

Friday, 6th March 1942

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume I, 1942

(11th February to 10th March, 1942)

FIFTEENTH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1942



NEW DELHI. PRINTED BY THE MANAGER
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS: 1942

CORRIGENDA

In the Legislative Assembly Debates, Budget Session, 1942,—

- (1) Volume I, No. 1, dated the 11th February, 1942, page 31, line 20, for "Muslims" read "Muslim";
- (2) Volume I, No. 15, dated the 5th March, 1942, page 708, line 20 from the bottom, for "Suppression" read "Supersession";
- (3) Volume II, No. 5, dated the 17th March, 1942,—
 - (i) page 1207, line 4, delete the full stop after the word "statement"; and
 - (ii) page 1265, lines 5 and 22, for "The Honourable Sir Homi Modi" read "The Honourable Sir Homi Mody";
- (4) Volume II, No. 7, dated the 19th March, 1942, page 1357, line 15 from the bottom, for "The Economist news" read "The Economist news-";
- (5) Volume II, No. 8, dated the 20th March, 1942, page 1422, line 13 from the bottom, delete the second "that" at the end of the line;

- (6) Volume II, No. 9, dated the 23rd March, 1942,—
 - (i) page 1429, line 1, insert the word "is" after the word "blood"; and
 - (ii) page 1457, line 8 from the bottom, read "are" for the word "they";
- (7) Volume II, No. 11, dated the 25th March, 1942, page 1539, line 18 from the bottom, for the word "who" read "why";
- (8) Volume II, No. 13, dated the 1st April, 1942, page 1651, line 21, for the word "attacks" read "attack";
- (9) Volume II, No. 14, dated the 2nd April, 1942,—
 - (i) page 1688, line 17, for "It is given to C class" read "I said that A and B class";
 - (ii) page 1693, line 22, for "Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur" read "Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur"; and
 - (iii) page 1729, line 19 and page 1730, line 9 for "Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar" read "The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar".

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

President:

The Honourable Sir ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

Deputy President:

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen:

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir HENRY GIDNEY, M.L.A.

Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

Sir COWASJI JEHangIR, Bart., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A.

● *Secretary:*

Mian MUHAMMAD RAFI, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary:

Mr. M. N. KAUL, Barrister-at-Law.

Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal:

Captain Haji Sardar NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions:

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Mr. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA, M.L.A.

Sir ABDUL HALIM GHUREKAVI M.L.A.

Mr. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

CONTENTS

VOLUME I.—11th February to 10th March, 1942.

PAGES.		PAGES.	
WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 1942—		THURSDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1942—	
Members Sworn	1	Member Sworn	83
Starred Questions and Answers	1—15	Starred Questions and Answers	83—99
Unstarred Questions and Answers	15—20	Death of Sir Raghavendra Rau	99—100
Statements laid on the Table	21—35	Motion for Adjournment re—Arrest and detention of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose—Not moved	100—01
Deaths of Mr. L. C. Buss and Sir Akbar Hydari	36—40	Banning of the Hindu Mahasabha Session at Bhagalpur—Postponed	101
Motions for Adjournment—Postponed	40	Lathi Charge on Sikh Religious Congregation by the Delhi Police—Ruled out of order	102—05
H. E. The Governor General's Assent to Bills	40—41	Failure to obtain approval of the Central Legislature for declaring India at War with Japan—Disallowed by the Governor General	105—06
Bill passed by the Council of State	41	Failure to provide adequate means of Transport for Agricultural Produce—Negatived	106, 140—55
Home Department Notifications issued under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939	41—43	Resolution re Administration of the Income-tax Department—Discussion not concluded	107—40
Amendments to certain Motor Vehicles Rules	43—61		
Amendment to the Insurance Rules	61	SATURDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1942—	
Election of two non-official Members to the Defence Consultative Committee	62	Starred Questions and Answers	157—67
The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	62	Unstarred Questions and Answers	167—68
The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	62	Motion for Adjournment re—Banning of the Hindu Mahasabha Session at Bhagalpur—Disallowed	168—69, 170
The Coffee Market Expansion Bill—Introduced	63	Army Commissions to Australians—Ruled out of order	169
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	63	Urging Allied Nations for declaration of Political and Social equality of white and coloured Races—Disallowed by the Governor General	196
The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	63	Inadequate action as regards Release of Political Prisoners—Ruled out of order	170—72
The Multi-unit Co-operative Societies Bill—Introduced	63		
The Indus Vessels (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	64		
The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	64		
The Weekly Holidays Bill—Referred to Select Committee	64—70		
Report of the Public Accounts Committee—Discussion not concluded	70—81		

	PAGES.
DAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1942— <i>contd.</i>	
Motion for Adjournment <i>re—contd.</i>	
Delay in giving relief to Short-staple Cotton Growers—Ruled out of order	172
Expenditure from Indian Revenues on Military Training of Australians—Ruled out of order	172—73
Looting of Hill People of Almorah District by the Kazaks—Ruled out of order	173
Lathi charge by Police on Mohurrum Procession at Akola—Disallowed	174
Sending of Indian Military Forces and Materials Overseas—Disallowed by the Governor General	174
Failure to release Political Prisoners and Detenus—Disallowed	174—75
Arrests of and Lathi charge on Traders agitating against the Punjab Sales Tax Act—Disallowed	175—77
Necessity of Government statement for allaying Public apprehensions about Defence of India—Disallowed	177
Dispensing with the Question Hour on the General Budget presentation day	178
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 4)—Referred to Select Committee	178—84
The Muslim Personal Law (<i>Shariat</i>) Application (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	185
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Circulated	185—80
The Federal Court (Supplemental Powers) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	186—88
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Sections 182, 488 and 496)—Circulated	188
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	188
The Muslim Personal Law (<i>Shariat</i>) Application (Second Amendment) Bill—Introduced	189

	PAGES.
SATURDAY, 14th FEBRUARY, 1942— <i>Contd.</i>	
The Usurious Loans (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	189
MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1942—	
Starred Questions and Answers	191—205
Unstarred Questions and Answers	205—10
Message from H. E. the Governor General	211
The Special Haj Inquiry Report	211
Home Department Notification issued under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939	211
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Notification issued under the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940	212
Election of the Standing Committee on Emigration	212—17
Election of Three Muslim Members to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz	217—10
Election of a Member to the Committee on Public Accounts	220—21
Election of Members to the Defence Consultative Committee	221
The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	221—22
The Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Time) Bill—Introduced	222
The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill—Passed	222—23
The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill—Passed	229—31
The Indus Vessels (Amendment) Bill—Passed	231—32
The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill—Passed	232—36
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	236—58
TUESDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1942—	
Starred Questions and Answers	259—64
Visit to India of Their Excellencies Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and Madame Chiang	264—70

PAGES.	PAGES.
TUESDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1942—Contd.	MONDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1942—Contd.
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on consideration of clauses postponed 270—73	Short Notice Question and Answer 403—04
The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill—Passed 273	Motion for Adjournment re Arrests in the Punjab for protests against the General Sales Tax Act—Disallowed 404—05
The Multi-unit Co-operative Societies Bill—Passed 274—87	Secret Session of the Legislative Assembly 405—06
The Coffee Market Expansion Bill—Passed 287—90	General discussion of the Railway Budget 406—57
Report of the Public Accounts Committee 290—94	
WEDNESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 1942—	TUESDAY, 24th FEBRUARY, 1942—
Member Sworn 295	Starred Questions and Answers 459—72
Starred Questions and Answers 295—312	Unstarred Question and Answer 472—73
Unstarred Question and Answer 312—13	Election of Members to the Standing Committees on Emigration and on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz 473
Motion for Adjournment re Condition of the Defences of India—Ruled out of order 313	Message from the Council of State 473—74
Message from I. E. the Governor General 314	Department of Indians Overseas Notification issued under the Indian Emigration Act 474
Presentation of the Railway Budget for 1942-43 314—22	Home Department Declaration of Exemption issued under the Registration of Foreigners Act 474—75
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended 322—26	Election of the Standing Finance Committee 475—8
THURSDAY, 19th FEBRUARY, 1942—	The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Bill—Passed 481—82
Starred Questions and Answers 329—33	The Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Time) Bill—Passed 482—83
Unstarred Questions and Answers 333—34	
Nomination of the Panel of Chairmen 334	WEDNESDAY, 25th FEBRUARY, 1942—
Committee on Petitions 334	Starred Questions and Answers 485—91
Election of a Member to the Committee on Public Accounts 334	The Railway Budget—List of Demands 491—546
Resolution re—	Demand No. 1—Railway Board—
Administration of the Income-tax Department—Negatived 335—51	Excessive Rates of Fares and Freights 492—504
Appointment of a Committee to enquire into the incidents during the Martyrdom Day Celebrations at Delhi—Negatived 352—70	“Priority” and Public Supply of Wagons 505—12
Release of Political Prisoners and Detenus—Discussion not concluded 371—89	Transport needs of the Country and Railway Administration 513—29
MONDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1942—	Punishment and Appeals and Good Conduct Marks 529—35
Starred Questions and Answers 391—400	Grievances of the Employees of Indian Railways 535—46
Transferred Starred Questions and Answers 400—03	

THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1942—		THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1942— <i>contd.</i>	
	PAGES.		PAGES.
Starred Questions and Answers	547—52	Demand No. 6.-G. Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses	600—03
The Federal Court (Supplemental Powers) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee.	552	Growing Drain in respect of Ecclesiastical Expenditure on Railway Revenues	601—02
The Railway Budget—List of Demands	552—607	Demand No. 6.-H. Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department	603—04
Demand No. 1.—Railway Board	553—97	Demand No. 7.—Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund	605—07
Revision of the Convention of 1924	553—68	Various wrong Debits to Revenue in the name of Depreciation	605—07
Functions of the New Central Transport Organisation and the Need for Co-ordinating all Forms of Transport	568—73	Demand No. 8.—Interest Charges	607
Grievances of the Pilgrims to the Hejaz and Board's Policy in not agreeing to issue cheap Return Tickets to the Pilgrims	573—80	Demand No. 9.—A.—Repayment to Depreciation Reserve Fund	607
Overcrowding in the Trains and Particularly in Inter and Third Class Passengers' Compartments and inconvenience caused to the Travelling Public in these days	580—94	Demand No. 11.—New Construction	607
Railway Accidents	594—97	Demand No. 12.—Open Line Works	607
Demand No. 2.—Audit	597—98		
Demand No. 3.—Miscellaneous Expenditure	598	FRIDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1942—	
Demand No. 5.—Payments to Indian States and Companies	598	Member Sworn	609
Demand No. 6.-A. Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works	598	Starred Question and Answer	609—10
Demand No. 6.-B. Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power	599	Unstarred Question and Answer	610—11
Demand No. 6.-C. Working Expenses—Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon Stock	599	Statements laid on the Table	612—16
Demand No. 6.-D. Working Expenses—Maintenance and Working of Ferry Steamers and Harbours	599	The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	616
Demand No. 6.-E. Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department	599—600	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 4)—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	616
Demand No. 6.-F. Working Expenses—Expenses of General Departments	600	Notification re Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules	616—17
		The Protective Duties Continuation Bill—Introduced	617
		The Industrial Statistics Bill—Introduced	617
		Secret Session	617—18
		SATURDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1942—	
		Presentation of the General Budget for 1942-43	619—36
		The Indian Finance Bill—Introduced	638

	PAGES.		PAGES.
WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1942—		FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1942—<i>contd.</i>	
Members Sworn	639	Demand No 12.—Executive Council— <i>contd.</i>	
Starred Questions and Answers	639—46	Repressive Policy of the Government	810—19
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Differential treatment towards Indian population of Malaya during evacuation—Disallowed	646—48	Pension of Inferior Servants of the Government of India	820—22
General discussion of the General Budget	648—97	SATURDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1942—	
THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1942—		Starred Questions and Answers	823—27
Starred Questions and Answers	699—706	Unstarred Question and Answer	827
Statements laid on the Table	706—09	Bill passed by the Council of State	828
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Non-release of Maulana Habibul Rahman, ex-President of All-India Majlis-i-Ahrar—Ruled out of order	709—10	The General Budget—List of Demands	828—81
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee	710—11	Demand No. 10.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)	828—34, 851—66
Report on the Progress of the Schemes financed from the Grants for Rural Development	711	Grievances of Postmen and other Lower Staff in respect of Compensatory and House Rent Allowances	828—34
Election of Members for the Standing Committee for the Department of Supply	711	Examinations for Inspectors of Post Offices and present day condition of Posts and Telegraphs Department	851—58
The Industrial Statistics Bill—Referred to Select Committee	712—20	Representation of Mussalmans in Services under the Posts and Telegraphs Department	859—66
The Protective Duties Continuation Bill—Passed	721—28	Demand No. 12.—Executive Council	834—51
Demands for Supplementary Grants—Railways	728—43	Revision of the Government Orders regarding Communal Representation so as to secure definite Representation of the Depressed Classes in the Government of India Services	834—51
FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1942—		Demand No. 38.—Archaeology	866—81
Starred Questions and Answers	745—66	Hardship and Discrimination to which Muslim Officials are subjected in the Department	866—81
Unstarred Questions and Answers	765—75	TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1942—	
The General Budget—List of Demands—	775—822	Member Sworn	883
Demand No.11.—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt	778—87	Starred Questions and Answers	883—87
Repatriation of Sterling Debt	778—87	Motions for Adjournment	887
Demand No. 12.—Executive Council	778—822	Election of the Standing committee for the Department of Supply	887—88
Insufficient and Inefficient Utilization of the Resources of the Country	788—99		
Policy of the Labour Department during the war	800—10		

	PAGES.
TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1942—contd.	
The General Budget—List of Demands	888—958
Demand No. 38.—Archæology	888—95
Hardship and Discrimination to which Muslim Officials are subjected in the Department	888—95
Demand No. 48.—Civil Veterinary Services	895—902
Inadequate Representation of Muslims in the Services of the Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research especially in the gazetted Ranks	895—902
Demand No. 12.—Executive Council	902—44
Present system of Purchases and Inspection in the Supply Department	902—15
Advisability of creating a Department of Production separate from Supply	915—32
Central Government's Policy in regard to Civil Defence	932—44
Demand No. 1.—Customs	944
Demand No. 2.—Central Excise Duties	944
Demand No. 3.—Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax	944
Demand No. 4.—Salt	945
Demand No. 5.—Opium	945
Demand No. 6.—Provincial Excise	945
Demand No. 7.—Stamps	945
Demand No. 8.—Forest	945
Demand No. 9.—Irrigation (including Working Expenses) Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	945
Demand No. 10.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)	946
Demand No. 11.—Interest on Debt and other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt	946
Demand No. 12.—Executive Council	946
Demand No. 13.—Council of State	946
Demand No. 14.—Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department	946

	PAGES.
TUESDAY, 10th MARCH, 1942—Contd.	
Demand No. 15.—Home Department	947
Demand No. 16.—Civil Defence Department	947
Demand No. 17.—Department of Information and Broad casting	947
Demand No. 18.—Legislative Department	947
Demand No. 19.—Department of Education, Health and Lands	947
Demand No. 20.—Department of Indians Overseas	947
Demand No. 21.—Finance Department	948
Demand No. 22.—Commerce Department	948
Demand No. 23.—Department of Labour	948
Demand No. 24.—Department of Communications	948
Demand No. 25.—Central Board of Revenue	948
Demand No. 26.—India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment charges	948
Demand No. 27.—Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the administration of agency Subjects and management of Treasuries	949
Demand No. 28.—Audit	949
Demand No. 29.—Administration of Justice	949
Demand No. 30.—Police	949
Demand No. 31.—Ports and Pilotage	949
Demand No. 32.—Lighthouses and Lightships	949
Demand No. 33.—Survey of India	950
Demand No. 34.—Botanical Survey	950
Demand No. 35.—Zoological Survey	950
Demand No. 36.—Geological Survey	950
Demand No. 37.—Mines	950
Demand No. 38.—Archæology	950
Demand No. 39.—Meteorology	951
Demand No. 40.—Other Scientific Departments	951
Demand No. 41.—Education	951
Demand No. 42.—Medical Services	951
Demand No. 43.—Public Health	951
Demand No. 44.—Agriculture	951

PAGES.	PAGES.
WEDNESDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1942—contd.	
Demand No. 45.—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	952
Demand No. 46.—Agricultural Marketing	952
Demand No. 47.—Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology	952
Demand No. 48.—Civil Veterinary Services	952
Demand No. 49.—Industries	952
Demand No. 50.—Scientific and Industrial Research	952
Demand No. 51.—Aviation	953
Demand No. 52.—Broadcasting	953
Demand No. 53.—Capital outlay on Broadcasting (Charged to Revenue)	953
Demand No. 54.—Emigration—Internal	953
Demand No. 55.—Emigration—External	953
Demand No. 56.—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	953
Demand No. 57.—Census	954
Demand No. 58.—Joint Stock Companies	954
Demand No. 59.—Miscellaneous Departments	954
Demand No. 60.—Currency	954
Demand No. 61.—Mint	954
Demand No. 62.—Civil Works	954
Demand No. 63.—Central Road Fund	955
Demand No. 64.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	955
Demand No. 65.—Stationery and Printing	955
TUESDAY, 10th MARCH, 1942—Contd.	
Demand No. 66.—Miscellaneous	955
Demand No. 67.—Grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments	955
Demand No. 68.—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	955
Demand No. 69.—Civil Defence	956
Demand No. 70.—Delhi	956
Demand No. 71.—Ajmer-Merwara	956
Demand No. 72.—Panth Pip-loda	956
Demand No. 73.—Andaman and Nicobar Islands	956
Demand No. 74.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs	956
Demand No. 75.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not charged to Revenue)	957
Demand No. 76.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Capital outlay on Telephone Projects (Not charged to Revenue)	957
Demand No. 77.—Capital outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour	957
Demand No. 78.—Delhi Capital outlay	957
Demand No. 79.—Commuted Value of Pensions	957
Demand No. 80.—Interest-Free Advances	957
Demand No. 81.—Loans and Advances bearing Interest	958

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 6th March, 1942.

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, with your permission, owing to the unfortunate indisposition of the Honourable Sir Homi Mody, I have been asked to answer his questions today.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

OFFICERS RECRUITED IN THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

126. ***Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state :

- (a) the number of officers recruited during the last six months for his department;
- (b) how many of them are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians, Europeans, and Anglo-Indians; and
- (c) the salaries offered to each?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table when ready.

