables Government to watch the growth of the Indian plywood industry and to adjust requirements of imports from abroad. I may add that it has been reported to us that the quality of the indigenous plywood is not yet satisfactory and that an application submitted by the industry asking for protection is under consideration.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to give us an idea of the present productive capacity of this industry and the approximate annual demand within the country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No; I have looked into it but I am afraid I will not be able to say just now the actual quantity.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When did the question of quality come first to be considered by Government? Was it during the pendency of the war or after the war was over when import facilities were available?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Well, Sir, in the circumstances of the war there were many things which could not be taken into consideration. But as soon as the situation improved, the question of quality came up very much to the forefront, because it was insistently reported to us even throughout the war that a very considerable quantity of tea was damaged in transit even within India, and also outside India owing to the nature of the boxes in which the tea was packed. So, naturally, if a substantial quantity of tea is damaged even inside this country owing to certain types of boxes, and if the industry therefore requires that a certain quantity should be imported, we have to agree to it; but as we have said we are carefully watching the situation.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does that mean that the present factories of plywood are unable to meet the requirements of India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think I have answered that question quite fully.

RATIO OF SIKHS TO TOTAL APPOINTMENTS IN LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

1245. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state the number of each of the temporary, officiating and permanent appointments made in the Assistant's and Clerk's Grades of the Legislative Department since January 1944, and how many of them were actually filled by the Sikhs in each category?

(b) Is any Sikh actually employed on the Staff of the Department? If so, what is the number? If none, why?

(c) To which Province did each of the candidate appointed in each grade belong?

(d) Will he please consider the desirability of appointing Sikhs in each grade of the Department?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table. Two officiating clerks' appointments were filled by Sikhs.

(b) There are no Sikhs now actually serving in the Department because (1) two Sikhs, Amrik Singh and Darshan Singh, who hold permanent clerks' posts in the Department, are both on deputation to higher posts in other Departments, (2) the two Sikhs referred to in the reply to part (a) (Bhagat Singh and Harjinder Singh Bhalla) subsequently resigned their appointments, (3) the only Sikh candidate nominated on the occasion of a vacancy due to be filled from other minorities refused the appointment offered to him on the ground that he was not prepared to serve in Simla where the vacancy occurred.

(d) There has been, and will be, no discrimination against Sikhs.

STATEMENT

Grade	Nature of appointment	Total number of appointments made	Number of appointments filled by Sikhs	Provinces to which candidates appointed belong
1. Assistants	Temporary	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Officiating	7	Nil	Punjab 4; N.W.F.P. 1; Bengal 2.
	Permanent	1	Nil	Madras 1.
2. Clerks.	Temporary	5	Nil	Punjab 3; U.P. 1; Bengal 1.
	Officiating	18	2	Punjab 11; Delhi 1; U. P. 3; Bengal 2; Indian States 1.
	Permanent	Nil	Nil	Nil

INTRODUCTION OF EGGLESS DAYS IN DELHI HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

1246. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Food Secretary kindly state:

(a) if Government are aware that the requirements of big hotels and restaurants in Delhi where a large number of European officers usually mess constitute a first charge on the supplies of eggs; if so the reasons for it;

(b) if Government are aware that for some months during the winter egg supplies in Delhi have been, generally speaking, very unsatisfactory; and

(c) whether Government have considered the question of introducing eggless days every week; if not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This is not necessary as the supply position has improved.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are we to take it seriously that Bhargavas have now taken to egg-eating?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am only asking for my friend.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAMINE ENQUIRY COMMISSION AND APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER AS SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

1247. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Food Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a retired military officer has recently been appointed as special Commissioner to examine the recommendations of the Famine Enquiry Commission; if so, his qualifications for the post with special reference to his study of systems of agriculture, food production, diet and eating habits of the Indians and their general economic life; and

(b) his pay and emoluments and the reasons why this officer was selected when better qualified Indians both officials and non-officials were available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Lt. General Sir Clarence A. Bird who has been appointed to this post retired as Master General of Ordnance in India. After his retirement he worked as Regional Food Commissioner, North Western Region for about 16 months during which period he had opportunities of studying food and agricultural problems of the country.

(b) His pay is Rs. 4,000 per month inclusive of pension. He was the most suitable person available for this post.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether there was no Indian available for this job?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The most suitable man was selected.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Do I take it that my Honourable friend is serious in stating that this was the most suitable man for this job out of four hundred million people in this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I did not make the selection from 400 million people; but at the time he was the most suitable man for the job.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask who made the selection?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Government of India.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I want to know who the officer is who made the selection?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I can give you no more information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I take it that my Honourable friend has no more information on this subject? Is it because he refuses to give us the exact information?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The appointment is made by the Government of India. I think that is the information that I can give.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Which particular Department?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Department of Food.

Diwan Chaman Lall: That is to say, the Honourable Member in charge?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask if this post was advertised and if not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It was not considered necessary to advertise this post.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what are his qualifications?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have replied to that when answering part (a) of the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What were his special qualifications before he was appointed Regional Food Controller?

Mr. B. R. Sen: His special qualification was his high administrative ability.

Diwan Chaman Lall: If the post was not advertised, how is it that the Government came to the conclusion that he was the most suitable man available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Because he had retired as the Master General of Ordnance. He was a man of high administrative ability and he was available at the time and he was selected.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My point is very simple. If the post was not advertised, how did the Honourable Member in charge come to the conclusion that he was the only suitable man available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: In war time, we had had to fill important posts at short notice. We could not lose time in advertising or writing to the Public Service Commission or by any other channel. Therefore if we found any particular officer suitable for any particular appointment, we selected him. In this case we found Gen. Bird eminently suitable for the post.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that there was considerable discontent throughout the country at the appointment of an Englishman as Regional Food Commissioner and if that were so why did Government not take the next step? May I know?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not aware of any such feeling throughout the country.

PUBLICATION OF "NUTRITION" AND ITS COST TO FOOD DEPARTMENT

1248. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Food Secretary kindly state:

(a) if it is a fact that the publication 'Nutrition' is being edited by an Englishman in the English language;

(b) if he has seen the comments of the Indian press regarding this publication including those of the *Amrit Bazar Patrika*, *Hindustan Standard*, *Tribune*, *India Express* and *Free Press Journal* to the effect that the publication can serve no useful purpose;

(c) the special qualification of the officer editing the publication in respect of nutrition, Indian dietetics and eating habits and even publicity; and

(d) the cost involved to the Department?

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

(c) The Officer has been taken from the Ministry of Food in London and possesses considerable experience of food distribution and publicity. He is assisted by Indian officers who are duly qualified and are familiar with Indian conditions. He is also helped by a Panel of Readers who are Indians.

(d) Rs. 30,000 per year.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that this is a useful publication, will Government take steps to have this magazine translated in the Indian languages also and distributed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This has already been considered and the Provincial Governments have been asked to translate this into the Provincial languages.

DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL OWNERSHIP

1249. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money received by the Delhi Improvement Trust since its formation up to the 28th February, 1946, by the sale of Nazul and Trust lands both freehold and leasehold;

(b) the minimum and maximum price per square yard received before, during and after the war;

(c) the method of disposal of land followed by the trust;

(d) whether it is a fact that the land is sold to the highest bidder by tender or auction irrespective of the fact that the person purchasing it requires it for his *bona fide* residential purposes or only to build for realising rent or for profiteering; and

(e) what the Trust has done so far to encourage individual ownership of houses?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Approximately 118 lakhs.

		Rs.	As.	P.
(b) Prewar period	Minimum	3	0	0
	Maximum	40	7	0
War period	Minimum	4	0	0
	Maximum	120	0	0
Post war period	Minimum	10	0	0
	Maximum	67	0	0

(c) Auction, tenders and offers.

(d) Yes, but the use to which the land can be put is always specified in the covenants relating to each plot.

(e) Certain schemes for organising Co-operative Building Societies for the purpose are under consideration by the Trust and the Chief Commissioner.

AMOUNT REALIZED AND SPENT BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST SINCE ITS FORMATION

†1250. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the financial resources of the Delhi Improvement Trust and a statement of money realised and spent by it up to the end of February 1946, since its formation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Trust was burdened with an initial loan of about Rs. 35 lakhs on anti-malaria and sewage disposal works with which as such it had nothing to do; and

(c) whether it is a fact that it has done practically nothing to remove the congestion of the city and carry out other improvements?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) The financial resources of the Trust are:

- (i) Sale proceeds of land,
- (ii) Ground rent, and
- (iii) Loans and grants-in-aid from Government.

A statement giving the information available at present is laid on the table.

(b) The Trust was made responsible for financing certain anti-malaria and sewage disposal works at a total cost of 51 lakhs. To enable the Trust to meet this expenditure the Government gave a grant of 20 lakhs and a loan of 51 lakhs.

(c) No.

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

Statement showing the income and expenditure of the Trust from its inception up to the 31st January, 1946

<i>Income</i>	Rs.
(1) Ordinary revenue	33,22,202
(2) Revenue from works and schemes	1,22,07,134
(3) Grants-in-aid	22,19,243
(4) Loans	91,77,000
(5) Subsidy from Government for rehousing	1,28,300
(6) Miscellaneous	36,644
	2,70,90,523
 <i>Expenditure</i>	
(1) Administration charges	15,17,488
(2) Works and schemes	96,53,298
(3) Miscellaneous	2,13,199
(4) Payment to Government Pre-Trust Nazul Revenue	16,76,210
(5) Repayment of loan	34,86,500
(6) Interest on loan	17,16,760
(7) Anti-malaria works	11,55,027
(8) Sewage Disposal works	40,09,759
(9) Equated instalments on rehousing loan	1,36,272
	2,35,64,513

Figures for February 1946 are not readily available.

FULFILMENT OF AIMS OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

†1251. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on February 26th, 1937, before the Delhi Improvement Trust was formed Mr. (now Sir) E. M. Jenkins, the then Chief Commissioner designate of Delhi had given solemn promises to the citizens of Delhi in an informal meeting of the Delhi Municipality that the removal of the city's congestion and its improvement would be the first concern of the Trust and that every effort would be made by the Trust to enlist the co-operation of private owners of land with a view to secure speedy and orderly growth of the city and whether they will lay a copy of the said statement made by him on the table of the House;

(b) what steps have been taken by the Trust so far to secure the co-operation of the public or private owners of land for the development of land belonging to them and falling in the various development schemes of the Trust on modern lines and minimum cost;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn in this connection to a letter published on page 2 in the *National Call* dated the 24th December, 1945, and the complaints of the public contained therein; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

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

(b) The general policy of the Trust has been to acquire land from private owners and develop it on modern lines at the minimum cost. Applications from individual owners for abandonment of acquisition of their properties have received by the Trust in certain cases and have been decided under the provisions of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1912, as extended to the Province of Delhi.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Trust has a large programme of works involving an expenditure of 132 lakhs in the next financial year and the programme will be pushed through as expeditiously as possible.

UNPOPULARITY OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST DUE TO LAW OF COMPENSATION

†1252. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the activities of the Delhi Improvement Trust are very unpopular on account of the law of compensation which has been made applicable to acquire lands for Trust schemes; and

(b) whether Government are aware that this law is unfair and unjust to owners of private lands and differs in one important respect with the law of acquisition which is applicable to the Calcutta Improvement Trust to the detriment of private owners; if so, whether Government propose to suitably amend it at an early date; if not, why not?

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

(b) No. The law applicable to the acquisition of private lands for Trust Schemes is the same as in the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, and is in substance similar to the provisions of the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911. The Government see no reason to amend the existing law.

COMPENSATION TO OWNERS OF LANDS OWING TO NON-EXECUTION OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST SCHEMES

†1253. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the Trust schemes which were notified by the Delhi Improvement Trust under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act long ago are still pending and that the owners of private lands falling in such schemes have suffered a good deal on account of the delay on the part of the Trust in executing the schemes; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the question of paying compensation to such owners for the losses incurred by them?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) It is a fact that a number of schemes could not be proceeded with owing to difficulties arising out of war conditions. The reply to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE LANDS IN DELHI ON MODERN LINES

†1254. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state whether, in view of Government policy regarding building houses as laid down in the Finance Member's budget speech, he has issued or proposes to issue any instructions to the Delhi Improvement Trust to follow a policy of securing speedy development on modern lines of private lands falling in its various Town Expansion and Improvement Schemes, by releasing the same on reasonable terms and conditions? If not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The Delhi Improvement Trust has provided for an expenditure of Rs. 1,32,00,000 in the Budget for the year 1946-47 and the schemes contemplated will be put into operation as early as possible.

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

COMPOSITION OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS AND CONSULS FOR INDIA

†1255. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the number of Indian Trade Commissioners functioning in different countries of the world today, Indians and Europeans, separately;

(b) the number of Trade Commissioners, who are drawn from the public as against those taken in from regular Government services;

(c) the number of pensioners among the Trade Commissioners and in other Consular Services for India in different countries of the world; and

(d) whether these officers are ever directed by the High Commissioner for India or by His Majesty's Government in their routine or special duties?

APPLICATION FOR IMPORT LICENCE OF DUPLEX SPEED ROTARY FROM U. S. A.
BY *Janmabhoomi*.

1256. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether it is a fact that in October, 1945, an application from the *Janmabhoomi* Group of Newspapers of Bombay, requesting for an import licence for a Duplex Speed Rotary from Battle Creek, United States of America, was received by Government?

(b) Did the *Janmabhoomi* supply in November 1945, to Government a comparative statement for the same type, size, etc., of the Rotary, showing that, while the United Kingdom manufacturers quoted for the same type, size, etc., of Rotary Rs. 4,09,000/- the United States of America manufacturers quoted Rs. 2,57,000/-?

(c) Did the *Janmabhoomi* quote a United Kingdom letter saying that the United Kingdom prices were not final and that they were likely to be higher?

(d) Is it a fact that the *Janmabhoomi* further showed that, while the United States of America machine has a capacity of forty thousand copies per hour, the United Kingdom Rotary has only fifteen thousand per hour, and that the United States of America machine has further more helpful devices than the United Kingdom machine?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: With your permission, Sir, I would answer Questions 1256 and 1257 together.

No. 1256. (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. A statement on these lines was received by the Chief Controller of Imports from *Janmabhoomi* office in December 1945.

(c) Yes.

(d) They wrote a letter to this effect on the 7th February.

No. 1257. (a) The *Janmabhoomi* Office addressed a letter to the effect to the Chief Controller of Imports on the 7th February, 1946.

(b) and (c). On their furnishing the relevant particulars an import licence was issued on the 11th March, 1946. The exchange control copy of the licence issued carries with it the necessary sanction for dollar expenditure. It is not a fact that a licence was refused to them at any stage.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do I understand that a licence has been issued to these people now to get the machinery from America and to save 1½ lakhs of rupees by doing so?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The exchange control carries with it sanction for dollar expenditure. That means that we can get it from the dollar countries.

APPLICATION FOR IMPORT LICENCE OF DUPLEX SPEED ROTARY FROM U. S. A.
BY *Janmabhoomi*.

†1257. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if: it is a fact that the *Janmabhoomi* informed Government on their inquiry in January 1946, that while the United States of America manufacturers gave hopes to supply the Duplex Speed Rotary machine at the end of this year, the United Kingdom manufacturers could not give hopes earlier than two years?

(b) If the information contained in the above is correct, why is it that the necessary licence and dollar permit have been refused to them, in spite of the fact that prices are rising every month?

(c) Do Government propose to grant quickly the necessary import licence and dollar permit, so that their order may not be cancelled and they may not have to pay enhanced prices?

REQUISITIONED HOUSES IN QAROL BAGH, DELHI

‡1258. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that the undermentioned houses in Karol Bagh, Delhi which were requisitioned by Government for allotment to Government servants, have been lying vacant or unoccupied for a period varying from one to six months?

(1) 15-A/39	First Floor I.
(2) 15-A/9	Ground Floor I. .
(3) Do.	Do. II.
(4) 6/73	First Floor II.
(5) 6/73	Ground Floor I.
(6) 24-25	First Floor
(7) No. 19	Birla Flat.
(8) 53/7	Ground Floor I.
(9) 15-A/2-3-4	Ground Floor I.
(10) Birla Building	Ground Floor II.
(11) Do.	Ground Floor I.
(12) 6/75-76	First Floor VI.
(13) 642	B. D.
(14) 25310	M. C.
(15) 15-A/39	Ground Floor II.
(16) 15-A/39	Ground Floor I.
(17) 6/75-76	First Floor V.
(18) Ganesh Bhawan . . . . .	...
(19) 6/64	Ground Floor.

(b) Is it also a fact that most of such houses were successively allotted, but refused by various allottees, mostly because of lack of proper living conditions and privacy?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1256.

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

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A statement showing the position of the requisitioned houses in question is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Some of these houses proved unpopular and were refused when offered and were thus lying vacant for some time as shown in the statement laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the position of the leased houses in question

S. No.	Name of the house	Date from which lying vacant	Remarks
1	15-A/39-F. F. I.	26th June 1945	It was offered to officials on 26th June 1945, 15th August 1945, 12th November 1945, 21st November 1945 and 31st January 1946 but was refused successively by all. It has been released from 8th March 1946
2	15-A/9 G. F. I.	14th January 1946	The allotment made to the previous allottee was cancelled from 14th January 1946. It was re-allotted on 28th January 1946 and accepted on 7th February 1946
3	15-A/9 G. F. II.	15th November 1945	The house was a re-allotted to officials on 20th November 1945, 21st December 1945, 28th January 1946 and 16th February 1946 but was refused by all in turn. It has been re-allotted from 14th March 1946
4	6/73 F. F. II	September 1945	The house was offered to different officials on 4th October 1945, 26th October 1945 and 4th December 1945 but was refused by all. It was finally accepted on 3rd January 1946
5	6/73 G. F. I.	5th February 1946	The allottee was declared ineligible from getting Government accommodation and he vacated the house on 5th February 1946. It was re-allotted on 22nd February 1946
6	24/26 (should be 22/6)	November 1945	The house was offered to different officials on 19th July 1945, 28th July 1945, 19th October 1945, 26th November 1945, 21st December 1945 and 28th January 1946 but was refused by each allottee. It was finally accepted on 16th February 1946 and has been occupied by the allottee
7	No. 19 Birla Flat	January 1946	Reserved for casual visitors
8	53/75 G. F. I.	23rd December 1945	Surrendered by the previous allottee on 23rd December 1945. It was re-allotted on 28th December 1945 and accepted on 3rd January 1946
9	15-A/2,3,4 G. F. I.	December 1945	It was offered on 30th January 1946 and 16th February 1946 but was refused. It has been re-allotted from 14th March 1946
10	Birla Flat G. F. II. (Represents Birla Flat No. 11)	31st January 1946	The house stands allotted to an Officer who is in occupation of flat No. 22 by mutual exchange. He has been asked to shift to his flat
11	Birla Flat G. F. I. (Represents Birla Flat No. 7)	31st January 1946	This flat was occupied by mutual exchange by the allottee of Hutment No. 164. He has been asked to vacate the Hutment and to go to his flat
12	6/75-76 F. F. VI.	20th January 1946	The house was vacated by the previous allottee on 20th January 1946 due to resignation. It has been re-allotted from 4th March 1946

S. No.	Name of the house	Date from which lying vacant	Remarks
13	B. D./642	January 1946	Vacated by the previous allottee in January 1946. It has been recommended for release
14	25310-M. C. (should be 2531 M. C.)	18th August 1945	This house was offered to officials on 26th June 1945, 15th August 1945, 13th September 1945, 19th October 1945, 26th November 1945 and 21st December 1945, but was refused by all in turn. It has been released from 15th March 1946.
15	15-A/39 G. F. II.	3rd July 1945	Both these sets proved unpopular and were refused when offered. These sets were released from 8th March 1946.
16	15-A/39 G. F. I.	9th August 1944	
17	Ganesh Bhawan (should be Ramesh Bhawan)	28th February 1946	Fell vacant due to the allottee being declared ineligible for Government accommodation. The house has been re-allotted from 4th March 1946.
18	6/64	28th February 1946	The house has been allotted elsewhere from 4th March 1946.

REQUISITIONED HOUSES IN KAROL BAGH, DELHI

+1259. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if Government are aware that in most cases where the requisitioned houses in Karol Bagh, Delhi, were accepted by the allottees, they were sub-let by the respective allottees, on black-market rents to the general public who were driven to pay high rents on account of grave shortage of living accommodation in Delhi?

(b) Are Government also aware that this practice of sub-letting is so prevalent that on an enquiry by the Estate Office, three flats out of four in house No. 6/73 in Karol Bagh, were found to be sub-let?

(c) Is it a fact that most of the unoccupied houses in Karol Bagh are being utilized by the local staff of the Central Public Works Department for their private ends?

(d) In view of these facts, do Government propose to consider the advisability of terminating the lease of the houses referred to in part (a) of the preceding question to save them from black-market transactions and misuse and making them available to the needy general public among whom many are Government employees on the waiting list for Government accommodation?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) It is a fact that two flats out of the four in house No. 6/73 Karol Bagh were found to have been sub-let, but it does not follow from this one case, that sub-letting is widely prevalent.

(c) No.

(d) Government have already de-requisitioned a few houses in the Karol Bagh area, and have always under their examination the de-requisitioning of houses not required by them or which they are unable to utilize.

RECOMMENDATION FOR AMENDMENT OF PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY ACT

1260. ***Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the case reported in I. L. R. 1943 Madras 83 (Full Bench) and the recent judgment of Justice Somayya in (S. A. 2273 of 1944 decided on the 5th November, 1945) the purport of which was reported on page 5 in the *Hindu*, dated the 19th November, 1945;

(b) whether Government are aware that numerous titles to property are founded upon the interpretation of section 28, Provincial Insolvency Act, as given by the Madras High Court in 49 Madras 849 Full Bench, which interpretation has now been upset by the recent Full Bench of the same High Court in 1943; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Judges have recommended legislation to amend the provisions of the Provincial Insolvency Act so as to bring it in conformity with the provisions of the corresponding section in the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act; if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Yes.

(b) The judgments referred to in Part A show that such cases exist, but I am not aware whether they are numerous.

(c) Yes; the recommendation reached the Government of India in September 1942, and was reserved for consideration after the termination of the War. The matter will be taken up as soon as Government are free from the pre-occupations of the current Session of the Legislature.

NON-REPRESENTATION OF MADRAS ON TRADE MISSIONS

1261. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received a representation from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce drawing their attention to the conspicuous absence of representation of Madras in the various Trade Missions sent out from India and characterising it as "invidious discrimination"; and

(b) whether the Government of India will consider the desirability of giving proper representation to Madras and other industrially backward provinces in such Trade Missions;

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I have not been able to trace any representation on the subject.

(b) Government will bear in mind the suggestion regarding proper representation of industrially backward provinces on such Trade Missions. I might add that trade missions deal with highly technical matters connected with trade and commerce, and as such, we have to draft men who are fully acquainted with the subject.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO CONGRESS MEDICAL MISSION TO MALAYA

†**1262. *Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published that arrangements have been completed for the despatch of the Congress Medical Mission for Malaya and that it is only awaiting transport facilities;

(b) whether Government would take steps for granting immediate transport facilities; and

(c) whether, in view of the great humanitarian services proposed to be rendered by the Mission, the Government of India would consider the advisability of granting free transport facilities to the Mission?

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

(b) Yes.

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

(c) The Government of India have already undertaken very substantial expenditure on legal assistance for defence of arrested Indians, on general relief to the Indian community and on equipping and sending a medical party of their own. They, therefore, regret that they are unable to undertake this commitment, particularly as they are giving the Congress Medical Mission all such facilities as they can on the understanding that this Mission would supplement medical relief in Malaya at their own cost. The Congress Medical Mission has not also expressed any desire for being provided with free transport facilities.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS AND TRADE AGENTS FOR INDIA

†1263. ***Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the names of, and the places in which, the Indian Trade Commissioners and Trade Agents are stationed;

(b) whether Government are aware that in order to rehabilitate our post-war economy, many more Trade Commissioners have to be appointed; and

(c) whether Government are aware that Trade Commissioners appointed from the rank and file of the Government services have not proved a success, and whether they propose to recruit Trade Commissioners and Trade Agents mainly from the Indian non-official public with requisite qualifications?

FORMATION OF GRAIN PANCHAYATS AND GRAIN BANK IN VILLAGES

†1264. ***Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a suggestion for the formation of grain panchayats and grain Banks in villages; and

(b) whether, in view of corruption and difficulties experienced by the Government officials in the present system of distribution, Government will take a lead in formulating a scheme for the starting and maintenance of a chain of such village grain panchayats and grain Banks?

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

(b) The Government of India have already brought to the notice of Provincial and State Governments the desirability of promoting village grain Banks and entrusting to the Co-operative Organisation the marketing of agricultural produce.

STRIKE IN INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES

1265. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether there has been a strike in the Indian School of Mines?

(b) Has the strike ended?

(c) Is it a fact that recently a deputation of the students waited upon the Honourable Member?

(d) Is it a fact that the graduates of the Indian School of Mines are not permitted by the Coal Mines Regulations to hold any responsible position in coal mines?

(e) Will Government consider the advisability of amending the Coal Mines' Regulation so as to make the diploma of the Indian School of Mines equivalent

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1240.

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

to the Second Class Mine Manager's Certificate of competency subject to the holder obtaining practical experience in coal mines for a further period of one year? If not, why not?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take to remedy the grievances of the students?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. The certificate or diploma holders of the Indian School of Mines must secure a Second Class or First Class Colliery manager's certificate before they can be appointed to a responsible position in a coal mine.

(e) and (f). The matter is under consideration. Government are considering the extent to which the regulations under the Mines Act can be altered to give some weightage under those Regulations to the Diploma of the School of Mines, but they do not consider that it is possible to treat that diploma as a substitute for the Second Class mine manager's certificate granted under those regulations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When Government are responsible for both certificates as well as diploma, what is it that prevents the Government of India to see that diploma holders are given training which will be considered equivalent to the training or efficiency which certificate holders are expected to possess?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have discovered in my examination of the subject that there are certain anomalies and I am taking steps to rectify them.

TRACTORS PURCHASED FROM ABROAD

1266. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state how many tractors have been ordered from abroad, and with whom the orders have been placed?

(b) How many have been received so far, and when is the balance expected to be received?

(c) Have the tractors so far received got all the accessories to put them on work?

(d) How many tractors have been actually taken to places where they are required?

(e) Of the total number of tractors ordered, what is the number allotted to each area or Province?

(f) Of the tractors, how many are of British manufacture and how many of American manufacture? What is the price of each tractor and the capacity of each?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Since 1943, 531 Tractors have been ordered from the United States of America through the India Supply Mission, Washington, of which 82 were under lease-lend.