INDIA'S WAR PURCHASES LIABILITIES TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

127. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state :

- (a) the date from which purchases of War requirements, on behalf of India, were made under the Lease and Lend Act of the United States of America;
- (b) the value of purchases of War requirements, on behalf of India, prior to the date of application of the Lease and Lend Act to India, and whether any payments in respect of these purchases were made to the United States of America;
- (c) the value of the purchases made after the date of the application of the Lease and Lend Act to India; whether, in respect of these purchases, any payment was made by India to His Majesty's Government, or whether there has accrued any future liability payable by India after the termination of the War; and
- (d) whether, in case of such a liability accruing, India would be asked to liquidate it, either in Dollars or in £ Sterling?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) With effect from 11th March, 1941, transfers under Lease/Lend were possible to any country the defence

of which was adjudged by the President as vital to the defence of the United States of America. Applications for transfers under the Act began to be made on behalf of India in the latter part of the year.

(b) It would be almost impossible to estimate the value of all purchases of war requirements made from America before the passing of the Lease/Lend legislation. Such purchases were made not only by Government Departments in India but by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and by Commercial Houses. All such purchases were naturally paid for in dollars.

(c) and (d). India is receiving material under Lease and Lend but it is difficult at present to estimate its total value. Transfers to India are authorised not only on direct requisitions from India, but on requisitions made by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for Empire needs. No payment is made by India to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. On the matter of future liabilities and the mode of their liquidation, nothing can be said at present since the nature of the final settlement is as yet undetermined.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if these applications of the Government of India are made separately or along with the British applications?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think that they were made separately through the Indian Purchasing Mission, but it is possible that when presented to the American organisation they may have been lumped with other empire requirements.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have they to be paid for separately or along with the British?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The essence of the arrangement is that they are not to be paid for at all at present.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am confining my supplementary question to part (c). I want to know whether Government are not aware of the exact amount of the orders placed after the Lease/Lend Act came into force, so far as India is concerned.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think I have given information about the total value of the orders placed; but this is not like an ordinary commercial transaction where once you place an order you know what your commitment is. In this case the application for Lease/Lend goods has to be accepted. You might place indents for £10 millions and none of it might be accepted.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Since the 11th March, 1941, the date from which this Lease/Lend legislation applies to England, to the 6th March, 1942, have Government no idea of the orders which they have placed, apart from their acceptance by the United States Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think I gave some indication in my budget speech of the amounts of the indents placed.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: You are not precise as to how much has been received and how much has still to be received?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We cannot give information in any greater precision than that.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: We have to rely only on the information given in your budget speech?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, I do not think we can give any more precise information.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: No subsequent information has been collected?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not in a position at this moment to give any more precise information than that.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: When do Government think they can supply the information?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say categorically that the information will be supplied at all. All I can say is that we are not at present in a position to give it.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: With reference to part (d) of the question, shall we have to pay in sterling or in dollars?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say, but my impression is that we shall not pay in either.

INDIA'S WAR PURCHASES LIABILITIES TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

128. *Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state whether the liabilities referred to in the preceding question would carry any interest payable by India, and whether part of them will be immediately liquidated by giving credit to India for the Dollar resources requisitioned by the Government of India, at the instance of His Majesty's Government during 1940?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The manner in which Lease/Lend liabilities will be liquidated has yet to be determined. The Government of India cannot claim credit for dollar resources already allocated to American purchases.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How does the Honourable Member say that the Government of India shall not have to pay at all?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I did not say that. I said that I did not think that we would pay either in dollars or in sterling.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I just heard you say that we may not have to pay at all.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said the essence of the arrangement was that at present we have not got to pay at all. I was talking of the present arrangement.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Then, what about interest?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is no provision for payment of interest at all.

PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AFTER WAR.

129. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that proposals are already on foot that, in view of the purchases, under the Lease and Lend Act, by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, Dominions and India, exports from the United States of America should be given preferential tariff treatment by these countries after the war;
- (b) whether the Government of India have been approached either by the Government of the United States of America or by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom in this connection;
- (c) whether there is a tacit understanding between the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom that the question relating to the grant of preferential tariff to the United States of America products would receive sympathetic consideration after the termination of the war; and
- (d) whether the Government of India are committed to any expression of opinion on this question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No such question has arisen.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I want to know whether we have made any arrangement directly or through His Majesty's Government as to the future policy in this connection because of the Lease/Lend facilities we are getting now.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already answered the Honourable Member's question; and I have nothing more to say on the subject.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The Government have no information on any of the points?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am unable to add to the answer I have already given.

Mauvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, may I ask these questions on behalf of Sir Ziauddin Ahmad?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are you authorised by the Honourable Member?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Yes, Sir. Question No. 130.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO AIRCRAFT FACTORY.

130. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state what amount and under what conditions have the Government of India paid to the Aircraft factory established in India?

(b) Have the Government of India made any arrangement for the training of Indians in Aircraft factories?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The Hindustan Aircraft Company has contracts with the Government of India for production of certain aircraft at agreed prices. It is not in the public interest to give details.

(b) The company is training Indians in this factory.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is true that the Government of India propose to acquire the ownership of this factory?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not in a position to make any statement on that subject.

STEPS FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION OF STEEL.

131. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state what steps, if any, the Government of India have taken to increase the production of Steel?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Steps have been taken in collaboration with certain important producers to increase the production of steel in India. Some new furnaces are in the process of installation. It is not in the public interest to give details, and it is regretted they cannot be furnished.

WORKING OF THE ANTI-TICKETLESS TRAVEL PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT.

132. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) whether arrangements have been made for the issue of permission certificates as contemplated in amended section 68 of the Indian Railways Act over State and Company-managed Railways in India; if so, what class of Railway servants have been authorised to issue such certificates over Railway;

(b) whether any Railway has been exempted from issuing such certificates, if so, why;

(c) the number of ticketless passengers dealt with under the newly amended sections of the Indian Railways Act over each Railway system since the amended sections came into operation;

- (d) the number of ticketless passengers dealt with in the corresponding period just before the enforcement of the amended section; and
- (e) whether the Railway administrations connected with Bihar Province published in any Vernacular paper of Bihar the full translation of the amended sections for the information of the Vernacular reading public; if so in what paper?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) Yes. I understand the staff authorised to issue the certificates are generally Guards, Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters and Ticket Collectors on duty. I believe that on some Railways Travelling Ticket Inspecting Staff are also authorised.

(b) No.

(c) I regret the information is not yet available.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 57 of the report on Indian Railways for 1940-41, Vol. I.

(e) No. I understand Press Advertisements were issued among others, to the *Vishwamitra* and *Lokamanya* drawing attention to the Vernacular posters exhibited at stations which gave all details.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, Sir, whether as a result of the action taken by the Railways against these ticketless travellers, the number of ticketless travellers has decreased or increased?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The last returns, as I indicated in reply to part (c), are not yet available, so that I am not yet in a position to make a comparison.

MISSING CASH BAG OF TANDO JAN MOHAMED SUB-POST OFFICE.

133. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the month of October 1940, a cash bag containing a remittance of Rs. 750 was not found by the Mirpurkhas Post Office in Sind from the mail bag of Tando Jan Mohamed sub-post office;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the acting Superintendent of Post Offices, Lower Sind Division, personally visited Tando Jan Mohamed Post Office and made enquiries;
- (c) whether it is a fact that after his enquiries one mail peon was challaned before the Court;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the First Class Magistrate, Mirpurkhas, found the mail peon innocent and honourably acquitted him;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the First Class Magistrate in his judgement has said that the Postal authorities themselves were more responsible for this incident; and
- (f) whether Government have taken any action in the matter; if so what?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a)—(f). The reply is in the affirmative.

(f) The sub-postmaster died before the judgment was delivered. No action has been taken against the peon.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to the remarks of the Magistrate that the Department itself was to blame, what steps did Government take to find out who was actually responsible?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I think that the Magistrate's remarks involved a reflection on the Sub-Postmaster. As I have indicated, he died before that judgment had been delivered.

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS KARACHI.

134. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the present office superintendent of the office of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, has continued in the same post for ten years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that he was the President of the Posts and Telegraphs Co-operative Society, Karachi, for two years;
- (c) whether it is a fact that he was removed from that post by an order of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Sind, on the report of the Government Auditor in Sind; and
- (d) whether Government approve of the policy of allowing the same person to continue in the same post in the same office for an indefinite period; if not, what steps do Government propose to take to effect a change?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) No; for a rather shorter period, (b) Yes.

(c) The official was removed from the post of President of the Co-operative Society by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Sind, as a result of a no-confidence motion passed at the special general meeting of the Society.

(d) Government see no sufficient reason for directing a transfer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, Sir, for how long he remained, if not for ten years?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I believe he was appointed in 1933.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, Sir, why in spite of the aspersions against him in regard to co-operation also he was not removed or something done to see that he behaved better?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I do not understand what the Honourable Member means by "also", as I am not aware of any aspersions cast against his official work, nor apparently is there any other post of this cadre to which this official can be suitably transferred.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can he not be transferred to some other division instead of retaining him in the Sind division? I understand the

obstacle is that there is no place in Sind where he can be sent, and, therefore, I am asking if it is not possible to send him to any other division?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The Honourable Member spends a good deal of his time in impressing on me the fact that Sind is for Sindhis.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: That is true, but if a Sindhi misbehaves, then he should be transferred to some other division or even dismissed.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: If the officer had misbehaved, he would have been punished. There has been no occasion for that.

REFUND OF DEDUCTIONS MADE FROM PAY OF CERTAIN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

135. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the reply given to part (c) of my starred question No. 53, asked on the 30th October, 1941, regarding refund of reduction money, deducted from the employees wages after the 3rd February, 1941, the date on which such reductions were pronounced illegal by a ruling of the Sind Chief Court, will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the result of the examination of the question in its application to certain cases as mentioned by him?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: Orders have been issued to the North Western Railway as a result of the investigations made.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What was the result of that investigation?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I am afraid I have not got that here.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES HAVING RENT-FREE QUARTERS.

136. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in determining the admissibility of the 'dearness allowance' to the Railway employees, the value of the free housing accommodation is also included in the term 'Pay' for the purpose of arriving at the limit on which various scales of allowance are paid in different areas? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway servants excepting those drawing below Rs. 30, are not entitled to rent free quarters if appointed after the 1st August, 1928?

(c) Is it a fact that the concession of rent-free quarters to certain categories of staff appointed prior to the 1st August, 1928 is only personal to them for so long as they work in particular categories?

(d) Is the value of free house accommodation, included in the term 'Pay' for the purpose of:

- (i) grant of free passes and P. T. Os.
- (ii) Travelling allowance,
- (iii) Provident Fund deductions, and
- (iv) Gratuity?

If not, is it proposed to have a uniform system of inclusion of the value of house accommodation in the term "Pay" for all purposes? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the reason is that this course was recommended by the Court of Enquiry which investigated the question of dearness allowance.

(b) On the North Western Railway, persons appointed on or after 1st August, 1928, are entitled to rent free quarters if they are inferior staff.

(c) Yes.

(d) The reply to the first and second parts is in the negative. As regards the last part, this is not considered necessary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know why the question of free accommodation is not being considered with regard to (d) (i) and (d) (ii), travelling allowance, grant of passes, etc.? Why is there a distinction?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: Because it is based on the ordinary pay. The real reason for that distinction is that it has been decided to follow a recommendation made by the Court of Inquiry.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member inquire and find out for himself if it is feasible to apply it in these two cases also? The Court of Inquiry may not have considered that point.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: It is perfectly feasible, but it would cost us more money.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Everything costs money. The subordinates have to be kept satisfied. Will the Honourable Member at least look into this matter and see if he can do something?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I see no reason for altering the rules which have been in force for some time. If complete satisfaction is to be achieved, it is a dark lookout for the Finance Member.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

137. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether any racial discrimination is observed on the North Western Railway in the matter of allotment of Railway quarters? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware of the feeling that Indian employees are transferred out of turn or after a short stay at a station merely to make railway quarters available for their European, Anglo-Indian and Christian colleagues?

(c) Is it proposed to abolish the system referred to in part (b) above? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative and the second part does not arise.

(b) No. I have no reason for supposing that there are grounds for any such feeling.

(c) Does not arise.

NON-CONFIRMATION OF A PROMOTED INDIAN FOREMAN OF MECHANICAL WORKSHOP DIVISION, MOGHALPURA.

138. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that no subordinate has been confirmed against the permanent post of Grade II Foreman in Millwright Trade of Mechanical Workshop Division, Moghalpura;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a European is officiating against this post for more than five years and has neither been confirmed nor finally declared unfit for this post;
- (c) whether it is a fact that certain Anglo-Indians have superseded this European and have since been confirmed over his head in Grade II and subsequently in Grade III;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that an Indian has also been promoted over the head of this European and is now officiating in a higher grade from March 1937;
- (e) whether it is a fact that this Indian has been recommended for confirmation in Grade III, but has not been confirmed even in Grade II; and
- (f) whether Government have issued any instructions that no European or Anglo-Indian be allowed to be superseded by an Indian or that Europeans are not to be declared unfit, but should continue to be tried in their posts for years together; if so, whether any time-limit has been prescribed; if not, what is the reason for a trial continued for over five years in this particular case?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes, since 26th January, 1936.

(b) A European Assistant Foreman Millwright grade I has officiated in this post for an aggregate period of three years and two months but not continuously.

(c) Yes, one European and one Anglo-Indian.

(d) Yes, an Indian grade I Assistant Foreman has been officiating in grade III off and on since March, 1937.

(e) Yes.

(f) The answer to the first part is in the negative; the second part does not arise; as regards the last part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (b). I understand the question of reverting the Assistant Foreman grade II is already under consideration.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member kindly state with reference to his reply to part (c), why has this Assistant Foreman been officiating since 1937—it is an inordinate time?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I suppose it was a matter of convenience. I did not appoint him to officiate.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Sidney: I am quite aware of that, but do the Government think it right to keep a man officiating for about five years? Does not the appointment call for confirmation or it is superfluous?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Glow: I understand the officiating period is about 3 years, and if the Honourable Member asks me for my opinion very long officiating periods are ordinarily undesirable.

INCREASED PROPORTION OF POSTS FILLED BY PROMOTION ON RAILWAYS.

139. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that Government in the course of a debate on 13th March, 1939, promised to investigate the complaint that the proportion of posts filled by promotion to those filled by direct recruitment had been increased since the issue of the Resolution of the Government of India in July 1934?

(b) Have any investigations been made since then, and if so, with what result?

(c) Will Government please place on the table of the House, copy of the correspondence which may have been passed between the Home Department and the Railway Department on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Glow: (a) The promise made by the Honourable the Home Member was as follows :

"If any Honourable Member can show me or give me details to convince me that the terms of the 1934 Resolution are not being observed by any Department of the Government of India, I shall be only too pleased to investigate the case."

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative; so far as railways are concerned, the Honourable Member is referred to Mr. D'Souza's report.

(c) No.

OPPORTUNITY TO STORES BRANCH SUBORDINATE STAFF TO WORK AS ASSISTANT-PERSONNEL OFFICER ON STATE RAILWAYS.

140. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a deputation of the Lower Gazetted Services of all State Railways waited on the Chief Commissioner for Railways in Calcutta in 1939-40;

(b) whether it was agreed that the subordinates of the Stores Department will also be given chances to work as Assistant Personnel Officer along with the subordinates of the other departments;

(c) whether instructions have been issued to this effect to all State-managed Railways; and

(d) whether any member of the subordinate staff of the Stores Branch has been appointed as Assistant Personnel Officer since then on any of the State Railways?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Glow: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). No.

(d) No, as far as can be ascertained.

INDIA'S WAR PURCHASES UNDER THE LEASE AND LEND ACT.

141. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad): (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if India is included in the countries to whom America supplies articles under Lease and Lend Act?

(b) What is the total value of the articles India has purchased under the Lease and Lend Act?

(c) Who is the officer in charge of these purchases? How is the selection of the articles made?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) It is not possible to give accurate figures for the value of the goods released to India under the Lease/Lend procedure. Requisitions are made partly by India and partly by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom on behalf of the Empire as a whole. Indents placed by India to the end of January, 1942, amounted in value to roughly Rs. 47 crores, against which goods to the value of Rs. 11 crores are expected to arrive in India during 1941-42.

(c) Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts is in charge of the American Purchases Section in the Supply Department. His function in respect of Lease/Lend requirements is to collect and present the demands to the Indian Purchasing Mission in the United States, the head of which is Sir Shanmukham Chetty. The Mission is responsible for all discussions with the authorities in America. To qualify for Lease/Lend an article must be essential to India's war effort and must be impossible to procure in India or in the sterling area.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to the answer to part (b) of the question, has the United States of America agreed as to the amount which they will give to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As far as I am aware, the United States Administration from time to time obtains the sanction of its Legislature to certain appropriations covering the total amount of their lease-lend transactions, but I do not think that a quota or maximum is allotted to particular countries.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What are the terms of lease and lend so far as it relates to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The terms of lease-lend legislation in America are the same for all countries.

REDUCTION IN PAY OF SWEEPERS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF SUPPLIES, BOMBAY.

142. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pay of the sweepers of the office of the Controller of Supplies, Bombay, has been reduced from Rs. 20 to Rs. 14;

- (b) whether the local rate of pay for sweepers in the offices in Bombay is Rs. 20 per month;
- (c) whether it is not a fact that the Government of India, in their offices in Bombay, follow the rates prevailing in Bombay; and
- (d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, why the sweepers mentioned in part (a) above are not given the rates prevailing in Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information called for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

APPOINTMENTS OF MR. G. TAYLOR AND MR. G. SKILLINGTON IN MATUNGA RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

143. *Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that Messrs. G. Taylor and G. Skillington were covenanted on old scales of pay as "A" class Chargeman and Foreman, respectively, in the Paint Shop and the Building Shop of the Matunga Workshops of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in August 1940?

(b) Is it also a fact that the posts in the Paint Shop and the Building Shop are not specialist posts, nor of special importance connected with war effort?

(c) Why were not locally recruited and trained men appointed to the posts of "A" class Chargeman and Foreman of the Paint Shop and Building Shop?

(d) Why were covenanted workmen recruited to these posts on old scales of pay contrary to the general order that all employees appointed after the 16th July, 1931 should be given revised scales of pay?

(e) Why is the senior Chargeman in the Paint Shop today in receipt of a lower pay than the newly recruited covenanted Chargeman with one year's service and who works under the former?

(f) Will the present difference in salary between the senior Chargeman and the newly covenanted Chargeman constitute a ground for superseding the senior Chargeman in his claim for future promotion?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes.