(b) 112 have been received so far and the promised ex-factory delivery of the remaining is spread over the period April-December, 1946.

(c) No, Sir, heavy ploughs are required for most of these tractors but only 25 of them have been received so far.

(d) 75 have already been taken and 33 most of which arrived recently are in the course of being taken to the areas where they are required. The remaining four are in stock to meet emergencies.

(e) A statement is laid on the table.

(f) All these tractors are of American manufacture. A statement is laid on the table showing their prices and capacity.

Statement showing Allocation of 531 Tractors ordered since January 1943, referred to in part (e) of the reply

Allottee	Number of Tractors
Bombay	151
United Provinces	145
Bengal	50
Sind	41
Bihar	30
Punjab	17
Madras	8
N. W. F. Province	3
Assam	13
Baluchistan	6
I. A. R. I.	2
Central Tractor Station	4
Army Authorities (Q. M. G.)	4
Rampur	11
Hyderabad	15
Baroda	6
Mysore	22
Travancore	2
Bundi State	1
Total	531

Statement showing the prices capacities of tractors referred to in part (d) of the reply

No. of Tractors	Type of Tractors	Horse power	Price per tractor in dollars
10	Wheel type WD-9	30	1770
18	Crawler Class II	65 to 84	4900
35	Crawler Class III	50 to 64	4000
49	Crawler Class IV	35 to 48	2725

Seth Govind Das: Are these tractors run by crude oil or kerosene oil?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: All these tractors are worked by diesel oil.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Have the Government undertaken to purchase the accessories for the tractors from U. K.?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: So far as heavy ploughs are concerned, which are the main accessories required, the position is that 189 of these have been purchased from U.S.A. and 133 from U. K.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: I am referring to heavy ploughs which are the accessories to the tractors. Is U.S.A. able to supply accessories?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Neither England nor America is able to supply accessories, before September to December 1946.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the good of importing these tractors, if we are not able to have accessories with which alone the tractors can be made use of in this country?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We are trying our best to get the ploughs with the tractors, but if we wait till we get the ploughs before ordering for tractors, we may be landed in the position where we have ploughs but no tractors.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: How much time is considered necessary to get accessories from U. K.?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We are not getting any single tractor from U. K. Every one of the tractors has been ordered from U. S. A.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: I am talking of accessories.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: As regards accessories, we are trying to obtain as many of them as we can from both countries combined.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Until we get these ploughs these tractors would be of no use at all.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have not made any efforts to produce the accessories in the ordnance factories?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The matter has been taken up and steps are being taken to produce these heavy ploughs in India, and negotiations are going on with a firm. We are hoping that they will be able to start the manufacture before the close of the year.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why not the ordnance factories produce these accessories?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The question of entrusting this work to the ordnance factories is also being examined in consultation with the authorities concerned.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that accessories are not merely ploughs, but there are other accessories like cutting machines, threshing machines and all other machines which can be prepared in ordnance factories?

Mr. President: The question relates only to ploughs.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Are the machineries which are proposed to be imported complete and ready to be put on land?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: There are several tractors which are already being worked by the Bombay Government as there are ploughs with them. Certain other tractors are also being worked in connection with digging of tanks.

TRACTORS PURCHASED FROM ABROAD.

1267. ***Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that an official of the Government of India has been sent to England to place orders for tractors?

(b) Is it a fact that the tractors so far purchased are without accessories?

(c) Do Government propose to undertake the manufacture of accessories for the tractors in India?

(d) Will Government be pleased to enquire the possibility of getting suitable machinery for use on paddy-growing areas from Australia?

(e) Considering the present food scarcity, will Government be pleased to arrange for priority of transport for securing the machinery as quickly as possible before the monsoon?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) An officer was sent to Canada, the United States of America and the United Kingdom to contact manufacturers and expedite deliveries of orders for Tractors and Tractor-drawn implements placed in those countries. He has already returned to India.

(b) No, Sir. The implements required for these tractors have also been ordered but the delivery of these implements has lagged behind the tractors on account of difficulties of manufacture. It is hoped to obtain 75 ploughs from the United States of America in the period April to September, another 114 from the United States of America between September and December and the remaining 133 from the United Kingdom also in the period September to December 1946.

(c) Active steps are being taken to encourage a private firm to take up such manufacture at an early date.

(d) The suggestion is being examined but such information as is available at present shows that tractors are not suitable for the cultivation of rice in the way in which it is usually carried on in India.

(e) The difficulty in obtaining the machinery is not due to transport but to the extremely limited supplies available for export from the manufacturing countries.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

UNITED STATES ARMY CHAPEL, NEW DELHI.

1268. *Sri S. T. Adityan: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that the United States Army Chapel, New Delhi, is proposed to be converted for secular purposes?

(b) What are the names of applicants who have offered to purchase this Chapel?

(c) Are Government aware that it would wound the religious susceptibilities of a large section of Christians if a Church is converted for any other use except religious worship in a Christian form?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) The Government have not received any offer for the purchase of this Chapel.

(c) It is understood that the Chapel has not been consecrated and its use for purpose other than religious worship in a Christian form should not therefore wound the religious susceptibilities of a large section of Christians.

FOOD RATION PER HEAD IN ENGLAND

1269. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the food ration given per head in England in terms of calories; and
(b) the food ration given per head in India in terms of calories?

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) 790 calories daily per adult made up of meat 2·3/7 oz., bacon 3/7 oz., fats 1·1/7 oz., sugar 1·1/7 oz., cheese 3/7 oz., and jam 4/7 oz.

(b) 1,330 calories daily made up of cereal 12 ozs. and sugar 1·1/7 oz.

TRACTORS PURCHASED FROM ABROAD

1270. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors for which orders were placed with the British firms in 1945-46; and

(b) the number of tractors delivered during 1945-46 out of the tractors so ordered?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The only orders placed by Government are for six market garden tractors of 3 to 10 H.P. Another 125 tractors of the latter type and one Forsdon Major tractor of 28 H.P. have been ordered by the trade and private individuals.

(b) The six market garden tractors have recently been received. No information is available in respect of those ordered by non-Government agencies.

MEDICAL MEN DEPUTED BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS FOR FIELD SERVICE DURING THE WAR.

1271. *Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah: Will the Health Secretary please state whether it is a fact that all Medical men deputed by Provincial Governments for Field Service during the war will be given special increments without distinction and irrespective of the area in which they were required to serve by the exigencies of military service? If not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Most Provincial Governments have decided to allow officers of the provincial medical services deputed for military duty to count the period spent on "active service" or "field service" as double the period for the purposes of increment of pay. The necessity for defining the term "field" or "active" service for this purpose is being brought to the notice of Provincial Governments.

PURCHASE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES AS CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR ISSUE OF PERMITS FOR SUGAR, KEROSENE AND RICE.

1272. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state whether Government are aware that complaints have been made in the Press and to the Provincial Government of Madras that Revenue officers in South Canara have made it a condition precedent for the issue of permits for sugar, kerosene and rice that National Savings Certificates should be purchased?

(b) Have Government enquired into these allegations? If so, with what results?

(c) Is it a fact that notices were served on ryots who did not purchase National Savings Certificates to appear before the Revenue Divisional Officers? If so, why?

Mr. B. R. Sen: An inquiry has been made from the Madras Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

TAKING AWAY OF PADDY FROM AGRICULTURISTS REQUIRED FOR THEIR OWN USE

1273. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state whether the rice-growers (who also grow Betelnuts) were disallowed in South Canara from retaining their own paddy for distribution among (or the use of) the permanent agricultural labourers serving under them? If so, why?

(b) Is it the policy of Government to take away the grains required by the producers for legitimate purposes as mentioned in (a) above?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Rice growers in South Kanara district, who also grow betelnuts, are allowed to retain their own paddy for the use of the labourers employed by them for betelnut cultivation provided that they open grains shops for their employees.

UNCULTIVATED PADDY FIELDS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS.

1274. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state the extent of uncultivated paddy fields and other cultivable lands in (i) North Canara, (ii) South Canara, (iii) Coorg and (iv) Malabar District? Have steps been taken to use them for "Grow More Food" purposes? If so, what are the measures taken?

(b) What is the extent of the paddy fields left uncultivated among the lands requisitioned for military purposes in South Canara?

(c) Have Government taken steps to get them cultivated either directly or indirectly? If not, why not?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a), (b) and (c). The information required by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be supplied as soon as it is received.

COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES OF INDIANS IN FAR EAST

1275. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what steps Government have taken in order to deal with claims of Indians, who came to India from the Far East on account of war conditions, leaving assets behind them and whose claims are registered with Government for eventual settlement after the war?

(b) What has happened to the assets with the Custodian of Enemy Property, and what was the amount of these assets?

(c) What is the position with regard to reparations from Japan?

(d) What other assets could be legitimately utilised towards the fulfilment of these claims, and in what manner is it intended to deal with them?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The claims of Indians who came to India from the Far East on account of war conditions are of four categories, *viz.*, those against (i) Japan, (ii) Siam, (iii) Allied territories formerly under enemy occupation, and (iv) Empire countries under similar occupation.

The claims against Japan will be settled in terms of any Agreement that may be reached at the Japanese Reparations Conference. The claims against Siam will be settled in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, read with Article 23, of the Agreement terminating the state of war between the Governments of the United Kingdom and India, on the one hand, and the Government of Siam on the other. The claims against Allied territories are to be settled in terms of the debt settlement agreements which will be concluded with the countries concerned. Lastly, so far as claims in the Empire countries are concerned, the question of setting up the necessary machinery for verifying, assessing and meeting the claims in the territory concerned is understood to be engaging the active consideration of His Majesty's Government.

(b) The enemy assets are vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property. The value of Japanese assets so vested amounts to Rs. 3,05,17,500.

(c) The question of Japanese Reparations is now at the discussion stage.

(d) The enemy assets which are vested in the Custodian may be available for the settlement of the claims but no decision has yet been reached as to the manner in which such assets will be dealt with.

THORIUM AND URANIUM DEPOSITS IN INDIA

1276. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether there are, and if so, to what extent, Thorium and Uranium deposits anywhere in India? What steps are being taken to exploit the existing resources?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No deposit of economic value has yet been found.

The mineral monazite (one of the Thorium bearing minerals) does occur along the Southern coast line of India notably on the Travancore coast.

IMPORT AND SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS

1277. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the details of shortage of foodgrains expected during the current year in India; and

(b) the quantities likely to be imported from abroad during the current year?

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) We have estimated our total deficit in 1946 at 6 million tons and placed a minimum demand for a little over 4 million tons before the Combined Food Board.

(b) Definite allocations have not yet been made.

USE OF D.D.T. FOR ANTI-MALARIAL MEASURES

1278. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to make available to Municipalities and civilians generally quantities of D. D. T. at cheap rates;

(b) Whether the R. A. F. and R. I. A. F. crafts are being utilised for spraying towns with D. D. T. as an anti-malarial measure; and

(c) whether facilities for such spraying will be made available throughout India?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) Supplies of D.D.T. were obtained from the United Kingdom sometime back and have been allotted to the Provincial Governments for distribution. An obstacle to the production of D.D.T. in India at a low cost is the high price of the raw materials required for its manufacture, namely, alcohol, benzene, chlorine and sulphuric acid. The Industries and Supplies Department are exploring the possibility of securing a reduction in the prices of these materials.

(b) and (c). No. In towns D.D.T. has to be sprayed on the surfaces inside buildings and spraying from the air would not be effective.

IMPORT OF TYPEWRITERS

1279. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state how many typewriting machines have been imported in India since the 1st of April, 1940?

(b) How many of these have been released for the civil population and in which Provinces, and by what test?

(c) Is it a fact that there is a great shortage in India of these machines and that business firms are put to very great inconvenience?

(d) What steps have Government taken in order to increase the availability of these machines?

(e) Did this constitute one of the articles, about which the Hydari Mission negotiated?

(f) What is the general position about the availability of typewriting machines, and what is the forecast of Government during the next twelve months?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) About 76,000 up to December 1945.

(b) From April 1940 to October 1943—information not available.

From October 1943 to the end of 1945—about 2950.

The test by which releases were made was one of essentiality. These releases were made to commercial and industrial concerns, public utilities, educational institutions, professional people and businessmen and preference was given to war industries or agencies engaged in work connected with the war effort.

(c) Yes, there has been a great shortage of typewriters in India.

(d) Since the end of the war, typewriters for public use are being imported through commercial channels as in pre-war days. Government have impressed upon the various importing firms the desirability of importing typewriters in as large a number as possible. The firms have been invited to come up for Government assistance, if necessary, after ascertaining the supplying capacity of their principals in America. Import licences for large quantities of typewriters

have been issued. For the period July to December 1945 alone, licences for import from U.S.A. were issued for 11,717 typewriters. The acute shortage of typewriters in India was also brought to the notice of the American authorities in August last and they were requested to accord high priority to the releases of at least 15,000 typewriters for shipment to India by the end of June 1946.

(e) No.

(f) Only 4,400 typewriters (excluding Hermes "Baby" typewriters from Switzerland which are unsuitable for regular office work) were imported into this country during the six months from September 1945 to February 1946 against India's minimum yearly requirements of 15,500 machines. The present position is, therefore, unsatisfactory but some improvement is expected during the next twelve months.

TRADE BETWEEN INDIA, CHINA AND JAPAN

1280. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce member please state what Mission has been sent to China?

(b) Who are the members of the Mission, and what is the Mission expected to achieve?

(c) Is a similar Mission being projected to be sent to Japan?

(d) Has any representation been received by Government towards this purpose?

(e) What steps are being taken in order to resume trade between India and (i) China, and (ii) Japan?

(f) Has any suggestion towards this end been received by the Government of India either from His Majesty's Government or from the South East Asia Command or from General MacArthur or from Chinese authorities?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). A Trade Mission consisting of Mr. K. K. Chettur, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department and three representatives of commercial interests, namely Mr. Tulsidas Kilachand, Mr. Mohd. Sulaiman Mitha and Mr. G. B. Kotak, has been sent to China, primarily to endeavour in facilitating export to China of Indian goods, particularly surpluses of raw cotton and tobacco and to discover means of re-establishing Sino-Indian trade on a suitable and expanding basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) (i) The Report of the Trade Mission to China is awaited.

(e) (ii) and (f). The matter is under correspondence with His Majesty's Government and the desire of the Government of India to resume trade with Japan at the earliest possible date has been brought to the notice of the United States Government also. The question of setting up machinery for handling imports into and exports from Japan is at present under discussion and will shortly be taken up in the Far Eastern Commission, on which India is represented.

Meanwhile Mr. Bharat Ram has been deputed to act as India's Observer on the Textile Mission to Japan, sponsored by the United States, and is expected to report on Japanese requirements of raw cotton from India.

WELFARE OF FAMILIES OF INDIAN TROOPS

1281. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether any arrangement has been made for the welfare of the families of the Indian troops?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what is the nature of this arrangement, how much money has been spent, and how many families have been relieved and in which province?

(c) How much money from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund has been made available for this purpose, to whom was it made available, and how many families have been relieved?

(d) What is the nature of the relief given, *i.e.*, is the relief provided in cash or in kind, and what is the agency through which this is achieved?

(e) What is the corresponding amount spent on the welfare and amenities of the families of the British troops in India?

(f) Is it not a fact that the corresponding number of the Indian troops is very much larger?

(g) What exactly is the number of the Indian troops' families as compared with the British troops' families?

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

(b) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(c) The information regarding the money drawn during 1945 from H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund has been appended to the statement. As this money was merged in the amounts received from other sources, and the whole spent on relief measures, it is not possible to say how many families benefited exclusively from the money drawn from this source.

(d) Relief from the various benevolent funds controlled by the Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's Board organisation is awarded only in cash in the form of temporary pensions tenable for two years subject to their renewal on the expiry of this period. A lump sum grant is also made for the marriage of a daughter, opening of a shop, *etc.* Relief money is disbursed to the beneficiaries through the District/State Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards or, where no Boards exist, through the Civil Authorities concerned.

Relief given by the Board is intended only for the benefit of Indian Ex-servicemen and their dependants and not for the benefit of serving Indian troops and their families. I lay another statement on the table of the House, showing details of some of the other important welfare measures undertaken by the Government for the benefit of families of Service and Ex-servicemen.

(e) No Government funds have been specifically allotted for or expended on the welfare and amenities of British Troops' families in India. Such few Troops as live in India, enjoy a share of the amenities and entertainment provided for the B.O.R.

During the past twelve months, however, approximately Rs. 2,18,800 have been expended on the pay, food, accommodation and passages for Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's Families Association Welfare Workers in India. These lady workers are employed in helping in various ways the British Other Ranks' families resident in India. Their functions are akin to the Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's Board Organisation and Civil Liaison Organisation, who help Indian families of Indian troops. They are mainly employed in advising B.O.Rs. with families in U.K. on domestic problems. Nothing is spent by the Government of India on the families of British troops in the U.K.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) A special census would have to be undertaken to ascertain the exact number of Indian Troops who are married. On 1st January 1946, however, it was estimated that the number of married soldiers of the Indian Army was 900,000. Among the British soldiers serving in India, 50,616 are understood to have wives or families, the majority of whom are not living in India.

Statement in respect of part (b) question

Two organisations have been set up for the care and welfare of the families of Indian servicemen and ex-servicemen. They are known as :

(1) The Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board.

(2) The Civil Liaison Officer Organisation.

2. *The Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Board.*—The Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board is a civil organisation, the working unit of which is the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board established at the headquarters of a district. The Deputy Commissioner/Collector is the President of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board. Other members include a number of officials and non-officials and representatives of ex-servicemen, nominated by the Deputy Commissioner/Collector. Each Board has a paid Secretary, usually an ex-V. C. O. and a small staff to attend to routine work.

3. The function of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board 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 servicemen's children, ascertaining the whereabouts of serving sailors', soldiers' and airmen, procuring legal advice in cases against absent servicemen, assisting the settlement of dispute out of court, adding, ex-servicemen in securing medals pensions, arrears of pay, investigating cases of delay or occasional non-payment of family allotment money orders, keeping a watch on the adequacy of the number of pension paying branch post offices, representing any inadequacy or deficiency in these to the appropriate authorities and investigating cases in need of assistance or relief. Each Board has a team of welfare workers who are usually ex-N.C.Os. or ex-V.C.Os. who are employed in investigating complaints in villages and other similar duties as directed by the Secretary of the Board. There are at present altogether 172 Districts, Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in British India, as opposed to 85 at the beginning of the war. A statement showing their location is attached.

4. At Provincial headquarters (except in Sind), there is a Provincial Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board whose duty is to co-ordinate, superintend and direct the work of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in its jurisdiction. At the headquarters of the Government of India, New Delhi, there is the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board under the *ex-officio* chairmanship of H. E. the War Member. Other members are : H. E. the Governor of the Punjab, (*ex-officio*), 2 members of H. E. the Viceroy's Executive Council nominated by H. E. the Viceroy, the Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, the Air Officer Commanding, India, the Adjutant General-in-India, the Welfare General in India, the Political Adviser to Crown Representative, the War Secretary, the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, and Begum Shah Nawaz. The Secretary of the Central Board is an Under Secretary in the War Department. The Central Board co-ordinates the work of the Provincial and District Boards. The Central Government give a grant-in-aid to the Central Board every year for financing the organisation of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards. For the year 1945-46, a little over Rs. 8 lakhs was received from the Central Government for this purpose. The Central Board is responsible to the Central Government for seeing that the organisation fulfils the purpose for which it was created.

5. In addition to what has been said above, Indian States have their own Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards. In view of the fact that large numbers of men have been recruited from Indian State for the State Forces as well as for the Indian Army the Government of India have agreed to contribute half of the expenditure involved in maintaining the State Boards.

6. The Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board controls certain benevolent funds for the alleviation of distress amongst ex-servicemen and their families. Certain Provinces have also started their own benevolent funds. Applications for relief from these funds are made through the D.S.S. and A.B. or Civil Liaison Officer organisation.

7. *The Civil Liaison Officer Organisation.*—Parallel to the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board Organisation is the Civil Liaison Officer Organisation which functions as a part of the military machine. It has been set up to cope with the special conditions created by the war. The functions of this Organisation are :

(a) to form a link between the civil and military authorities, at all levels.

(b) to enable the military authorities directly to watch over the interests of the enlisted classes.

(c) to assist civil authorities in their D. S. S. A. B. work.

(d) to assist all ranks in bringing their legitimate wants and difficulties to the notice of the appropriate civil authority and to assist the latter in providing the solution.

Apart from this, the officers of this organisation advise, assist and to some extent, supervise the work of D. S. S. A. Bs.

8. There are 5 Chief Civil Liaison Officers in India. Their designations and areas are as follows :

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Area.</i>
C. C. L. O. Northern Area.	Punjab. N. W. F. P. Sind and Baluchistan. Kashmir. Punjab States. North West Frontier States. Baluchistan States.
C. C. L. O., Bombay and C. P. Area.	Bombay Presidency. Central Provinces. Berar. Hyderabad State. Deccan States. Some Eastern States.
C. C. L. O. Madras Area.	Madras Presidency. Mysore. Madras States.
C. C. L. O., U. P. and Eastern India.	U. P. Bihar. Orissa. Bengal. Assam. Certain Eastern and Central India States.
C. C. L. O., Rajputana & Central India.	Ajmer Merwara. Rajputana States. Western India States. Certain Central India States.

Each C. C. L. O. has under him a group of C. L. Os. and each C. L. O. a group of A. C. L. Os.

The total sanctioned establishment of officers is 76 of which 51 are touring officers and the remainder staff officers. The touring officers are almost constantly on tour attending to functions assigned to them, which consist of maintaining

(a) close contact with Provincial Governments and all Civil Officials and a liaison between them and their corresponding military authorities.

(b) close contact with Civil Departments and institutions such as Posts and Telegraphs, Education, Police, PSSABS, and DSSABS.

The estimated cost of the Civil Liaison Officer Organisation establishment is approximately Rs. 15,45,732.

9. Incorporated in the C. L. O. Organisation is the Fauji Sevadarni scheme which operates in all the C. C. L. O. areas except in Rajputana and Central India, where it was found to be impracticable. The scheme provides for an organisation of women welfare workers to function at the following levels.

Sevadarnis—village level.

Head Sevadarnis—tehsil level.

Inspectress—D. S. A. A. B. level.

Lady A. C. L. O.—to supervise and co-ordinate the scheme in her area.

This scheme was introduced for the benefit of female relatives of servicemen, of whom those observing *purda* are not able to interview male welfare workers. Fauji Sevadarnis are employed to contact these women, to advise and assist them and to provide a channel for giving vent to their grievances. The total cost of the Sevadarni scheme is Rs. 2,40,000 which sum does not include the salaries of 5 Lady A. C. L. Os. who get Rs. 300 p. m. each.

Statements showing the money spent by the ISSAB during the year 1945 from the various benevolent funds controlled by them and the number of families relieved therefrom, and the Provinces and States to which these families belong are attached.

Statement in respect of part (d) of question

Women's Institutes.—Six Training Centres were opened in 1943, as an experimental measure, with the object of giving wives of Indian soldiers living in unit lines, instructions in teaching knitting, sewing, cooking, hygiene, and other domestic occupations. In view of the success achieved by these experimental institutes, the scheme was extended in 1944 to include another 14 Training Centres at places where suitable buildings were available for the purpose. There are at present 21 centres with 23 institutes. The total cost of maintaining these institutes comes to Rs. 92,641 (initial expenditure) and Rs. 73,150 (recurring expenditure per annum) the whole of which is paid by the Government of India.

Indian Forces' Families Maternity and Child Welfare.—Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are established in most Indian units with family quarters in their lines.

These Centres attend to the minor ailments of the wives and children of V.C.Os. and other ranks living in unit lines and also to maternity cases. In addition, talks are given on elementary hygiene and care of children.

The cost of these Centres is met by private funds raised by units. There is also a central fund called "The Indian Forces' Families Maternity and Child Welfare Fund" controlled by a Committee at G. H. Q. (I.) Delhi, which makes allotment twice a year to assist Maternity and Child Welfare Centres who cannot raise sufficient funds to maintain themselves. The total assets of the Central Fund are Rs. 1,08,000 of which Rs. 88,000 come from private sources and Rs. 20,000 from the Defence Services Budget. For the financial year 1945-46 an additional grant of Rs. 30,000 was made from the Defence Services Budget to meet the increase in demands from Child Welfare Centres.

Reunions.—The Government of India have sanctioned expenditure up to Rs. 60,000 per annum on reunions of Indian servicemen, pensioners and their relatives. These reunions are held under arrangements made by the local military authorities and the Civil Liaison Officer Organisation. At these gatherings sports are held and tea and sweets are distributed.

ACQUISITION OF LAND IN BOMBAY FOR NAVAL TRAINING CENTRE

1282. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Is the War Secretary aware of the fact that the villages of Madh, Yerangal, Aksa and Marve, which are situated in the most salubrious part of Bombay (Salsette), are sought to be acquired by the military authorities?

(b) Have Government received representations from the Bombay Town Planning Committee and other public organisations, and have they seen protests in the press, in the matter of the proposed acquisition?

(c) Do Government propose to give an assurance to this House that they have no intention to acquire these lands, which provide an open beach for the citizens of Bombay and the very large suburban population?

(d) Have Government considered the question of locating the proposed Naval Training Centre a little further up the coast so as to keep the cadets away from the main city?

(e) Have Government already given back the lands, which they had requisitioned in these parts? If not, when do they propose to give the lands back?

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

(c) On receiving the representations referred to in (b) above Government of India in association with the Government of Bombay ordered an enquiry into the possibility of locating the Combined Operations Training Centres elsewhere, and a report is awaited. The views of the people of Bombay will be given full consideration in reaching a decision.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (d) of Mr. C. P. Lawson's starred question No. 49, on the 7th of February, 1946.

PAUCITY OF APPLICANTS FOR PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.

1283. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to an article which appeared in the weekly *Blitz* of Bombay, dated the 24th November, 1945, entitled "Indianisation my foot"? If so, what steps does he intend to take to allay public fears regarding complete Indianisation of the Army?

(b) Is it a fact that even amongst the eligible Indian officers, only five per cent. have applied for permanent commissions, and are Government aware of the reasons as to why other officers have not volunteered?

(c) Could Indianisation of the Army and Navy have been accelerated by staggering the age groups rather than by the present system of taking officers only up to a particular age, *viz.*, thirty?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. Attention is invited to the press communique, dated the 22nd October, 1945, which lays down the policy for the Indianisation of the Army in India, which is that except for 40 officers in the R.I.N., no permanent commissions will in future be given to any but statutory Indians. Since this communique was issued, special short training courses for Regular Commissions in the Indian Army have been instituted pending the establishment of the War Memorial Academy. One thousand regular commissions in the Indian Army are being offered to Emergency Commissioned Indian Officers, and 66 in the R.I.N.