(b) No, these posts are specialist posts and, along with all other mechanical posts, are of importance to the war effort.

(c) Because no such suitable person was available.

(d) It was recognised even at the time the revised scales of pay were introduced that higher scales might have to be offered in order to obtain suitable men for specialist posts. The old scales of pay were offered in these instances since it was considered that suitable persons would not be attracted by the revised scales.

(e) Because the covenanted chargeman was recruited in the scale usually adopted for such persons, which is higher.

(f) As appointments to which the persons concerned could be promoted are selection posts promotion will depend on the merits of the individuals.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: The Honourable Member just now said in reply to part (d) of the question, that when the revised scales were announced it was "recognised"—what does he mean by that word "recognised", and by whom?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I presume it was recognised by those who framed them.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Were there any orders to that effect, or was there any official communication of that "recognition"?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I am unable to say without notice.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: These words of the Honourable Member like "recognition" spell nothing to me. I want to know whether there are any orders about it, and if there are not, why is it continued today?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I am merely stating a fact that at the time, whoever dealt with the matter, was aware that the new scales of pay might not be suitable to all cases. That is frequently done; in framing scales of pay, one recognises one might have to give substantially higher salaries in certain cases.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform me whether there is any difference between a senior chargeman and an A class chargeman?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I should require notice of that.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: It is down here in part (e) of my question. "Why is the senior Chargeman in the Paint Shop today in receipt of a lower pay than the newly recruited covenanted Chargeman and who is working under him?"

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I have given an answer to that.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: No. I repeat, one is working over the other and he gets a lower pay, why?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I have given an answer to that already.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Is it or is it not a fact that he has, according to his budget speech, stopped recruiting British officials on railways? If so, will he kindly explain why he has not suspended such recruitment for subordinates?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I do not think I referred to the matter in my budget speech. I dealt with it in the debates on the budget and said that we had suspended recruitment of the European officers.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member still answer my question, why, if he had suspended that for officials, he has not suspended it for subordinates?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Because in the case of the officers we are able to obtain Indian officers and we have men who can do the work. For the subordinates grade we were not able to obtain in India the necessary candidates.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Is it or is it not

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss the matter now.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I am asking some other question. Is it or is it not a fact that during wartime you get nothing but the dregs of the English workshops to come out, none but the fifth class men would come out. Is it or is it not a fact?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: If the Honourable Member means by that, that we have recruited only dregs, then I must emphatically deny it.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I most emphatically say that you will have them if you are going to recruit outside.

Is the Honourable Member aware that locally recruited men—I am talking of all communities—in these workshops have often been officiating in the higher appointments as foremen, as we have just heard today, for five years, and when that appointment is to be confirmed, a covenanted man is brought in and put over these senior men,—a man who is almost half their age?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Some of the men brought in have certainly been young, but I have not got their ages.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I won't allow any more supplementary questions on this as it has been fully investigated. Next question.

APPOINTMENTS OF MR. G. TAYLOR AND MR. G. SKILLINGTON IN MATUNGA RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

144. *Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that recruitment of Chargemen and Foremen for non-specialist posts on higher rates of pay referred to in the preceding question deprives locally recruited senior and loyal workers in Indian Railway Workshops of their legitimate promotions?

(b) Do Government propose to give full consideration to the legitimate claims of the locally recruited and trained men?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to parts (b) and (c) of the preceding question.

(b) Persons are not recruited from outside India if suitable candidates are available locally.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Does the Honourable Member mean to say that after nearly a hundred years administration of Indian railways

the workshops are barren of men to man these appointments? If he does, we had better get rid of these British chargemen.

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

TENURES OF ASSISTANT POST MASTERS GENERAL IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER POSTAL CIRCLE.

145. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member please state whether it is a fact that the posts of Assistant Post Masters General are tenure posts and cannot be held for more than five years at a time by any one officer under the rules framed by the Government of India?

(b) Will he kindly state if this period of five years has always been observed in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to rigidly observe this rule in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle? If not, do they consider that there are no other fit officers in that Circle who can replace those who have already held the post for five years?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

AWARD OF GRACE MARKS TO CERTAIN FAILED CANDIDATES IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER POSTAL CIRCLE.

146. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member please state if it is a fact that recruitment to the cadre of Inspector of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service is made through a competitive examination held by the Posts and Telegraphs Department every year?

(b) Is he aware that candidates recruited in the subordinate services of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are placed on probation for a period of two years and have to pass a confirmation test before being confirmed in their appointments?

(c) Is it a fact that those who fail to pass the confirmation test are given a second opportunity to pass the same test?

(d) Will he please state the number of candidates in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle who failed in the examination referred to in parts (b) and (c) above once or twice during the last three years?

(e) Is it a fact that some of the failed candidates in the said examinations were pushed up by awarding grace marks in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle? If so, will Government please state under what orders the grace marks were awarded by the Post Master General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, and what was the criterion for awarding these grace marks?

(f) Do Government consider that the award of grace marks to failed candidates is fair in the case of competitive examination?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) Yes. The examination is, however, open only to departmental officials belonging to certain categories.

(b) Candidates recruited to the subordinate services of telegraphists, clerks, sorters and telephone operators are placed on probation for one year. All candidates appointed as second grade clerks or sorters on probation in any branch of the Department are required to pass the confirmation examination.

(c) Yes.

(d) 36.

(e) No candidates declared to have failed were allowed any grace marks. In the case of five candidates the examiners allowed some additional marks varying from one to three on a review of the papers before the results were declared.

(f) Does not arise.

RESIGNED SORTERS RE-EMPLOYED IN THE POSTAL AND ENGINEERING CADRE IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER POSTAL CIRCLE.

147. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member please state if it is a fact that the officers of the Railway Mail Service are not eligible for transfer to the Postal and Engineering cadres of the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) Is it a fact that a person who resigns from Government service in the Posts and Telegraphs Department cannot be re-employed without passing the competitive examination for recruitment to the posts of clerks, etc.?

(c) Is it a fact that some permanent sorters of the Railway Mail Service in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle have been re-employed in the Postal and Engineering cadres after they had resigned from the Railway Mail Service, while such requests from others in similar circumstances were rejected by the Post Master General, Punjab, during the last four years?

(d) If the reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for this differential treatment in one and the same Circle?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to subordinate and clerical services of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The position is that in these subordinate services transfers from one branch to another are not ordinarily permissible but in special circumstances such transfers are made in the interests of administration or by mutual exchange.

(b) There are no explicit orders on the point raised by the Honourable Member, and the question of clarifying the position in this respect is under consideration.

(c) and (d). Information has been called for and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

DISCHARGED TELEGRAPHIST CANDIDATES IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER POSTAL CIRCLE.

148. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member please state if it is a fact that telegraphists recruited in the Posts and Telegraphs Department have to undergo a training for one year before confirmation?

(b) Is it a fact that this period of training can be extended by three months in case a candidate fails to pass the prescribed test at the expiry of one year?

(c) Is it a fact that candidates who fail to pass the test on two occasions are required to be removed from service?

(d) Will Government please state the number of telegraphist candidates who failed twice during the last four years in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle and were subsequently discharged from the Department?

(e) Is it a fact that certain Muslim candidates so discharged in the Punjab and North West Frontier Circle were again re-employed in other cadres of the Posts and Telegraphs Department while non-Muslims were totally discharged?

(f) If so, will Government please state the reasons for the re-employment of these candidates? Why was differential treatment meted out to the non-Muslim telegraphist candidates in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Candidates recruited for appointment as telegraphists have to undergo a training for one year before appointment, and not before confirmation.

(b) Yes.

(c) Any outside candidate who fails to pass the test is struck off the list of approved candidates for appointment as telegraphists and any departmental candidate who fails reverts to his substantive appointment in the Department.

(d) Three.

(e) There was one entirely exceptional case.

(f) The candidate concerned was selected as a telegraphist although he had not applied for this appointment. When he failed to pass the test it was held that his original selection was irregular and the error was rectified by allotting him to a postal unit in which he had applied originally for appointment. Of the two men whose names were removed from the list of approved candidates, one was a Muslim and one a Hindu. There was no differential treatment.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know the total number of telegraphists recruited on the last occasion?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I should require notice of that.

CURTAILMENT OF HOLIDAYS IN LUCKNOW DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

149. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the General Manager, East Indian Railway, issued orders that only holidays declared so under the Negotiable Instruments Act should be observed?

(b) Is it a fact that certain holidays declared under the Negotiable Instruments Act have been curtailed in the Lucknow Division?

(c) Is it a fact that certain Muslim holidays have been substituted for Hindu holidays?

(d) Is it a fact that *Alwida* holiday in the Lucknow division has been recently curtailed?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

OUT-OF-TURN PROMOTIONS IN ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

150. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the East Indian Railway Administration has introduced the policy of out-of-turn promotion in the Accounts Department?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many such promotions have been made during the period January 1941 to January 1942, and how many of them have been given to Muslims?

(c) Is it the intention of Government to adopt a uniform policy of out-of-turn promotion in the Accounts Department and the other Departments as well?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) and (b). I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The question has not been considered.

PAY DEDUCTIONS FOR *JUMA* PRAYER LEAVE IN EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

151. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India have issued order that pay should not be deducted for leave granted for *Juma* prayers to Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that pay is being deducted for such leave of Muslim employees of the East Indian Railway workshops.

(c) Is it a fact that, in spite of Government orders, pay of the subordinate staff in the Railway workshops for such leave for *Juma* prayers is being deducted and this affects their Provident Fund subscriptions?

(d) Do Government propose to see that their orders on this matter are complied with?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) No, the orders state nothing about pay but provide for time lost being made up, if necessary.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no contravention of Government orders.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: If a Muslim employee goes to offer his *Juma* prayers and spends two hours, is his pay for those two hours deducted or whether he is allowed to work on some other day for that period of time?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I cannot give the details, but he does not get paid for that time.

**UNQUALIFIED EMPLOYEES PROMOTED AS MISTRI IN LOCO. WORKSHOP,
LUCKNOW.**

152. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that a Selection Board for promotion to Mistri's post in Inspection Shop of the East Indian Railway Loco. Shop, Lucknow, was held in 1939, as a result of which only two employees were declared qualified?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees who were declared unqualified have been promoted ignoring the claims of qualified candidates?

(c) Is it a fact that in the interest of certain candidates the standard of qualification for promotion was reduced?

(d) Is it a fact that this policy was not adopted in cases of promotion in other shops for the same work?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state how many such promotions have been made in the East Indian Railway Loco. Workshop, Lucknow, during 1939, 1940 and 1941?

(f) Is it a fact that the employees so promoted have subsequently not been considered suitable by other officers?

(g) Is it a fact that no uniform policy is followed in the Carriage and Wagon Shop, East Indian Railway, Lucknow, but the promotions are awarded by officers as they think fit?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state how many promotions in the East Indian Railway Carriage and Wagon Shop, Lucknow, have been made for efficiency, seniority and suitability from January 1940 to December 1941, stating the number of Muslims, Hindus and members of other communities concerned, separately?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) and (b). I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) to (f). I have no reason for supposing that a reduction in standard was made at any shop merely to benefit particular candidates or that promotions have been made on this system at Lucknow; but the administration will be asked if the standard was lowered and if so, for what reason.

(g) and (h). I regret that I cannot undertake to have all the promotions examined over a period of two years. The general policy on the railways is to fill certain posts by seniority and others by selection and the administration will be asked if this is the practice in the shops in question.

PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOP, LUCKNOW.

153. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Works Manager, Carriage and Wagon Shop, Lucknow, in 1941 for the first time permitted Hindu employees to recite *Kirtan* in the Shop during working hours?

(b) Is it a fact that in spite of the protest from non-Hindu employees, the Hindu workers in the Carriage and Wagon Shop, Lucknow, are permitted to observe religious ceremonies in the shop?

(c) Is it a fact that the Works Manager, Carriage and Wagon Shop, Lucknow, recently issued an office notice permitting employees and outsiders to observe *Shivratri*?

(d) Is it a fact that the Muslim employees were not permitted to hold any *Majlis* or *Milad* in spite of their repeated applications?

(e) Do Government propose to enquire into the whole matter and give equal opportunities to Hindu and Muslim employees for observing their religious festivities in the workshop or stop both communities from doing so in future?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MEDICAL OFFICERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

27. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the number of Assistant Surgeons, Assistant Medical Officers and District (or Divisional) Medical Officers on North Western, Great Indian Peninsula, East Indian, and Bengal and Assam Railways, separately?

(b) What are the medical qualifications prescribed for the Assistant Surgeons, Assistant Medical Officers and District (or Divisional) Medical Officers for the State Railways?

(c) Is the recruitment to the District (or Divisional) Medical Officers made direct or is any percentage of the posts filled up by promotion from the cadre of Assistant Surgeons? If so, what is that percentage? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) The following statement gives the required information:

Railway.	D.M.O.	A.M.O.	Asst. Surgeon.
B. & A.	7	1	26
E. I.	9	2	16
G. I. P.	7	5	17
N. W.	7	2	23

(b) The minimum qualifications required of candidates for appointment as Assistant Surgeons are given in Rule 58 of Appendix II to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Candidates for recruitment as District Medical Officers are required to possess qualifications registrable under the Medical Acts in force in Great Britain and Northern Ireland or have a medical degree of a British Indian University. No qualifications have been prescribed for recruitment to Assistant Medical Officers as there is no direct recruitment to this grade.

(c) Posts of District Medical Officers are filled partly by direct recruitment and partly by promotion. 20 per cent. of the posts of District or Divisional Medical Officers filled in India are reserved for the promotion of qualified and suitable Assistant Medical Officers and Assistant Surgeons. The last part of the question does not arise.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF TRAIN EXAMINERS, "ELECTRIC" OF GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

28. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state :

- (a) the classification for the purpose of medical examination and re-examination of the railway officials known on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway as Train Examiners, "Electric" after 1932 and before 1932;
- (b) whether any of these staff were sent to the Medical Department for re-examination and, if so, under what class they were sent;
- (c) whether the classification of these officials was published for information of the staff through the Weekly Notices and, if so, in what Weekly Notices;
- (d) whether there is any difference in the classification of these officials and that of ordinary Train Examiners; and
- (e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member give the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) The designation "Train Examiner Electrical" was introduced from 14th March, 1940. Prior to this the designation of this class of staff was Electric Chargeman. Prior to December 1932 the classification for Medical Examination of Electric Chargeman was B. I. but it was then changed to C. I.

(b) None of them were so sent after the classification was changed to C. I.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) The reason for the difference in classification between "Train Examiners Electrical" and "Ordinary Train Examiners" is that Train Examiners Electrical are employed in sheds or sick sidings and not on the open line like ordinary Train Examiners.

DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN MILLS MANUFACTURING TENTAGE AND TENTAGE FABRICATORS.

29. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons why differentiation is being made between the mills which manufacture tentage and tentage fabricators; and
- (b) the reasons why the mills are being given prices for the manufacture of tents different from those given to fabricators?

The Honourable Sir Homi Mody: (a) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the fact that mills are to be given fixed quotas for approximately a year while fabricators are to be called on to tender at quarterly intervals. The reason for the differentiation is that it is necessary that the Mills concerned should know what quantity of tent materials they will be called upon to manufacture throughout the year and so be in a position to arrange their Mill production programme.

(b) Although business will be distributed differently to Mills and to fabricators there will not necessarily be any difference in prices. The "ceiling prices" for fabricators will be the price to be paid to Mills.

DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN MILLS MANUFACTURING TENTAGE AND TENTAGE FABRICATORS.

30. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that in tender No. SY/CX/2DD/1556, dated 14th January, 1942, the mills are being allotted tentage for the years and the tentage fabricators will be allotted tents for three months at a time; and
- (b) whether mills are being given a fixed price for tentage manufacture, whilst the tentage fabricators will be asked to tender each time?

The Honourable Sir Homi Mody: (a) Supply Department's letter No. S Y./C. X.-2-D. D./1556, dated 8rd January, (not 14th January) 1942, is an invitation to tender to tent fabricators only. It is correct that Mills are being allotted tentage on an annual basis and fabricators on a quarterly basis.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to question No. 29 of date.

DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN MILLS MANUFACTURING TENTAGE AND TENTAGE FABRICATORS.

31. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) if he is aware that the mills, which manufacture tents, are being given orders for the year at fixed prices, whilst the tent fabricators are being asked to quote lowest prices and those, whose prices may be high, are penalised by reducing their quotas by 15 per cent. in the first tender, 30 per cent. in the second tender and 50 per cent. in the third tender; and
- (b) whether it is not a fact that in November, 1939 the number of tentage manufacturers was fifteen and the prices were then high but these prices were gradually reduced as the number of tentage manufacturers increased?

The Honourable Sir Homi Mody: (a) Tentage quotas are being allocated to Mills on an annual basis for 1942, but not at fixed prices firm for the year. Mills will receive "ceiling prices" calculated quarterly in relation to the prices previously paid, the intervening variants in the cost of production, the competitive prices thrown up by tender, and any other relevant factors. Tent fabricators on the other hand are being asked to tender on a competitive basis. Those quoting above the "ceiling prices", will have their quotas reduced as stated in the question.

(b) There were only seven tentage contractors in November, 1939. It is difficult to make an accurate record of the movement of the prices of various types of tentage, owing to numerous changes in design which affect the quantity of material used and the dyeing and labour charges. Prices rose between October, 1939, and January, 1940, but, subsequently, declined with competition for the business and expanding production. The current prices of raw materials have put the prices of tents up again.

PRICES FOR TENTAGE.

32. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing prices for tentage paid by Government since its first order was given to date for every interval of three months?

The Honourable Sir Homi Mody: I regret that it is not possible to give the information asked for, because:

- (1) orders for tentage cover a large variety of types, and each type is made up of several components which are produced as separate units;
- (2) contracts have not been placed at regular intervals of three months;
- (3) the prices for individual components reflect changes in design and in the prices of materials which cannot be shown in a complete form in any statement;
- (4) the labour involved in compiling a statement would be incommensurate with the result.

EXTENSIONS TO ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ON RAILWAYS.

33. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of officers, European, Anglo-Indian and Indian, in the engineering departments, who have been given extension of service, although they have reached the age of fifty-four, on the various Railways;
- (b) the number of Engineering graduates, European, Anglo-Indian and Indian, who are at present receiving practical training, or serving as subordinates in different branches on the various Railways;
- (c) how many of them are being qualified for being recruited as junior officers; and
- (d) in case there are candidates who are already qualified why are they not recruited, particularly in view of the fact that extension is being given to officers reaching the age of retirement?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) Ten officers of the Engineering Departments of the various State-managed Railways have been given extensions beyond their age of superannuation. Of these, two are Europeans, one Anglo-Indian and seven Indians.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and a further reply will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) Government see no reason to alter their present policy in respect of recruitment as they consider it inadvisable to make alterations designed solely to meet present and temporary difficulties. Extensions of service are being given solely so that officers can be spared for war service without impairing efficiency.

CASES UNDER THE PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT IN MORADABAD DIVISION.

34. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board in their letter No. 2447-F., dated the 26th January, 1925, delegated powers to the General Manager, East Indian Railway, to sanction expenditure subject to the observance of the canons of financial propriety;
- (b) whether it is a fact that one of the canons of financial propriety is that every public officer should exercise the same vigilance in respect of expenditure incurred from Government revenues as a person of ordinary prudence would exercise in respect of the expenditure of his own money;
- (c) the expenditure in each case under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, incurred in 1940, 1941 and to date in 1942 by the Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway;
- (d) the amount of relief claimed in each case by Railway servants;
- (e) the names of the counsels and the amount paid to each of them by the Railway;
- (f) whether the counsels (in addition to the Standing Railway Counsel) were engaged by the Railway on the suggestion or recommendation of:
 - (i) the District Judge;
 - (ii) the District Magistrate;
 - (iii) the Government Pleader; or
 - (iv) the Local Government of the United Provinces;
- (g) the counsels' fee prescribed by the Government in accordance with the provisions of section 26(3) (j) of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936;
- (h) the terms of the agreement made between the counsels (in addition to the Standing Railway Counsel) and the Railway engaging their services in each case;
- (i) whether the local civil authority (District Judge) was consulted regarding the payments made to the counsels (in addition to the Standing Railway Counsel) by the Railway; if not, why not; and
- (j) whether the payments to the counsels (in addition to the Standing Railway Counsel) by the Railway were against the canons of financial propriety?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (e). Government have particulars only of the payments to counsel. These were:

	Rs. s. p.
to Mr. Kedar Nath	900 0 0
Mr. J. K. Mathur	449 7 0

(d) The total claims amounted to Rs. 11,124/10/-. Government have no details regarding each case.

(f) No. Other expenditure, if any, must have been small.

(g) Government have no information of the scale of costs fixed by the United Provinces Government, but Government do not fix scales of fees to be paid to counsel.

(h) Government have not these particulars.

(i) No, as Railways always have made their own arrangements for conducting their legal work.

(j) No. I have no reason for supposing this to be the case.

SCALES OF PAY OF APPOINTED AND RE-APPOINTED STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

35. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the scales of pay (old, 1928, or revised 1934) applicable to the staff appointed and re-appointed, respectively, on the East Indian Railway on or after the 15th July, 1931 and whether the Railway is competent to give the old scales of pay to those entitled to the revised 1934 scales of pay on re-appointment?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: With regard to the first part, the Honourable Member is referred to the replies to questions Nos. 489 and 788 asked on 23rd February, 1935 and 25th February, 1936, respectively. As regards the latter part of the question the pay granted to any employee on re-appointment is governed by the orders applicable to his case.

RE-EMPLOYED STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

36. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of staff re-employed in gazetted and non-gazetted posts, separately, on the East Indian Railway since September 1939 in furtherance of the war; and

(b) the scales of pay (old, 1928, or revised, 1934) given to them?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) No Gazetted staff have been re-employed on the East Indian Railway. Information concerning non-gazetted staff is being obtained and a further reply will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) The pay to be given to re-employed staff is regulated by the orders in Railway Board's letter No. E41WA272/2, of 2nd October, 1941, a copy of which is being placed on the table of the House.

COPY OF RAILWAY BOARD'S LETTER No. E-41-WA-272/2, DATED THE 2ND OCTOBER, 1941, TO THE GENERAL MANAGERS, E.B., E.I., G.I.P. AND N. W. RAILWAYS.

Terms for retired Officers and Non-Gazetted Staff on Temporary re-employment during the War.

The Railway Board have had under consideration the terms and conditions of service which should be applicable to retired gazetted and non-gazetted staff who may be offered temporary re-employment during the war. They have now decided that such staff should be employed on the terms indicated in Form No. 11 appearing in Appendix XXIV, page 377 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, headed "Form of Declaration to be signed by temporary Engineers". All employees should sign a suitable Declaration of this type.

2. As regards the pay and allowances to be drawn by such staff, I am to communicate the sanction of the Governor General in Council to the following :

(i) A retired railway servant offered re-employment should be given the pay of the post to which he is appointed. If the post to which he is appointed is on an incremental scale of pay identical with that attached to the substantive post from which he retired, he should be given pay equal to his substantive pay at the time of retirement and an increment on completing twelve months' service after re-employment. If the incremental scale of pay attached to the post to which he is appointed is lower than that of the post he held substantively at the time of retirement, he will draw the maximum of the lower incremental scale.

If the post to which he is appointed is a temporary one and is borne on the cadre of an existing railway service, it will carry the scale of pay (old or revised) to which the re-employed officer would have been entitled prior to his retirement.

(ii) *Pensionable staff.*—General Managers may at their discretion fix the pay of individual employees on their re-employment in accordance with the principles laid down in Article 521 of the C. S. R., *vide* Rule 2611 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume II, taking into consideration the pay drawn by each employee prior to his retirement.

(iii) *Allowances.*—Re-employed staff will also be eligible for such compensatory and house rent allowances as may be admissible to other railway servants.

RE-EMPLOYED STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

37. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the staff on the East Indian Railway discharged in 1933 and re-employed in Railway units in furtherance of war are entitled to the pay in Railway units equivalent to the pay they would have become entitled to, had they not been discharged? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part they hold no lien on any civil post and cannot, therefore, be treated like persons who hold such liens.

CATERING CONTRACTORS AND VENDING LICENSES ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

38. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that the Central Advisory Council for Railways in 1936 considered that the following general principles should be followed:

- (i) contractors and vending licenses who have rendered and are rendering satisfactory service should not be replaced; and
- (ii) further contracts for Indian catering should not be given to any firm which holds area contracts extending over two divisions on the same railway or an equivalent area?

(b) Will he be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the contractors and vending licenses on the East Indian Railway:

- (i) who were replaced by Eshwardas Ballabhdas with the date of replacement;
- (ii) the period for which they held their contracts and licenses before replacement; and,
- (iii) the nature of unsatisfactory service during that period upon which they were replaced?

(c) Will he be pleased to state the reasons for giving further contracts extending over more than two divisions to Eshwardas Ballabhdas?

(d) Was the local advisory committee consulted and did they agree that further contracts extending over two divisions be given to Eshwardas Ballabhdas? If not consulted, why not?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) No.

(b) The information is not available with Government.

(c) I understand that since the Central Advisory Council's recommendations of March, 1940, were accepted by Government and conveyed to Railways, no further contracts for Indian Catering have been given to this Firm.

(d) Does not arise.

CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS OPENED BY EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

39. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the East Indian Railway has opened cheap grain shops on the Railway;

(b) the stations whereat they are opened;

(c) the owners of those shops;

(d) the terms of the agreement between the Railway and the owners;
and

(e) by whom and how rates or tariff is controlled?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes.

(b) At Lucknow, Cawnpore, Jamalpur, Lillooah and Howrah.

(c) Messrs. Ballabdas Ewardas and Rai Bahadur Saligram and Sons.

(d) The grain will be carried at public rates, the concessions given are rent-free buildings for shops, free water and light, free carting of grain from wagons to shops, payment of wages of shop attendants up to a maximum of Rs. 100 per mensem. The grain is to be sold only to railway employees.

(e) The contractors are required to sell grains at prices notified by Provincial Governments.

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES AT SHAHDARA DELHI POST OFFICE.

40. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state the reasons for:

(a) not installing a public telephone call office within the Post Office, Shahdara, Delhi;

(b) not changing the building of the Post Office, Shahdara, Delhi;
and

(c) not extending the facilities of the delivery of telegrams to the population of Shahdara, Delhi, as are enjoyed by a lesser population within five miles from the Delhi Telegraph Office?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) There was not evidence of a sufficient demand but steps are being taken to open a public telephone call office at Shahdara.

(b) No change in the building is possible till its lease expires on 31st August, 1942.

(c) Delivery facilities are enjoyed by the population of Shahdara-Delhi within five miles of Delhi telegraph office.

CONVICTED RAILWAY STAFF RETAINED IN SERVICE IN MORADABAD DIVISION.

41. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railway servants are liable to summary dismissal on conviction and sentence by a criminal court;
- (b) whether it is a fact that conviction and sentence of fine under the Gambling Act is a conviction and sentence by a criminal court;
- (c) whether it is a fact that certain staff on Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway, were convicted and sentenced under the Gambling Act by the criminal court, if so, whether they are still in service; and
- (d) if the replies to parts (a) to (c) be in the negative, what are the real facts?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) I have no particulars of any such cases but would observe that every conviction by a criminal court does not necessarily merit the dismissal of the person convicted.

(d) Does not arise.

HIGHER TEA CUP RATE OF MESSRS. SPENCER AND CO. ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

42. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the terms of agreement between the East Indian Railway and the contractors for tea stalls provide for the sale of cigarettes in tins and in packets without exhibition of the tariff rates for these at the stalls?

(b) Is it a fact that Messrs. G. F. Kellner & Company, Limited, Refreshment Rooms Contractors, East Indian Railway, retail a cup of tea at anna one only?

(c) Is it a fact that Messrs. Spencer and Company, Limited, Refreshment Rooms contractor, North Western Railway, sell a cup of tea at annas two?

(d) What are the reasons for the difference in rates?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) The necessity of exhibiting tariffs is not included in agreements on the East Indian Railway.

(b) Yes.

(c) I understand that the same charge of one anna per cup of tea with milk and sugar mixed is levied on the North Western Railway as on the East Indian Railway. There appears to be a printing error in the North Western Railway's Time and Fare Table in force from October, 1941, which will be corrected.

(d) Does not arise.

CONVERTED INTERMEDIATE GRADE POSTS IN LUCKNOW AND MORADABAD DIVISIONS.

43. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that certain posts of lower grades to which communal reservation applies have now been converted into intermediate grades in Lucknow and Moradabad Divisions on the East Indian Railway?

(b) Will the Honourable Member further state the total number of such vacancies which have been allotted to each Division?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of the converted posts which have gone to Muslims and non-Muslims in each Division separately for each community?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have no knowledge of any such concession, but am making inquiries and a further reply will be laid on the table in due course.

STORE APPRENTICES AND IMPROVERS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

44. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state how many store apprentices and improvers in the East Indian Railway have been appointed during 1941 and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

AVENUE OF PROMOTION FOR ASSISTANT SURGEONS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

45. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member kindly state whether there is any rule regarding the ordinary avenue of promotion to higher grade for Assistant Surgeons on the State Railways; if so, what?

(b) In case there is no Assistant Surgeon with over seventeen years of service on any State Railway and if a vacancy for promotion to higher grade occurs, what procedure is adopted in such cases?

(c) What is the total number of Assistant Medical Officers and District Medical Officers on each State Railway, separately, and how many of them are Muslims?

(d) How many Assistant Surgeons (now in service) have been promoted as Assistant Medical Officers and District Medical Officers and how many years of service had they put in before they were promoted?

(e) Were there any Assistant Surgeons senior to those persons who were promoted to the rank of Assistant Medical Officer or District Medical Officer? If so, how many and why were they superseded?

(f) Were those senior Assistant Surgeons, who have been superseded by their juniors, given sufficient trial before such supersession was allowed? If not, why not?

(g) Is there any rule why an Assistant Surgeon after crossing the efficiency bar cannot be declared eligible for promotion to the rank of Assistant Medical Officer and District Medical Officer?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes, rule 61 of Appendix II to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) This is a hypothetical question, but Assistant Surgeons with less than seventeen years' service can be considered for promotion on their merits.

(c)

Railway.	District Medical Officers.		Assistant Medical Officers.	
	Total.	Muslims.	Total.	Muslims.
B & A	7	..	1	1
B., B. & C. I.	8	1
E. I.	9	1	2	..
G. I. P.	7	..	5	..
N. W.	7	2	2	..

(d) Such information as is available with Government is contained in the History of Services. It can be assumed that medical officers shown as having held non-gazetted appointments were formerly Assistant Surgeons.

(e) These particulars are not available with Government.

(f) As the appointments of Assistant Medical Officers are filled by selection, and the Railways concerned have the records of all the eligible candidates before them, there is no necessity to try all the men out in the posts before being promoted.

(g) It is necessary that the most suitable man should be promoted and Government do not contemplate taking the action suggested.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS.

SECOND STAGE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In connection with the Second Stage of the General Budget, I understand that the Leaders of Parties have agreed, amongst themselves, to the following time-table.

The Congress Nationalists will move their cut motions today up to 3-30 P.M.; the remainder of the sitting being taken up by motions standing in the names of Unattached Members. The Chair further understands that if the Nationalists find it necessary, and if no Unattached Member objects, the Nationalists may be allowed half an hour more today, that is, up to 4 P.M.

On Saturday, the 7th March, the Independent Party will move their cut motions up to 3-15 P.M. After that the Muslim League Party will have the remainder of the meeting as well as the time on Tuesday, the 10th March, up to 1-15 P.M. to move their cut motions.

Finally, after the lunch interval up to 5 P.M. on Tuesday, the 10th March, the European Group will move their cut motions.

[Mr. President.]

As regards the time for speeches, I suggest that, as usual, fifteen minutes be given for speeches other than those of the Mover and the Government Members: the Mover will have twenty minutes and the Government Member twenty minutes or even more, if necessary. I hope this will suit Honourable Members.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I say a word about this arrangement as regards the Unattached Members, as I am one of those Members, and also as regards the time given to the Unattached Members, that is, from 3-30 to 5 P.M. today. I am quite agreeable to this arrangement, but I find from the List which is published that Mr. Kazmi's name comes first and mine comes second. I do not know who is responsible for this, but I gave notice of my cut motions long before Mr. Kazmi did. I would like to know how this arrangement was arrived at.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Office obtained this arrangement from the Government Whip.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not under the Government Whip. I have got a suggestion to make as regards this point, and it is this. Any arrangement which may be arrived at in this matter should be arrived at in the presence of the Chair, so that . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You mean the whole House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not say "before the whole House", but if a different meeting is to take place, it should take place . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member does not accept this arrangement, it is another matter. I will put it to the House generally.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If Mr. Kazmi wants to move his cut motion, I am prepared to accommodate him; but I do not like the way in which this arrangement has been arrived at. I am interested in the subject which Mr. Kazmi wants to discuss and I am prepared to accommodate him, but I object to the method in which the arrangement was arrived at.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Perhaps the position may be explained by some Government Member. I do not know anything about it.

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney (Leader of the House): So far as I am concerned, I must say that if Mr. Joshi wants precedence, we have no objection to it and I believe Mr. Kazmi also will accept that suggestion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am prepared to accommodate Mr. Kazmi.

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney: Government is prepared to do that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand Mr. Joshi's objection is that the arrangement was arrived at behind his back

and without his knowledge. I must suggest that whenever such arrangements are made as many Members belonging to different Groups should be consulted as possible.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am prepared to give precedence to Mr. Kazmi.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let me explain the rest of the arrangement. The Chair has also been supplied with an agreed programme of the order in which selected cut motions will be moved by the different Parties. For the convenience of Honourable Members copies of this agreed programme were made available to them last night. In accordance with these arrangements, and in order to enable the Nationalist Party to move their cut motion No. 42 on the Final List, the Chair will call upon the Finance Member to move the motion in respect of Demand No. 11. But before the Honourable the Finance Member moves the motion, I must point out that cut motion No. 18 of the Nationalist Party is not in order. That cut motion seeks to discuss the question of amendment of law of contempt. Honourable Members know that in these cut motions the question of amending any law cannot be discussed. All that can be discussed is the administration of the law as it stands.

Similarly, there is another cut motion of the Nationalist Party (No. 84). To this also my attention has been drawn and I must rule that it is not in order. That motion is in the name of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. He wants to move:

"That the demand under the head Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department be reduced by Rs. 100. (Curtailement of the privileges of Members—Procedure regarding questions and right of reply to mover of an amendment)."

So far as this matter is concerned, the President acts according to the Rules and Standing Orders. If there is anything wrong in the Standing Order, then there is a special procedure provided for amending the Standing Order. So far as the way in which the Chair discharges its duty is concerned, it cannot be the subject of a cut motion like this. That question has to be raised by a substantive motion. This is a well-known Parliamentary practice and it has been enunciated in this House more than once.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I make a submission, Sir, on the last observation that you were pleased to make? I did not seek to make any amendment, because that could only be done according to the procedure, but if hardships are felt they may be expressed, with your permission. If there are defects in the working of these arrangements, they can be expressed with your permission, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That, the Honourable Member can raise only by a substantive motion. The Honourable Member cannot discuss the way in which the Chair exercises its duties either as the President of the Assembly Department or in the House except by a substantive motion. That is well established if the Honourable Member will look up the rulings.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I thought I could express my feelings in the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, that cannot be done on a motion like this. Demand No. 11.

DEMAND NO. 11—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,63,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,63,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

Repatriation of Sterling Debt.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, if the House will turn to page 28 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Budget, Honourable Members will find that the total foreign debt of this country in the budget year is expected to be Rs. 117.28 crores which consists of four items, loans, war contribution, capital portion of Annuities created in purchase of Railways and service funds. Last year that amount stood at Rs. 240.60 crores, that is the current, that is the last budget year. Now, Sir, since then the House has known of two repatriation schemes. I submit that the House is entitled to know more about what is the result of that repatriation, how far it has affected Indian revenues and whether a cheaper method of repatriation could not have been adopted. Last year our long dated debt, terminable debt, was repatriated and this year the remaining debt which was interminable is repatriated except £70 millions of 3½ per cent loan about which notice has been given.