(b) No Sir. Up to the end of January 1946, 2,494 EIOOs had applied for regular commissions in the Indian Army and 577 in the R.I.N. These figures represent 64 per cent. and 46 per cent. respectively of the total number who are eligible. Applications continue to be received at a satisfactory rate.

(c) This suggestion would lead to a block in promotion and would not be in the interests of the Army or of the officers themselves.

RECRUITMENT IN R. I. N. AND R. I. A. F.

1284. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is it a fact that the War Secretary is recruiting only sixty-six Indians from amongst nearly two thousand Indian Reserve Officers and that he intends to import 400 British officers from the Royal Navy? If so, why are Indian officers being demobilised and in their place British officers brought in?

(b) Are Government aware that promises of a strong Navy have been made by the Flag Officer Commanding R.I.N. from time to time, if so, what steps do Government propose to take to implement those promises, and how do they propose to widen the Indian personnel in such Navy?

(c) Do Government consider that ten squadrons of R.I.A.F. are sufficient for the defence of India? If not, what steps do Government intend taking to build up a powerful Air Force?

(d) Has the Cariappa Committee reported on the size of the Navy and the R.I.A.F.?

(e) What were the estimates which Government were following in this matter before the Cariappa Committee was appointed?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No Sir. The future size of the Royal Indian Navy is still under consideration by the Government. Until a decision has been reached, which it is hoped will be in the near future, it is necessary to be conservative with regard to the number of permanent commissions offered.

For this reason the Government have limited the initial number to 66 permanent commissions for Indian officers and 40 for British officers.

When the future size of R.I.N. is determined, it is proposed that all further permanent commissions will be offered to Indian Officers.

At present it appears that the number of officers required may well exceed the number of Indian Reserve Officer Candidates found suitable by the selection Board. In these circumstances the Government propose to obtain a limited number of British Naval Officers by secondment for short periods (possibly three years). These officers will of course, be replaced by Indian officers as soon as possible. The Government consider this policy preferable to that of accepting unsuitable candidates who would lower the standard of efficiency and block the prospects of young Indian officers for a generation to come. The number of officers, who may be seconded, will be very much less than 400.

(b) The Government of India are already negotiating for the purchase from H.M.G. of three medium sized cruisers, particulars of which have appeared in the press. These ships, which will be of the same class, will form the basis of a powerful and balanced Naval force. The policy for complete Nationalisation of the R.I.N. as soon as practicable, has already been announced.

(c) No Sir. Government, when in June 1945, they officially announced their intention to maintain after the war with Japan the Royal Indian Air Force at an initial strength of not less than ten squadrons plus the necessary training and other ancillary units required to provide a fully balanced force, made it clear that this was only an initial minimum strength which will be expanded as rapidly as conditions permit and as personnel becomes available.

(d) The Re-organisation Committee (India) did not make recommendations regarding the size of the R.I.N. as this did not come within their terms of reference. They proceeded on the assumption that until the aircrew position improved, ten squadrons would be the strength of the R.I.A.F.

(e) Estimates were being prepared for the Government by the services, and are now under consideration, with the advice of their Financial Advisers.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MR. HAROLD V. COES, CONSULTING ENGINEER AND HIS REPORT ON POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

1285. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Harold V. Coes was invited by the Government of India as a Consulting Engineer and that he is preparing his report about the postwar reconstruction for submitting it to Government;

(b) for what qualifications this gentleman was recruited as a Consulting Engineer, and whether there was no equally qualified person in this country; and

(c) whether Government will make the report of Mr. Coes public without any undue delay?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) and first part of (b). Yes; to assist the Industrial Plant and Machinery (Heavy) Panel which has been set up for examining the possibility of manufacturing Textile, Sugar, Paper, Mining, Cement, Chemical and other machinery in India. Mr. Coes is a senior representative of Messrs Ford, Bacon and Davis, a leading American Firm of Consulting Engineers, who have had previous experience of work of this type.

Second part of (b). No.

(c) Mr. Coes has just completed his work and his report is awaited. The question of publishing it will be considered when it is received.

RECRUITMENT OF EUROPEANS TO I. C. S. AND I. P. S.

1286. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme for the recruitment of Europeans to the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police has been evolved some time ago;

(b) whether Government propose to defer such scheme till new Government comes into existence at the Centre;

(c) whether Government are aware that under this scheme, the standards for admission, for the Europeans to the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service are vague and elastic; and

(d) whether Government are aware that under this scheme, a candidate need not even pass any examination provided he can satisfy certain psychological tests?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (d). The recruitment regulations and the terms and conditions of service applicable to war reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police are contained in the pamphlet "Civil Appointments in India and Burma", a copy of which is in the Library. The method of selection combines a preliminary test by a selection board followed by a final interview by, in the case of Indian candidates, the Federal Public Service Commission and, in the case of European candidates by an interview board constituted by the Secretary of State in London.

I have already explained, during the debate on the adjournment motion, the reasons why the Secretary of State decided to fill those vacancies which were left unfilled during the war in pursuance of the undertaking given to men who joined the Defence Services.

DUMPING OF FOREIGN EXPERTS IN INDIA

1287. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that there is intense public dislike in the country for the dumping of foreign experts in this country?

(b) Have Government any proposal for the rapid elimination and stoppage of the existing as well as the incoming flow of foreign experts?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have heard and read some expressions of opinion on the subject.

(b) Foreign nationals, *i.e.*, persons who are not British subjects, can be appointed to civil posts under the Crown in India only in a temporary capacity in accordance with the provisions of S. 262 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Experts, whether British or otherwise, are recruited outside India only when qualified and suitable persons are not available in India. Save in the exceptional case of posts excluded from the purview of the Federal Public Service Commission, the normal procedure is for all posts to be advertised in India by the Commission. If the Commission fail to secure a suitable candidate in this way, recourse is had to recruitment in England, through the High Commissioner for India, or in the U.S.A. through the Indian Agent General in the U.S.A., or elsewhere through the Government of India's Agent. In the case of a highly technical post for which there seem good grounds for believing that no suitably qualified candidates are available in India, the post may, with the concurrence of the Commission, be advertised simultaneously in India and abroad.

HUNGER STRIKE IN R.I.A.F.

1288. *Seth Govind Das: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news that some hundreds of R.I.A.F. men have taken to hunger strike as a result of the insulting behaviour of a Camp Commander is correct;

(b) whether it is a fact that, while the British personnel are allowed to be in civilian dress off duty, the Indians are not;

(c) the reasons for this differential and discriminatory treatment;

(d) whether they propose to impress on the British Military officials the necessity of being civil and polite to the Indian officers and other Indian personnel; and

(e) what steps they propose to take to prevent the happening of such incidents in future?

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

(c), (d) and (e). Do not arise, but I would like to explain that the actual facts are as stated in my reply to starred question No. 320, answered on the 18th February, 1946.

EXPENDITURE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

1289. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Member for Planning and Development please state what has been the expenditure incurred on the Planning and Development Department since it was instituted up to the last date, for which figures are available, under different heads, such as (i) administration and travelling expenses incurred by the Honourable Member and staff, (ii) travelling expenses and other charges incurred in connection with the meetings of Policy Committees and Panels, and (iii) all other expenditure?

(b) Did any grant to the National Planning Committee ever appear in the budget of the Planning Development Department since it was established?

(c) Did the Planning Department at any stage render any assistance to the deliberations carried on by the National Planning Committee under the presidency of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

(d) Has there been any correspondence between the Planning and Development Department and the Honorary Secretary of the National Planning Committee, Prof. K. T. Shah? If so, on what subject?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) A statement of expenditure under three different heads is laid on the table.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. In October, 1945, the National Planning Committee approached the P. and D. Department for the supply of information and statistical data such as the 1941 Census Report, production figures, distribution figures, trade, finance, labour and transport statistics. Such material as was available was sent to the National Planning Committee. P. and D. Department also sent Prof. C. N. Vakil, Economist, as their representative to the National Planning Committee's meeting held on the 8th November, 1945.

(d) Yes, there has been correspondence between the P. and D. Department and the Secretary, National Planning Committee, on the following subjects:

(i) for the supply of available information to the Committee;

(ii) for the grant of about Rs. 25,000 to the Committee by the Government of India.

Statement of expenditure incurred on the Planning and Development Department since it was instituted up to the last available date for which figures are available, under different heads.

(a)

(i) Administration and travelling expenses incurred by—

	Rs.
(I) H. M.	1,02,173
(II) Officers and Staff	10,87,043
	<hr/>
Total	11,89,216
	<hr/>

(ii) Travelling and other charges incurred in connection with the meetings of Policy Committees and Panels 54,711

(iii) All other expenditure 1,56,767

OFFICIAL HELP TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE.

1290. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Did the National Planning Committee approach the Honourable Member for Planning and Development at any time with a request for (i) financial help, (ii) appointment of a representative on the Planning Committee, and (iii) permission to Government officers to work on sub-committees appointed by the National Planning Committee?

(b) If so, what was the response from him, and what were the arrangements, if any, made in effect under each of the above heads?

(c) With reference to the letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, dated the 24th July, 1939, addressed to the Chairman, National Planning Committee, will Government make clear the reason for their refusal to give a representative to serve as a member of the Committee and for their offer instead of a deputation of the Economic Adviser to Government to attend meetings?

(d) What was implied by the words, "Any views expressed by Dr. Gregory would be his personal views"?

(e) Is it a fact that Government refused to permit some high officials, who were requested to work on the sub-committees of the National Planning Committee, to work?

(f) Were any publications of Government sent to the National Planning Committee from 1939 to 1945?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) (i) Yes. (ii) Yes. (iii) No.

(b) Regarding (i) the National Planning Committee asked for a grant of Rs. 25,000 from the Government of India, and the Honourable Member advised the Secretary, National Planning Committee, to approach the Finance Department direct and to send him a copy of their letter. He promised to see what he could do in the matter.

(ii) Prof. C. N. Vakil, Economist, represented the P. and D. Department at the National Planning Committee's meeting held on the 8th November, 1945.

(iii) Does not arise.

(c) The reasons for Government's inability to nominate a representative to be a member of the National Planning Committee and the offer instead to depute the Economic Adviser to the Government of India to attend its meetings were made clear to the chairman of the Committee in para. 2 of the letter referred to.

(d) In para. 2 of the letter referred to, the Government of India made it clear that though they felt unable to nominate a representative, i.e., an officer who would give expression to the views of the Government, they were prepared to depute Dr. Gregory to assist in the deliberations of the National Planning Committee. Accordingly, the views that might be expressed by Dr. Gregory would be his personal views and would not commit Government.

(e) Yes. In para. 3 of the letter, the Government explained that they would find it difficult to spare the services of these officers.

(f) Yes. A list of publications sent to the National Planning Committee by the P. and D. Department during 1945, is laid on the table. Only one publication is known to have been sent to the National Planning Committee by the Commerce Department in 1939, before the Committee ceased to function.

Name of Publications.

1. First Report on the progress of Reconstruction Planning.
2. Second Report on Reconstruction Planning.
3. Post-War Educational Development in India.
4. Post-War Development of Indian Fisheries by Bains Prashad.
5. Post-War Forest Policy for India by Sir Herbert Howard.
6. Technological possibilities of Agricultural Development in India by W. Barns.
7. Scientific Research in India by Prof. A. V. Hill.
8. Memo. of the Development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India.
9. Memo. on Indians Trade Policy in the Post-War Period.
10. Memo. on Indian Monetary Policy in the Post-War Period.
11. The location of Industry in India.
12. Information for students desiring to proceed overseas for advanced studies.
13. Statement of Government's Industrial Policy.
14. Report on Post-War Road Development in India.
15. Record of the first meeting of General Policy Committee.
16. Record of the second meeting of General Policy Committee.
17. Record of the third meeting of General Policy Committee.
18. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 1 on Resettlement and Re-employment.
19. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 3A on Transport.
20. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 3B on Posts and Aviation.
21. Record of the second meeting of Policy Committee No. 3C (Public Works and Electric Power).
22. Record of the third meeting of Policy Committee No. 4 (Trade and Industry Policy).
23. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 4B on Industries.
24. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 4C on Shipping.
25. Record of the second meeting of Policy Committee No. 5 on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
26. Report of the Technical Sub-Committee to the subject Committee on Transport on the future of road transport and road rail relations
27. India Needs.
28. India can offer.
29. India's Raw Materials.
30. The Indian Cotton Mill Industry.
31. The Jute Industry in India.
32. The Story of Indian Coffee.
33. The Sugar Industry in India.
34. Indian Glass Industry.
35. Paper making in India.
36. Lac in India.
37. Indian Hides and Skins.
38. The Mineral Resources of India.
39. Report on 'Metallurgical and Engineering Industries, by Dr. P. J. Thomas.
40. Report on the 'Development of Industries for War Supplies' by Dr. P. J. Thomas.
41. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India, 1938.
42. Reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railways, Volume II.
43. Budget Speech for 1945-46.
44. Explanatory Memorandum and Budget for 1945-46.
45. Report on the Crop Cutting Survey on wheat in Punjab 1943-44.
46. Progress Report on Scheme for Crop Cutting Survey on Paddy in Tanjore Distt., Madras, 1944-45.
47. Progress Report on Scheme for Crop Cutting Survey on Paddy in Kolaba District, Bombay, 1944-45.
48. Progress report on Scheme for Crop Cutting Survey on Paddy in Raipur District, C. P. and Berar, 1944-45.
49. The Research Organisation in England.

WITHDRAWAL BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA OF EXCHANGE FACILITIES ENJOYED BY INDIAN BANKS.

1291. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the recent action of the Reserve Bank of India which has resulted in withdrawing the facilities enjoyed by Indian banks hitherto of doing exchange work through an Exchange Bank and recovering some part of the charges?

(b) Was this action taken at the instance of the British banks, and is it a fact that the party most concerned amongst others is the National City Bank of New York from the United States of America?

(c) Have Government or the Reserve Bank received any representation on this subject?

(d) Is there any public object served in making the restriction above-mentioned? If so, what is it?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) The Reserve Bank have taken no such action.

(b), (c) and (d). In view of the answer to part (a), these do not arise.

SEPERATE PANEL FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

1292. ***Prof. N. G. Banga:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate panel for cottage Industries has been formed, as per the promise made by his predecessor, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, in the first meeting of the Standing Committee for Planning, if not, why not;

(b) if it is formed, what its personnel is;

(c) whether Government have scrutinised Provincial plans for the development and protection of cottage industries; if so, whether any effort is made at the centre to prepare an all-India plan or plans for Cottage industries, or whether any officer or panel is at work on it; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme at all to protect cottage industries from the competition of Indian and foreign Mill industries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No. What Sir Ardeshir Dalal actually said was that "he was considering the appointment of a Panel or a Special Officer to investigate the whole position of the Cottage Industry in India". After careful consideration, he came to the conclusion that no panel was necessary, because Provincial Governments had already been asked to set up special sub-committees of their Industries Committees to make recommendations regarding the development of cottage industries, and if any panel were set up at the Centre, it would have cut across the work of these sub-committees. In order, however, to assist the Provincial Governments in this important work and, in particular, to ensure that the All-India aspects of the problem were subjected to careful examination, it was decided that the Economic Adviser should make a survey. I lay on the table of the House a copy of a letter issued to Provincial Governments on the subject.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) *First part.*—I lay on the table of the House a list of plans for the development of cottage industries included in provincial five year plans. These are under examination.

Second part.—This is covered by my reply to clause (a).

(d) Government will consider this on receipt of recommendations from Provincial Governments and after examining the Economic Adviser's report.

No. P-8 (44)/45.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT, NORTH BLOCK,

New Delhi, the 14th May 1945.

From

T. M. S. Mani, Esq., I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners.

SUBJECT :—*Development of Cottage and Small-scale Industries.*

SIR,

I am directed to refer to this Department's letter No. 59/R.C., dated the 22nd September 1944, in which it was suggested that the Provincial Government may appoint Special Committees to review the position of cottage and small-scale industries with particular reference to their types, capacity, location, markets, availability of raw materials, etc., and to state that the Government of India attach the utmost importance to the development of cottage and small-scale industries as an essential and integral part of industrial expansion. They consider that, in addition to the surveys to be made by Provincial Governments, and to supplement such surveys, they themselves should also examine the position of these industries from the point of view of All-India Policy. The work has been entrusted to the Economic Adviser to the Government of India who, after a preliminary study, will approach Directors of Industries and the Provincial Industries Committees for the necessary data. Members of the office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India may also visit important centres and collect information. The results of his labours and those of the Province could then be pooled and a co-ordinated plan evolved.

2. I am to say that the Government of India trust that Provincial Governments will make the co-operation of their Directors of Industries and the Provincial Industries Committees available to the Economic Adviser, to the Government of India and the officers working under him and to request that instructions be issued to the officers concerned and the Committees to assist the Economic Adviser and his office in this important task.

I have the honour to be

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) T. M. S. MANI,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Copies to :—

- (i) Political Department for necessary action about States.
- (ii) Economic Adviser.
- (iii) Industrial Adviser.
- (iv) Education, Health and Lands Department.
- (v) Industries and Civil Supplies Department.
- (vi) Commerce Department.

Schemes of Provincial Governments for the Development of Cottage Industries

Serial No.	Name of Province.	Scheme No.	Description of Scheme.	Expenditure (Cost in thousands of Rs.)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Madras	40	(1) Coir goods manufacture (2) Leather goods manufacture. (3) Pile carpet and woolen goods. (4) Ceramics (5) Metal ware, cutlery and small types of agricultural implements, etc. (6) Mat weaving and basket making (7) Wood work. (8) Cigars and cheroots (9) Glass bangles and beads.	3,8,23	To be developed on Cooperative basis Assistance of Govt. required for obtaining materials Machinery or technical personnel and of Central Government for obtaining Tools and Chemicals.
		41	Handloom Industry		
		108	Central Research Institute for Cottage Industries-		
2	Bombay	108	To organise peripatetic parties on the existing lines in Cotton weaving, wool weaving, tanning etc.	9,03	To develop the Cottage Industries of the Province as well as improve the economic condition of Cotton workers.
3	Bihar	131	Establishment of Cottage Industries—Institutes	24,21	To impart training in Hand spinning weaving etc. Production and marketing of Hand loom articles. Central Government's help may be required for import of machinery. To improve the quality of woolen and cotton goods by the Handloom.
		132	Marketing of Handloom products.		
		68	Development of weavers Coop: societies and marketing of their products.		
		134 135	Establishment of three wool-weaving Demonstration factories and Cotton weaving Factories.		

Schemes of Provincial Governments for the Development of Cottage Industries.

Serial No.	Name of Province.	Scheme No.	Description of Scheme	Expenditure (Cost in thousands of Rs.)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
4	U. P.	68	Loans for small scale workers for equipment	10,80	To provide loans to help small scale and cottage industries in general Assistance of Central Govt. may be required for machinery. To prescribe standards of quality for textile leather etc. produced in the Cottage Industries.
		69	Inspection Depots		
5	C. P. & Berar	151	Development of the Central Weaver's Coop: Society and its affiliated weavers Primary Societies.	10,85	To develop the handloom Weaving Industry To promote on Cooperative basis Cottage or subsidiary Industries and arrange for sale of produce of such industries.
		152	Development of Balaghat District Growers Associations.		
		153	Development of Malkapur Taluk Growers Associations		
		154	Amraoti Taluq Agricultural Association Development.		
		155	Development of Cooperative activities in aboriginal areas.		
6	Punjab	213	Cotton Spinning and Weaving to put up a spinnery consisting of 15,000 spindles.	81,39	To give assistance to cottage worker A complete spinning unit will be imported from abroad. To set up a collecting, dyeing, finishing and distributing station at the important Handloom weaving Centres. To set up two spinneries one for worsted yarns other for woollen yarns. To provide facilities for designing, finishing and marketing propose to establish Central Agency fed by five branches.
		214	Establishment of an Industrial Colony for Power Loom Weavers.		
		215	Encouragement of Cotton Hand loom Industry.		
		216	Wool Spinning and Weaving.		
		217	Silk and Art Silk Weaving.		

Schemes of Provincial Governments for the Development of Cottage Industries

Serial No.	Name of Province.	Scheme No.	Description of Scheme	Expenditure (Cost in thousands of Rs.)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		218	Sericulture Industry.		To establish grainage station and two Mulberry farms.
		219	Tanning and Leather goods Industry.		To improve the quality propose to set up five leather dyeing and finishing stations and leather goods and marketing station.
		220	Cutlery and Surgical Instrument Industry.		Propose to set up two technical and marketing centres and Metallurgist and marketing officer to be appointed.
		221	Sports Goods Industry.		To put up two demonstration Kilns.
		222	Pottery Industry.		Saw Mill and Wood Works to be set up.
		223	Wood Working Industry		
7	Sind	1	Cottage and small scale Industries like Handloom, Potteries Lacquerware, Tanning, Sericulture Bee Keeping, Fibre, Dyeing and Printing of Wool Spinning Weaving.	10,91	Propose to organise fairs and exhibitions to popularise Cottage industry wares and also to market these wares through Sales Depots or Emporia.
8	Assam	3	Cottage Industries and Factories.	7,10	Establishment of two cottage Industries Institutes and factories for handloom weaving, dyeing, calico printing, manufacture of washing soaps, electroplating, hosiery, leather goods, lacquer work, ratten work, ivory work, cutlery and agricultural implements. Assistance of Central Govt. required in obtaining machinery.

Schemes of Provincial Governments for the Development of Cottage Industries.

Serial No.	Name of Province.	Scheme No.	Description of Scheme	Expenditure (Cost in thousands of Rs.)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Bengal	111 76	Handloom Industry Reorganization of Sericultural development work in Villages.	96,26	To be developed on Cooperative basis 1500 weavers societies 30 unions and 63 Sale depots Installation of one Spinning Mill, one dyeing factory and four signing and calendaring machines. Expansion of Mulberry cultivation grainage work for supplying cellular seeds to rearers and to provide protection equipment to rearers against fly posts etc. Assistance of Central Govt. required in obtaining special equipment and appliances.
10	Orissa	35 123 128	Improvement of the Angul Weaving School and Phulbani Industrial School. Conversion of the present Textile Marketing Organization into a provincial Handloom weavers' cooperative society. Supervision of weaver's Cooperative Society.	29,55	To give a course of weaving instructions. For coordinating production of handloom textiles through primary weavers cooperative societies and for organising their marketing. To ameliorate the economic conditions of the Handloom weavers.

APPELLATIONS OF MESSRS. GANDHI AND JINNAH, IN NEWS BROADCASTS BY ALL INDIA RADIO.

1293. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state if he is aware of the fact that in the news bulletins broadcast by the All-India Radio, Mr. Gandhi is always mentioned with the title of 'Mahatma' given to him by the Hindus, while Mr. Jinnah is not called with the appellation of honour, Qaid-e-Azam, given to him by the Muslim India?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to give an assurance that the word 'Qaid-e-Azam' will, in future, be used in the News bulletins? If not, will he apply the same rule with regard to Mr. Gandhi?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Mr. Gandhi is always referred to as Mr. Gandhi in English news bulletins. In Indian languages he is referred to as Mahatma Gandhi or Gandhiji in accordance with ordinary local usage.

(b) It is the practice of All India Radio not to use political titles. The title Qaide-e-Azam by itself falls under this definition, and so far as I am aware it is not common practice to speak of Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah. That being so Government do not propose to change their present procedure.

PROMINENCE IN ALL-INDIA NEWSREELS TO CONGRESSMEN'S MEETINGS WITH M. P. DELEGATION.

1294. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Information and Arts been drawn to the report in the *Dawn* of the 18th February, 1946, and a leader in the same paper at a subsequent date about the newsreels prepared by his Department?

(b) Is it a fact that in a news-reel showing the activities of the M.P. Delegation produced by the Department of Information and Arts, the meeting of the Delegation with Dr. Khan Sahib, a Congress Leader, a Congress public meeting addressed by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and a close up of the tri-colour flag of the Congress were shown with much prominence while the meetings with important League Leaders including Qaid-e-Azam were completely ignored?

(c) Has the Honourable Member enquired into the causes which lead to this kind of discrimination? What steps has he taken to prevent its recurrence, and what action has he taken against those responsible for this?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to question No. 954, given on the 13th March.

NIGHT FLYING OF AEROPLANES OVER DELHI.

1295. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that aeroplanes fly late at nights over Delhi;
- (b) if these do not make a lot of noise disturbing sleeping residents;
- (c) the purpose for which these fly about; and
- (d) if he proposes to take steps to prohibit such night-flying?

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

(b) No representation has been received from residents.

(c) For various purposes, Sir; such as training, transport, or arrivals and departures, and recently in connexion with Victory Week.

(d) Certainly not, Sir. The Honourable Member will find he gradually becomes accustomed to the conditions of modern life.

PUBLICATION OF NEW INCOME-TAX MANUAL.

1296. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

- (a) when the Income-tax Manual was last published;
- (b) when he expects next to publish an up-to-date Income-tax Manual; and
- (c) if he proposes to expedite its publication?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a), (b) and (c). The 9th edition of the Income-tax Manual corrected up to 31st December, 1945, has been just published and is available on sale to the public with the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi, and other authorised sellers of Government of India Publications.

BAN ON ENTRY OF RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP IN INDIA

1297. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state;

(a) if the ban against the entry in India of Raja Mahendra Pratap still exists;

(b) if so, the reason for maintaining the ban;

(c) if Raja Mahendra Pratap has ever expressed his desire to return to India; and

(d) if Government will consider the desirability of lifting the ban?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The authorities in Japan have been informed that he is not wanted in India.

(b) Since he renounced his British Indian nationality, the Government of India are under no obligation to afford his entry to his country.

(c) The Government of India have received no such request from him.

(d) This will be considered if and when he applies for permission to return.

RESIGNATIONS OF PROF. C. L. VAKIL AND SIR ARDESHIR DALAL FROM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

1298. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the statement issued by Prof. C. L. Vakil on his resignation from this Department;

(b) what Government have to say to his charges that the permanent civil servants and others in this and other Departments have been non-co-operating and obstructing the development of useful essential and expeditious plans for real planning; and

(c) if it is for the same reasons that Sir Ardeshir Dalal has resigned?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) *First part.*—While Prof. Vakil did not allege non-co-operation on the part of officials he did imply that his expert economic advice was not taken.

Second part—I am sorry that Prof. Vakil has seen fit to make a unilateral statement to the Press. There are generally two sides to a question; and as I believe that the interests of Planning and Development in India would be best-served by the avoidance of personal controversies I would request my Honourable friend not to press me further in regard to the reasons for his reasons therefor:

(c) Sir Ardeshir Dalal in the statement he issued on leaving office explained that he resigned for personal reasons.

PROVISION OF BROADCASTING STATIONS FOR PROVINCES AND GROUPS OF STATES

1299. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

(a) whether every Province of India has been provided with a Broadcasting Station;

(b) whether the need of every group of the Indian States has been satisfied with the provision of Broadcasting Stations in India and what are the Provinces or groups of States that are not given stations within their borders with reasons therefore; and

(c) the percentage of financial expenditure allotted for each Province for purpose of broadcasting and the basis on which such expenses are fixed?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No.

(b) No, Sir. It is not the responsibility of the Government of India to look after the needs of the Indian States in matters of Broadcasting. The

Provinces which do not have Broadcasting Stations are: Bihar, Sind, Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar and Assam. The location of Broadcasting Stations was decided before the war with reference to linguistic factors, density of population and the possibility of providing programmes.

(c) Expenditure is not allotted on a provincial basis; the second part of the question does not arise.

CARTOON SECTION STAFF OF INFORMATION FILMS OF INDIA

1300. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state:

(a) what, if any, are the animated cartoon pictures produced by the Information Films of India;

(b) how many cartoonists are working in the Information Films of India, and how many of them are Indians and how many non-Indians;

(c) whether the chief or chiefs of the Cartoon Section of the Information Films of India, are non-Indians; and

(d) the salary received by such chiefs?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No cartoon films have been completed so far by the Cartoon Film Unit of the Information Films of India. Two cartoon films, however, are nearing completion as also an animated sequence for inclusion in a film on the Railways.

(b) There are six cartoonists. They are designated Animators. Four of them are Indians and two non-Indians.

(c) The Chief of the Unit is a non-Indian.

(d) Rs. 1,250.

PROVINCIAL PLANS FOR POST-WAR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1301. *Mr. Anand Mohan Poddar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Provinces which have drafted plans for the post-war industrial development;

(b) the relationship between the Central Provincial Governments in regard to these provincial plans; and

(c) whether any scheme has been drawn by the Central Government in regard to the plans formulated by Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Schemes for industrial development have been included by all Provincial Governments in their draft five year plans.

(b) and (c). The schemes of which I will gladly lay a list on the table of the House, if the Honourable Member so desires, are largely training schemes and demonstration schemes for cottage industries. These will be examined at the Centre and points of difference settled in agreement with Provinces.

ABOLITION OF EUROPEAN MUSIC FROM INDIAN BROADCASTING STATIONS

1302. *Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that a considerable percentage of programmes such as music, lectures, etc., is meant solely for the benefit of Europeans;

(b) whether, in view of the small proportion of the European population in the country, they propose to abolish European music from the Indian Broadcasting Stations; and

(c) whether Government propose to make available Radio Stations to the various Indian parties for broadcasting their legitimate political creed as is done in other countries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) A certain percentage of All-India Radio's programmes consists of Western Music and English Talks, but these are not meant solely for the benefit of Europeans. A considerable number of Indians also listen to them.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

REDUCTION OF TAX ON BETELNUTS

1303. *Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the present tax on betelnuts is a great burden and a source of irritation to the poorer sections of the country; especially agriculturists and people of the rural parts;

(b) whether they are aware that betelnuts is an article of necessity for the poor people of this country; and

(c) whether, in view of the assurance given by him that he would try his best to reduce taxation on the poor people, the Government of India would see their way to abolish the duties on betelnuts?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) to (c). While not accepting all the implications of the question, I am giving the whole matter my earnest consideration.

ARMY HELP IN FIGHTING FAMINE.

1304. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a letter in the *Hindu* of the 9th March, 1946, regarding the threat of famine in parts of India;

(b) if Government have considered the advisability of using the sappers and miners in the military service to dig wells and lay approach roads to the main roads, as suggested in that letter;

(c) if Government will also consider the desirability of posting Army doctors to possible famine areas to assist the doctors who may already be on-the-spot; and

(d) what steps, if any, the army is taking to assist, in fighting famine within India?

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

(b) At the present time all available Units are employed on civil development works.

(c) and (d). Provincial Medical Service Officers who joined the Army for the period of the emergency are now being released as quickly as possible. In general, where the resources of the Civil authorities are inadequate, they may call on local Military Commanders to assist them. Orders have been issued to the Military authorities to render all possible assistance in such cases. Should this assistance be inadequate, local Commanders may call for further assistance from the next higher Military authorities. I have question on this subject down for answer next Monday in answer to which I shall explain in detail the steps which are being taken by the Military authorities to assist in fighting famine in India.

SALARIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIAN AND BRITISH ARMAMENT ARTIFICERS.

1305. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that the starting salary of an Indian Armament Artificer (I. E. M. E.) is Rs. 70/- on enrolment and Rs. 140/- on successful completion of training after twenty-eight months?

(b) Is it a fact that a British Armament Artificer gets Rs. 300 to start with?

(c) Is it a fact that the minimum qualification prescribed for an Indian Armament Artificer is Intermediate with Science subjects?

(d) Is it a fact that, in practice, many double graduates and M. A.s., have been recruited for the posts of Indian Armament Artificers?

(e) Is it a fact that the British Armament Artificer's qualifications fall much below the standard set for the Indians?

(f) Will Government consider the advisability of equalising the salary of the Indian Artificers with that of the British Artificers? If not, why not?

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

(b) No, Sir. A British Armament Artificer receives a starting salary of Rs. 265/- p.m.

(c) The minimum educational qualification for an Indian Armament Artificer enrolled direct from civilian status is matriculation in English, Mathematics and Elementary Science with practical Engineering Training.

(d) Candidates with the qualifications indicated may have offered themselves for enrolment as Indian Armament Artificers, but without detailed investigation involving much work and trouble it is not possible to confirm or contradict this statement.

(e) No, Sir. The qualifications for Indian and British Armament artificers are of equivalent standard.

(f) No, Sir, because as has been often explained pay must be related to the general wage level of the country of origin.

CONVERSION OF ALL INDIA RADIO INTO A CORPORATION

1306. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. C. Barns, Director of News, All-India Radio, has proceeded to England?

(b) What is the purpose of his visit?

(c) How long will his deputation to England last?

(d) Has it any thing to do with the proposal to convert the All-India Radio into a Corporation on the lines of the B.B.C., and will Government kindly make a statement on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Barns has gone to United Kingdom to study the B. B. C.'s methods of production and scheduling of news and foreign broadcasts.

(c) About a month.

(d) No. The second part of the question does not arise.

SUPPLY OF GUN-POWDER AND CARTRIDGES, ETC., TO LICENCE-HOLDERS

1307. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Honourable Home Member be pleased to state whether Government are aware that on account of non-availability of gun-powder, cartridges and percussion caps licence-holders and agriculturists are put to great loss resulting from damage of produce by wild beasts; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to get supplies of the articles and make them available to the agriculturists?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I am prepared to believe that this is so.

(b) I assume that supplies are returning to normal; but I shall be glad to consider any steps that may be suggested for hastening that process, or any measures that can be commended to Provincial Governments for more effective check of the depreations of wild animals.

STRENGTH OF INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN OFFICERS IN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

1308. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of officers, separately, for each rank (Captains, Majors, Lieutenant-Colonels and Colonels) in the General Headquarters, for each Branch separately (such as Signals, Ordnance, Engineering Medical, Quartermaster, Adjutant General, Supply, etc.) as on the 1st of March, 1946;

(b) the respective number of Indians and non-Indians in the said ranks in the General Headquarters, separately, rank by rank and Branch by Branch;

(c) whether and, if so, why the percentage of Indian officers in the said ranks is greater in those Branches which require special qualifications such as Engineering and Medicine than in the Branches which require no special qualification for recruitment except general education; and

(d) whether it is not a fact that Indian officers have been appointed only where there was no qualified non-Indian available?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). I lay two statements on the table.

(c) The percentage of Indian officers is not greater in the Branches mentioned.

(d) Certainly not, Sir.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a)

Sanctioned strength of officers as on 1st March 1946 in G. H. Q. in the ranks shown

	Captains	Majors	Lt. Colonels	Colonels
G. S. Branch	243	172	69	24
D. P. R.	55	10	4	3
W. G. Branch	56	49	22	7
A. G.'s Branch	131	106	73	22
Q. M. G.'s Branch	93	93	55	21
M. G. O. Branch	146	89	49	18
E.-in-C's Branch	94	55	23	9
Medical Dte.	5	21	18	9
M. S. Branch	10	10	4	1

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (b)

Indians and Non-Indians officers in G. H. Q. on 1st January 1946 in the ranks shown

—	Captains		Majors		Lt. Colonels		Colonels	
	Indians	Non-Indians	Indians	Non-Indians	Indians	Non-Indians	Indians	Non-Indians
G. S. Branch .	9	146	11	126	1	59	3	21
P. R. Dte. .	27	17	7	3	3	1	2	1
W. G. Branch .	7	49	6	41	3	19	1	6
A. G.'s Branch .	18	106	13	89	4	68	.	21
Q. M. G.'s Branch	8	66	4	69	1	53	...	21
M. G. O. Branch	7	113	2	84	...	44	1	16
E.-in-C.'s Branch	1	77	1	37	...	13		7
Medical Dte. .	1	3	1	17	1	16	...	7
M. S. Branch .	...	10	...	10	1	3	...	1

EFFICIENCY OF MADRAS REGIMENTS IN INDIAN ARMY.

1309. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how many regiments of Madras there were during the war period;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Madrasi element in the Indian Army was found to be particularly valuable in artillery, anti-aircraft batteries, signalling, I.E.M.E., and I.A.O.C.; and

(c) how many Madrasi regiments are proposed to be retained as part of the standing Army?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I place on the table of the House a statement showing the number of Madrasi units in the Indian Army on the 1st October, 1945.

(b) Madrassis have done well in all the various arms of the Indian Army in which they have been employed.

(c) The matter is still under consideration.

APPENDIX ' A '

Madrasi Units in the Army on 1st October 1945

Arty.	Field Btys.	16	} 17,500
	Medium Btys. .	3	
	Heavy AA Btys.	28	
	Light AA Btys	27	
R.I.E. .	Army Troops Coys. .	1	} 37,000
	Brigade Coys. . . .	1	
	Electrical and Mec. Coys. .	2	
	Engineer Bns. . . .	8	
	Field Coys.	33	

	Field Park Coys.	10	}		
	Field Sqdns.	2			
	Mech. Equipt. Coys.	1			
	Quarrying Coys.	3			
	Workshop and Park Coys.	1			
	Forrestry Coy.	1			
	Small Units	21			
ISC.	Div. Sigs.	5	}	10,000	
	Sig. Secs.	193			
INF.	Active Bns	5	}	8,000	
	Garrison Bns.	4			
	Trg. Unit	1			
RIASC.	MT. 86 GT. Coys.		}	83,500	
	4 MA. Sections				
	6 Tpt. Pls.				
	AT. 2,000 IORs.				
	Sups. 10,600 IORs.				
IEME.	Misc. Units			22,300	
IAOC.	Do.			11,000	
IPC.	14 Coys.			56,000	
				2,45,300 Approx.	

Note.—The above figures are only approximate. They cover only the arms/corps stated and do NOT include the Madrassi element employed in miscellaneous establishments and base installations.

The total shewn does not therefore represent the total number of Madrassis sepoy serving in the Army on 1st October 1946.

REFORMATION OF W. A. C. (I) BINY ANOTHER NAME.

1310. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the W.A.C.(I) will be re-formed in another name?

Mr. P. Mason: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answers to the supplementary questions which purported to arise from question No. 775, of the 8th March, 1946. The question of the reconstitution of a Women's Corps will be one for the decision of the future Government.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL FINANCE BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

1311. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the steps the Reserve Bank of India has taken to develop its Branch of Agricultural Finance?

(b) Are Government aware that the said Branch of the Reserve Bank only issues bulletins from time to time in English which never reach the agriculturists?

(c) Has the Reserve Bank advanced any money to Co-operative Credit Banks in order to enable them to advance money to the agriculturists at a comparatively low rate of interest? If so, how much amount is so advanced?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) In the course of a reply to a question, it is not possible to explain fully the steps taken by the Reserve Bank to develop its Agricultural Credit Department and I, therefore, lay a statement on the table, giving details of the activities undertaken by the Reserve Bank in this connection.

(b) As explained under part (a) the activities of the Department are not confined to the issue of bulletins. If my Honourable friend has read any of the bulletins he will see that they are intended *inter alia* for the guidance of Provincial Governments and co-operative departments and it has, therefore, been necessary to arrange, for their issue in English. Every encouragement, however, has been given to the translation of these bulletins into local languages in order to disseminate the ideas they convey.

(c) Yes, Sir. The total sum advanced since the inception of the Bank is Rs. 75,96,000.

Statement

The statutory functions of the Agricultural Credit Department are (i) to maintain an expert staff to study all questions of agricultural credit and be available for consultation by the Central Government, Provincial Governments, the Government of Burma and other banking organisations, and (ii) to co-ordinate the operations of the Bank in connection with Agricultural Credit and its relations with provincial co-operative banks and any other banks or organisations engaged in the business of agricultural credit.

As regards (i), the Bank has taken steps to equip the Department with the necessary staff whose services have been increasingly availed of by the Central Government, Provincial Governments and co-operative and other banking organizations for consultation on matters relating to agricultural credit such as the rehabilitation of the co-operative movement, reconstruction of co-operative banks on banking and business lines, relief of agricultural indebtedness, control of moneylending, etc., etc. Recently the Bank has created another Section, namely the Division of Rural Economics for undertaking research on various problems of agricultural economics with special reference to their bearing on agricultural credit.

Regarding (ii), the Department has been trying from its very start to establish closer relationship with the various agencies catering to the credit needs of the agriculturist in order to make finance available to him at cheap rates. In order to appreciate the result of these efforts, it will be well to note the limitations imposed by the Reserve Bank of India Act in regard to the financial assistance that the Bank can render to agriculture. In the first place, it cannot make advances to agriculturists direct and can extend accommodation only through scheduled banks or the Provincial Co-operative Banks. Secondly, it is not authorised to supply the long-term needs of agriculture and the kinds of agricultural bills which it may discount are limited to those drawn for seasonal agricultural operations or the marketing of crops. Lastly, the maximum period for which it can make advances is limited to nine months so that it is authorised to lend only for short periods.

Subject to the above limitations the Bank has been anxious since its establishment that the largest possible use should be made of the provisions in the Reserve Bank of India Act to finance agriculture. The first important effort in this direction was a scheme which was formulated in January 1938 for providing finance for marketing of agricultural produce through the agency of the money-lender. It was realized that the co-operative movement had touched only a very small percentage of the population and that the money-lender was still the largest supplier of agricultural finance. It was, therefore, thought that if agricultural finance was to be made available to the agriculturists on a substantial scale, the possibility of utilising the agency of the money-lenders should be explored. Under this scheme, the Bank offered to rediscount at concession rates, through the scheduled banks, the bills of approved money-lenders drawn for making advances to agriculturists against the security of produce on the condition that the benefit of the low rates was passed on to agriculturists. Among the difficulties pointed out by the scheduled banks in adopting the scheme, the important ones were:

(i) The smaller agriculturist did not usually borrow against the security of his produce. He required finance more for crop production than for its marketing. He obtained generally it by keeping a running account with a money-lender and would not, therefore, agree to commit himself to bills expressed payable on a fixed date.

(ii) The scheduled banks were not in a position to gauge the money-lender's credit readily, nor would it be possible for them to dictate the rate of interest which the latter should charge to the cultivators against produce bills.

(iii) First class bills were at present discounted at very fine rates owing to keen competition and there would be, therefore, little scope for scheduled banks to rediscount such bills with the Reserve Bank.

(iv) The debt relief measures passed during the period of depression had introduced an element of uncertainty into the sphere of agricultural credit. The scheme was therefore not proceeded with.

Efforts were simultaneously made to utilise the co-operative movements for the supply of agricultural finance and a circular was issued in May 1938, laying down the procedure to be followed by co-operative banks in obtaining such finance from the Reserve Bank. Only one provincial bank, however, borrowed from the Bank under this scheme.

In order however, to induce provincial co-operative banks to make greater use of the finance available from the Reserve Bank, it prepared a scheme in 1942 under which it offered to grant accommodation for the marketing of crops at a concession rate (i.e., at 1 per cent. below the Bank Rate) on the condition that the benefit of the low rate was passed on to the ultimate borrower. The Bank expected that the co-operative movement would utilise the concession on a large scale and thus provide finance to agriculturists at cheap rates. Its expectations were not, however, realised, and only one provincial bank made use of the facility. It may be added that the Reserve Bank charged the provincial bank interest at the rate of 2 per cent. (i.e., 1 per cent. below the Bank Rate) for the accommodation. The provincial bank passed on this finance to a central co-operative bank at 2½ per cent. and the latter to a sale society at 3½ per cent. and the money reached the ultimate borrower at 5 per cent.

As the Bank was anxious that the provisions of the Act should be utilised to the fullest extent by the co-operative movement for financing agriculturists at cheap rates, it decided in November 1944 to extend the scheme of rebate to cover bills and promissory notes drawn for the purpose of financing seasonal agricultural operations also. Recently in the case of a provincial co-operative bank it has increased the rate of rebate from 1 per cent. to 1½ per cent., i.e., the borrowing co-operative bank is charged interest at 1½ per cent. only.

In order that the commercial banks and through them the Reserve Bank may be able to play greater part in financing agriculture than they have done so far, the Department has drafted a bill for establishing licensed warehouses and making their receipts negotiable instruments, and has circulated it to the Provincial Governments and important Indian States for its adoption. One Provincial Government, namely that of the North-West Frontier Province, has already introduced in its Legislature a bill to provide for the establishment of warehousing companies on these lines. Promotes supported by receipts issued by such companies would be discountable with the Reserve Bank of India.

EXEMPTION OF EXCHANGE BANKS FROM DEPOSITS IN RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

1312. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Exchange Banks are exempted from the rule of depositing in the Reserve Bank of India a certain percentage of deposits against time and call money deposits prescribed for the Indian Scheduled Banks? If so, what is the reason for such exemption? If not what is the percentage prescribed for Exchange Banks?

(b) Why is any difference made between Exchange Bank and the Indian Scheduled Banks in respect of such deposits?

Mr. B. C. Cook: (a) All scheduled banks, whether exchange banks or others, are required under section 42(1) of the Reserve Bank of India Act to deposit a percentage of their cash reserves with the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) Does not arise.

ARRESTS BY DELHI POLICE FOR VICTORY CELEBRATIONS DISTURBANCES

1313. *Diwan Ohaman Lall: (a) Will Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the house of one Tufan of Mohalla Dassan, Delhi, was visited by the Police on the 9th March, 1946, with orders to arrest the said Tufan and his brother?

(b) Are Government aware that Tufan had been prosecuted in connection with the 1942 disturbances?

* (c) Are Government aware that Tufan had died on the 1st February, 1946?

(d) Are Government aware that the Police in Delhi made indiscriminate arrests in connection with the disturbances arising out of the Victory Celebrations, and utilised the old lists of Congress workers who had been arrested in 1942 for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) I do not know; I am informed that he is not now a resident of Delhi.

(d) No.

**ARREST OF MIR MUSHTAQ AHMAD IN CONNECTION WITH VICTORY CELEBRATIONS
DISTURBANCES AT DELHI**

1314. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mir Mushtaq Ahmad, a member of the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee was, during the course of the day, in connection with the disturbances arising out of Victory Celebrations, risking his life in attempting to pacify the people in Delhi and that he was in company with other Congress Leaders and was also for some time in company with the City Magistrate?

(b) Is it a fact that he was, without any warrant being shown to him, arrested and taken to the police station?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). I understand that the case against Mir Mushtaq Ahmad is *sub judice*. I cannot therefore make any statement about it.

**AWARD BY SPECIAL ARBITRATION COURT *re* COMPENSATION FOR BETELNUT GARDENS
IN SOUTH KANARA**

1315. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state how many cases with respect to the acquisition of lands for military purposes in South Canara were referred to the Special Arbitration Court appointed by the Government?

(b) What was the total amount of annual recurring compensation originally fixed by Government?

(c) What was the total amount finally awarded by the Court?

(d) Are Government aware that the Special Arbitration court had observed that the basis and mode of assessment of compensation by the Revenue Officers in respect of betelnut gardens was wrong and would increase the annual recurring compensation in respect of all the cases before it where the betelnut gardens were involved?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, with your permission I shall reply to question Nos. 1315 to 1317 together.

The information is not readily available. I have called for it from the Provincial Government and shall lay it on the table in due course.

COMPENSATION FOR ACQUIRED LANDS IN SOUTH KANARA

†1316. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state how many ryots accepted the compensation fixed by Government by executing agreement with Government as required by them. (the Government)?

(b) Are Government aware that the Collector of South Canara refused to pay any portion of the compensation (fixed by Government) to the ryots who filed objections before the Arbitrator though the rules framed in 1943 allowed such payment?

(c) Are Government aware that several ryots were compelled to accept the amount offered by Government, as they had no means to maintain themselves in case they went to court decided the account?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1315.

(d) Have Government received representation that the compensations granted by the Government in such cases should be reviewed according to the principles laid down by the Arbitration court?

— ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES ON DE-REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

†1317. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the procedure adopted by Government to assess damages on properties when they are de-requisitioned?

(b) Is it a fact Revenue officers are asked to assess damages in such cases?

(c) Will Government be pleased to appoint an Arbitration Officer of judicial experience to assess damages in such cases?

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1318. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please refer to the answers to starred question Nos. 641 of the 21st November, 1944, and 521 of the 26th February, 1946, and state:

(a) Whether, under the authority of Pension Regulations "forfeitures" in excess of the specified quantum in Section 43 of the Indian Army Act Clauses (g), h (i), (iii) and h (v), and in addition to the specified single punishment of "dismissal" "by order", of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, have been and are being inflicted in the case of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, who on completion of the "term of their original enlistment" of fifteen years are re-engaged during National Emergency for a period "Duration of war";

(b) Whether to the prejudice of Section 47 of the Indian Army Act "Combination of punishments" specified in clause (d) along with any one or more punishments specified in clauses (g) and (h) of Section 43 has been and is being inflicted by authority other than the Court Martial; and

(c) If the reply to (a) be in the negative, whether he will please refer to War Department letter No. 5479/A.G. 15(a), dated the 7th September, 1943, Register No. 11366/A.W./5 for an instance of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers dealt with as in (a) above?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) As already explained in reply to Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty's starred question No. 641, of 21st November, 1944, when a person is dismissed, claim to pension is automatically forfeited.

(b) No, Sir. If details can be given of any case in which it is alleged that a combined punishment as contemplated by Sections 43 and 47 of the Indian Army Act has been imposed by an authority other than a Court Martial the matter will be investigated.

(c) I have seen the letter in question, and it is in order.

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1319. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that reference has not been had and is not being had to the provisions: "Any sum authorised by this Act to be deducted from the pay and allowance of any person may, without prejudice to any other mode of recovering the same, be deducted from any public money other than a pension" of the Indian Army Act, and money due or to become due on account of a pension granted, continued or customarily payable for the duration of full life a grantee or of his family for long Military service or in consideration of disability or death sustained on "active services", has been escheated, retained, reduced or refused at the discretion of a non-judicial body to the prejudice of sec-

• †For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1315.

tion 11 of the pensions' Act, Section 300 (2) of the Government of India Act 1935 and Note (15) to section 44 Army Act?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will he be pleased to refer to the case dealt with in the Controller of Military Accounts (P), Lahore, Pension Circular No. 446, Part III of 1945, and state whether he proposes to revise the decision contained therein and allow compensation for all the losses so long sustained?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I regret I am unable to understand the Honourable Member's question. I have on many occasions during this Session explained that no statutory authority is required in support of the Pension Rules, and, in so far as his references to certain Acts are concerned. I would particularly invite his attention to my reply to his starred question No. 518, and to part (b) of question No. 520, answered on the 26th February, last.

(b) I was not aware of the case alluded to by the Honourable Member, but I am having enquiries made and I shall inform the Honourable Member of the result in due course.

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1320. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if he is aware that the specified punishment: "forfeiture in the case of a person sentenced to cashiering or dismissal from the service of all arrears of pay and allowances and other public money due to him at the time of such cashiering or dismissal" in clause (h) (iii) of Section 43, Indian Army Act, has been inflicted by a body other than Court Martial:

(i) in the case of "Officers" to the prejudice of Clauses (g) and (d) of Section 43:

(ii) in the case of "Officers" and "persons" alike enlarging the scope of the forfeiture of "public money" to cover "pension" money to become due after the date of "dismissal" on account of "Military reward", "Jangi Inam" or "Special War reward" customarily payable for life; and

(iii) in the case of "Officers" not dismissed by a sentence of a Court Martial but dismissed "by order" of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will he please refer to letter No. Dis/16334/2/94, dated the 6th November, 1945, of the 19th Hyderabad Regimental Centre, Agra, and state whether he proposes to revise the orders contained therein and also to compensate for all the losses hitherto sustained?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to my reply to Starred Question No. 659, of the 4th March, 1946, in which I pointed out that Penal deductions amounting to forfeiture of pay and allowances can under Section 50 of the Indian Army Act be made by certain specified authorities other than Courts Martial.

(b) I have not yet seen the letter in question and have taken steps to obtain a copy.

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1321. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please refer to the answer to starred question No. 731, dated the 7th March, 1945, declaring that "The subject of Military pensions is not a matter of legislation. It falls entirely within the scope of the Royal Prerogative. Such pensions are in the nature of gifts and bounties and can, therefore, be granted or withheld at pleasure" and state whether the "pleasure" withhold a death or disability pension, "Military Reward", "Special War Reward", "Jangi Inam", "Victoria Cross Allowance", "Military Cross Allowance" etc., which His Excellency the Governor-General of India has granted or which are chargeable, in part or in full to His Majesty's is exercised by any officer in the Department without reference to His Majesty's Exchequer?

Mr. P. Mason: No Sir. Disability and family pensions are withheld under the orders of the Governor General in Council. The other awards referred to can be withheld only under the orders of the authority which sanctions them.