I will very briefly summarise what the result of the last repatriation scheme was. About £100 millions was the amount of that debt when originally incurred which remained at £96 millions in 1940 and at the time of repatriation £84 millions. So, the last scheme of compulsory repatriation comprised a debt of £84 millions. Often the figures change because of the different dates from which you study. But these are roughly the figures I have been able to obtain. I divide the repatriation question into three different parts. What was the amount which we had to pay when we raised the loan; what was the amount we received when we raised the loan; and what was the amount we have to pay when we terminated; and whether there was any occasion in between the raising of it and the repaying of it when it was cheaper to repatriate. On that matter, I have already given full details to the House during the last Session and, therefore, I do not want to go into them again; but I wish to sum up the results. When we obtained these loans, we got about £11 millions loss which comes to about 15 crores of rupees. When I raised that point, the Honourable the Finance Member was pleased to say that this should not be

regarded as any loss because that discount was necessitated by the market conditions. His idea is that although we got £85 for £100 scrips it was cheaper; the money conditions being what they were, the £15 could not be said to be a loss at all. Well, Sir, if when we raise the loan we are to be guided by the market rates and the rate of interest and, therefore, 15 crores of rupees were a legitimate expense about which we cannot complain, then the same argument should apply when the market rates are cheaper.

I pointed out that at the beginning of the war and for many months thereafter, the market rate of these loans was very low. It went down sometimes to 82, sometimes a little more or a little higher, it also went up to 96, 99 and so on. Well, when the money conditions were favourable to us, when 82 was the rate and why should we not have repatriated then? If owing to market conditions we must pay 15 per cent. discount on some of the loans, and if we thus pay £11 millions as that amount of discount, then I am also entitled to say that when the market rate is favourable, we should also get the benefit of repurchasing it at 82. But that procedure was not adopted and the reason given was that there was not enough sterling reserves available in London. As a result, we had to pay eight crores more than the debt itself, because Rs. 112 crores was the value of the debt repatriated and Rs. 120 crores was estimated by the Honourable the Finance Member himself in his last year's budget speech as the amount to be paid. How did it happen that we had to pay eight crores more when we returned the loan and we received about 15 crores less when we raised it. Why is it that during the intermediate period when the market was favourable to us to the extent of nearly 18 per cent, in some cases and more or less in other, why could we not have obtained the advantages of market conditions and thereby recouped some of the loss which we made by way of discount when the loans were raised. Therefore, I submitted last time that in these matters at the time of raising the loan, we lost 14 to 15 crores, at the time of repayment we lost eight crores, in between the period we had opportunities when we could have repatriated it at much lower rate and I put the total of these three stages as a dead loss to India of Rs. 35 crores on loans of Rs. 133 crores. That means that we have really to pay 25 per cent. extra for the honour of being a privileged borrower in the London money market.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Will the Honourable Member kindly explain again what was the third element?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The third element is the opportunities that offered in between repatriation and the raising of the loans when the market conditions being in our favour we could have bought them out at a cheaper rate.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Then what is the second element?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That was the discount when we paid the loans.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That was the first.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The second is the opportunities which we got between the raising of the loan and its repatriation when the market conditions being in our favour

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In the Honourable Member's extraordinary arithmetic I understand there are three sums involved. The first is the discount, the second is the money that we ought to have made but did not. I want to understand what the third element is, which brings the total loss to 35 crores.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The third element is that at the time of repatriation you had raised the market price by open market operations so much that you had to pay eight crores extra. These are the three stages. And here I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that in 1921 Government raised a loan of ten million at seven per cent. and when it was pointed out by the public that the rate was outrageous they were so much ashamed that they were forced to convert it into three per cent but issued two pieces of a hundred where a hundred was due. I should like to know what that loss is and how much more India has paid.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I wish the Honourable Member would refer me to the basis for his facts.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am giving this from the admission of the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett himself. It is not a question of any doubt and if the Honourable Member will point out to me that I am wrong I shall publicly apologise for this error. But I want to know what was the loss that we incurred as a result. This is the last. Now, at present, as the 70 per cent. of 2½ and 3 per cent. are repatriated I want to know what was the opportunity earlier than now at which they could have been purchased at a cheaper rate.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I want to know that from the Honourable Member, not he from me.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am willing to give the Honourable Member my facts and figures but I am willing to accept his figures if I am wrong. I say that it was possible even last year or at the time of the beginning of the war to have got at 85 or 90 these very loans for which you are now paying much more for repatriation. The exact loss I am not in a position to assess, but that the loss is great I am prepared to substantiate. And the one loan that remains is the 3½ per cent. about which notice is given, so that it will rise to as much as 100, so that you may pay a percentage or two more even on that. In all this while I do not assess the loss on the latest repatriation because sufficient figures are not available, I am prepared to say that even that loss cannot be less than five crores, though it may be more. But as I have not got sufficient figures here I do not venture to give any definite figure. Let me say here that I am not quarrelling with repatriation; I know the advantages of repatriation and I am myself an advocate of repatriation. But there is no reason why for getting these advantages we should lose crores upon crores of the poor taxpayer's revenue and then be called upon to be very thankful to the Reserve Bank and the Bank of England for having been made to lose such a large amount. We are told that we had the co-operation of the Reserve Bank of

India; I use the word "connivance" and not co-operation. I cannot say there is any co-operation when I am mulcted of so many crores.

The last point which I wish to raise is this. The Honourable Member in making his speech day before yesterday was somewhat angry. I am sorry that I unruffled him by my observations on repatriation. We are discussing here things very calmly for the purpose of arriving at a definite result as to what was the actual expense and cost of repatriation. If I am wrong I shall be very glad to be enlightened; but let the discussion be carried on without getting into a rage. The Honourable the Finance Member was very angry with me last time and at one time he declared that not even ten rupees more were spent; and he challenged us and invited me and my Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjee, to a conference. And as soon as I offered that I was ready to be a delegate at the conference he beat a strategic retreat.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not retreating.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: He refused to have that conference and when I asked him he said he had no room in the Finance Department for me,—as if I was a candidate for some job under him. If I come to the Finance Department at all I shall come in his place and not as a servant under him. I was asking for a frank and free and honest discussion of this great and important question. I say that it was the need of England for cash which alone actuated this repatriation for which we have been crying for years. And while we are thankful that certain results will accrue to us out of this repatriation, it will be wrong to shut our eyes to the loss from this repatriation procedure. When I moved my Resolution last Session I myself suggested that a committee should be appointed to see whether India had really lost anything out of this repatriation scheme. He was not willing at that time, but day before yesterday by some honest inspiration for the time being he offered a conference and I want him to be pinned down to that.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The offer is still open.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Then hold this conference. I shall be able to show that it is not Rs. 10,—I can afford to give away Rs. 10 even out of my poverty. But so long as I get this honest impression after a study of the facts and figures which he has given, and while I withhold my judgment because all the facts and figures are not yet fully available and I can only make a guess, I am entitled on behalf of the Indian taxpayer to claim that his repatriation scheme shall be properly examined, although it might be an *ex post facto* examination because the thing has been done. But I have no doubt in my mind that Government in this country, with the best of motives, have lost to the taxpayer a very large amount, and this will be clear from the budget speech of the Honourable Member himself last year. This year he has somewhat shifted his ground. Last year he admitted that the open market operations raised the rate,—let him study his own speech,—and it was found that it would not be wise to pursue the open market operations. This year he tries to get behind that by saying that he closed the open market operations for two months. But my submission was that he closed it because the rates were going beyond decent limits. And the market knew all the time that the Government of India were determined and, therefore, your two months' suspension during which time you were negotiating this compulsory investment order made no

[Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta.]

difference to the raising of the market against the people of this country in the matter of repatriation. I can understand a usurious moneylender getting 25 per cent. more than the amount of the debt. I can understand a Marwari or a Pathan, but they at least never ask me to thank them. In this transaction I am asked to thank them,—that is my only objection,—for having been made to lose many crores of rupees; and that is what I am not willing to do. Whether I have reason to blame or to thank can only be the result of a proper investigation which the Honourable Member promised and to which I hope he will adhere. Sir, I have nothing more to say.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Cut motion moved :

“That the demand under the head ‘Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I entirely agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Jannadas Mehta, that discussion of
12 Noon. so technical and complex a matter should be carried on calmly and in an unruffled atmosphere. I would, however, like to remind the House that in the course of the last Session the Honourable Member dealt with this subject in terms which were extremely immoderate, which were not calm and which were not unruffled and that he himself set the tone of the exchanges between himself and the Government on that subject. If he had dealt with the subject in a dispassionate and objective manner, I should have been very happy, but I cannot, I am afraid

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I am sure the Honourable Member will set the example himself.

Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir. I accept your observation, Sir, but it was the Honourable Member who first dealt with the subject when he moved his own motion. However, Sir, I will endeavour to import as little heat as I may into the subject which, after all, is not exactly pulsating with human emotion. But I would like to draw his attention to one very important fact. He refers to a time when the Government of India had to borrow at a discount of 15—I think it was in October, 1922, that they borrowed money at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at a discount of 85, that is to say they paid $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on each £85 of the loan, the yield on which is obviously something much nearer six per cent. I want to say to Mr. Jannadas Mehta, in all sincerity and without, as I say, importing any heat into the matter, that after listening to the way in which he deals with this subject, I should be reluctant to lend him money even at a discount of 15 at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., because his conception of what is due to the individual who in good faith lends his money to the Government under a solemn contract is vastly different from mine. I know that the world is changing rapidly and that the respect due to the rights of property is somewhat modified from mid-Victorian ideas. Nevertheless, the idea of fair dealing between man and man must remain and the Honourable Member's conception of what you can do after you have given your solemn promise is, I regret to say, very different from mine. I notice that the Honourable Member talked of occupying my place in this Bench. I was very glad to hear him refer to such a possibility

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official) : I hope not.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: but I would like to remind him that if he found himself in that place, he would have to cultivate a much greater sense of responsibility in dealing with matters of this kind, otherwise, I am afraid, that when he comes to make his borrowing operations he will not be paying 4½ per cent. on 85 but possibly on 25.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member has got a very skilful way of insinuating that something is very seriously wrong but indicating that he somehow is not able to put his finger exactly on the spot and he puts me in a position of great disadvantage because his whole attitude is : this business is fishy; it could have been done better; I do not know the details; you know the details; you can tell me how it could have been done better and then I can tell you how badly you have done it. Well, Sir, I claim that even for a prisoner in the dock that would be a somewhat unjust procedure. How I am to satisfy the Honourable Member that I have not committed certain crimes of which he suspects me, I do not know. He has not got the material on which to substantiate even a *prima facie* case, but, nevertheless, he expects me to rebut an assumption arising in his mind. Well, Sir, I am quite prepared, subject to such time as I have at my disposal

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is a wrong statement. I have given the figure of 35 crores. Therefore, it is not correct to state that I am not giving him facts.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Well, Sir, anybody can produce figures and figures are supposed to be very concrete, but I have failed entirely to understand. I do understand the purpose of the first figure. I understand that he treats as a loss the discount at which the Government of India were bound to issue their loan at the time when their credit was unfortunately very weak. I do not, as I have explained before, regard that as a loss. It is a minor element in public loan operations and I entirely repudiate any suggestion that that can be considered to be a loss. In any case, even if it is treated as a loss, it is a loss which accrued at the time when the loans had to be issued. It has nothing to do with the repatriation operations which we are now conducting. If you accept £85 from a man, or Rs. 85, and, thereupon, give him a bond for Rs. 100, and if you say that that is a loss—if you do that instead of offering him a higher rate of interest—then I would say that the loss has occurred when you have decided to do that and I would claim that it has nothing whatever to do with these repatriation operations.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: It has. You have an opportunity of buying it at 81 and retrieving the loss which you have suffered when you originally raised the loan. Why cannot you use the market conditions on both the occasions?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: But the Honourable Member has counted that again. First he says you lost 15 when you issued and then he says again you lost more because you did not buy at a lower rate.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Yes, in 1939-40.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Well, Sir, I pointed out in the course of the debate during the last Session that this is not a matter which is within the jurisdiction of the Government of India. I tried to explain—although I see no sign in the Honourable Member's speech that he has

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

realized the fact—I tried to explain that we are in the position of having to persuade another Government to use its powers in regard to its own nationals within its jurisdiction. We are not in a position, as we are in the case of Indian securities to operate immediately ourselves, to issue an order or an Ordinance on the morning of a day and to produce certain effects at once. We are in the position of having to enlist the powers of His Majesty's Government. Now, the powers which His Majesty's Government had to exercise were also emergency powers. They were powers which that Government had assumed under certain special circumstances and they were powers which had to be exercised with strict reference to the circumstances in which they were assumed.

I also pointed out in the course of the last debate that there was grave questioning in London as to whether His Majesty's Government had not exceeded the fair scope of the powers which had been entrusted to them. There was grave doubt as to whether the requisitioning of these securities was carried out for a purpose which fell within the purview of the objects for which the emergency legislation was passed. I claim that in those circumstances it is somewhat hard to be told that we might perhaps have bought something on Monday a point or two cheaper than if we had bought it on Wednesday. It is impossible in circumstances such as those to operate in the same way as an ordinary operator does in his local stock exchange. That was out of the question. We had to go through a process of a consultation and persuasion in order to get the idea accepted at all.

The Honourable Member again referred to the prices prevailing at the beginning of the war at the time of panic. He has still not explained to me where I was to get the sterling for these large transactions at the beginning of the war. He still goes on saying—he merely repeats the statements that the price was so and so at the beginning of the war. As I pointed out last Session, the price of an article is only of any interest to a man who is in a position to buy it; and the Government of India were not in a position even to begin to discuss the subject with His Majesty's Government

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Could not the Secretary of State have raised Treasury Bills on behalf of India? I said that on the last occasion.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The processes which are involved in what the Honourable Member is talking about are not processes which lend themselves to rapid operation in a market which is jumping about from day to day. I quite agree that in a different kind of world and with authorities possessed of different powers, you might be able to do all sorts of things within about half an hour; but I do ask the Honourable Member to attempt to see what are the precise inter-governmental processes which have to take place before an operation of this kind can be carried out. So his second element, which I think he estimated at eight crores, the loss which occurred because we did not buy those securities at a time when we did not have the money to buy them, is of that value. It is a kind of loss which I regret to say I am incurring personally every day, because I am failing to buy things which might easily, in the course of a year's time, be worth double what they are today, if I only knew it. It is a loss which all of us incur. It reminds me of the essay which a small boy was asked to write on pins; he scratched his head and found it somewhat difficult to

give a really high spiritual value to the ordinary pin in the scale of human existence, when suddenly an inspiration descended on him and he wrote this sentence :

“Pins save people's lives by people not swallowing them.”

The Honourable Member has discovered how we have incurred the loss which he asks me to assess—not himself : he asks me to assess the losses which I have incurred by not buying these goods at a time when I was unable to buy them

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I have assessed that loss : the loss on discount was about 15 crores; the loss at the time of repatriation was eight crores; and the balance for making up the total of 35 crores is the loss caused by his not buying these securities between the declaration of the war and the time of repatriation. I said that on the last occasion and I say it today. If he has got only pins in reply to the points I raised, the crores of loss sustained, it is no argument.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member cannot make a second speech.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am not making a speech, Sir. But he is misrepresenting me.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The mathematics which my Honourable friend applies to these transactions is, I regret to say, beyond my humble capacity. I was saying that in regard to the loss which occurred by our not purchasing these securities at a date when we were unable to purchase them, I think in regard to that loss he asked me to indicate when I could have bought them more cheaply and tell him what the loss was. Nevertheless, although he disclaims any precise knowledge of the factors on which such a loss could be estimated he decides to put it at not less than eight crores

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: It is from your budget speech.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Similarly, the rest of the 35 crores in some extraordinary manner is derived from our own open market operations; and there he accuses me of an inconsistency because I said on a former occasion that it became clear to us that to proceed by the method of open market operations would push up the prices against ourselves, and therefore we abandoned that procedure; and, again, in the course of this speech I said that our own open market operations were not a factor of any great significance in the fluctuations which actually took place. Well, Sir, I do not consider that those two ideas are inconsistent. We did carry out open market operations up to a certain point; and it was obvious that if we had continued beyond that point we would have pushed up the prices against ourselves which would have been an undesirable process. But I also claimed that we did cease at a point at which the damage to our own interests was not appreciable and that is the combination of those two considerations.

Now, the Honourable Member says that in a moment of enthusiasm I offered him an inquiry and that subsequently I hastily withdrew it. I am genuinely anxious to endeavour to satisfy the Honourable Member who, I must say, is suffering from very serious misconceptions and misunderstandings about these transactions; and, if any thing which I can do will

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

assist him to a clearer appreciation of the factors and the difficulties involved and will enable him to assess more precisely the significance of these repatriation operations I should be very happy. The Honourable Member knows that I am a busy man; but if he will approach me and suggest what he would like me to do, what materials, subject of course to the ordinary confidential rules of government, he would like me to place before him to enable him to judge of these matters, I shall be very happy indeed to consider it; and I do hope that he will maintain—he says he has an open mind on the matter—and if I have at different stages imported any warmth into the discussion it is because of this—my complaint is that the Honourable Member, while admitting that he is not in a position to deliver a careful verdict on these facts, has, nevertheless, made statements which imply that these transactions ought to be condemned and that they are highly deleterious to India. In other words, he has prejudiced that question on which he says he desires to keep an open mind, and I would not mind, Sir, but the effect of such an approach to matters of this kind cannot but be damaging to the credit of India, and still more damaging to the credit of a Government in which my friend might occupy such a place as I now occupy. I do appeal to him with reference to considerations such as those, to approach these matters with, as he calls it, an open mind, and I repeat that I shall be happy to assist my friend to arrive at an objective and dispassionate verdict on those operations.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: There is no room in his office.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It need not happen in my office.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I have listened to the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member with great attention, but there are certain points which still call for comment. In the first place, the Honourable the Finance Member says that this matter was not in the jurisdiction of the Government of India; he had to negotiate with the Government of Great Britain. But is not the Government of India a subordinate branch of the British administration? It is not between two Governments independent of one another that negotiations have to take place

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In matters of this kind the negotiations are purely as between two Governments.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Well, it appears that the subordinate branch of the administration does not get a fair deal. Now, the Honourable the Finance Member does not deny that there was a time when the rate was low, but he says that at that time the Government of India had not funds with which to repatriate a portion of the sterling debt of India. Could not the Government of India by any means have found the funds for these purposes? Through the Reserve Bank this could have been done

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the Government of India's credit was standing so low at Rs. 82, how could it borrow more advantageously in order to repay that amount?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Was the Government of India's credit very low at that time? The Government of India's credit, so far as I know, has been quite good

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Since then.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Throughout the war.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: When it became good, then the value of those securities stood higher.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Then there is this point. The Government of India thought of repatriating the sterling debt at a time when the prices rose. Now, if they had foresight, they might have made previous arrangements so as to take advantage of the lower rates. They did not show that foresight. Another matter is to be taken into consideration. The whole question, as the Honourable the Finance Member pointed out the other day, is a question of demand and supply. I admit. Therefore, when you want to make a large purchase of sterling at one time, the price necessarily goes up. Would it not have been better to adopt the policy of repatriation by gradual stages? That would have saved a considerable sum of money to the Indian exchequer. Therefore, Sir, it is clear that although the whole blame for the loss cannot be placed on the shoulders of the Government of India.....