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1322. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if he is aware that in sentencing Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Indian other ranks on "active service" to imprisonment and to such less imprisonment as is mentioned in the Indian Army Act, reference has not been had to the mandatory provision: "Shall, on conviction by Court Martial, be punished with imprisonment, or with such less imprisonment as is in this Act mentioned" and the word "or" occurring in the mandatory provision in Section 31, Indian Army Act has been read as "and" and the singular word "punishment" occurring therein has been read in the plural as "punishments" so as to make the combination of "imprisonment" with any number of "less imprisonments" mentioned in the Act to be a legal combination?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will he please refer to War Department letter No. 59613/5/P.S./3 (b) 11, dated the 12th September, 1944, Register No. 10436-A/W/6, as an instance and state if he proposes to set aside the sentence, refund the arrears of pay and allowance retained and restore the service forfeited?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No Sir. The particular portion of Section 31 of the Indian Army Act to which the Honourable Member refers does not prohibit the award of an additional punishment as permissible under Section 47 of the Indian Army Act.

(b) No Sir.

PERIOD OF STAY OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN ONE CANTONMENT

1323. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the War Secretary kindly state how long an Executive Officer is normally allowed to stay in one Cantonment?

Mr. P. Mason: There is no hard and fast rule, but subject to the needs of the service an Executive Officer is normally allowed to stay in one Cantonment for three or four years.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIM O. O. C'S IN I. A. O. C.

1324 *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the number of temporary Civil Ordnance Officers?

(b) What is the number of Muslims recruited as O.O.C.?

(c) Is the cadre going to be a permanent feature of the I. A. O. C. organization?

(d) Do Government propose to reserve 33 per cent. of the post-war strength for Muslims?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) 929.

(b) The number of Muslims recruited directly as Civil Ordnance Officers and the number promoted from I. A. O. C. clerks is 21.

(c) This question has not yet been decided.

(d) The usual 25 per cent reservation will be adhered to as far as possible.

SELECTION FOR I. C. S. FROM QUALIFIED MUSLIMS IN ARMY.

1325. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of Muslims who qualified for the Indian Civil Service in 1942 and 1943, but did not get the appointment?

(b) How many of such candidates secured Commission?

(c) How many of them are in the Army as Non-Commissioned Officers?

(d) In making selections for the Indian Civil Service from amongst the war service candidates, do Government propose to give preference to those who have already qualified at the open competition examination for the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) In 1942, 24 Muslims reached the qualifying mark and two Muslims were appointed. In 1943, 14 Muslims qualified and three were appointed.

(b) and (c). This information is not readily available and will take some time to collect.

(d) I presume that the performance of a candidate in a previous Indian Civil Service Examination will receive due consideration during the course of selection for these war reserved vacancies; but no absolute preference to candidates who qualified in such examinations can be given.

INDIANISATION OF THE R. I. N.

1326. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that a large number of officers in the Royal Indian Navy are about to be or are being discharged and that 600 Voluntary Reserve officers of the Royal Indian Navy are being transferred to the Royal Indian Navy? If so, is this a step towards the Indianisation of the R.I.N.?

Mr. P. Mason: I would refer the Honourable Member to my replies to starred questions 1164 and 1165, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, on March 22nd, in which I explained the whole policy regarding the officering of the Royal Indian Navy.

FUTURE EXTENSION OF R. I. N. AND PRESENT TYPE AND TONNAGE OF SHIPS

1327. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that Government intend to obtain crafts in the near future for the purpose of extending the R.I.N. so that it should take its rightful place among the navies of the world?

(b) What is the type, number and the tonnage of the ships that form the R.I.N. today?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. The question of three cruisers has previously been referred to in my answers to questions 793 and 948, on the 8th and 13th of March. In addition, two Frigates were obtained during the period of hostilities, and are now being transferred to the RIN from RN after being made suitable for tropical waters.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

- (1) 6 Sloops—Average tonnage 1,370 tons.
- (2) 2 Corvettes—Average tonnage 980 tons.
- (3) 3 Frigates—Average tonnage 1,415 tons.
- (4) 17 Fleet Minesweepers—Average tonnage 625 tons.
- (5) 6 Basset Trawlers—Average tonnage 545 tons.
- (6) 1 Old Sloop—Tonnage 1,190 tons.
- (7) 1 Survey Ship—Tonnage 1,172 tons.
- (8) 6 Motor Minesweepers—Average tonnage 225 tons.
- (9) 1 Fairmile 'B' Type Motor Launch—Tonnage 90 tons.
- (10) 20 Harbour Defence Motor Launches—Average tonnage 50 tons.
- (11) 6 Landing Craft Tank.
- (12) 22 Landing Craft Mechanised.

(13) 40 Landing Craft Assault.

(14) 22 Landing Craft Personnel (Large).

In addition, the following crafts are for disposal or return to Trade :

(1) 2 Corvettes to be returned to the Royal Navy.

(2) 12 Basset Trawlers to be disposed of and utilized for fishing.

(3) 2 Old Sloops to be disposed of. Average tonnage 1,470 tons.

(4) 1 Coastal Forces Base Ship for return to Trade. Tonnage 450.

(5) 3 *Ex*-Persian Gunboats to be returned to Persian Government.

(6) 1 *Ex*-Persian Gunboat to be disposed of.

(7) 1 Landing Ship (Infantry) (Large) to be returned to owners. Tonnage 11,000 tons.

(8) 18 Fairmile 'B' Type Motor Launches for disposal.

(9) 7 Harbour Defence Motor Launches for disposal.

(10) 9 Auxiliary ships to be returned to Trade. Average tonnage 937 tons.

• GRIEVANCES OF THE R. I. A. F. PERSONNEL

1328. *Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the War Secretary please state in detail the grievances brought to the notice of Government by the R.I.A.F. personnel who have been recently on strike, and whether it is a fact that one of the grievances relates to discriminatory treatment in the matter of allowances, pay and travelling privileges?

Mr. P. Mason: The main grievances related to pay and allowances, war gratuity, rail travel, accommodation, rations, leave, working hours, welfare, promotion, postings, hospitals, and release and resettlement.

One of the grievances related to alleged discriminatory treatment in the matter of allowances, pay and travelling privileges. As I have explained before the rates of pay, allowances, and travelling privileges of the fighting services of various countries are based on the cost of living and other factors in those countries. For this reason the American airman gets higher pay than the British airman, who in his turn, gets higher rates than the Indian airman. To attempt to equate these rates of pay would affect the whole economic structure of the country and create demands in every Branch of Government service which would be impossible to meet.

REPORT ON ROAD ROLLERS

1329. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state whether there is a special panel or sub-panel of the Planning Department in connection with Road Rollers? Has this panel met? If so, has it submitted any report be available to the public and the commercial bodies?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: *First part.*—Yes; a sub-panel under the Industrial Plant and Machinery Panel has been constituted.

Second part.—No; it will meet as soon as the factual data which is being collected is complete.

Third part.—Yes.

RELEASE OF SRI JAI PARKASH NARAIN AND RAM MANOHAR LOHIA

1330. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to a news item in the Press that the Government of India had advised the Government of the United Provinces to release Sri Jai Parkash Narain and Ram Manohar Lohia and that the latter refused to take the responsibility of their release?

(b) In case the above news item is true, are the Government of India guided by the decisions of the Provincial Governments even in the matter of release of the Security Prisoners of the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have seen an article some what on these lines.

(b) As I have more than once explained, the decision is for the Central Government, after such consultation as is proper with Provincial Governments.

WORKING HOURS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT OFFICES

1331. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that originally the working hours in the Government of India Secretariat offices were from 10-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m.?

(b) Is it a fact that due to emergency on account of the war the working hours of the offices were extended from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.?

(c) Does any emergency even now exist for not reverting to the old working hours which existed in the pre-war days? If so, what?

(d) Is it a fact that after once having reduced the working hours of the offices, they have again increased the working hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.?

(e) Are Government aware that for the sake of certain highly placed officers, the whole of the Secretariat staff who do not and cannot afford to go home for lunch from the office, is being forced to put in an extra hour in the offices?

(f) Does he propose to consider the desirability of reverting to the pre-war office hours in the Secretariat? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (d) and (f). The office hours observed before the 8th December, 1941, were 10-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m. on week days other than Saturdays. Thereafter they underwent a number of changes and with effect from the 10th May, 1943 were 10-30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on week days other than Saturdays. These hours were observed till 15th October, 1945, when the office hours were reduced to 6½ hours a day. Government again went into the question recently and came to the conclusion that longer hours than those observed before the war were necessary in the interests of administration and that a 7-hour day was reasonable. The office hours were accordingly changed from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Government do not consider it proper to revert again to the previous hours.

(e) No.

CANCELLATION OF FIRE ARMS IN DELHI

1332. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the news in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 15th March, 1946, under the caption "300 Fire arm licences cancelled in Delhi"?

(b) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi has cancelled the licences of about 300 persons under the Indian Arms Act?

(c) Why was it considered necessary to do so?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes.

(b) Licences cancelled numbered 174.

(c) Licences concerned had purchased either no cartridges or less than 50 cartridges during the last five years and it accordingly appeared that they no longer needed their weapons.

DIFFERENCE IN SUGAR RATION OF CIVIL POPULATION AND DEFENCE SERVICES

1333. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) The general scale of Sugar ration per head per annum (i) in towns of India and (ii) for rural population;

(b) The average consumption of Sugar *per capita* per annum by (i) British troops and (ii) Indian troops according to which the indent of the Quarter Master General in India was accepted by the Food Department this year and the last year;

(c) The reasons for the difference, if any, specially in case of such members of the Defence Services who are occupied in sedentary occupations; and

(d) Whether Government propose to reduce the sugar rations of defence services in at least non-operational areas, in view of the general shortage of sugar in the country? If not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) (i) In the principal rationed towns the sugar ration is 26 lbs. a person a year but in some places it is slightly higher or lower depending on the supplies available.

(ii) There is no sugar rationing in rural areas as such.

(b) The yearly issues of sugar a head to the Defence Services during 1945 and 1946 are:

	1945		1946	
British troops	79 lbs	13 ozs	62 lbs	10 ozs
Indian troops	51 lbs	5 ozs	45 lbs	10 ozs

(c) It is not possible to differentiate between troops in sedentary employment and on other duties owing to frequent transfers from one to the other. The physical strength and energy capacity of all troops must therefore be maintained at a high level. For this reason it is necessary they should all receive an adequate sugar ration.

(d) The sugar ration for troops has already been reduced because of the end of hostilities and the general food shortage in the country.

CUSTODY OF MEMBERS OF AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT

1334. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) If it is a fact that over three hundred persons who were connected with the Azad Hind organization, including Sardar Ishar Singh, Mr. Parmanand, Mr. Karim Ghani and others who had been members of the Azad Hind Government, were brought away from Bangkok in January, 1946;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. M. S. Aney, representative of the Government of India, who was present at the time of their embarkation, assured them that they would be taken direct to India;

(c) whether it is a fact that these persons were forcibly landed at Singapore and are kept in custody in various jails there; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to bring them to India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Aney was present but I have no information of any assurance given by him.

(c) and (d). They were landed at Singapore but not forcibly. Most of them have since been repatriated but as they landed in India only a few days ago, there has been no time to verify each case individually. I am making enquiries about Messrs. Ishwar Singh, Parmanand and Karim Ghani and shall furnish the information later when received.

DETENTION OF CERTAIN INDIANS IN CHANGHI JAIL AT SINGAPORE

1335. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Messrs. Anand Mohan Sahai, D. M. Khan, J.A. Thivy and others are confined in the Changhi Jail at Singapore;

(b) the reasons for their detention and the conditions under which they are kept so confined; and

(c) if Government are intending to bring them back to India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (c). I understand that Mr. D. M. Khan has already left for India. I am making enquiries about the others and shall furnish the information when received.

COLLECTIONS FOR "SOLDIERS AMENITIES FUND" IN SOUTH CANARA
BY REVENUE OFFICERS

1336. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether Government are aware that collections for the "Soldier's Amenities Fund" were made in south Canara by Revenue officers?

(b) What was the amount collected in Pullur Taluk (South Canara) for the Soldier's Amenities Fund in the year 1945?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). The Government of India have no knowledge of a "Soldier's Amenities Fund". If the question refers to the Governor of Madras War Purposes Fund, it should be addressed to the Government of Madras.

RETURN OF ALL INDIA VILLAGE INDUSTRIES RESEARCH, POONA, TAKEN OVER BY
GOVERNMENT UNDER D. I. R.

1337. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the All-India Village Industries Research Centre at Poona run by Mr. K. B. Joshi; under the direction of Mr. Vaikuntha Mehta, Managing Director of Provincial Cooperative Bank, was taken over by Government under the Defence of India Rules in 1942 and have not returned it to them ever since; *

(b) if they had made drastic changes in the very fundamentals of the work of the Centre, abandoned all research work and have now decided to dismantle it;

(a) if it is a fact that the All-India Village Industries Research Centre at in his article "Vandalism", published in the *Gramodyoga Patrika* of October 1945, Wardha;

(d) why Government have not proposed to hand over the buildings and machinery to the former management; and

(e) whether Government have not proposed to consider the advisability of handing it over to the A.I.V.I.A. management at least now?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (e). I have seen the article. It refers to action taken by the Government of Bombay, and not by the Government of India.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PUNISHMENTS TO CERTAIN MILITARY MEN RETURNING TO INDIA AFTER FALL OF
MALAYA AND BURMA

157. Seth Govind Das: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many military men returning to India from Burma, Malaya, etc., after their fall, under most miserable conditions have been arrested, court-martialled and sentenced to long terms of imprisonments for "failure to report themselves to the military authorities" or for being "absent without leave";

(b) whether they are also aware that most of these came to India under great difficulties in a mentally and physically exhausted condition;

(c) how and under what charges they were arrested, court martialled and sentenced;

(d) in what and how many cases the Commander-in-Chief exercised his right to remit wholly or partially the sentences awarded by court martials; and

(e) whether Government propose to advise the military authorities to consider their cases now in view of the changed circumstances and their *unintentional* "absence without leave" or failure to report themselves in time and remit the rest of the sentence?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). No Sir. If particulars of any individual cases can be furnished they will be examined.

(c), (d), and (e). Do not arise.

PREPARATION OF RETRENCHMENT LIST IN G.H.Q. ON BASIS OF ANNUAL REPORT OF 1944

158. Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if the retrenchment of clerks in the General Headquarters has been based on the marks in the annual report given to them for the year 1944? If so, will he please consider the desirability of basing the retrenchment policy on the average of marks gained by a person during the whole period of his service and not on a particular year?

(b) Is it a fact that in carrying out the retrenchment policy no marks at all are allotted for educational qualifications?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Partly, Sir, but length of service is also taken into consideration.

The desirability of basing the marks allotted for ability on annual reports during the whole of an individual's service was discussed at length by a meeting at which all classes of the clerical staff (including temporary clerks) of all Branches of G.H.Q. were represented, but was rejected. The decision to base marks on the 1944 report only was accepted. Only in isolated cases would the award of average marks be beneficial.

(b) This question was also considered at the meeting referred to in (a) above, and it was accepted that an individual's educational qualifications, if correctly used by him, should be reflected in his clerical ability for which he is awarded marks on a graduated scale.

ARREST OF S. AJIT SINGH

159. Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that S. Ajit Singh (of 1907 fame) was arrested in Germany or elsewhere in Europe;

(b) if it is a fact that he was taken to England with other I.N.A. prisoners for interrogation;

(c) whether Government intend to try S. Ajit Singh by a court martial or in any other court; if so, what facilities they propose to give him for his defence; and

(d) if it is a fact that S. Ajit Singh has been brought to India; if so, in what jail he is confined at present?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes; in Italy.

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

EXTENSIONS TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AFTER AGE OF SUPERANNUATION

160. Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if his Department has issued any orders prohibiting the grant of extension of service to Government servants after the age of superannuation and to those who are re-employed? If so, in order to see whether these

orders are being followed by the Departments of the Government of India including the Central Public Works Department, will he please state the instances in which the extensions were granted by each Department of the Government of India since the issue of these orders, and the extraordinary reasons for not following the Government orders?

(b) What are the reasons for issuing these orders if they are not to be strictly followed by the Government in the respective Departments?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies given by me on the 21st February and the 8th March, to starred Question Nos. 414 and 791.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

DISCHARGE OF MR. S. C. GOHO

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations been drawn to a *Reuter's* message published in newspapers that Mr. S. C. Goho has been discharged?

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(b) Is he able to confirm this news?

(c) Will he take necessary action to bring about the discharge of the remaining persons charged with collaboration?

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

(b) and (c). Although we have not had official confirmation of the fact that orders discharging Mr. Goho have been actually passed, it appears from a report received from our representative in Malaya that the British Military Administration, Malaya, have now adopted the Government of India's policy of not proceeding against persons for pure collaboration. All proceedings now pending against persons for pure collaboration, including the proceedings against Mr. Goho, will thus now be withdrawn. It appears that the press report about Mr. Goho's discharge is probably correct.

Seth Govind Das: Have the Government of India recommended to the Malayan Government so far that all the cases based on collaboration should be withdrawn?

Mr. President: That has already been replied to.

Seth Govind Das: I want to know whether the Government of India have recommended to the Malayan Government that all cases of collaboration should be withdrawn.

Mr. President: Did not the Honourable Member say that they will all be withdrawn?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it the Government of India's position that all collaboration was pure?

(No reply.)

Sri S. T. Adityan: Are there any cases pending in which there was anything more than collaboration alleged?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many people are thus charged?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have not got the exact number with me now.

Seth Govind Das: What are Government going to do with respect to these cases?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have replied to that question more than once in the past.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, this debate seems to have conformed to the pattern of past debates on the Finance Bill. In order to prepare myself for this my first commitment to the arena of debate on the Finance Bill, I naturally took the precaution of looking up the reports on previous Bills, which struck me as being unnecessarily long, largely irrelevant and almost completely unreal. The debate on this occasion has also been largely irrelevant to the Finance Bill itself and, I submit almost completely unreal. I fully understand the air of unreality which has surrounded debates on this Bill in the past, and that the whole debate has been obsessed by politics. I also think I can appreciate the obsession by politics that has characterised most of the debates,—not only that on the Finance Bill but on other matters as well,—in recent years.

I remember discussing this question with one of my colleagues on the Public Accounts Committee. I asked him why it was that he and some of his colleagues found it so difficult to judge any question on its merits but reverted always to political considerations; and I remember being very much struck by his reply. I do not recollect perfectly whether it was Pundit Maitra—whose absence, I personally think, has lessened the value of these debates—or my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga; I think it was Prof. Ranga. He said:

“You do not understand; if you are inside a cage it does not matter how you are treated; all you want is to get hold of the key.”

And that, I believe, does summarise the position.

I think the debate this year has, as I have said, been more completely unreal than any previous debate. I could not help feeling sympathy for most of my Honourable friends on the opposite benches. They, like me,—the old hands at any rate had looked up their previous speeches, they refurbished them and brought them up to date; and those who were new hands had borrowed some of the oratorical gems of some of the giants of the past like the late Mr. Satyamurti and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. But alas, when they came to the budget discussions they found that the march of time had produced an atmosphere in which mere oratorical flowers would wither and die,—indeed had withered and died. If I may change the metaphor, they reminded me of a body of men behind a battering ram which was brought forward once again to assault that door made of English oak, which had so resisted them in the past. The result was inevitable. If you rush at an obstacle which gives way easily—as this particular door has done on this occasion, all that happens is that you lose your balance; you fall head over the apex—as we say politely—and you all fall down. In the confusion thus created the budget proposals were at first not too unfavourably received. Indeed, some of my Honourable friends on the opposite benches showed a disposition to approach them on their economic merits. But the rumour that this may happen reached Bombay; peremptory orders were received that nothing of the sort was to happen. Now, Sir, I would be the last to claim that the present constitution or this Assembly is a model of democratic institutions. I also submit that it is not democratic to have a system whereby members of a legislature can claim proudly for themselves that they are elected representatives of the people, but are not to be allowed to determine themselves the issues which arise in the House itself, but have to submit them to an extraneous body who have not been elected by, nor are responsible to, the electorate. That is not in my judgment democracy; that is putting the ‘mock’ into democracy. It is pure fascism, pure Nazism. So far as the opposite benches are concerned, the Opposition has been again entirely political. In view of the imminent political changes they found it almost impossible to make the charges ring true. I will give three examples of the length to which my friends and critics on the other side have been driven in trying to find economic grounds for rejecting the Finance Bill.

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I will first take Mr. Masani, one of the leading debaters of the other side. He said that he was pretty sure that the reasons why I had reduced the income-tax in relation to men of moderate means was deliberately determined by the fact that they would be able to buy more British goods, imported from abroad.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Will the Honourable Member yield for a moment? If he will look up the record he will find that I said nothing of the kind. I said that would be the effect of the proposals and not that it was the intention.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If he did not say so, it was implied.

Mr. M. R. Masani: You are imagining things.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You said that it was "bloody".

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I did not. I said it was "rubbish."! If you like I will say "bloody rubbish."!

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are British goods rubbish?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It was alleged that the real purpose of the visit of the President of the Board of Trade to Delhi at the present moment was to see that I carry out his orders to reduce the income-tax so that more should be spent on British goods.

Mr. M. R. Masani: I did not know that he was here!

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You knew he was coming when you made the speech. I did not know what Lord Pethick-Lawrence was going to do except that the responsibilities of the 1935 Act would be left to me to carry out on his behalf. As for Mr. A. V. Alexander, unless his presence was to inform me that he was First Lord of the Admiralty and that there was such a thing as the British Navy which would blow me to smithereens if I did not toe the line.

Mr. Karmarkar, in reply to an interjection of mine and not a prepared statement, attributed the over population of this country to the British connection. Well, Sir,

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural). Will the Honourable Member yield for a moment, because the Honourable Member has misunderstood me. I was reading from a summary of the report by Mr. Pepperall and amongst other things he mentioned as one of the possible causes of the deterioration in cattle the increase in population in India. My principal contention was not that the British connection was responsible for the increase in population. It was only what Mr. Pepperall mentioned in his report that the increase of the population is also one of the causes amongst others, like semi-starvation, of deterioration of cattle that I referred to.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I was referring to the human population and not the cow population.

The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition was driven into what appeared to me to be a logical contradiction in his eagerness to find reasons for condemning, on economic grounds, the Finance Bill. He twitted me with the fact that I had brought forward no proposals for nationalising the Reserve Bank of India, whereas the British Government had done so. Well, I submit with respect that the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition cannot have it both ways. He cannot represent that we on these benches do nothing else but carry out orders from Whitehall and, at the same time, that we defy them. I have no doubt that the Reserve Bank will be nationalised in the near future. I thought the real reason why it was not nationalised in the first instance was that the Legislature was not prepared to commit to the sole charge of an irresponsible Executive an institution which plays such an important part in the economic life of India.

Well, Sir, these are the kind of arguments which, I submit, demonstrate conclusively that the case presented against this Finance Bill is purely hollow.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Question.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Granted. I ask, Sir, could political moonbeams shine more brightly or political prejudice and perversity proceed further than this? I cannot hope to cover all the speeches. I must concentrate on some of the most important points raised.

I will begin with my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall, who, at the beginning of his speech, startled me. I thought for a moment that he was going to deal with the Finance Bill purely on financial and economic grounds. But I was rapidly disillusioned and disappointed. With the help of his distinguished un-official financial adviser, for whom I have considerable admiration myself, he did indeed produce some economic arguments, but they were negatived soon afterwards by flights of fancy into the political and statistical fields. It was not very difficult for me to distinguish between those parts of the speech that had been suggested by his distinguished economic adviser and those which he had written himself.

There were two main charges which he brought against me. The first was that I had left my successor an impossible task by leaving him with an uncovered revenue gap of Rs. 44 crores. It would have been Rs. 70 crores if I had not appropriated—I am sure he would regard the word misappropriated as more appropriate—certain runs from the war risks insurance funds, and this gap would, therefore, have increased to Rs. 144 crores next year—I mean the year after the coming year,—as the result of the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax. If my friend would like a nicely balanced budget and if he succeeds me and would like to consult me, I could show him how he can balance next year's budget! There are other ways of robbing. But I refrained from doing so to give my successor a chance. Defence expenditure, which at the moment stands at Rs. 244 crores, ought to show a drop of some Rs. 140 crores. He featured in his speech the action of the Government in abolishing the Excess Profits Tax. Well, I dealt with the question of the Excess Profits Tax at some length in my reply to the general debate on the budget and I want to make two further points. Firstly, the United Kingdom, by keeping the Excess Profits Tax, on too long after the end of the last war, lost £100 millions and I do not think they are going to repeat that mistake. He went on to say that while I had done something to buttress the financial structure for my successor by incorporating the surcharges into the basic rates, I had failed to take other obvious measures which would have produced the same results. He twitted me, for example, that I had deliberately refrained from introducing the Estates Duties Bill which had been on the stocks for some time. With that willingness to oblige that my friend recognises in me, I produced the Bill within two days, I suspect embarrassment and discomfiture to at least one of his colleagues.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Not at all.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am glad to note it, Sir.

He went on to suggest that the Estates Duties Bill would produce Rs. 300 crores a year. That is certainly a flight of fancy. The best estimate we can make is that the Bill will in its initial application, produce about Rs. 10 crores. All taxes when they are introduced start off at a low level and progressively produce more and more. But until India becomes much more wealthy than it is at present, I cannot see it producing anything like Rs. 300 crores, particularly if agricultural land is not included.

He then went on to suggest that I ought to nationalise the match industry and the tobacco industry. I have not been very long in my present job and there are several other things I have to attend to besides dealing with the business of the Assembly, but, quite apart from that my own study of the history of match and tobacco monopolies in other countries does not suggest to

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me that it would be an improvement, either in the quality of the matches or the tobacco, or produce more revenue than the present system. This is a matter which ought to be considered in greater detail and I have no doubt that my successor will take it up. But to suggest that by doing so he could increase the revenue in the case of matches by Rs. 26 crores a year and in the case of tobacco by Rs. 75 crores a year, is another flight of fancy put forward merely to find some grounds to attack the Finance Bill.

He also suggested that, if the Income-tax Department had been more efficient, it could have raised during this war an additional Rs. 700 crores. Well, no one will deny that the Income-tax Department is beaten, and beaten badly, by certain anti-social rich elements in the country, who deliberately set out, not merely to avoid but also to evade, taxation. I would remind my Honourable friend opposite that he refused last year to co-operate with the Government in giving them additional powers which would have made these evasions more difficult. However that may be, I would accept that a great deal of tax evasion has been going on and the Income-tax Department has been progressively strengthened to fight that, and, with a little more support, I think in a year or two it will be in a good position to take on even the worst tax-evader. In any case, to suggest an increase of Rs. 700 crores is, I think, an exaggeration by at least 90 per cent.

The second charge (and there seems to be some point in this, if I may say so) against me and the Finance Department was in relation to the extent, or lack of extent of the provision which I had made to replace the economic activity which had been engendered during the war by the very high defence expenditure. He represented (and it was a view which was shared by other Members as well, one of them being Mr. Masani) that the result will be widespread and wholesale unemployment.

Let us examine the position, Sir. He said that there will be a drop of nearly Rs. 600 crores in defence expenditure next year. In so far as it relates to defence expenditure, we all rejoice in it. But last year's budget and the previous year's budget included an inflationary gap of some Rs. 250 crores. If we get rid of this Rs. 250 crores, we are left with approximately Rs. 350 crores. That 350 crore gap ought to be filled. But, taking into account the grants which the Centre is making to the Provinces and the Provinces' own expenditure which comes to about Rs. 144 crore, we are left with a gap of about Rs. 200 crores which has to be filled. The Military authorities have been consistently spending over Rs. 100 crores a year on buildings, and, now that military building has entirely ceased, the materials and the labour will be available for being diverted to civil building purposes. But even if we do not achieve a Rs. 100 crores target, and reach let us say about Rs. 75 crores, we are still left with a total gap of Rs. 125 crores. I would expect that, if industry is as efficient as it claims to be, it could at least do something to fill in the vacuum. But even if they do not, the position, while admittedly unsatisfactory, will not be wholly disastrous.

The most general charge brought against the Finance Bill (and it is not confined to one section of the House only, even some of the nominated members joined in the charge) was that this is a rich man's budget. The charge fell under two headings. First of all, if I had omitted to tax the rich I had done practically nothing to the poor except reduce by one pice the price per bottle of kerosene, and secondly, that, on the expenditure side I had done nothing to improve the lot of the poor man. As for the first point, I dealt with it at some length in my reply to the General Budget. I made it plain that in my judgment, the best interests of the average poor man were served by the rapid industrialisation of India, by improving the economic activity and the national income. I would only add four other things. As a proof that the first charge is not a genuine one I would point to the fact that amongst my bitterest

critics are the representatives of the Ahmedabad millowners and the Landholders of the United Provinces. If it had been a richman's budget, they would not have attacked it with such ferocity. Secondly, as I said in the Budget Debate, I have introduced the Estates Duties Bill, which is obviously aimed at the rich. Thirdly, that I have ignored the fact that there is all the difference in the world between the taxation of industry and the taxation of the shareholders. The amount of tax a shareholder pays is what he draws from the industry, and, if he is a rich shareholder, he will draw and pay a pretty good sum. The moderately prosperous man will pay under my proposals, more than half his income to the State and, if he is really rich, he would pay practically 95 per cent. I do not call that being very tender for the rich. Fourthly, the percentages of direct and indirect taxation in 1938-39 were 23 and 77 per cent respectively. That is, in 1938-39 the income-tax-payer contributed 23 per cent, of the total revenue of the country and the indirect tax-payer, who comprises by and large the average man and the poor man, contributed no less than 77 per cent. In my budget, the direct tax-payer will contribute 55 per cent, as against 23 per cent, before the war and the indirect tax-payer will contribute only 45 per cent, as against 77 per cent, before the war.

Now as to the second point, that on the expenditure side there are no schemes for the benefit of the ordinary man, practically the whole of the Rs. 50 crores advanced to the Provinces by the Centre are in respect of schemes which will serve the economic and social well-being of the average man. Added to this the Provinces themselves will spend, next year Rs. 30 crores on similar schemes. Again, a very large percentage of the Rs. 58 crores to be spent directly by the Centre on such schemes will benefit the average poor man. I claim, Sir, never in the history of India has anything like so much money been provided in a single year for the ordinary people, whom my friends opposite are pleased to call the masses.

Amongst my most formidable opponents on this point were two members of what, in ruder and cruder days, an adviser to a ruler described as "the monstrous regiment of women," and whom we, in these more courteous and softer days, refer to as the Honourable Lady Members. I am thinking, of course, of the Viceroy of the Radical Democratic Party who sits behind me and whose speech I enjoyed as obviously she did herself and indeed the rest of the House, and Mrs. Swaminathan, whose passionate advocacy of the poor man and the poor woman I entirely share. But having regard to the well-known amenability of the gentler sex to male persuasion, I hope that what I have said will induce them both to go into the lobby with the Government. In any event, before making up their minds perhaps they will wait to hear what I have to say in my speech about my suggestions in fulfilment of the promise I made in the reply to the budget debate, that I would consider whether I could make any remissions in the indirect taxation field.

Before I come to that, I must refer to certain other points of importance that have been raised: though I do not claim that I shall cover them all and I shall be accused of selecting those points which it is easiest to answer and avoiding those which it is most difficult to avoid! If that be the case, it will prove that in the very short time that I have been in the House I have come to possess some little political technique.

My friend Diwan Chaman Lall referred to the urgent necessity of coming to a settlement of the sterling balances. There I entirely agree with him. He also raised the point that, in any settlement, the British assets in India should not be excluded: and I can say that, as far as I am concerned, nothing will be excluded: in any case I am not certain that I shall be here, as I have said.

My friend, Mr. Neogy, raised again the question of the financial settlement. He had nothing very much new to say, and I have very little new to say in reply. The one point which has worried him, I know, and others in this

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House, was whether this financial settlement—the code of accounting procedure which carries out the principles underlying the sharing of the expenditure between the two governments—has been carried out in fairness to India; and he reiterated the demand for a special committee of this House to investigate the matter. I do not think Government has anything to hide at all; but as an alternative to appointing a special committee, I would suggest that the best course would be that the Public Accounts Committee, who after all are a great deal concerned with the expenditure, might be empowered and authorised to spend, say a whole week, on the subject before or during the next session. If I were here I would accept that proposal, and I do not think that the House would find it in any way less effective. But while suspicion is there, I think it would be a good idea if, in fact, the matter were closely investigated.

Next I come to the sole representative of that picturesque town or province of the North West Frontier—Mr. Ghani Khan. I refer to him for two reasons: first of all, he made, if I may so, one or two very useful suggestions, which I will come to in a minute; but his speech came at the right moment, to refresh a flagging House—in fact he kept us about two minutes after the normal period of adjournment. I was very interested and struck by his statement that he would not defend 3,000 miles of coastline with a handful of discontented sailors and an armful of charming WRENS. I entirely agree with him. But in the more serious part of his speech, he entered a plea for more money to spend on the development of the North-West Frontier. Speaking for myself, if a proper scheme is put up, I would regard it as money well spent if my friend could persuade the men who are men in that part of the world, to convert themselves to normal pastimes and from violent to non-violent pastimes. I would like to parody what a great poet once said—Great things happen when men and mountains meet—I would like to add Great things happen when men and money and mountains meet!

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad raised again his triple King Charles' head,—he wanted to get rid of the stock exchange, he wanted to get rid of the bullion exchanges and he wanted to get rid of the commodity markets. Now, I am very conscious myself that there are many things in all these three institutions that need attending to; and had it been my lot to stay in office, I would have hoped to have persuaded this House to help me in that process. But my successor will find that some work has been done in that direction, and he will have no difficulty in persuading the House to take what I regard as the action that should be taken. But to abolish the stock exchange, and abolish the bullion exchange and abolish the commodity markets is, I think, going a little too far even for the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh University.

Then he was very exercised about the bullion tax which had been introduced in this year's financial proposals. The sole object of that bullion tax is not to make money for the State—though if there is any money going, I do not see why the State should not share in the process—but to prevent unhealthy speculation, to save from heavy losses the less skilful operators; and in other words, to produce an orderly reduction of the price level of bullion once imports are resumed, to the world level, to suit the conditions of supply both by exports and the internal supply.

Then, my friend Mr. Jaffer, amongst other things, sought renewal of a plea which has often been made on behalf of the Muslims of this country, that the interest on saving bank deposits of Muslim depositors should be handed over to the Muslim ministers to be used in the interests of Muslims. The difficulty which has been brought up against such a proposal in the past is this: that Government has no authority itself to pay over the interest into somebody else's hands, unless that somebody else gives Government a specific authority. Now, a difficulty exists only to be got over, and I am prepared to discuss with him a scheme for a trust to be established, to which Government will hand over this

accumulated interest, on condition that the trustees would undertake to indemnify Government against any individual claims for interest that may be raised by the depositors. That seems to me to be a sensible way out.

My friend, Mr. Tyson, who is difficult to control himself, and therefore does not like control, put a question to me: he said that I had proclaimed with pride in my budget speech that we had removed some 150 controls: he said quite rightly that that does not mean very much unless he knew what percentage that 150 bears to the whole number of controls. I do not know whether he will be surprised, disappointed or relieved to know that there are only 130 controls left.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): Relieved.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am relieved at his relief. I assure him that no one wants to keep on controls, least of all anyhow the secretariat, where the necessity for them no longer exists. I entirely agree with what Mr. Griffiths said yesterday that these controls are a fruitful source of corruption. But while things are in short supply and while there is this black marketing still going on (although I admit that sometimes control creates a black market), it is impossible to withdraw them all. But the process of withdrawal is proceeding weekly and I hope the time is not far distant when they will be reduced to a handful. But I myself don't think you can get rid of controls in planned economy. I do not believe, for example, that it is wise immediately to withdraw the capital issue control but I would accept this, however, that the main function of the capital issue control is now altered. It was established primarily as an anti-inflationary device. I think that the necessity for it in that respect is much less potent and urgent than it used to be. On the other hand, I do think that India, which has now got unlimited capital resources, although they are much greater than people used to think, should not be free to alter the basis of capital issues and to use those resources on schemes which are purely speculative and money making. I think the resources should be canalized into those channels which will enure to the economic and social advantage of the country. At the same time Government is not entitled, I think, to withhold consent to the capital issues merely because it is not ready with its plans in respect of a particular industry. A revision of the control is, however, justifiable and is now proceeding.

I think Mr. Morris, together with Mr. Tyson, gave expression to some anxiety about the functions of the Investment Board. The function of the Investment Board is really more or less what I indicated about the capital issue control. The leader of the European Group made a long, interesting and, for him, a strangely non-violent speech. He dealt with the necessity of eradicating corruption in the public life of this country and I entirely agree with him. In fact the proposals he made bear a strange resemblance to the recommendations made by a committee on the administration of Bengal of which I had the honour to be the Chairman. He also pleaded for an improvement in the administrative machine. I think there is no doubt at all that, now that the emphasis of Government is moving away from police raj and revenue raj to social services, which are the chief concern of Governments in progressive countries, the time has come to overhaul the Government machinery from top to bottom. As a matter of fact some work has already been done in that direction in the last 12 months. An officer has been appointed on special duty for examining the distribution of duties as between the different Government Departments and a central piece of co-ordinating machinery which in my judgment is now badly needed, has been set up. I do not think it is perfect and there is a great deal more work to do. Its administration is not merely a question of organisation but methods as well. I think we have done the lay out and I agree that the procedure of Government requires a thorough overhaul.

Now, Sir, I come to the end of my speech. I am now going to deal with the promise that I made at the end of my reply to the budget debate when I claimed that my budget proposals were in the interests, not of the rich, but of

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

the common man. I admitted that they were psychologically defective in that the man in the street, and particularly the man in the village street, could not see the inwardness of them; and I therefore undertook to see whether some further remission of indirect taxation could not be made in the direct interests of the common man without causing too heavy damage to the revenue. I would like to emphasize that what I have got to say is in no way the result, as has been suggested, of a pact between Nawabzada Liaquat Ali and myself. It is quite true that he discussed the matter with me. I told him what I had in mind if the Finance Bill proceeded to the clause stage, but what I told him I have also told members of the Congress Party in the lobby. The Muslim League, if I may say so, adopted a statesman like attitude to the proposals. I do not say that they were satisfied with them but I think that, when they heard that they were more or less along the lines suggested to me, they said they would approve of them.

The first thing I want to say has two points—first not to damage the revenue too much, and, secondly, to ensure that the remission goes direct to the beneficiary and is not intercepted by the middleman or the exploiter. Now, the first thing I shall deal with is the post card. Now, whatever else may be attributed to me when I leave India soon, I hope I shall at least get credit for having, at long last, reintroduced the half anna post card. That will cost about Rs. 167 lakhs, allowing for a certain amount of diversion of letters to the cheaper post card. Now, I have not introduced an amendment to the Finance Bill to provide for that for two reasons. First of all, it is not necessary for it to be done by legislation and secondly the cheaper post card cannot be introduced for technical reasons until the press have provided a sufficient quantity of them. This, I expect, will not happen until the 1st of July but there it is. If the House chooses to accept it, there is the acceptance by Government of the half anna post card.

The next thing is that I was oppressed by the fact that possibly the reduction of the kerosene duty by nine pies was not enough. I did a little arithmetic and I found that it worked to a lower percentage than the reduction in the petrol duty. What I propose to do is to double that reduction of nine pies to 1½ annas. That, I think, will at least be passed on direct to the poor man who uses kerosene and there is no possibility of its being exploited *en route*. That will cost me 141 lakhs.

Another inflammable subject is matches. That also enters largely into the domestic use of the poorer people of this country. Well, what I am aiming at is a satisfactory box of matches at a cost of half an anna. It is not possible to do that immediately. We recognise the difficulties of the manufacturers in India. They have not had all the materials and they are lacking in some essential parts but I anticipate no difficulty in arranging that they will, in the not distant future, put on the market a satisfactory box of matches at a cost of half an anna. That will probably cost me Rs. 1½ crores.

I have now told you the remissions that Government propose to accept. The next thing that I will deal with is the betel nut. Now, there has been a strong plea for the total abolition of the excise duty on betel nut. I am afraid I do not accept that. I believe it is a very suitable article for an excise, and this country will require more and more revenue, although as time goes on, I hope to see an even greater movement in the direction of making the direct taxpayer pay more and the indirect taxpayer pay less. Nevertheless,
 1 P. M. I do not think any country circumstanced as India is, can afford to neglect any source of revenue so long as it is not oppressive and too regressive.

My intention was, of course, that the duty on betel nut should be passed on to the consumer. Nobody can be positive as to what is going to happen to a tax when you impose it. You can make a pretty good guess. The probabilities are that it is largely determined by the supply and demand of a particular commodity, but as was anticipated with the betel nut, the excise duty was to be

passed on to the consumer. In spite of that, it was intercepted by the middleman (and, in fact, there has been such a shifting and it has not been borne entirely by the producer). Now, I think the answer to that is not to abolish the betel nut tax at all, but to improve the bargaining position of the producer *vis-a-vis* the middleman. I had proposed in my budget speech to allot Rs. three lakhs a year to that end. I propose to increase that by Rs. 2 lakhs. I believe myself that when that is done, the producer will get a fair price. But there is a difference in view between myself and Prof. Ranga on this point and partly as suggested by him and partly as a challenge to him to see who is right, I propose experimentally to reduce the duty by half an anna and make a corresponding reduction in the customs duty. That will cost me Rs. 55 lakhs, plus another five lakhs for better marketing and better production. Lastly the conversion of the *ad valorem* duty into a specific duty on cinema films, resulted in there being too high an increase on the average unexposed film. I propose to reduce the six pies that was included in the Finance Bill to three pies and that would cost me Rs. 24 lakhs as compared with what I anticipated.

The other two things which I have to consider are salt and tobacco. I have said that some glamour might attach to my name by introducing a cheap post card, as against that, it would be nothing to the glamour I would achieve by abolishing the salt duty as my last act as a Financier. But I would regard that as an act of pure irresponsibility, as I am handing over to my successor. It brings in Rs. eight to nine crores a year and its abolition would probably be never be passed on to the consumer who buys his salt in small quantities. It will be intercepted by other people. In any event it is open to my successor, if he feels strongly about it, to abolish it himself. But I would regard it as irresponsible myself to abolish it and deprive him of a revenue or put him in the position of having to take an unpopular act and levying it again. I would make this suggestion to my successor; I believe the revenues of Government controlled salt can be increased by better arrangements made for marketing which would produce nearly as much as the present tax produces. That would, however, take some time to work out and that may be a solution which I commend for the consideration of my successor or successors.

The other one is tobacco. Tobacco all over the world is a very useful source of revenue. It is eminently a commodity suitable for taxation. It is a continually expanding source of revenue, but it has a depressing effect if you push it beyond a point. It is true that tobacco can stand quite a lot of tax and it is one of our main single sources of revenue, which has been in operation for three years, and it is now producing Rs. 20 crores a year. I do not think it ought to be reduced and I do not think there is any truth in the statement that the tax is meant to crush the industry. Here I should like to pay a very high tribute to the work of the Excise Department in relation to this excise, which they have developed with skill and, if I may say so, with great sympathy in relation both to the producer and to curer. I know there are still some administrative difficulties, particularly in relation to the small producer and I am sure Mr. Greenfield would always be willing to meet any difficulties under that head.

Sir, I come to the end of my speech. I would like to end by recalling the statement once made by that great English statesman and politician, Edmund Burke. He said, "to tax and to please, any more than to love and be wise, is not given to men". I do not claim therefore that my taxation proposals will please all. All that I claim for them is that they are honest, that they have not been dictated either by Whitehall or by my alleged love for the rich, and that they are proposals which have been made according to the best of my judgment which will ensure to the best advantage of India in the present circumstances.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 31st day of April 1946, be taken into consideration."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—67.

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.	Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.	Mason, Mr. P.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Mehr Shah, Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.	Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur Raja.
Ayers, Mr. C. W.	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.	Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Ghazanfarulla Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.	Sargent, Sir John.
Greenfield, Mr. H.	Sen, Mr. B. R.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Sheehy, Sir John.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar.	Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.	Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Spence, Sir George.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.	Suhrawardy, Sir Hassan.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.	Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Jeelani Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.	Weightman, Mr. H.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.	Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Krishnama Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.	Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.
	Yusuf Abdoola Haroon Seth.
	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—59.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.	Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Adityan, Sri S. T.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.	Masani, Mr. M. R.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.	Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Banerjee, Sree Satya Priya.	Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.	Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Chaman Lal, Diwan.	Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Choudhuri, Sreejut Rohini Kumar.	Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.	Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Dani, Mr. G. B.	Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.	Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Gangaraju, Sri V.	Salve, Mr. P. K.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.	Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Gole, Mr. P. B.	Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.	Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Govind Das, Seth.	Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Hiray, Sjt. B. S.	Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Jagannathdas, Sri.	Sukhdev, Seth.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.	Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader Sardar.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.	Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.	Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Karmarkar, Shri D. P.	Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.	Varma, Mr. B. B.
Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejut Dharendra Kanta.	Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.	
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.	
Malaviya, Pandit Govind.	

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: Before the House proceeds to consider the Finance Bill clause by clause, I have to inform Honourable Members that as only a limited number of copies of the Consolidated List of Amendments to the Finance Bill has been printed, they should preserve the copies of the Consolidated List which have been placed on their tables to-day and bring them for use in the Chamber during the progress of the Finance Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. President: We will now take the Finance Bill for consideration clause by clause. But before we take it up, I might again state to Honourable Members the terms of the agreement, so that the discussion on the clauses may be regulated accordingly, namely—

“All stages of the Finance Bill will be completed by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 28th, i.e. tomorrow, and all questions then outstanding in regard to the Finance Bill will be put to the vote of the Assembly without any further discussion.”

So the members have time from now up to 5 p.m. to-morrow.

Mr. President: Clause 2.

There are, I find, amendments to Clause 2. Amendments Nos. 1 and 2 seem to be out of order as they are in the negative of the original proposition. The Honourable Members may oppose the clause.

Then there are other amendments. Are they going to be moved?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan): No.

Mr. President: Then there are no amendments to clause 2. I find, however, that there is one in the name of Mr. Abdulla Haroon. But he is not present.

Clause 2 then is before the House.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir I oppose clause 2 of the Bill. As far as the question of salt duty is concerned, the question has been mooted in this House times out of number. Since a very long time the Indians have maintained that this is one of the worst duties which this Government has imposed. Now, Sir, no argument or no speech is necessary to submit for your consideration that salt is one of the first essentials of life. Next to water and air, I think salt is the third article which can be regarded as one of the prime necessities of life. Salt is considered so necessary the world over that the expression “salt of life” has got a special meaning attached to it, and so far as the Indian language is concerned the phrase “Namak haram” has a very special meaning. Any person who eats the salt of India should, we expect, be true and faithful to India. By saying all this, I do not imply in the least that those who are out for imposing the duty are “Namak harams”. I on the contrary maintain that if they conscientiously believe that the sale duty is good, they are as faithful to India as those who maintain otherwise. But I cannot conceal from you the sense of shame and humiliation which I as an Indian feel when I find that in India something like Rs. 66,90,000 worth of salt was imported in the year 1939-1940. Even before that in 1937-38 and the preceding years, something to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs worth of salt was imported in India. India is a country in which salt is plentiful. It has a coast-line of 5,000 miles. There are mountains of salt, mines of salt, lakes of salt, and salt is to be found as plentiful nay much more plentiful than in any other part of the world. Now, if as the English proverb goes—Coals are to be taken to Newcastle—people would laugh at any person doing so and it is our misfortune that we cannot laugh at the Government.

(At this stage Mr. P. K. Salve entered the Chamber.)

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member should not cross.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I think the Government have not done their duty by allowing import of salt into this country. Any National Government worth the name should have been expected to see that India was self-supporting and that India should have exported salt to any extent. Now, Sir, it so happens that in India the Government have taken upon themselves the manufacture of salt and nobody else can manufacture it.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No. It is wrong.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I want to understand the implication of the word "no". Isn't it a fact that every person has to buy salt of this Government? The Government takes a duty and every person who wants to manufacture will be prosecuted if he does so.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Provided he takes out a license.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: This has only to be stated to be condemned. The most reprehensible part that the Government has played in the business of salt is such that the coming generations will curse the Government for it. When we remember that salt is the parent substance to many industries it follows that no industry is possible in this country unless and until salt is allowed to be manufactured freely. If you kindly see the list of articles which depend upon salt as the parent substance, you will be astonished that in this year, 1946, the manufacture of salt has been prohibited by law by the Government. I refer you to page 192 of the "Monograph on Common salt". It says:

"The use of salt in modern industries is equally, and perhaps more important. It would not be exaggeration to say that salt is absolutely indispensable to industrial advance and at least one of the effective ways of modernising a country is to assure to it a cheap and plentiful supply of salt. This is so, because modern industrial science is in essence applied chemistry and chemicals are, in the main, salt. For, 'from salt as the parent substance, there spring the huge industries which are concerned with the manufacture of sodium sulphate, Hydrochloric acid, Sodium Carbonate, Caustic Soda, Chlorine, Hydrogen, etc.' These, in their turn, support the super-structure that enables every modern convenience for a civilised life to be provided. Out of these 'spring industries concerned with the manufacture of soap, glass, glycerine, dynamite and other nitroglycerine explosives, bleaching powder chlorates, etc.' These products, in their turn, form the raw materials of great trades, which ramify one into another in a way which is difficult for the non-technical reader to realise.' The lay mind will indeed find it difficult, for instance, to trace the connection between salt and house building. And yet a shortage of salt would result in the crippling of the building trade, because window glass would not be obtainable in commercial quantities, sodium sulphate and sodium carbonate derived from salt, not being available. A shortage of salt would again lead to a shortage of coal, for glycerine would cease to be produced and explosives would not be available. The textile and paper-making industries would also suffer because chemicals for bleaching and sizing and cheap soap for scouring—all derived from salt as the basis—would cease to be obtainable in large requisite quantities. And eventually, these trades would react on the other trades in such a way altogether difficult to foresee."

We have just heard the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member and he has stated that rapid industrialisation of the country is necessary if poverty is to be abolished from the country. That being the basis of the theme of the Honourable the Finance Member, may I ask him if he has considered the question of salt

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It would save further debate if I explained that salt used for industrial purposes is entitled to a remission of duty.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Does my Honourable friend not see the difference between the free manufacture of salt and the refund of the duty on salt. Only 15 firms in India have obtained a refund on salt and that too for a very small quantity. What are your laws for the refund of the duty? First of all you want Rs. 100 to be paid for inspection. Secondly you insist that accounts should be kept in prescribed forms and registers. (*The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:* Certainly.) You want wagon loads to be taken from

the depots. To say that refund is possible is to ignore all the difficulties that are placed in the way of the ordinary man. I will deal with this later on in my speech.

What I was submitting was that there can be no industrialisation of any country in which free manufacture of salt is not allowed. Before 1823 in England there was a salt tax. Why did you take it away? If any person wishes to go through this book "A Monograph on Common Salt" he will realise what were the grounds why the duty on salt was abolished in England. It is not only in England that such a duty was abolished. It was similarly abolished in Japan: it was abolished in Italy for reasons which are given in this book. I do not want to go over all those reasons but with your permission, Sir, I would just read out two quotations. As regards Japan:

"This happened a hundred years ago, and if a more recent example is desired to convince the sceptic as to the value of cheap salt unencumbered by duties, there is the case of Japan which may well be cited. There are many points in which we could well have followed in her footsteps are this, and the treatment of salt is just one of them. Though a monopoly was instituted in 1905 for financial consideration and it yielded in 1917-18 a net profit of 10 million Yen, the idea of realising profit in the salt monopoly was done away with from the view point of Social policies, just a year later in 1919. And though salt is ordinarily sold at no more than cost price, that intended for use in industry, agriculture, mining and fishery of some kind receives a special treatment and is sold at a specially reduced price."

"In Italy, too, where a profit-making monopoly system of manufacture and sale by Government is in operation by S. 18 and 19 of the salt laws of 15th June, 1865, special indulgence is granted to a group of activities. The list of these includes salt for agricultural manure, for live stock for the manufacture of ice, and icecream, for the incubation of silk worms, for preparation of sparkling wines and host of manufacturing industries to which the Council of State is empowered to add by a Royal decree."

I submit that so far as industrialisation of India is concerned salt is a first necessity. With your permission I will just take up two of the industries where salt is necessary. First of all I would take hides. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has claimed that refunds are allowed and therefore the person who wants salt for industrial purposes can take it freely from the depots. I would refer to the recommendations of the Government of India Committee on the marketing of hides. Only big merchants can get salt. The ordinary man does not get it and the recommendation is made that the Salt Department should take steps to see that cheap salt is supplied to the *chamars* and others who produce hides.

On page 71, we find:

"As the salt should be applied to the hide as soon as it is flayed, it is important that the facilities of obtaining cheap salt should be extended to the small producers—*chamars*—and others who handle a few hides at a time."

Then again on page 73 we find:

"Throughout the world, salt is the most important agent for preserving the hides and tanners prefer this cure to any other. It is readily washed away in the process of tanning and green hides thus preserved turn out leather of good grain and quality. Therefore any further measures that the Salt Department could initiate to make denatured or bittern salt, available cheaply and readily both to the small and large processors, would go a long way in improving the quality of Indian hides."