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What loss?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: The loss of paying higher rates for the re-purchase of the sterling debts. They could not avail themselves of the prices which were offered at the earlier stages of the war. To that extent the Government of India is to blame. And as regards the shifting of the blame to the shoulders of the British Government, I must say that was not a fair deal on the part of the British Government. It is plain that the whole thing was not done in a satisfactory manner, and when the Government of India say that they gave up the open market operations as soon as they found that such operations were not favourable to them, they admit that if they had not adopted the open market operations in the beginning they would have obtained more favourable results. That is the conclusion which can be drawn from the observations of the Honourable the Finance Member. Whatever may be said about the amount of the loss, it cannot be denied that there was some loss to the country, and this loss could and should have been avoided.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, although the Honourable Member has given me some jerks and taunts, he has offered to make an investigation, and, therefore, I am prepared to withdraw on that assurance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Whatever the reasons may be, he cannot withdraw upon conditions. Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw?

Several Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next is Demand No. 12. That demand has not been moved. No. 67 is the cut motion.

DEMAND No. 12—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1943 in respect of ‘Executive Council.’”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of ‘Executive Council.’”

Insufficient and Inefficient Utilization of the Resources of the Country.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir, for purposes of national defence primarily and also for purposes of national reconstruction the outlook of the Treasury Benches, so far as utilising the resources of the country goes, has been traditionally narrow. I shall refer to some of my past experience in this matter. We have always looked to England for our articles of use, so much so that for a long time our outlook has been the British standard specification. We have very often been told in this House that other countries’ standard specifications were useless and the British standard was the only standard which India should have. The other day it was said that when the necessity came, even for making a gun barrel the steel was not available in India. I do not know whether it is sufficiently available now, but I know that our steel is not used at all in the making of machine tools and machinery. It is not because such steel cannot be made in India, but because we have never attempted to produce that steel. It is a particular kind of formula, some technical adjustment. But that steel has not been made in India so that we cannot even now produce those machines by which we can make machinery or machine tools. We are always complaining that aeroplanes and motor cars are not made in this country. These are very large questions. But as for power alcohol Provincial Governments have tried, but I do not know whether it has engaged the attention of the Government of India.

Now, petrol from Java and probably from Burma will be stopped and we shall have to depend entirely on the Persian Gulf, i.e., petrol of Iraq and Iran. But, no one again can say what will be the condition there after the spring. Perhaps, all the petrol that our Government can command may be required there in that area. There is every danger. The present war is a war of petrol and we do not know what India will do if in the next spring we have some Japanese onslaught from the East. We have never attempted any other sources of supply or any synthetic substance. We read in newspapers that other nations and other countries can manufacture power even from coal and seaweeds, but we do not know, in spite of the heartening lectures we have for keeping up the morale of the country—we do not know what sources we have tapped or are going to tap so far as the supply of petrol is concerned, without which I am sure our army, our navy, our air force will be of no use. That is one aspect of the question. We have not attempted scientifically to tap all our resources for the defence of the country, and I should like to know generally what we are actually doing even today.

The second point I wish to state is that the Honourable the Finance Member has told us in his speech that the present purchases for war purposes have given an impetus to our industries so much that in future these equipments will be utilised for the reconstruction of the nation. The country will be industrialised and our national wealth will increase like anything after the war. But the same traditional blindness, if I can use that word, prevails even here. For instance, once I asked in this House—I found that in some area salt was selling at three annas per standard seer, whereas in a contiguous area within a few miles salt was being produced. I was very young in those days as a Member of this House. I knew that salt was a Government monopoly and I knew that, when all salt was in the hands of the Government, the Government must have made some arrangements for distribution to the consumers. For I came to know in this House that it was only Rs. 1-4-0 tax per maund, that is, six pies per seer, and the charge for making salt is about four annas per maund. Then it must be three pice a seer or utmost four pice. I asked in the House that in an area very contiguous to the area where salt was being produced, salt was selling at three annas. I asked the Government whether they knew it. They said, "We do not know where it sells and at what price. Selling we are not responsible for." Then you do not distribute salt in the country though you have got the monopoly? Even when an area is starved of want of salt, you do not care? They can pay one rupee per seer. There was no arrangement, I do not know if they have now got any arrangement for distributing an article of primary necessity of which they have got the monopoly.

As regards industries, I was often taken in this House to be against protection. It is not exactly that. India is a vast country, it is a continent so to say. There are certain producing areas, there are certain manufacturing areas and there are other areas which are much vaster. These are consuming areas. I am not speaking on the provincial basis; but I can say that there are certain provinces which are consuming provinces and there are certain provinces which are manufacturing provinces. Here I want proper distribution. We come forward and give protection to steel, to sugar. I look at my own province. It was not then a province, it was part of Bihar and Orissa. In Bihar there was sugar and in Orissa there was none. Now, I can give you a very good illustration in my province though Madras, Bengal and Orissa are all consuming provinces. Mine is a completely consuming province. I once mentioned in this House the amount of indirect tax per head of the population including the protective duty. Each man pays in the shape of an indirect tax to the Government as well as to the industrialists Rs. 4 per head per year. Orissa pays more than three crores of rupees every year, partly to the Indian exchequer and partly to the industrialists. What does Orissa get to add to its purchasing power? Orissa had, however, one way out. Orissa was getting money from the tea gardens. Assam for tea is an industrial centre. It used to get wages from Jamshedpur, Calcutta and Rangoon. But these sources of income are drying up. Now, you ought to try to distribute the advantages of your industrial schemes as well as the purchases for supply throughout the province.

I have on previous occasions spoken for the handloom industry, cottage industry and many other such things. The other day I was very pleased to hear from Sir Homi Mody that the Supply Department was going to have a scheme of village industries throughout India for war supply. I do not know yet what he actually meant by that. But that was my idea

DEMAND NO. 12—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1943 in respect of 'Executive Council'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1943, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

Insufficient and Inefficient Utilization of the Resources of the Country.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, for purposes of national defence primarily and also for purposes of national reconstruction the outlook of the Treasury Benches, so far as utilising the resources of the country goes, has been traditionally narrow. I shall refer to some of my past experience in this matter. We have always looked to England for our articles of use, so much so that for a long time our outlook has been the British standard specification. We have very often been told in this House that other countries' standard specifications were useless and the British standard was the only standard which India should have. The other day it was said that when the necessity came, even for making a gun barrel the steel was not available in India. I do not know whether it is sufficiently available now, but I know that our steel is not used at all in the making of machine tools and machinery. It is not because such steel cannot be made in India, but because we have never attempted to produce that steel. It is a particular kind of formula, some technical adjustment. But that steel has not been made in India so that we cannot even now produce those machines by which we can make machinery or machine tools. We are always complaining that aeroplanes and motor cars are not made in this country. These are very large questions. But as for power alcohol Provincial Governments have tried, but I do not know whether it has engaged the attention of the Government of India.

Now, petrol from Java and probably from Burma will be stopped and we shall have to depend entirely on the Persian Gulf, i.e., petrol of Iraq and Iran. But, no one again can say what will be the condition there after the spring. Perhaps, all the petrol that our Government can command may be required there in that area. There is every danger. The present war is a war of petrol and we do not know what India will do if in the next spring we have some Japanese onslaught from the East. We have never attempted any other sources of supply or any synthetic substance. We read in newspapers that other nations and other countries can manufacture power even from coal and seaweeds, but we do not know, in spite of the heartening lectures we have for keeping up the morale of the country—we do not know what sources we have tapped or are going to tap so far as the supply of petrol is concerned, without which I am sure our army, our navy, our air force will be of no use. That is one aspect of the question. We have not attempted scientifically to tap all our resources for the defence of the country, and I should like to know generally what we are actually doing even today.

The second point I wish to state is that the Honourable the Finance Member has told us in his speech that the present purchases for war purposes have given an impetus to our industries so much that in future these equipments will be utilised for the reconstruction of the nation. The country will be industrialised and our national wealth will increase like anything after the war. But the same traditional blindness, if I can use that word, prevails even here. For instance, once I asked in this House—I found that in some area salt was selling at three annas per standard seer, whereas in a contiguous area within a few miles salt was being produced. I was very young in those days as a Member of this House. I knew that salt was a Government monopoly and I knew that, when all salt was in the hands of the Government, the Government must have made some arrangements for distribution to the consumers. For I came to know in this House that it was only Rs. 1-4-0 tax per maund, that is, six pies per seer, and the charge for making salt is about four annas per maund. Then it must be three pice a seer or utmost four pice. I asked in the House that in an area very contiguous to the area where salt was being produced, salt was selling at three annas. I asked the Government whether they knew it. They said, "We do not know where it sells and at what price. Selling we are not responsible for." Then you do not distribute salt in the country though you have got the monopoly? Even when an area is starved of want of salt, you do not care? They can pay one rupee per seer. There was no arrangement, I do not know if they have now got any arrangement for distributing an article of primary necessity of which they have got the monopoly.

As regards industries, I was often taken in this House to be against protection. It is not exactly that. India is a vast country, it is a continent so to say. There are certain producing areas, there are certain manufacturing areas and there are other areas which are much vaster. These are consuming areas. I am not speaking on the provincial basis; but I can say that there are certain provinces which are consuming provinces and there are certain provinces which are manufacturing provinces. Here I want proper distribution. We come forward and give protection to steel, to sugar. I look at my own province. It was not then a province, it was part of Bihar and Orissa. In Bihar there was sugar and in Orissa there was none. Now, I can give you a very good illustration in my province though Madras, Bengal and Orissa are all consuming provinces. Mine is a completely consuming province. I once mentioned in this House the amount of indirect tax per head of the population including the protective duty. Each man pays in the shape of an indirect tax to the Government as well as to the industrialists Rs. 4 per head per year. Orissa pays more than three crores of rupees every year, partly to the Indian exchequer and partly to the industrialists. What does Orissa get to add to its purchasing power? Orissa had, however, one way out. Orissa was getting money from the tea gardens. Assam for tea is an industrial centre. It used to get wages from Jamshedpur, Calcutta and Rangoon. But these sources of income are drying up. Now, you ought to try to distribute the advantages of your industrial schemes as well as the purchases for supply throughout the province.

I have on previous occasions spoken for the handloom industry, cottage industry and many other such things. The other day I was very pleased to hear from Sir Homi Mody that the Supply Department was going to have a scheme of village industries throughout India for war supply. I do not know yet what he actually meant by that. But that was my idea

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

also all along. But what have you got now? What are the coastal provinces of Madras, Bengal and Orissa going to have? In Orissa we are having practically all the evacuees from Rangoon, Burma, Malaya, Calcutta, Jamshedpur and other places. From Jamshedpur we are probably having only women and children. They have been driven away from there by some arrangement. What are you going to do now? You say that on account of this impetus which you have given to the industry of India there will be a millennium of prosperity after the war. But what are we, the poor people, to do both during and after the war? How are you going to meet this problem of evacuees specially in view of the fact that soon we are going to face famine. Besides, I am compelled to say there may be loot and murder. What is the effect of these purchases? We have already purchased 250 crores of rupees worth of articles, including even foodstuffs. As far as I can see, Orissa has supplied timber worth about two lakhs of rupees, and nothing else. Would you not like to develop certain other industries? You are pouring money in Cawnpore and in Bombay. I do not know what other people have to say about corruption that is going on and how the money is being spent. I am not going to say anything about it. But it is a fact that corruption is going on and you can well understand it. There is plenty of money in the country in the shape of paper and such other forms as coins. I do not mind the money in these forms. But all the same the prices are rising and the evacuees are coming to the coastal regions. I am speaking of Orissa and the case of Madras is practically the same, though their purchases are a little better. But if you were to look at the purchases province by province, the result will simply be staggering.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has two minutes more to finish his speech.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Very well, Sir. You say that the purchasing power has increased. Of course, theoretically that is a correct statement. But have you seen what is happening to those people who are living in the coastal regions? To what extent their purchasing power has gone down? All things are not purchased in Bombay. My suggestion is that there should be some Department to stand between the Supply Department, the Defence Department, the producer and the consumer. Some planning department at this juncture is necessary. You are spending so much money for the industrialisation of the country. It should be distributed in some justifiable manner. When you are facing difficulties in defending yourself, you have got to spend so much money. But do not waste all the money. If you do so, soon after the war you will have to face other difficulties and other problems which will be perhaps as difficult if not more difficult. You are going simply to ruin the agricultural India, I mean the coastal consuming India. This is your present scheme

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Honourable Member's time is up.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: This is your scheme. But you must have some reasonable scheme of re-construction. Sir, I move:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved: "That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Today being Friday, the House will adjourn now and meet at Quarter Past Two.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Mover of this cut motion, Mr. Nilakantha Das, has dealt with the matter with regard to the Supply Department only as to how the Supply Department was inefficiently utilising the resources of the country. I do not want to deal with this question from that narrow point of view. The Supply Department has no doubt given an impetus to industry, but that is a temporary phase and it will some day vanish. After that what shall we do? That is the question. This British Government has been in India for nearly 180 years and more. During this period almost all the home industries have vanished.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: There is no quorum in the House. This is an official day. I do not know why the Government Benches are so completely empty.

(The bell was rung and the required quorum was obtained.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Before the Honourable Member continues his speech, I should point out to the Government that this being an official day, they should see to it that there is quorum. At least enough official Members should be present to form a quorum.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: I was referring Sir, that the British have been in this country for over 180 years. We have been living under their civilised government so far. What is the condition of industries in India and what is the condition of the industries in England? The industries in England have almost monopolised the markets of the world so much so that other countries became jealous of the industrial prosperity of England. In India the situation has gone down to such a depth that it would almost require a giant's strength to lift it up. Efficiency is a thing which is foreign to this Government. In fairness and in all honesty, the Government themselves have to confess that their administration is inefficient. What is the present economic condition of India? Temporarily some people might have got some income through war, but the masses are grovelling in appalling poverty, in the same way as they had been doing for years before the war. India had her own industries. She had her own home industries particularly. If only the seven lakhs of villages in India had been organised, each for the sort of industry easily available in the locality, then India could have supplied all the necessities required by the British Government for the conduct of the war. But that has not been done.

We are told that India has got the Eastern Group Council which supplies all the necessities of the war. What is the use of this Group Council, when we are not able to go out to other parts of the world, other parts of the British Empire, on account of the war situation. Under the

[Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya.]

present circumstances it is incumbent upon the present Government to find out ways and means as to how to create home industries, if they are at all possible. India is pre-eminently an agricultural country. It is admitted by all. Before the advent of the British, with agriculture, there was harmonious development of home industries. Since these home industries have been killed by the machine industries of England, we have not replaced either the home industries or the machine industries nor have we been able to set up new machine industry that is required in India in proper scale. In India, or for the matter of that in Bengal, there are three main industries, jute, tea and coal. All these are the monopoly of the British. Practically the whole control in jute is in the hands of the British. Only recently 50 per cent. of the jute shares were given to Indians. That is a matter of recent occurrence. However, we have no quarrel about that. We have now to see what we can do in the present circumstances by our combined effort. Being cut off from England, the Britishers in India should now feel India to be their own home and deal with the Indian question as we, Indians, want them to deal or as we deal with them. There has been an attempt to create some sort of situation which might induce all the industrialists to co-operate. All the Chambers of Commerce, European and Indian, which are working at present should be united and made into one Chamber of Commerce to give new life and a new lead in the present situation so that we may really efficiently work out the problems of our industries. India being pre-eminently agricultural it is necessary that there should be some attention given to agricultural development of the country so that India might do all that is necessary for agricultural development to produce raw materials.

The question of capital is not a vital question. It is the will and the desire of the people to make themselves absolutely useful and efficacious and efficient, otherwise there is no meaning in moving these cuts. This is not a censure motion; it only advises Government to take up and create an attitude which will make India feel that they are being treated rightly and justly. Efficiency means dealing rightly and justly. The efficiency of India would have been a hundred times greater if the British Government had treated India rightly and justly. This harmonious adjustment of agricultural and industrial development of India is the most important work that the British Government should take up to do now. Although the war is occupying the whole mind of the people and of Government, although the situation is very trying, still we have to think of the future when the war will be at an end; how we will then be able to stand these expenses and strain. Sir, we depend for industries on raw materials. India has infinite potentialities and possibilities to grow raw materials for any industry that the British Government or the people may like to have. And I appeal to the Commerce Member and the Finance Member, who have been trying to find out all possible ways and means to give us an impetus to take up this question more seriously. It is not a question of the present war but of the future order of the world, and of how India should be able to maintain herself and help the world to live. Sir, India has this possibility and potentiality, and if the people and Government meet and work together there will be no cause for any anxiety. I, therefore, request the Commerce Member to deal with the question more seriously than he has been doing. An elaborate planning is necessary. Sir I support the cut.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, India is a rich country, but the people are poor. What is the reason for this contradiction? The reason is that there are vast resources in the country, but they have not yet been sufficiently utilised for the use of the people. The Honourable the Commerce Member during the few years of his tenure of office has done something towards industrialising the country, but the steps which he has so far taken have not gone far enough. It is true that some industries are being fostered and encouraged for war purposes. That is right, but there are other industries which will have to be fostered also. There are great defects in our industrial system at the present moment. There are various ways of protecting industries,—first, investigating into the possibilities of industrial development in this country; second, scientific research; third, pioneering; fourth, financial assistance to industries, and fifth, tariff protection. So far Government have during the last 20 years encouraged industries mainly by the last method, but the other methods have not been fully exploited. The time has come when those methods should be utilised to a much greater extent than has hitherto been done. Protection has its good and its bad points, and yesterday some of my Honourable friends pointed out that when protection is given various things have to be considered; these should also be considered before it is continued to some of the industries.

Now, Sir, I should like to point out certain deficiencies in the industrial system of the country. Time was when it was believed in India that the iron and steel industry could not be developed. It was due to the genius of a Bengali scientist and the enterprise of a great Parsi pioneer of industry that that great iron and steel works have been established at Jamshedpur. Now we are coming into the age of the aluminium industry. The steel industry may perhaps soon become antiquated and the age of aluminium may be coming. What are Government doing to encourage the manufacture of aluminium in this country? Bauxite which is the basic ore of aluminium is to be found in abundance in India, particularly in the Central Provinces. But, so far as I know, no aluminium production has been undertaken anywhere. Government should give their attention to this matter because in the manufacture of aeroplanes aluminium is of the greatest importance.