As regards the difficulty of getting this salt you will find on page 72:

"Denatured salt could be had from any of the authorised dealers or direct from salt warehouses. But delivery from the above places is generally given in wagon loads and the salt has to be removed in distinctive red colour bags which also bear certain distinguishing marks. The present price at works is 9 annas per maund nett. For the use of denatured salt the applicant has not to pay the previous fee of Rs. 100 per annum but the accounts, etc., for its use are to be kept in the same manner. The user has, however, still to obtain the licence for its issue from the works or the dealer and has also to give an assurance that he shall not render the denatured salt edible by any process."

So you will find as a matter of fact that on pages 219 and 220 the Committee has reported that steps should be taken to see that the poor man gets the salt freely and the small primary producer is ordinarily unable to use Salt for

[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava]

curing hides. Supposing the Government manufactured salt and made arrangements for its supply at a very low cost, may I submit for the consideration of the Government that that even would not cure the trouble, because unless and until every chamar who cures the hides at his house gets a free and cheap supply of salt, he will not be able to take advantage of it.

So far as the poor people are concerned, people like weavers and chamars, it is impossible for this Government to supply such salt to them as may be available to them whenever they like. The present value of salt is almost prohibitive. Now $1/9$ is the duty and $-4/3$ is the usual price. A person buys it from the bania in the town or the village and gets it at about $1/13/-$ and the bania also charges some profit on it and sells it at about Rs. 2. The Government who have monopolised the manufacture of this article—their cost of production is also very high. According to the estimates made by certain people interested in the manufacture, the cost of production is about 4 annas. whereas salt can be manufactured much cheaper—at say two annas. If salt cannot be had at cheap rates, the other trades also cannot prosper and produce cheap articles.

Leaving aside this question of hides, I come to another industry of India, the fish industry. In the fish industry, you require a good amount of salt; but salt can be had only at 13 annas a maund for fish curing. This is the price after the refund. This is too high a price. The fish industry of India has not been fully developed because the Government have not provided a free supply or cheap supply of salt. These are two matters in which the question of the poor man's salt is concerned.

There are a good many other industries also: there is the salt petre industry of India; in that industry during the first great war every village earned a thousand rupees or more; in my district by giving contracts to salt petre manufacturers, but after the war was over the source of revenue was dried up.

Now, Sir, other salts besides Common Salt worth about 150 lakhs of rupees are imported from England, and because England stands to benefit by this import business the Government are not willing to have free manufacture of salt in this country.

Leaving aside the industrial uses for which there is ample justification for the removal of this salt duty as well as the removal of the provisions about manufacture, if we look at the question from the point of view of human beings and cattle, so far as food is concerned, we shall come to the conclusion that the salt duty is thoroughly unjustified. As regards human beings, the *per capita* consumption in India differs in each province, but all the same the consumption is very low, as compared with the consumption in other countries. For instance, in England the consumption is much more—it is 40 lbs. per year, whereas in India, in certain parts, it is about 8 lbs. a year—in other parts it is 10 lbs., but it has been calculated that at least 12 lbs. per year should be the amount of consumption of salt so that people may enjoy ordinary health. That being so, we require something like 480 lakhs of maunds of salt for the people of this country. It so happens that this salt duty has a chequered history, and publicists in India have always attacked this duty from the point of view of the poor man. It is usually said that this is not such a duty as tells very heavily upon the poor man; the Government have usually trotted out this argument. This argument has been replied to by the revered grand old man of India, Dadabhai Naoroji, by Gopal Krishna Gokhale of revered memory and by many other publicists. I do not want to read out you further quotations, because I do not think I should take up much of the time of the House on a matter like this; but there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that no public man in India can ever for a moment think that the Government is justified in keeping up this duty, to say the least.

This salt is not only used for food purposes—it is also used for medicines, and for many other purposes too numerous to be mentioned; and it so happens that as soon as the duty is reduced there is a greater consumption, which goes to show that the people are under-nourished in the matter of salt. People do not use the amount of salt they ought to and that they would wish to because of this duty. India is too poor to pay the present high price of Salt.

Now, when you consider the average income of an Indian you will come to the conclusion that the incidence of tax even as it is, is fairly high; and the poor man does feel as a matter of fact that his first necessity of life is being taxed. We have heard too much in this House from the side of the Government as well as from the representatives of the people that the poor man's interest should be safeguarded. I beg to know from the Honourable Members of the Government, in what way are they safeguarding the interests of the poor man. This is the first and most important point—the chamar wants it, the weaver wants it, every person in the whole of India wants it. The Honourable Finance Member has said that he will be guilty of irresponsibility if he removes this duty; and further that he does not want a glamour to be attached to his name. I quite appreciate that, but may I humbly submit for his consideration that as a matter of fact he has failed to appreciate the real difficulty of the poor masses of this country. Every poor man wants that this salt tax should be taken away, and I should therefore think that this Government will never understand the implications of this duty; and as I submitted before the first act of the first national Finance Member would be to take away this duty.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): He will probably double it!

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Let us wait and see.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: He will have to.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: With your permission, Sir, leaving aside the great publicists of India, I will just call your attention to the statements and opinions of Lord Dufferin, of the Honourable Mr. Massey, Finance Member, of Mr. Plowden and Mr. Cassells, member of the Government of India, in which they have stated that this is a very iniquitous duty and should be taken away all at once.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): But this is 1946.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: In the year 1946 salt has not ceased to be salt and has not ceased to be one of the necessities of life. I do not want to read long extracts from their speeches—I leave it to the Honourable Members to read them if they like.

I now come to the next question, the question of the effect of this duty on cattle. So far as men are concerned, many of them are inarticulate, many of them are mute, but they can speak through their representatives in this House. But the cattle are absolutely mute, and I humbly submit for the consideration of the Honourable Finance Member that the cattle of India do not get sufficient salt and consequently the milk production is affected. Their constitutions are affected; salt is as necessary for the cattle of India as for the men of India. What I am submitting is not a mere propaganda stunt, as might be said by some who do not appreciate it I would therefore refer you to some authorities on the point to fortify my conclusions that the cattle of India do not get sufficient salt, and they do require sufficient salt.

First, before coming to the medical authorities I will quote the testimony of some Englishmen. You will be pleased to see at page 187 of this monograph where it is stated that the Board of Customs, Salt and Opium said:

“In short, all the speculations we have seen respecting the consumption of salt in India, are applicable not to Bengal, but to a country 5 centuries in advance of any part of these provinces. The poorer the bullock of Bengal, the more he stands in need of salt, and I have not a moment's doubt in my own mind, but that the want of salt is one of the causes, which makes the horned cattle, sheep and horses of Bengal, by far the smallest and puniest and the

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worst conditioned which I have ever met in any part of India whatever. The Board of Customs will have it that salt will not be given to cattle in Bengal, as it is in England. The system, of which they are the most strenuous advocates, makes it nearly impossible that any should be given at all, and it need not surprise any one who reflects upon these simple facts that the price of salt in Calcutta is perhaps not much less than 20 times as much as it is in Liverpool and the value of the Indian cattle, which would consume the salt by more than the same proportion less valuable. The heavy tax on Salt in Bengal is a prohibitive upon all improvement'."

Mr. President: Loud consultations between Honourable Members are affecting the already poor audibility of the Chamber.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I will further call your attention to another quotation at page 131: there it is said—

"Further questioned upon the effect of the levy, Lawrence asserted his strong conviction that it does hurt the consumption very considerably. I am persuaded that it does, and not only does it limit the consumption very much as regards human beings, but I think it limits the consumption very much as regards cattle and I believe myself that a great deal of the loss of cattle from the Murain in India has arisen from want of salt I have a very strong opinion on the subject; I know that every gentleman in India who looks after his horses, or his cows or his sheep, if he has them, takes care to give them salt. We all give salt to our horses in England, and I think it is just as necessary, perhaps more necessary, in a hot climate than in this country; at any rate, I think it of great importance that salt should be moderately cheap."

Now, Sir, I beg to call your attention to another book written by my friend Chaudhuri Mukhtar Singh who was once a member of this Assembly. He has given quotations from many articles by Americans and Englishmen. They are too many to be quoted by me in this House but he has established beyond doubt that the cattle in India need greater amount of salt than is supplied to them today. According to the writer, we require some thing like 4
3 P.M. crores 73 lakhs of maunds of salt for the cattle of India on the basis of calculations made by the doctors of European countries. Now, at present we are only having about something like 5 crores and 20 lakhs salt sold. (*An Honourable Member:* What is the census of cattle here?) It is 21 crores and 50 lakhs. So that, we shall require about 4 crores and 73 lakhs of maunds for the cattle of India. As regards the cattle which give milk it is absolutely necessary that they should be given salt and for that alone a great amount of salt is required. I therefore submit that the salt that is being produced in this country is much less than what is required for the normal consumption of cattle and human beings and for purposes of trade. We require at least 3 crores for industries and other requirements and we require, as I have already submitted, 4 crores and 80 lakhs for human beings, 4 crores 73 lakhs for cattle. That comes to about 12.5 crores and we are only producing 5 crores. It therefore is clear that so far as salt is concerned we are not getting all that we require, although nature has endowed this country with plenty of salt. If you see the other uses to which salt is put in connection with agriculture, manure, preservation of hay, fruits and other things and killing of germs etc., and various other purposes, you will come to the conclusion that free manufacture of salt is absolutely necessary in the interests of India and it is not being supplied at a cheap rate. In the villages we used to see many big pieces of salt being placed which were being licked by the animals and they are all missing now. In regard to salt, it appears that India is not being supplied with the salt which it requires and in the case of a necessity like this, it is not necessary to say that steps should be taken to see that India is self-sufficient in this matter and that it gets the salt it wants. This can only be done by allowing the free manufacture of salt. Before the advent of British rule, there was no part

of the country in which salt was not manufactured freely. In the Hissar and Gurgaon Districts and other places in the Punjab there are still traces of build-ings and big utensils which were used for the manufacture of salt and all those who were engaged in it have to undergo unemployment. If free manufacture of salt is allowed, people will get more employment.

I shall not be doing justice to salt if I leave one important subject un-touched. In 1930, Mahatma Gandhi started the salt satyagraha. I quoted an extract from his speech when I last spoke on the Budget. Mahatma Gandhi has pointed out that this is the most iniquitous duty and since Mahatma Gandhi selected salt for satyagraha it is quite clear that he had in mind the interests of the poor people of this land. Therefore if we look to the interests of the poor man, this is one of the duties which should justifiably be abolished. If we look to the interest of the poor man, we must abolish this duty. This is all I have to say.

Shri Sri Prakasa: It is said that the great Emperor Akbar once called upon the greater Birbal, who in his court held the joint office held hereby the Finan-ce Member and myself, to produce four articles. One was something that could be of all colours; one, something that would be all tastes, one an un-faithful wretch, and the other a faithful person. For the thing of all colours, he produced water; for the article of all tastes he produced salt, for the faithful person he produced a dog, saying that the dog would be absolutely attached if one gives him only half piece of a bread a day; and for the faithless wretch . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: He produced the Finance Member!

Shri Sri Prakasa: he pointed out to the Emperor's son-in-law, saying that even if he had half the kingdom he would not be satisfied. So far as the dog and the son-in-law are concerned, we may leave them to their fate, but so far as salt is concerned, I think it is time that we took the matter up. This morning the Honourable the Finance Member said that he was moving his Finance Bill for the first time; and did not add that it was for the last time also as he had been saying before. Therefore we may hope that we shall have to tackle with him next year also. Personally I prefer to tackle with others than being tackled with myself.

He said he would be guilty of irresponsibility if he abolished the salt tax. Personally I think he is guilty of irresponsibility in not abolishing it. The salt tax is in the nature of poll tax; and it should go. The Honourable Member and many others of his way of thinking and of his way of speaking, have referred to the law of averages, saying that the incidence of taxation is really very low when the incidence of this tax is distributed over 40 crores of persons. The law of averages is a dangerous law. It is said of a mathematician—it was not Dr. Sir Zia Uddin—that he worked out the average depth of a river as four feet and as the person concerned who was as high as myself, namely, 5 feet 8 inches, he could cross with safety. When he got to 10 feet of water, he got drowned. Not that I would have got myself drowned, because I know how to swim. But this law of averages is exceedingly vicious in a country like ours which is so poor. Even a few pies matter much, and if my Honour-able friend would only examine the budget of our poor people, he will find that the consumption of salt has gone down because the price is so high that they are not getting enough salt for their health and comfort. The poor folk in the villages only eat their bread with a little pinch of salt in the middle of the day as they rest from their labours. Now even that pinch of salt has been reduced because of the high price.

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava was bold enough to say that he was representative of cattle in this House; but I cannot pretend to be exactly their representative because no cow has yet voted for me, still as a lover of animals, I can say that cattle do require salt. In my boyhood days, I used to see blocks of salt being placed at street corners in my own home town of Benares which is famous for its wandering bulls, for cattle to lick. Now, I do not see a single block anywhere; and it is a pathetic site to find cattle

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wandering about licking old stone walls which give out some sort of salt exudation. It is a cruel monopoly that the Government has maintained in the manufacture of salt, and the money that the Government are making out of this monopoly is exceedingly tainted and vicious. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will see that the claim put forward by us is exceedingly just and proper; and that he will accede to it and abolish the tax altogether. I do not pretend that if he did so he would go down in history with glory, because history is a very treacherous mistress and it forgets everybody; but those who will witness this phenomenon of the Finance Member abolishing this tax, will certainly bless him. I do hope that after the very lucid and full and learned statement that my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava has made in this House, every part of this House will be convinced that it is high time that this salt tax was abolished. This is the most important part of the daily diet of the rich and the poor alike and when it is almost the only thing by which the poor man seasons his food, it is time that he got what he really deserved.

The Finance Member will no doubt know that the English housewife is very proud of the 'magic pinch of salt' to which she refers when anybody praises any particular dish that she has prepared. It is the magic pinch of salt that makes our food delicious and as the great Birbal said on the occasion I have referred, even the finest and best cooked food if it lacks that pinch of salt becomes tasteless, insipid and useless. Even Europeans, who do not use as many condiments as we do, would realise the value of the salt in their food; and if they do realise it how much more should they realise how useful it is for us who use as many more condiments. They should also realise what a great necessity it is for us, especially our poor men; and I hope they would readily accede to the desire of this side of the House that this salt tax should go.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I want to oppose this clause and I do not want to make a long speech. The Honourable the Finance Member while he spoke this morning said that in granting relief in the matter of indirect taxation, two things were to be kept in mind, one was that the relief should be given to the poorer classes and the second was that relief should be given in such a manner as to reach the consumer. I accept these two points and I want to tell him that post cards are not used by every one, nor films are seen, nor betel nuts used, nor kerosen or matches used by every one. The only articles that every individual requires is salt, not only human beings but even cattle need it. Not only living beings, but even the dead require salt. It is required for industrial purposes, it is required for manure. There is no necessity to dilate on this aspect of the question. The only thing that the Honourable the Finance Member may object to is the financial result, if this clause is omitted. Now, Sir, the financial implications of the concessions which he promised this morning come to about 5 crores, 38 lakhs. If salt duty is entirely abolished then the loss to revenue will be 9 crores 30 lakhs. If you deduct the cost of collection which is one crore 50 lakhs, then the net loss will be 7 crores 80 lakhs. Altogether, there will be a loss of 13 crores 18 lakhs to revenue as a result of these concessions. Now, Sir, it is not as if he is afraid of a deficit budget. He says in his budget speech: "we are thus left before making an adjustment resulting from taxation proposals with a prospective revenue deficit of 48 crores 71 lakhs compared with 154 crores 29 lakhs in the original and 144 crores 45 lakhs in the revised budget for 1944-45". If the salt duty is abolished altogether, the resulting deficit will be 61 crores 89 lakhs. It does not matter. When he is prepared to budget for a deficit of 48 crores and odd, I do not think he will fight shy to budget for a deficit of 61 crores 89 lakhs. Now Sir, one might say, why total abolition, why not reduction. To this my argument is, if there is reduction the general experience is that whatever relief is granted goes substantially to the pocket of the middlemen and it does not fully reach the consumer. Therefore, Sir, the line of having the salt duty entirely aboli-

shed, is in the highest interest of the consumer. I therefore submit that this is something on which the financial conscience of the Finance Member should have no scruples. If he is prepared to budget for a deficit of 48 crores, he can as well budget for 61 crores deficit. I therefore submit that he need not wait for his successor and he should go in for the abolition of this duty. He does not want any glamour but we are prepared to give him. Let him accept it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I do not wish to say much on this excepting answering one or two points raised by the Honourable the Finance Member. He said that the future Finance Member would even be ready to double this salt tax. I wish to tell him that if the future Finance Minister were to have any sense of responsibility at all about him, he would first of all try to abolish this salt duty. This paltry sum of nine crores which is expected to be revenue from this salt duty can be easily dispensed with. I hope to do so with my friend's co-operation.

I wish to remind my Honourable friend as well as the Finance Member that in spite of various forebodings offered by his predecessors here as well as in the Province the Congress ministries made bold to take the first steps to introduce prohibition in this country. Very many people said that it would never be possible for the provincial ministries to do that.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, on a point of fact, did not at least one Government make an exception in favour of Europeans and lunatics?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With Europeans we wanted to be a little soft because they would begin to cry out so loudly that their friends in England would again come down here in the name of safeguards and use their Governors to make it troublesome for us. Therefore they were classed with lunatics and others who necessarily must drink and drink so badly that they made a nuisance of themselves with their smells. Anyhow there was a risk of our Provincial Governments losing more than 25 crores of rupees. We were prepared to take that risk because we considered that to be an immoral income derived by the State. Similarly in regard to salt also we have similar and very strong feelings. Arguments have been adduced already by my Honourable friends in support of the abolition of this salt duty. If it is abolished my Honourable friend will say that the middleman will be profiting. Where will be the middleman. Is it in those parts of the country where salt cannot be locally manufactured? There the ordinary consumers of salt will have to take their chance and at the same time they will certainly be able to get salt much more cheaply than could possibly be represented by these 8½ crores of rupees which would be lost to Government. The price of salt will be reduced to a much greater extent than could possibly be understood by these 9 1/2 crores at all. That is why we fought and fought for its abolition. We have not so far succeeded but we have succeeded to some extent, and that was to the extent that the Gandhi-Irwin pact would let our ordinary peasants go and manufacture salt freely for their own use etc., Even today in certain parts of the country our ordinary peasants are manufacturing salt for their own domestic purposes, agricultural purposes and also for local trading purposes. Those of them who have been able to take advantage of this know full well what a great advantage it is; and they are not really Hindus or Sikhs or anybody, they belong to different communities including the community to which my Honourable friends belong. They are certainly happy and they are grateful for this concession and they want this concession to be extended. Indeed they do not want to be any longer under a concession they want it to be a privilege for the whole of India, so that they may be able to produce salt and use it for their own purposes and also sell it as one of their products to all other poorer classes of people in this country at a much lower price than the price that obtains today in our markets. My Honourable friend twits us by saying, "Wherefrom are you going to get all this money?" Wherefrom is he going to get all that money that he has promised to find to finance the

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food famine that is facing us? He has assured us that there will be no lack of funds at all for financing the subsidisation of consumers of food as well as the subsidisation of agricultural products. You will need, not less than a hundred crores of rupees. He has got to find it and he is going to find it, as he says. And if it is possible for him to do so it must also be possible for him to find these nine crores of rupees; and what is more, our own people have been providing this and very much more.

Sir, in 1935 I moved for the permission of the House to see that this duty was removed. The same arguments were then advanced as may be advanced now by my Honourable friend against it. Even then the leader of my friends there who are now nodding their heads also said that it was a political thing and it was not going to be practical and so on. Of course he was in a different political garb. But in the meanwhile when the war came the predecessor of this Finance Member introduced commodity taxes which was a new thing; the tobacco tax, for instance. Through that tobacco tax our own peasants belonging to different communities are offering to this Government more than 20 crores of rupees.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir; I pay it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You pay only a few lakhs, whereas other men pay crores and crores. Twenty crores of rupees they have come to pay to this Government; and yet they have not received this little relief of the abolition of the salt tax whereby they might have gained 7 or 8 crores of rupees. It comes to this: once a tax comes to be levied, either by fair or foul means the tax-gatherers fall in love with it to such an extent that they are unwilling to abolish it, and they will find no end of arguments in favour of its further retention. And so new taxes will come to be multiplied and added on to the burden of the masses but the old taxes will not go. That seems to be the only morale behind this Government.

If on the other hand Government really wish to be reasonable and if the Honourable Finance Member is anxious to justify his own claim that the man in the village street and also in the urban street has got to be given some definite, effective and perceivable relief, he should be prepared to agree to our proposal to abolish this salt tax; and not only that but to accept the other proposals also that we will be moving hereafter.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I have an entirely open mind on this question. If I felt and thought in all sincerity that the tax on salt is really a hardship on the poor, even on the very poor, and if there are arguments produced from actual experience of life of the poor and the common people that they really do feel this as a burden, I would gladly vote for the abolition of the salt tax. I do not want to produce arguments on one side or the other. Ever since this House began its sittings there has been so much said for the salt tax and so much against the salt tax that there is no necessity to review the arguments that are brought up on either side. But I do wish to say this in all sincerity, because I was myself brought up in a small Punjab village though that was a long time ago, and I do not know how far the price of salt has risen since then; but I do remember that I have never heard any one, housewife or head of the family or child, complain of the high prices of salt or complain that they were at any time deprived of the quantity of salt which they needed. In fact I remember very well that so far as the poor people were concerned they went round to houses of people who were a little bit better off than themselves and asked for a lump of salt; and whatever else might have been refused I have never known in a Punjab village a lump of salt being refused to any one who asked for it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it the same case today?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: That I am not able to say with such great definiteness. But the position then was that salt was a free gift. In fact

think even now it is a free gift if a person comes and asks for it. Just as in a Punjab village people go and ask for a little live coal to light their ovens, they in the same way ask for a little salt; and I have never yet heard that salt has been refused.

Now I come to talk of the life of the poor people in the towns. Before I took on my present educational work I spent several years in social work, and it was work among the poorest in this city of Delhi. And I used to go into their houses and visit them and I knew a great many of them; some of them were so poor that I doubt whether any of my Honourable friends opposite know any people who are poorer than those I knew. The people in the slums of Delhi are poorer, I submit, than the people in the villages which my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga knows very much better than I do. I repeat, Sir, that the life in the slums is much harder in large towns than the life of even the poorest in the villages because they at any rate have free water and free sunshine and the shade of trees to sit under, while the people in the slums do not have them. Now, Sir, I have a good deal of experience of work in the slums of the City of Delhi. I have a record in this direction which not many people here can claim. I have talked with these people and I have tried to do my little bit for them. Again and again there have been all kinds of complaints—no shoes, no clothes, very difficult to send their children to school and in most cases they could not afford to send them for school. The price of *ata* was always discussed. The price of milk was also discussed because there was very little milk. Even onions and potatoes were discussed. But honestly, Sir, and I hope you will believe me, that in not one single case, in the fifteen years of my work, have I ever come across a housewife or the head of a family complaining to me that they were suffering because the price of salt was too high and I have not yet heard the complaint that any household had not enough salt. They made complaints that every other article of food and every article of dress, about footwear or the lack of it.

Sbri Sri Prakasa: What about ties and collars!

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: We will do away with them very soon as you have. Now, Sir, the position is that this is a complaint which I have never heard from people who live round one. Poor people come and ask for a great many things they need for their daily use the lack of which they complain bitterly of but, I must say honestly that I have never heard any one say that he was suffering because of want of salt. Nor would I believe that if a man came to ask for a pinch of salt that that pinch of salt would be refused. I appreciate one point which Mr. Prakasa made in his humorous speech. I do not know how far he was moved by emotion or if he was promoted by his natural sense of humour in the speech that he made. He said that in the days of his youth there used to be lumps of salt which were placed at the corner of most streets. I was thinking of exactly the same thing when this salt tax was being talked about. For some reason or other these large lumps of salt which used to stand in street corners have disappeared. It is because of the hard-heartedness of City Fathers that these lumps have disappeared and not because the Municipality of Benares or the Corporation of Calcutta, or the Municipality of Delhi or of New Delhi has become so poor that they cannot provide at some street corner a few slabs of even the very poor quality salt which they used to place there. I agree that we should have these slabs of salt distributed over every large town. I have never seen them in villages. It was brought up in a village myself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who will supply these lumps of salt?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I say the remedy is in the hands of my friends and in our own hands. I am not now a member of any Municipality, but those who are members of Municipalities I do not think it will add much to their budget if they distribute salt free for the use of cattle. If we can give unrelas to peons, and shoes to postmen, let us also provide these slabs of salt. I am not opposing the point of view that my friends have taken. I started by saying that I was open to conviction. If my friends can show me anywhere to-day or this afternoon that any one is suffering from the lack of salt and that some

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one does not possess enough salt for his needs I am prepared to vote for them Rs. 9 crores or even Rs. 19 crores.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do you know the price of salt compared with 1939?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: You have just said it. You have said it is about two rupees a maund. But what is the difference in the price of wheat today and the price of wheat thirty years ago? My whole point is that if this revenue is being obtained without causing hardship to anyone, real honest solid hardship, then why throw it away. We are asking for relief to poorly paid servants. We are asking for relief to the poor people for removing indirect taxation.

Shri Sri Prakasa: My Honourable friend waits for a complaint. The fact is that they are suffering for lack of salt and they do not realize it themselves and it is up to us to see to it that they get salt. The cattle do not complain. Why do you then complain on their behalf, and say that there must be slabs of salt for them?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: In answer to my Honourable friend, I say that unfortunately Providence has not given tongues to cattle. Therefore they cannot vote for my Honourable friend.

I do not think, therefore that there would be a moment's delay, before complaints begin to pour in, if there were a real scarcity of salt. Are there not enough complaints over every single bit of food and article of dress from all classes of people. I am only trying to discover that there is a general demand. My point is that this money which we now raise by this tax can be used for greater benefit to the poor and for their amelioration, be they subordinate servants, the low paid staff of Government, or of railways, or the very poor people in the villages, or for the people who will be able to save a little money when the tax on kerosene oil is reduced. That is the reason why at present I do not feel convinced that any advantage will come to the country if the salt tax is removed and this source of revenue has to be given up. If that is so, we will have to explore other avenues and that would probably hit people harder, or rather the loss of revenue would hit the general tax payer harder than the continuance of this small tax.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If you, Sir, will take the vote, tomorrow we will send one thousand persons to complain to him today.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): My friend, Sri Prakasa in his story said that salt has got all the tastes. In spite of his story I would just remind him of the book written in the old days when sugar was first introduced. They called sugar the "Nimik of Hindustan". This is the word used for sugar in all the books written on medicine in Iran. So 'nimik' is well known and even sugar was well known as "Nimuk-i-Shirin".