Then there are various chemical industries which also should be fully encouraged by Government. Caustic soda, for instance, is imported from abroad. At the present moment there is a shortage in stock and it will be very difficult to get it from abroad. There is also a shortage in the stock of bleaching powder. I am told that the stock will last only a few months and if we do not get a supply from other countries various industries which depend for their manufacture on these two things, caustic soda and bleaching powder, will have to stop their activities. Then there is citric acid. This also is not manufactured in this country, at least to a very large extent, and it prevents the manufacture of various kinds of citrates which are used for medicinal purposes. Then there is sulphuric acid. There are plants only in a few parts of the country. The Bengal Chemical Works of Calcutta manufacture sulphuric acid to a small extent and in Mysore there is a plant; but a very large proportion of sulphuric acid has to be brought from abroad. It is difficult now to import sulphuric acid from other countries. From America a large consignment was coming for the Bengal Chemical Works but the ship was stranded in the Panama Canal, and if the ship fails to arrive the Bengal Chemical Works will be in great difficulty. The basic metal of sulphuric acid is sulphur. Now,

[Dr. P. N. Banerjea.]

sulphur is not obtained anywhere in India, but it can be obtained from Baluchistan; and I am glad to know that the Government are now beginning to utilize Baluchistan sulphur. It is in a somewhat impure state and the impurities have to be taken out before it can be fully utilized. But why did not the Government take this step earlier? It is dire necessity which has now compelled them to make use of it, but if the Government had possessed foresight, the sulphur from Baluchistan might have been utilized to a much greater extent to the great benefit of chemical industries of this country.

Then, Sir, there is acetic acid. This is produced in a small quantity at Bhadravati Iron Works, but it is not produced in any appreciable quantity anywhere else. It is possible to manufacture this by synthetic process and this should be encouraged by the Government.

Lastly, I will give another example. It is distillation of coal tar. Now, this industry has a great future because if coal tar could be distilled in this country then the by-products would be of very great use to the various existing industries of India and to the new industries which may be established in the future.

These are a few instances in which Government should either themselves pioneer or encourage others who are willing to start these industries. These may be called some of the basic industries on which the industrial future of the country will largely depend.

Sir, as I have said before, the Honourable Commerce Member is moving in this direction. He has established a Scientific Research Board and he has also established a Board for the Utilization of Scientific knowledge. So far so good, but the fund which has been placed at the disposal of the Board of Scientific Research has not been enough and this body is not yet in a position to investigate the scientific possibilities to the extent that it is desirable. Now, with regard to this Board of Scientific Research I may refer, by the way, to a complaint which has reached my ears. It is said that it is proposed by the Department of Commerce that in future no scientist will find any place on this Board or the Utilization Board. I really do not know whether that is true, but I understand that one of the members of this Board—Professor Meghnad Saha—has resigned his seat. I do not know why he resigned, but I should like to emphasise that all the eminent scientists of the country should be given places on this Board so that the Board may be of the greatest help in establishing industries and in investigating the possibilities of starting industries in future. Our primary concern, I admit, should be to develop the war industries, but we should not be so shortsighted as to have no vision of the future. We should look to the future as well as to the present and the industrial possibilities of the country should be fully investigated. For that purpose we should utilize the services of all the eminent scientists of the country and give them their due recognition. I am very sorry to have to bring in this personal question, but I hope that if there has been any defect the Honourable the Commerce Member will soon remove it.

I shall say a word as regards the Utilization Board. I think on both these Boards there should be scientists, industrialists and economists so that all questions may be considered from all the different points of view.

With these observations, I support the cut motion which does not seek to censure the Government but which seeks to draw the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member and his Department to the various defects which exist in the present organization.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Commerce Member): Mr. Deputy President. I am at a loss to
 3 P.M. know what are the topics that have been touched upon in the course of the debate except so far as the speech of my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Nationalist Party, is concerned and what reply I am expected to make. And may I take the opportunity of congratulating my Honourable friend on the place that he occupies today and may I hope that his deputy will soon occupy a seat in a less rarefied atmosphere in this House.

Mr. Deputy President. My Honourable friend, Pandit Nilakantha Das, to whose speech I always listen with admiration, has ranged over a number of subjects, my only complaint—or my only reason for thankfulness—being that none of them concerned my Department. He spoke of salt and he spoke of various other things. I have no quarrel with the remarks that he has made so long as he has not referred to anything connected with my department.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: There is no co-ordination between yourself and the Supply Department.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member is not in his seat.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I am in a seat of the Nationalist Party. The seats have not yet been arranged.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Seats may not have been arranged, but it will not do if the Honourable Member goes on changing his seat always.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: My Honourable friend, Mr. Chattopadhyaya, also referred to various deficiencies which exist in the industrial and economic structure of the country. I do not feel competent to deal with the faults or alleged faults of the Government during the last 170 or 180 years. It is more than I can take upon myself if I can satisfy the House that with reference to the subjects in my charge and during the period that I have been in charge of them I have tried to meet the wishes of this House and of the public generally. And so I come to my Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjea, who has dealt with the subject from that point of view and in that narrow sense. My Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjea, was quite right in saying that it is not merely by imposing a protective duty but by various other methods that Government can foster and induce the development of industries. I have taken that view myself for some time. There is one aspect of Government activity or Government help which my friend, Dr. Banerjea, has not referred to, and I suggest that it is a very important aspect or part of government help which can lead to the development of industries. The purchase policy of the government can be so adjusted, and if I may venture to say so during the last twenty years has been so adjusted through the Indian Stores Department, and now through that Department which has been submerged in the Supply Department, that the development of industry owes a great deal to that policy of the Government. It is not always by protective duties alone, and I have said so once before in this House, that industries can be properly and adequately developed.

[Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

My Honourable friend referred to various industries which he considered he would like to see developed—he referred to the aluminium industry. What are the facts with reference to that industry? At the present time there are two important organisations which are rapidly trying to develop the establishment of this aluminium industry. The bauxite in certain parts of Southern India and in the Maharashtra country round about Belgaum is being exploited by one Company for the development of that industry; the plant is going to be erected or is in course of erection in the Travancore State; rolling mills are already established in Calcutta, and that Company hopes to be in production very soon. It was a difficult process for them to convert bauxite into alumina, which is the first process; that plant would take some time to be established and they came to government for help to import alumina in the first instance, and to content themselves by converting alumina into aluminium; and government gave them a guarantee of a certain quantity of import under certain conditions. I believe it was 5,000 tons—so that the aluminium required can be produced as rapidly as possible.

There is another company which is prepared to produce aluminium from the first stage, that is, by conversion of bauxite to alumina and by conversion of alumina to aluminium erected at Asansol. I have taken the greatest personal interest in the promotion of the activities of this Company and I was glad to find, after having spent nearly 12 months in trying to regulate the financial and managerial side of this Company, that at last it is now held by one of the foremost of Cawnpore industrialists, a person who can be relied upon to do his best to promote this industry and to see it established at as early a date as possible. I am receiving fortnightly reports of the course of progress of this industry; and Lala Padampat Singhania has been good enough to assure me that everything in his power will be done to expedite the establishment of this industry; and we in the Government of India have on our side assured him that whatever facilities he requires by way of trained personnel or by way of imported plant and machinery will be available to him. It is on this basis that those concerns are developing and I think very shortly that aluminium will be produced in this country.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammad-an Rural): After the war or during the pendency of the war?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar. By very soon, I mean a few months. I am not predicting how long this war will last.

Now, more than that, the Government of India at a very early stage, nearly 18 months back, have given one of those assurances which I stated on a former occasion Government would be prepared to give with reference to post-war conditions, that this industry will be protected against unfair competition from abroad in the post-war period.

My Honourable friend then referred to the heavy chemical industry and to caustic soda in particular. This is one of the items which has been engaging our attention and I am not, I think, disclosing any secret when I say that, apart from the Imperial Chemical Industries which is now in production so far as caustic soda is concerned, another firm, a big industry which is engaged in heavy chemicals,—the Tatas,—have promised me that they will be in production of caustic soda from the beginning of April of

this year. We know how gravely short we are of caustic soda; we have tried our best to be self-contained with reference to these materials and we have given all the help that we can with reference to import of machinery and so on; and between the Imperial Chemical Industries and Tatas, not to speak of one or two other concerns, we hope so far as caustic soda is concerned, at least, our requirements will be met by the production of these companies.

My Honourable friend next referred to sulphuric acid. I do not believe myself, after the investigation that has resulted so successfully in our discovery of sulphur in Baluchistan in Koh-i-Sultan that there will be any difficulty in the production of sulphuric acid. These discoveries have enabled us to find sulphur of 70 per cent. purity which can be directly used for the purpose of producing sulphuric acid. We have handed that process to industrialists and we hope to be able to obtain enough of this ore for the production of sulphuric acid. The question of extracting pure sulphur from that ore has been temporarily held up owing to certain difficulties that have now been found to be in the way. The Director of Scientific and Industrial Research is now seized of the proposition, and apart from the usual optimism that prevails so far as Sir S. S. Bhatnagar is concerned, I hope and trust that the assurance that he has given that there will be no profound difficulty in finding a process whereby pure sulphur can be extracted from this ore, will be realised.

My Honourable friend referred to acetic acid. That again is under investigation and very soon we shall be in a position to enable industrialists to produce this acetic acid. I may say with reference to another important item which we do not possess, and the urgent need of which any Honourable Member can visualise, potassium chlorate which is absolutely essential for the manufacture of safety matches, the stocks of which have run very low indeed in this country, I have just received an offer from an industrial concern—the Mettur Chemical Works—that they will be in a position to produce potassium chlorate by a process which has been discovered by one of our scientists, an eminent gentleman in the field of science, Dr. J. C. Ghose of the Bangalore Institute of Science. I have just heard that they will be in a position to produce on an industrial scale this potassium chlorate from May of this year; and I hope to have negotiations and the terms on which they can do it, within the next few days when they are coming up to see me in connection with that question.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Very good news.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Now, coal tar derivatives and dyes were referred to by Dr. Banerjee. We have paid some attention to this subject. Apart from the fact that there is a research committee which is investigating the question of coal tar derivatives, I have myself been interested from the point of view of industrial production of dyestuffs and the utilisation of coal tar derivatives. I have brought together two of the biggest industrial concerns in this country, each of whom possesses a certain qualification to tackle this subject; it has taken some little time and trouble on my part to bring them together to make them see eye to eye, to adjust any apparent differences that may exist in their minds in coming together; and without disclosing their names I may say that negotiations have so far advanced that these two big industrialists between them acting as a combine will be able to start a coal tar derivatives and dye stuffs industry in this country.

[Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

These are the several ways in which we have been trying, not merely with reference to those conditions which have arisen owing to the war, not merely because of our anxiety to do something to produce what is necessary for the war effort, but even from the long range policy point of view we have been trying to see how far industries can be developed. There are, of course, several snags. I do not conceal from myself that there are difficulties supervening for which none of us are responsible; it is not quite so easy to get machinery from various parts of the world now; the competitive nature of the machinery imported is very low today and countries are not willing to supply machinery for one reason or another; it is not advisable, it is not necessary to expatiate on why or how they are unwilling to do so; it does not serve any useful purpose; but these are the handicaps that stand in the way when one likes to rush away with one's enthusiasm for industrialisation of this country.

But barring those difficulties I venture to think that we are quite alive to this problem and though what we have achieved so far may in the opinion of some Honourable Members be negligible, it is fairly substantial as an indication of our own good will and of our own interest in this matter. I understand this motion is not a censure motion, and I am very thankful to Honourable Members who have explicitly said so, and with the assurance and information I have given, I trust my Honourable friend will see his way to withdraw the motion.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: May I ask one question. Sir, about power alcohol?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am sorry I did not refer to it. So far as power alcohol is concerned, my friend the Finance Member has made it easy for anybody to start this power alcohol scheme. We are in correspondence with the United Provinces Government, and several industrialists have come forward with schemes. The necessary plant and machinery, subject to the reservation that I have already made, will be forthcoming for them, and we hope to get that plant and machinery before very long. We are as anxious as anybody else that the power alcohol scheme should go ahead particularly in view of the petrol shortage.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, I am sorry I came a bit late in this debate, otherwise I should have known more of what the Honourable Member said. But what I did hear has convinced me of the great part the Honourable Member is playing in the development of the industries of this country, and I must say he deserves the debt not only of this House, but of India. The pity is that we did not have a Ramaswami Mudaliar long ago. We should not have been in this sorry plight today if we had a man of his drive and enthusiasm in the cause of the development of India's industries.

But there is one thing that I should like to ask the Honourable Member. He has expatiated, if I may use his own word, on various industries which he has been developing and which he hopes, within the very immediate future, to accomplish and so to supplant the needs of certain industries in this country. What I am more interested to know is—I do not think he touched on it in the concluding part of his speech,—is it or is it not possible

to develop and correlate the industries of this country with the defence needs of India? I mean a Co-ordination or Production Department. What I am anxious to know is, how these industries, outside the various small industries such as matches, dyes etc. are being used for the major industrial advancement of this country, I refer particularly to the defences of this country. I want to know if the Honourable Member can tell us how are these going to help our defences. The defences of India are today in a very serious state of unpreparedness and we, in this country, look to Government to try and appease us, to tell us how industrial developments are being carried on for the defence of the country.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The American Mission which is expected shortly is going to teach us that.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I am quite aware of it. That mission is expected to come here, but that mission must not forget that it will have to face issues *en route*—I mean the Japanese Navy. That mission must not forget that we can only send munitions to China. That mission has also to remember that we are virtually impotent in regard to machinery which has to come from a distance of more than 7,000 miles and which will be very difficult to reach us today because the Japanese Navy has the command of the Pacific and Indian oceans.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: Not at all. Vast bunches of machinery are reaching this country.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I am very glad to hear that, but what I mean is this. Those vast quantities of machinery are supposed to reach India and Burma, and much of it is going to China *via* the Burma-China Road. Now, what I want to know is, where is it today and where is the American Navy? If it is coming here, then tell us so, and there will be a sense of satisfaction created in our minds, the feeling, rightly or wrongly, today is, there is nothing coming and if the people could only be assured not of remote or possible promises, that there is some substantial machinery coming to us we will all be happy, because we will then be able to defend ourselves and meet the Japanese aggression on our eastern boundaries. I am sure I have the support of this House when I say we feel we are in a very insecure position. And our greater concern is what are we going to do as regards the future. I said in a speech the other day that America has been able to transport an entire aeroplane factory to China and that she has established a scheme in Karachi for assembling motor cars. But what are we going to do to stabilise our defences in the future. That is what I am concerned about.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Honourable Member in charge, I beg to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw the motion?

Several Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The next motion is in the name of Mr. Jannadas Mehta. Does he move it, No. 58?

Policy of the Labour Department during the War.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Yes, Sir. Sir, I beg to move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir, my motion has a very limited purpose. That purpose is to get a clear enunciation of the policy of the Labour Department of the Government of India during the war. The war makes a very heavy demand on the muscle and the brain of the worker, and the armies in the field, in order to carry on their duties efficiently, must be backed by the working classes to keep production up to requirements. It is really difficult to over-estimate the importance of the working class in conducting an active and efficient war when production on a large scale is necessary. We are told wherever we go, Sir, by military officers that they cannot have enough of anything; they cannot have too much of anything. Any kind of productive activity today is necessary to be harnessed, in order to help the war effort. That being so, the worker is a very important element in the conduct of the war, if not quite as much important as the soldier, he is at least nearer to the soldier, and if the soldier is to fight well, he must have help and supplies of all kinds. I need not labour that point, because it is self-evident. I only want to know from the Executive Council of this Government what is their policy? I submit for their consideration what I conceive should be the policy. There seems to be some conflict between what the Government in England do for the working classes and what our Government are or are not prepared to do for the working classes of this country. A worker, if he has to work under a strain, where the limit on the hours of work in a factory is taken away, or where appeals are made for the increase of the working hours voluntarily, when it may be necessary later on to remove all limit on the hours of work, what is the Honourable Member or the Government prepared to offer in return? Obviously, if you work me too hard, and if I am not able to recuperate by rest during the course of the day and by night's sleep, my efficiency suffers. It is, therefore, part of wisdom to keep the worker well fed and well cared for in other respects. I want to know whether the Government of India accept that proposition or not, because I find that the Honourable the Finance Member does not accept that proposition. He gave me quite clearly to understand, day before yesterday, that he does not care two brass buttons how many unions I represent. I have never heard such a contemptuous attitude on the part of a responsible Member of the Government for a poor representative of the poor working class.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I did not intend to depreciate in any way the function of representing labour. My point was that it did not matter how many labour unions anybody might represent. I did not think that that made any difference to my argument. That was my point.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: But that the representation of labour did not matter for him is quite clear.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, no.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am happy if he is not so prejudiced. I do not want to read in his speech what he says he did not intend. But later on, his argument left no manner of doubt as to what I am to expect

from him. It is not merely the contemptuous reference, but the substance of his speech on the effect of the prices on the cost of living has practically unnerved me as to what the working class is to expect under the Finance Ministership of Sir Jeremy Raisman's attitude of mind. He is quite clear that the volume of purchasing power has increased so much in this country that supplies must be restricted; but has the working class got any increase of that purchasing power? According to him, no matter what happens, the worker should not have increased purchasing power. That at least is the most correct interpretation of his attitude.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am sorry to interrupt, but I am afraid that those words do not correctly represent my attitude.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: At any rate, he has said this in so many words, I will quote his own words. He said, even in the matter of food, there is nothing further to be done. That is a quotation from what he said.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said increasing the amount of money would not increase the volume of supplies.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Apparently, decreasing the amount of money would be a happy thing. In the fifty minutes of his speech, day before yesterday, he tried to show why the Government servant should not sacrifice, why the rest of the country should sacrifice.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sacrifice the same

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: In those fifty minutes I heard nothing but the vindication of the Government servants, with which I sympathise, but the total lack of sympathy for the rest of the community, particularly the working class, was most amazing to me. I am now going to show that this conflict between the Labour Department and the Finance Department is most extraordinary in this period of the war. On the Honourable the Finance Member's own admission, the prices of commodities which are essential for keeping body and soul together, the working class cost of living—these prices have risen by a minimum of 30 per cent. to 51 or 55 per cent. Supposing, I am earning Rs. 100 today as a fitter or a mechanic in some workshop, if the Rs. 100 was before the war barely sufficient for my purpose, and if I am now required to spend for the same standard Rs. 155, the Honourable the Finance Member won't give me the additional purchasing power. He will on the contrary take a tax of Rs. 20 from me because I earn Rs. 200 a year. That is on the ground that the purchasing power in the country has grown. In whose hands? It does not matter if the purchasing power has grown, if it is not in the hands of those who need it. Has the purchasing power of the worker grown? See Sir B. N. Rao's report. Sir B. N. Rao has made a report in 1940 in which he has quoted many eminent authorities, that, while the vicious spiral of what is called inflation should be resisted, it is only consistently with the sound principle that the basic requirements of keeping body and soul together of the working class are also met at the same time. If for feeding the worker and clothing him you want Rs. 150 where you needed Rs. 100 yesterday, to give him Rs. 50 extra is not a vicious spiral of inflation at all. Vicious spiral of inflation cannot

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

mean anything else except that you should not increase the wages so far as other requirements are concerned, but the basic money substratum of living standard must grow along with the rise in the cost of living. That principle I want the Government of India to accept—that the working class will get a dearness allowance for every rise in the cost of living. That I demand here, and I hope I shall get it.