Coming to the question before us (it has yet to be established that we are purchasing all the requirements of the country) I have before me the Trade Review of India and year after year we have to depend upon imports from outside. If my friend presses the viewpoint that we ought to develop local industry and stop imports altogether from Aden and other foreign countries, and produce the whole of our requirements inside here, then probably a number of people will support it because that will become a problem of the development of our own industry. But when you come to the other side of the question about taxation, of course we do require some kind of taxation for the administration of the country. With that we should all agree. The only question is whether the tax should be transferred from one commodity to another, so that the total revenue remains the same. No doubt salt is used by everybody but the salt bill even in the poorest family is very nominal. The quantity consumed is very small. The salt bill of the average ordinary family is negligible, compared with the bill for other commodities. The entire duty I would have paid during my whole life will not be equal to what I am putting in the pockets of

the textile mills, which would be practically double the sum that I am paying on account of this salt tax in the Finance Bill. The quantity which everybody consumes is so very small that it forms a very small part of the family budget.

As regards the proposition that we should try to stop the import of the entire quantity of salt which we require in this country I entirely agree with that. The question then will be whether we should have an excise duty on salt. There a large number of articles on which we levy an excise duty which brings in a lot of money which is not so seriously left as the duty on other articles. The complaint that I have received is that sometimes we do not get all the salt that we require. It would be better if the quantity of salt needed is always available every where. So as I said the salt budget of the family is a very small part of the total budget.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I think the salt of this discussion has now lost its savour and it is time we put an end to it.

I am afraid I cannot accept this amendment. I listened to the lowering of the bull of Benares in sympathy but was not particularly moved. They have not persuaded me anymore than they persuaded the Taxation Enquiry Committee in 1934-35 that anybody suffers in health because of the salt tax. I explained this morning why I could not accept the amendment and these grounds have been elaborated by my friend Sir Ziauddin Ahmad and Col. Chatterjee. I may however make this promise that if contrary to my expectation but in line with the prophesy of my friend Sri Prakasa I am Finance Member next year, I shall be very glad to do something in this matter.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

Several Honourable Members: The bells are not ringing and the doors are closed locking out several members.

Mr. President: I have asked that the doors be kept open for two minutes.

Shri D. P. Karmakar: On a point of order, Sir, whether an adjournment motion can be moved on the bells not ringing?

Mr. President: There is no point of order. I have already asked that the doors be kept open for two minutes.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, your order has not been conveyed to the doorkeepers.

An Honourable Member: It has been.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, all the members are not here: some of them are sitting in the library and they do not know that a division has been called.

Mr. President: They are expected to be in the House and keep on watching the proceedings of the House. The bell is only a convenience. I may inform Honourable Members that there is a previous ruling on the subject. I am reading from the Decisions from the Chair.

“Sometime after a division had been taken on a certain motion, a member rose and pointed out that the division bell had not rung in a certain room in which he was sitting at the time and asked that his vote should be included.”

The President rules that he was not entitled to vote.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: That was the matter about a particular room.

Mr. President: The question is

“That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The Assembly divided:

AYES—63

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.	Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.	Madaudinari Singh, Mr.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Mason, Mr. P.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.	Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur
Ayers, Mr. C. W.	Raja.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.	Morris, Mr. B. C.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Bewoor, Sir Gurnunath.	Nauman Mr. Muhammad.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra	Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Mohan.	Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald
Ghazanfarulla Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.	Sargent, Sir John.
Greenfield, Mr. H.	Sen, Mr. B. R.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Sheehy, Sir John.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.	Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain	Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Sardar.	Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.	Spence, Sir George.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Sri Chand. Chaudhri.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Jeelani Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Syed Sher Shah.	Weightman, Mr. H.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.	Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.	Yusuf Abdoola Haroon Seth.
Krishnama Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—57

Adityan, Sri S. T.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.	Masani, Mr. M. R.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.	Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.	Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.	Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.	Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Choudhuri Sreejot Rohini Kumar.	Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
Daga, Seth Sheodasa.	Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Dani, Mr. G. B.	Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.	Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Gangaraju, Sri V.	Salve, Mr. P. K.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.	Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Gole, Mr. P. B.	Satakopahari, Sri T. V.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.	Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Govind Das, Seth.	Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Hirey, Sjt. B. S.	Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Jagannathdas, Sri.	Sukhdev, Seth.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.	Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.	Sardar.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.	Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Karmarkar, Shri D. P.	Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.	Vadilal Lalubhai, Mr.
Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejot Dhirendra Kanta.	Varma, Mr. B. B.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.	Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.	Viachoorkar, Sardar N. G.
The motion was adopted.	

Mr. President: Clause 3. Does any member wish to move any amendment?

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to move the amendment which stands in my name—No. 23 on the consolidated list.

Mr. President: Do I take it that amendments in the consolidated list from No. 11 to No. 22 are not going to be moved? There are three amendments in the supplementary list standing in the name of Mr. Haroon.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: He is not going to move them.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Sir, I move:

“That in the First Schedule of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the head ‘Registered Newspapers’, the following new entry shall be inserted at the top :

‘For a weight not exceeding four tolas ... one pie.’”

Sir, my object in moving this amendment is to encourage the publication and circulation of cheap weekly and bi-weekly newspapers for the teeming millions residing in the villages in India. Such weekly and bi-weekly papers are the only means of carrying news, and not only news but useful information like whether reports and market rates and the results of researches, to the people residing in the villages. There is no other practical way of doing these things for the benefit of these villagers, because daily papers cannot go round to the villages and reach them, because in many villages there is no post office. It is the weekly and the bi-weekly alone which can reach there and the villages also lack communication and the present higher postage is a prohibitive price for these cheap newspapers for the people residing in the rural areas because if the price be Rs. 2 per year the postage comes to 13 annas in 52 weeks or about

4 P. M. 50 per cent. of the total and we cannot expect the people in the rural areas to pay as much as this. Therefore it is necessary to introduce one pie postage for such newspapers. This proposal involves no financial loss or burden on the Government, because there are very few weekly or bi-weekly papers which weigh four tolas or less. Most of them weigh 8 tolas and more and that is why last time we raised the weight from 8 tolas to 10 tolas for the advantage of these weekly newspapers and as regards the dailies they do not circulate in the villages. There are very few regular subscribers to the dailies and it is only weeklies which reach there. The dailies are sold through the agents and therefore this does not affect in any way the revenue of the Government and this new postage will bring in more revenue when more newspapers are published. I hope that the Government will see its way to accept this amendment and I hope that the House will support it.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

“That in the First Schedule of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the head ‘Registered Newspapers’, the following new entry shall be inserted at the top :

‘For a weight not exceeding four tolas ... one pie.’”

Shri Sri Prakasa: It is a matter of great pleasure to me that my Honourable friend Mr. Bewoor or Sir Gurunath Bewoor is still in charge of this Department. He and I have worked in this Assembly ever since I have been here; and whether as Director General of Posts and Telegraphs or as Secretary of Posts and Air and Railway accidents, I find that he is always in charge of our post cards, our letters and our newspapers. I have always found him a sympathetic person so far as newspapers are concerned; and with his assistance it has been possible in the past to raise the minimum weight of newspapers from 8 tolas to 10 tolas for purposes of one pice postage and to give relief in the matter of sending newspaper parcels by post. Today, along with my Honourable friend Mr. Paliwal, I should like to press upon his attention and the attention of his Government, the great need of a further concession. The times have

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

considerably changed; and this war along with its horrors, has certainly brought in its train one good thing, namely, love of knowledge, a desire for the news of the world on the part of the humble people in the town and the country.

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

As matters stand, advantage of the rates can only be taken by the heavy and larger newspapers but the small newspapers printed in the Indian languages with a limited circulation, cannot take full advantage of these concessions because the proportionate expense in sending them is very high. I am looking forward to a day, not very far in the future, when we shall have very light newspapers weighing four tolas and less; and these newspapers, I am hoping would not be priced at more than a pice per issue. To pay an additional pice for postage on a paper which costs only one pice, is I think exceedingly disproportionate; and I hope my Honourable friend opposite will see the justice of the claim that we make in favour of this lighter Indian language newspapers which we hope will be published in large numbers, when we say that the postage on them should be specially reduced. At my friend Mr. Paliwal has said, it would not be in the interest of the newspaper agents to take large bundles of such newspapers. They would have to be sent by the post and if the post is prohibitive their circulation will be limited. No harm will be done to the Honourable Member's Department. He will stand to gain and not to lose. I hope he will give his favourable and sympathetic consideration to the proposal we are making and accept this amendment that has been so effectively moved by my friend Mr. Paliwal who if any one here, knows everything about newspapers, the difficulties of their production, their sale and circulation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am very glad to support this amendment. This is specially intended to benefit the rural areas. These big newspapers have not got very much of circulation in the rural areas and necessarily papers produced in local languages and also in district headquarters have to circulate in our rural areas, so that our rural public may be able to get such essential news as weather reports, market rates and also their own local news in regard to crops and other public matters. It is also necessary that the post should make its own contribution towards the development of rural education and newspapers are one of the most important media in that direction. Unfortunately the news agents are not to be found to undertake the work of circulation in rural areas. Today it so happens that our rural public have to pay much more for their newspapers than the urban public because whereas the urban public are supplied their newspapers post free the rural public are obliged to pay for the postage also. I have had some experience in publishing some weeklies for our rural people and we found that we could always supply our newspaper at face value to the town people, but we have to charge postage extra for all rural readers. Therefore if this amendment is accepted, it may not mean very much of a sacrifice so far as the Department is concerned, but it will certainly be an advantage to our rural public. Even with regard to the sacrifice which the Department may have to make, it may be problematical one, if at all there is to be loss. My Honourable friends who spoke before me have made it clear that if this concession is made, there will be more papers, more of them will be sent by post with the result that the Department may stand to gain rather than lose. I therefore suggest that it will be in the interest of the Department itself to accept this amendment and I hope they will accept it.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Post and Air Department): Sir, my Honourable friend Shri Sri Prakasa referred to the very long association I had with this Department. He and I have had several occasions to discuss as to what the postage rates should be, how they should be fixed and what should be the economics of them and so on. I have had both the pleasure and displeasure of the House when I have had the rates reduced or the rates increased. It was

one of my ambitions when I became the Director General to reduce the postage rates and I was able to do so considerably, but when the war came on, unfortunately we had to go back again to higher rates. On the present occasion, the plea is made on behalf of newspapers of light weight. Now the proposed postage rate is one-twelfth of an anna. I admit that in the case of smaller newspapers in Indian languages which are sold for a small amount of money, the postage rate may appear comparatively high. The actual financial loss involved in this matter is very small indeed. Our estimate is that during the next year about 121 million newspapers would be posted of which we estimate that 40 to 50 per cent. would be below four tolas. The actual loss, if we adopt the present suggested rate is only between 5 and 6 lakhs of rupees. It is not however on that account that I feel that I should oppose this motion. First of all there is no postage stamp of the value of one pie at present.

Shri Sri Prakasa: That should be no consideration with him because nowadays he has got a system by which no postage stamp need be affixed on newspapers that are sent by post. He has got a new system by which bills are sent every fortnight to newspapers for the amount of postage consumed. They are paid in cash.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am aware of that, but not every newspaper has got that system. The second thing is that considering the cost of printing and distribution of stamps, it seems to me that it would be hardly worth while of the post office to have pie stamps put on newspapers. It would be better not to charge at all. That, of course is an entirely different matter. I am not aware of the economics of newspaper industry, but so far as I understand it, it is not working at any loss on account of the postage rate being three pies. That rate is upto ten tolas weight and is quite a reasonable charge.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Our rural newspapers work at a loss.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Looking at it entirely from a practical point of view, the value of money has gone down. A pie represents an amount which one hardly sees anywhere. You can buy nothing for it nowadays not even for quarter of an annas. I think it would be entirely unjustified to bring down the rate of postage for newspapers to this insignificant figure of one-twelfth of an anna. Newspapers do not entirely live on subscribers income, they have various other sources of income and I think they ought to be able to bear the present postage of a pice. The present rate is extremely low. It would be impracticable in practice to have a pie rate and in any case, it could not be introduced even if this amendment is passed, unless and until we have had postage stamps printed. Sir, the existing rate is the maximum rate, and I am prepared to examine the practical difficulties in this matter. Let me examine it and see what can be done in this matter. In the meantime, I must oppose the motion.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That in the First Schedule of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the head 'Registered Newspapers', the following new entry shall be inserted at the top:

'For a weight not exceeding four tolas ... one pie.'

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, I find the division bell is not ringing. I am sure a mechanic could be found in this great city to set it right.

Mr. Deputy President: It was set right once, but there is something wrong in the line. We shall attend to it later on.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I rise to a point of privilege. If the division bell is not ringing, then it is not possible for you to decide to have the votes recorded until the machine is set right. Until it is put in order, we cannot proceed with the division. Honourable Members of this House shall not be play-

ed with. Whatever the rulings may have been in the past I as a Member of this House insist that I shall know when the bell rings and when it stops.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member is justified in asserting his rights as a Member. I am not dealing now with the rulings in the past, but the circumstances now are beyond any one's control and the defect has been detected just now which it is impossible to repair in two or three minutes. The House cannot adjourn just for that purpose. That is why I gave full latitude to the Whips to go out and call their Members and directed that Members standing outside should be admitted.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: If the officials of the Assembly had any common sense about them they would have brought a gong which could be sounded. I am not speaking in a spirit of levity; I mean it. I wish the authorities and the Chair to stand up for the rights of the ordinary Member. If the thing has broken down, the voting, in my humble submission, is not complete.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Sir, may I make a practical suggestion? I suggest that the best procedure would be for an official of the House to be sent to every room in which the bell normally rings.

Mr. Deputy President: Notice will be taken of what Honourable Members have suggested.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Apart from making suggestions for the future, I suggest that steps be taken now to see that a messenger has gone to every room in which the bell normally rings.

Mr. Deputy President: I think officials of the Assembly cannot go and run about the rooms.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I submit that it is the practice not only in this House but also in the House of Commons that Members are not supposed to be in attendance in the Chamber the whole time. They are entitled to be engaged in other work in expectation of the bell being rung. If the bell does not ring some steps should be taken to make certain that information is sent to every room that is normally used by Members.

Mr. Deputy President: It is not one room, there are so many rooms and in two minutes it is impossible for the officials of the Assembly to run about them. But surely some other method will be tried as a substitute if this machine fails to work in future, as has been suggested by Mr. Siddiqi. Just now for practical purposes I have suggested that the Whips should remain on the alert and tell their Members not to go out of the lobby.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, it will be very hard luck on the Members to be sitting here from 11 to 5 p.m. and listen to the very "brilliant" speeches that sometimes are made. The "brilliance" of the speeches may be too much for some of them.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: (Nominated: Non-Official): Sir, on a point of order I submit that as soon as the division is called by the presiding authority the House is not sitting. Therefore all these remarks made during the time when the House was not sitting were out of order.

Mr. Deputy President The question is:

"That in the First Schedule of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the head 'Registered Newspapers', the following new entry shall be inserted at the top:

'For a weight not exceeding four tolas ... one pie.'

The Assembly divided:

AYES—55

Adityan, Sri S. T.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.	Masani, Mr. M. B.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.	Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.	Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.	Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Choudhuri, Sreejutt Rohini Kumar.	Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.	Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.	Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Dani, Mr. G. B.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.	Reddiar, Sri B. Venkatasubba.
Gangaraju, Sri V.	Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.	Salve, Mr. P. K.
Gole, Mr. P. B.	Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.	Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Govind Das, Seth.	Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Hirey, Sjt. B. S.	Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Jagannathdas, Sri.	Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Jhunjunwala, Mr. B. P.	Sukhdev, Seth.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.	Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.	Sardar.
Karmarkar, Shri D. P.	Swaminadhan, Shrimati Annu.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.	Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejutt Dhirendra Kantu.	Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.	Varma, Mr. B. B.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.	Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.	Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.

NOES—63

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.	Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.	Mason, Mr. P.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr B. R.	Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.	Raja.
Ayers, Mr. C. W.	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra	Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Mohan.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Anoka.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Sargent, Sir John.
Ghazanfarulla Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.	Sen, Mr. B. R.
Greenfield, Mr. H.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Sheehy, Sir John.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.	Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain	Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Sardar.	Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.	Spence, Sir George.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Jeelani Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Syed Sher Shah.	Weightman, Mr. H.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.
Kara, Miss Mauiben.	Yusuf Abdoola Haroon Seth.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.
Krishnama Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.	

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President: I understand that Pundit S. K. Dutt Paliwal voted on the wrong side. I have allowed the lists to be corrected.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy President: Clause 5. Does Mr. Ayyangar want to move his amendment?

Shri M. Ananthastryanam Ayyangar: No.

Mr. Deputy President: Seth Yusuf Haroon does not want to move.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy President: Clause 6. Are there no amendments?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: There are amendments by Government.

Mr. H. Greenfield (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (a) of Clause 6 of the Bill,—

(a) the words 'and six pies' be omitted and

(b) for the words 'and Five annas', the words 'and Four annas and six pies' be substituted."

This matter was dealt with by the Honourable the Finance Member before the House rose for lunch and there is little for me to add by way of explanation except that under the original proposal the standard rate of duty on betelnuts was to be 5½ annas with a preferential rate of duty of 5 annas on betelnuts produced in a British Colony. By virtue of the present amendment, the standard rate of duty will become 5 annas and the preferential rate four annas and six pies. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (a) of Clause 6 of the Bill,—

(a) the words 'and six pies' be omitted and

(b) for the words 'and Five annas', the words 'and Four annas and six pies' be substituted."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member has given us no information at all. He said that the Finance Member had said something about it. The Finance Member too said nothing.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You could not have been listening. I did refer to it in my speech this morning.

Sri Sri Prakasa: What did he refer to?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We could have had some information why this import duty was imposed. We want it to be imposed of course. How much was being collected as a result of this import duty and what would be the loss as a result of this reduction that he proposes to make. We have no information. I can only consider this to be a very frivolous way of treating this House.

We welcome the decision of the Government to reduce the excise duty on betelnut but I do not see any reason why this import duty should be reduced. The import duty after all was intended to protect our own home betelnut growers. That need for protection still exists. There is the fear of imports coming in and stampeding the market. Our complaint has been that our prices have been very much depressed. All other producers of agricultural products have been suffering but these betelnut growers have been suffering much more and if imports were to be allowed their position will become even worse. So we want this import duty to be there independently of the excise duty. Even supposing the excise duty is completely abolished, we want the import duty. We have told the Honourable the Finance Member on an earlier occasion when some of us went in deputation to him that the position of the betelnut grower is very weak now in the Indian market. He has to be protected from both the middleman as well as the consumer. Both of them are very strong and on top of it he has to be protected from the imports. We want the Finance Member to

realise the difficulties of these people and maintain this import duty independently of any excise duty. We are anxious and we shall certainly press our motion for the abolition of the excise duty on betelnut completely. Even then we want the Government to retain this import duty. What will be the effect of this import duty. The price of the betelnut will not be enhanced to the extent to which this import duty is going to be imposed, because of the greater power that the middleman as well as the consumers do possess in this country. It will only be a sort of assurance to the grower of betelnut that he will be able to get prices which will be remunerative to some extent. Therefore I want the Government to retain the rates that they have already suggested in the Bill and not to move for any reduction. At the same time I want them to proceed with their amendment to clause 7 and if possible to accept our own amendment that the betelnut excise duty should be completely removed. I reserve my remarks in regard to the need for the abolition of the betelnut excise duty when our relevant amendment comes up for discussion.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

“That in sub-clause (a) of Clause 6 of the Bill,—

(a) the words ‘and six pies’ be omitted and

(b) for the words ‘and five annas’, the words ‘and four annas and six pies’ be substituted.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. Greenfield Sir, I move:

“That in sub-clause (b) of clause 6 of the Bill, for the word ‘Six’ the word ‘Three’ be substituted.”

Here again further explanation is unnecessary. In the original proposal the rate of duty to be applied to unexposed films was six pies per linear foot. Under this proposal that duty will be halved. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

“That in sub-clause (b) of clause 6 of the Bill, for the word ‘Six’ the word ‘Three’ be substituted.”

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, I would like to support this amendment and in supporting I would like to point out to the Honourable House that the present duty is 24 per cent. *ad volorem* which works out, I understand, to 1.6 pies per foot. Therefore the increase is nearly 100 per cent. even with this amendment. I think the cinema trade will have to be thankful for small mercies but the Honourable House must realise that the duty is being increased by nearly 100 per cent. According to the original proposal of Government the duty would have increased from about 9 lakhs to about 32 lakhs. That was a very steep increase indeed and I have a feeling that even now the increase as proposed by Government is fairly high and I trust that when the next budget comes perhaps this matter will be reconsidered.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, I oppose the amendment. The cinema is a very unhealthy amusement and it has been displacing other forms of really genuine Indian healthy amusements that used to exist in our country before. It has practically abolished the living stage. It has abolished the old system of music and dancing; and from such stories that I have heard of what goes on behind the scenes in the cinema industry. I am not at all desirous of encouraging it. I think the duty should be increased instead of being decreased. I am surprised that such a pious person as Sir Cowasjee Jehangir who at one time was against any ladies of his community having anything to do with the film industry has now come forward to support the decrease of duty, which would only help to encourage this nefarious industry. Sir, I strongly oppose this amendment; and I hope the Government will see its way to increasing the duty all round and discouraging the industry as far as possible.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: May I make an explanation, Sir. I am not sure that my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa has got the thing right. The

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

budget speech and the Finance Bill increased the existing rate of duty on cinema films. This amendment merely reduces the extent to which it is being increased. It is not decreasing the existing rate.

Shri Sri Prakasa: It is less than what was originally proposed and I do not want that.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We made a mistake in calculation.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (b) of clause 6 of the Bill, for the word 'Six' the word 'Three' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 6 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 as amended was added to the Bill.

Mr. H. Greenfield: Sir, I move:

"That after clause 6 of the Bill, the following clause be inserted, namely:

'6A. *Alteration of duty of customs on kerosene and mineral oils.*—In the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), in items Nos. 27(4) and 27(5), in the fourth column, the words "and nine pies" shall be omitted.'

Sir, the Honourable Finance Member has already explained to the House that the Finance Bill originally proposed to reduce the previous duty on kerosene oil and on mineral oils suitable for illuminants in a wick lamp from as. 4/6 per Imperial Gallon to as. 3/9 per Imperial Gallon. The present amendment will reduce the rate still further to as. 3 per Imperial Gallon. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That after clause 6 of the Bill, the following clause be inserted, namely:

'6A. *Alteration of duty of customs on kerosene and mineral oils.*—In the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), in items Nos. 27(4) and 27(5), in the fourth column, the words "and nine pies" shall be omitted.'

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, may I ask for some information? My Honourable friend seem to be impervious to any criticisms that we make and to any request that we make for information. I certainly take very strong exception to this treatment that they mete out to this House as a whole. We are here to be educated and they are there to be educated also—we must educate each other. Why do these Honourable gentlemen come here and make these motions without taking the trouble to give us any information at all? How much of this kerosene oil consumed in this country is being imported and how much of it is produced in the country itself? This simple information could have been given, but yet my Honourable friends on that side do not wish to volunteer any information whatever to be given to people who would like to know. Some of us are ignorant of how much is being imported into this country with the result that we have tabled amendments for the next clause, asking that the excise duty on kerosene should be abolished. That would be abolished, but what about the import duty? If the import duty is still there and that kerosene oil comes in, it has got to be paid for also by our people: is that not so? We would have certainly put in an amendment to this clause also if we had the necessary information. It may be very convenient for the Honourable Members on the other side to keep us completely ignorant about these matters; but it certainly does not help this House to understand these things properly and effectively.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, I am also in need of some information. The Honourable Member referred to Imperial Gallon. May I know how many types of gallon there are—Imperial, democratic, socialistic and other? Could he give some information on that?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we getting any information at all or not?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: About the Imperial Gallon?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No; about the quantity of oil produced in this country and the quantity imported into this country.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Quantitatively I cannot give that answer without notice; but if the Honourable Member would care to read the documents which have been prepared with great labour by the Departments and which are given to Honourable Members, he will find on page 2 of the explanatory memorandum that the customs duty on kerosene oil in the current year's budget is expected to produce 4 crores, and the excise duty 41 lakhs. I must reply to the protest of the Honourable Member against lack of information by the reluctance of Honourable Members to study documents which are prepared with great labour.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even then you have not given the quantities: you want notice.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I said I was dealing with the financial aspect of the thing—not its quantitative aspect. If the Honourable Members wants the quantities, he can ask me or any one in my Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In your budget speech, you are expected to explain.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Certainly, yes.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

“That after clause 6 of the Bill, the following clause be inserted, namely:

‘6A. *Alteration of duty of customs on kerosene and mineral oils.*—In the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), in items Nos. 27(4) and 27(5), in the fourth column, the words “and nine pies” shall be omitted’.”

The motion was adopted.

New clause 6A was added to the Bill.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, as I have already indicated, a formidable programme of legislative and other business

will remain to be disposed of after the non-official days on Monday

5 P. M. and Tuesday next week, and I would now ask you to direct the

House to meet for the disposal of official business on the days after Tuesday next which you have already distributed for the purposes of questions, that is to say, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 3rd, 4th and 5th April, Monday and Tuesday, the 8th and 9th April, Thursday and Friday, the 11th and 12th April and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th April. The business of which we hope to dispose includes the consideration and passing of 4 Bills on which Select Committees have reported, the consideration and passing or reference to Select Committee or circulation of 10 other Bills already introduced and the consideration and passing or reference to Select Committee or circulation of some 9 other Bills which have not yet been introduced. There will also be a demand for a supplementary grant for a further contribution to UNRRA in 1946-47 and a resolution recommending acceptance of the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Agricultural Organisation, while, unless the Law Member is made aware that the House does not desire a debate on the question, he will move his resolution regarding the extension of the jurisdiction of the Federal Court. Finally, the Report of the Public Accounts Committee with the consequential excess grants remains to be disposed of. I should add that in any event we do not propose to ask for further meetings after the 18th April.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable the President has agreed to these proposals to allot these days for the official business. I may also inform Honourable Members in connection with the Supplementary Demands for Grants which will be taken up on the 29th March, that on account of the strike in the Government Press, it has not been possible for the Finance Department to print the proceedings of the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee which were held on the 16th February and the 16th March 1946 with the result that copies of these proceedings have not been circulated to members. A copy each of the Reports of the Standing Finance Committee for these two days has been placed in the Library for the purpose of reference by the Members.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 28th March 1946.