I cannot understand a war being waged when the working class people are suffering from privations, when their children cannot get milk, when their wives have to do without a sufficient number of clothes, and when their daughters cannot get elementary education. If that is the idea of the Government of India, then they are entirely wrong. That is not the standard which is accepted in England. On the contrary, the Labour Party joined the Coalition Government only after an assurance of due regard to the welfare of the workers and the equal sacrifice for everybody. On the one hand, the Honourable the Finance Member won't impose any sacrifice on the salaries above Rs. 200 for Government servants and I agree with him because their work has grown—but on the other hand, he will expect the working class to be content with a pre war income of Rs. 100 when the cost of living has gone up by 55 per cent; otherwise, it will become a vicious spiral of inflation. I cannot accept that logic. There is no philosophy in that, there is no economics in that, there is no humanity of any kind in that. That is simply a bare, blind method of obtaining revenue. If I were to speak in his own strain, I do not care two brass buttons how many Finance Members talk like that.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I must point out that the phrase "two brass buttons", never in my memory, crossed my lips.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is the spirit.—"I do not care how many unions you may represent". I do not care two brass buttons how many Finance Members talk like that. I say that the working class during the war should get a minimum subsistence consistently with the rise in the cost of living, and that has nothing to do with the volume of purchasing power elsewhere, nothing to do with the rise in prices of commodities except bare necessities of life, nothing to do with any of the slogans which the Honourable the Finance Member raised. I wonder whether he realises what he is doing when he is talking in that strain. He is inviting revolution. He is inviting a direct appeal to the revolutionary spirit of the working class that under imperialism or capitalism they have no future. I, therefore, beg of the Labour Department to clearly enunciate their policy, that during the war the standards of the working class will not be reduced, that with a rise in the cost of living—I do not want any more wages—with a rise in the cost of living a corresponding rise shall be given by way of a dearness allowance. 15 per cent. is being given in the railways. 30 per cent. to 55 per cent. is the increase in the cost of living, and I am asking my Honourable friend, Sir Firoze Khan Noon, to make up his mind between himself and Sir Jeremy Raisman whether the working class shall or shall not get this corresponding rise to keep their body and soul together. I think there can be no doubt in the mind of anybody that the standard of living is very low. It is a standard of bare subsistence. If your Rs. 10 cannot suffice for you, you must get Rs. 15. Man must eat. I will, therefore, not take the matter further.

I will now take another point, namely, whenever there is a dispute as ~~there~~ are bound to be disputes if the employers do get the mentality of the Finance Member. His mentality is that irrespective of the rise in the working class cost of living, if the purchasing power in the country generally has gone up there is no need for any dearness allowance. I want that fallacy to be thoroughly exposed and I want that if a dispute arises between the working classes and the employers during the war either in the matter of the dearness allowance or in any other working condition, Government will give facilities for some machinery to be set up. Nothing will be gained by prohibiting strikes merely under the Defence of India Act. The real remedy is that there should be a definite policy about the settlement of all disputes in the quickest possible manner and by some standing conciliation machinery of the type recommended by the Labour Commission. I hope the Honourable the Labour Member will give us some assurance for the quick settlement of labour disputes without interruption of production and without harming the workers. I beg of him to remember that while strikes may occasionally break out, no working class representative is interested in fomenting strikes.

I assure him that if I start a Union, it is to prevent a strike and not to foment it. When there are no Unions, there are more strikes, because unorganised labour is willing to listen to any sense or nonsense, while organised labour has a sense of responsibility. I was once lecturing in Bombay as to "how to prevent a strike" and a communist got up and told me: "Is it necessary to lecture on this subject? Your leadership is a guarantee that there will be no strike." He said that my presence made it a certainty that there will be no strike. That is my attitude. But do not treat the strikes as any ebullition of temper on the part of the workers. Their background is the real need for the redress of some grievances. In order that these grievances may be redressed, some machinery is necessary which will be applied immediately without wasting a single working day so that production may go on smoothly, and the working classes may be certain that they will get something.

The last point that I wish to say is this. I find that some Russian workers lately visited England. They watched the productive methods in England and found that there was some necessity for speeding up the work. I was glad to read of the British workers being honoured by a friendly visit by Russian workers. I also request the Labour Member that he should invite some Russian workers here so that the working classes in this country, who may be misled by statements of a kind that this is an Imperialist war can be told by Russian workers themselves that this is as much a workers war as of anybody else. I do not want that you should send workers from here to Russia, because the latter need no direction from us. But you should invite some Russian workers so that we may know at first-hand that this is a war in which the working classes are as much concerned as anybody else, that internationalism of the working classes is at stake and that in supporting this war, they are supporting not anybody's interests but the best interests of the working classes all over the world.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, when I heard my friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, speaking in that bellicose and militant voice, I thought he was very unfair to the Finance Member. I heard the Finance Member very carefully and nothing which he said could be given the interpretation Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has tried to introduce; but what about Mr. Jamnadas Mehta himself? He fancies himself to be the be-all and end-all and the Alpha and the Omega of labour problems. I shall presently show the House and the Honourable Member the hollowness of that claim. But I agree with him that today labour is the spearhead of every nation. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta erred when he said that the labourer occupies a second place, the first being given to the soldier. The fact of the matter is that without the labourer, the soldier would not be able to fight. I agree that labour demands adequate recognition and must have every sympathetic attention from the Government, particularly because of the rise in prices. And when I say that, I speak with some experience. I do not speak as the President of a Union which mainly consists of paper members as does my friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's with his Federation of Railway Unions. I make a positive statement here and I challenge Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to deny it. He talked mainly about his authoritative position among Railway Unions. My friend, Mr. Joshi, on the other hand, has a well-balanced mind and talks with authority about his Trade Unions and we always listen to him. May I ask Mr. Jamnadas what is the membership of his Federation of Railway Unions which he represents? Has he got a copy of the last Balance Sheet of that body? Has he got any Annual Report? Has he got the names of the members of the Executive Council? Which Railways does he represent? Has he got any copies of the rules of his Federation? Has he got the names of the Hindu and Muslim members of that Federation and how many Muslims and Anglo-Indians are in it? When he can answer these questions to my satisfaction, I shall look upon him as an authoritative labour leader and the representative of labour. Till he does that, I look upon him only as a specimen *geno hominus* whose great sorrow in his world is that God did not consult him before he made him the first labour union. I agree however, in what Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has demanded from Government, and I think it is up to the Government to pay the closest attention to that sympathy attention and which labour demands.

I have had something to do with labour unions, for I am the President of about six or seven unions. Although I am an Anglo-Indian, I am the President of the biggest Indian Union, the Posts and Telegraphs Union which consists entirely of Indians. There are no paper members in that Union and I can tell the Government that the time has come when it has to alter its angle of vision in regard to labour unions and labour grievances. Before the Government introduces any drastic measures against the interests of the labourer *e.g.*, their pay to meet the increased cost of living etc., it must exhibit a closer human touch with the labourer. That is what I charge the Government with not doing in most of the Government departments. Can any one deny that the labourer in India as elsewhere will be the master of India and their employees. I state that the Government which rules this country can be brought to its knees within 24 hours if the labour unions decide to call a strike for it will paralyse your trade and traffic. Therefore, you must realise the importance of this body of people and give it due sympathy and attention. Sir, I commend

this cut motion but not in the bellicose and militant attitude of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Before I call upon the next Honourable Member to speak on this cut motion, may I take it that the Unattached Party has no objection to the Nationalist Party carrying on up to 4 o'clock?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): If the Unattached Members will not be given their full time, then I have a serious objection to this proposal.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The decision of the Chair this morning was:

"If the Nationalist Party finds it necessary and if no Unattached Member objects, the Nationalists may be allowed half an hour more today, that is, up to 4 P.M."

I want to know if any Member objects to it. May I point out that it is rather in the interests of the unattached Members to carry on the debate, because the gentleman who is most interested in labour is anxious to speak. However, it lies with the unattached Members. Before Mr. Joshi speaks, that point must be decided whether the Nationalist Party will be allowed to carry up to 4 o'clock. May I take it that no unattached Member objects to this?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I would like to say one word. It is my privilege to speak. If the Honourable Member in charge of the Department loses his privilege, it is not my concern. I should like to know what you, Sir, want me to do. However, if the Honourable Member wants to speak, I am prepared to give way.

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney (Leader of the House): May I say, Sir, that if the Honourable Member in charge of Labour Department is to speak now, he must be given proper time which is required for a Government Member to reply. As Mr. Joshi is requesting the Honourable Member for Government to stand up and reply, I think he has no objection that the debate should be carried on up to 4 o'clock.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Nationalist Party had been given some time. Their own speakers on the last motion spoke longer than is necessary. Paudit Nilakantha Das, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya and Dr. Banerjea, all took much longer than is necessary.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I am prepared to give some of the Independent Party's time tomorrow. We have got very few cut motions in the name of our Party. I am prepared to give something out of it to the Nationalist Group.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: That is a very generous offer which we accept.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not objecting.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I hope this will satisfy Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi. I appeal to him to make this concession.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Just as it is convenient to the House. I would, however, request, let it not be full 4 o'clock. Let the debate on this cut motion finish just a little before 4 o'clock.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I rise to support, in the few minutes at my disposal, what my Honourable friend, Mr. Jammadas Mehta, said, namely, that although you are entitled to ask labour to give proper production and show sufficient efficiency during this war period, yet it is the duty of the Government to see that labour does not suffer. In the first place, Mr. Jammadas Mehta made it clear that on account of the rise in the cost of living, labourers will suffer unless steps are taken to see that the wages increase in proportion to the dearness of food. Sir, Government have not yet taken those steps. There are many industries in which wages have not risen in proportion to the rise in the cost of living and, thus, the Government have failed in their duty in this matter. I would go a little further that this is the chance for Indian labour to secure some betterment in their already low standard of life. If the industries are making an excessive profit, a share of that excessive profit should go to labour also. I think, Sir, the Government of India should take steps to see that labour gets its due share.

As regards what Mr. Jammadas Mehta said that in all trade disputes, the Government should show at least impartiality between employees and employers. Some days ago I asked a question that in the Ordinance which the Government of India have issued compelling certain classes of workers to work in certain factories, the Government of India have made it necessary for the workers to give notice and secure permission of the National Service Tribunal before they leave any particular factory. But, as regards the employers, the employers need not take the permission of the National Tribunal before they discharge their workers. I asked, Sir, the Secretary of the Labour Department whether this was just and he says, 'yes, this was just'. I cannot understand how this can be justice when you compel the worker to take permission of the National Service Tribunal before leaving service of the employer and not put similar obligation upon the employer. This is not the way of treating labour and expecting labour to give efficient production. The Government of India have issued several Ordinances like this one to which I have referred. In my judgment the Government of India have not shown proper consideration for the interests of the workers. They issued an Ordinance regarding the hours of work, increasing the hours of work. Then, Sir, they have issued an Ordinance recently compelling drivers of motor cars to get themselves registered. In this matter of compelling workers to work, I should like to say a word. I can understand conscription during war time. But when you apply conscription, it should be applied to all people. Why apply conscription only to the working classes and not to others. If you apply conscription, then it is your duty to see that at least those people to whom you apply conscription are properly protected.

Sir, the Government of India have also issued an Ordinance regarding the compensation for war injuries and they have an Ordinance compelling workers and employers to accept arbitration. In this connection, I should like to tell the Government this, that I can understand the Government issuing an Ordinance and rules during war times regulating the conditions of work of the workmen, but if such an Ordinance is to be issued, I

would like the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to previously consult the organisation of workers. If in war time there is to be co-operation between the workers and the Government, there should be, in the first place, previous consultation and, in the second place, when you issue an ordinance and when you frame rules, you must also have co-operation of the workers in the administration of those rules and legislation. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government of India that they should have a permanent machinery and Advisory Committee and they should have sufficient labour representation on that Advisory Committee in order to see that war time legislation is not used in such a way that the interests of the workers will suffer.

Then, Sir, the Government also must see that during war time, if you want to avoid strikes, you must try to promote joint working between workers and employers in this country. Here, in India, there are many employers who do not recognise trade unions. Unless the trade unions are recognised by the employers, how can there be harmonious relationship between employers and the workers. If the relationship between the two are not harmonious, then certainly you cannot get efficient production. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government of India that they should do their best to see that here is harmonious co-operation between the workers and the employers.

I know, Sir, that in Bombay, for instance, the biggest industry is the textile industry. There is a trade union, a strong trade union, representing the interests of the textile workers. But the millowners of Bombay refuse to recognise that Union on the ground of its politics. Sir, the workers in Bombay do not object to the Members of the Bombay Millowners Association belonging either to the European party or to the Liberal party or to the Congress party. But the millowners of Bombay refuse to recognise Unions on the ground that some of the leading members of that trade union belong to the Communists' party. What has the politics of the leaders of a union got to do with the recognition of a union? Moreover, if there is to be co-operation during the war and if the employers and Government have no objection to co-operate with Russia, the fountain-head of communism, it only shows small-mindedness either on the part of Government or of the employers to refuse to recognise the unions on the ground of their politics. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government of India to use their efforts to establish harmonious relations and co-operation between the employers and the employee. Then I would also like the Government of India to see that this co-operation is established not between one big organisation like the Millowners' Association and the Girmi Kamgar Union, but there should be harmonious relations and co-operation between the workers and the employer in each factory. I will read only a few lines in a telegram from London in this connection :

"A considerable step forward in quickening the war production was taken today when a constitution for factory production committees was signed by representatives of the Ministry of Supply and trade unions having members in Royal Ordnance Factories. The committees will represent workers and managements in each Royal Ordnance Factory. The Committees will consult and advise on matters relating to production and increased efficiency in order to obtain maximum output."

I should like the Government of India to form factory committees in India. If they want workers to give proper production, if they want that the production should not suffer, they must take steps to see that co-operation is established between the employers and the employed. I hope

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

the Government of India will revise their policy and do what they can to help the working classes to secure a square deal during war time.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

The Honourable Sir Feroz Khan Noon (Labour Member): Sir, I have listened with great interest to the speeches made by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and Mr. Joshi and also by Sir Henry Gidney. And I am delighted to hear again what I have had an opportunity of discussing with them before in private rooms. Ever since I have been here I have missed no opportunity of keeping in close touch with these two great labour leaders and other labour leaders in order to consult them regarding all matters connected with labour; and many of the suggestions that they have already put forward are already being taken up by us in the Department and we are constantly consulting them with regard to the progress of these suggestions. It is hardly necessary for me to repeat here what I hope they will have fully realised by now, that my sympathies are entirely with people engaged in the country's industries which depend very greatly on the willing co-operation and welfare of the worker. And they already know that since I have been here we have taken several steps to ameliorate the condition of the workers in this country. The question of the rise in cost of living and rise in wages is always before Government and we are constantly drawing the attention of employers all over the country to the desirability of avoiding strikes and making peace with workers and adjusting their wages in accordance with the rise in the cost of living.

One of the great difficulties which my two labour leader friends are already aware of regarding the rise in the cost of living is the lack of statistics; and in consultation with them we have already taken steps to collect statistics. But those statistics will not be of much use to us till a certain period has been covered. It is a well recognised thing all over the world that the cost of living, particularly in war time, goes up by means of an electric lift and the wages in all countries in the world climb up by a ladder; and when the war is over the prices come down by an electric lift and the wages climb down slowly by a ladder. But, certainly, there is a great deal of justification and truth in what the Finance Member has been saying here and in the other House that it is a vicious circle, that once you begin to raise the wages the cost of living also begins to go up. But that in my opinion is no reason for denying to labour a rise in their wages to meet the rise in the cost of living which is inevitable. And it is for that reason that Government have constantly pursued a policy of seeing that the employers treat labour fairly; and I must say that it is to the credit of the employers in many places, at least so far as my experience goes, that they have always been accommodating. I understand that in Bombay textile industry there is already, no doubt through the influence of my Honourable friend, the labour leader there, a standing agreement between the workers and the employers, and the wages go up automatically in accordance with the rise in the cost of living. And I hope that that system of standing agreement will be followed by other employers in other industries all over the country in order to avoid the constant fear of strikes.

There is one thing which is very important not only from the point of view of the war production but also from the point of view of the prosperity of the industrial life of this country, and that is that we must always avoid strikes; and strikes can be avoided only if workers are treated fairly. On the other hand the workers and their leaders should be reasonable when dealing with employers because it is not in the national interest that the demands of workers should be so exorbitant that our industry fails when it has to compete with other good and better-organised industries from abroad or elsewhere. And it is for that reason that it is always desirable for both parties, labourers as well as employers, to follow a course of friendliness and a process of give and take in which lies the safety of our industry. There is no doubt that many people have argued that a rise in prices and wages is sometimes a good thing because it circulates money and more goods are produced, and it raises the standard of living in the country as a whole. It is sometimes argued that the Americans have by artificial means stimulated their industry by raising and controlling their prices. I do not offer any personal views on the subject; these are things for which you can argue both ways and you can find very strong arguments in favour of one class or the other. But of one thing I am certain, that the prosperity of the worker depends on the prosperity of the industry, and the prosperity of the industry depends on a spirit of compromise between the workers and the employers.

I just wish to say one or two words about the question of strikes. I should like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the leaders of the working classes in this country, and, particularly, to my two friends here, who have constantly given Government every assistance possible to try and avoid strikes, and the country owes them and other labour leaders a debt of gratitude for the great national work that they are performing today in trying to avoid strikes; and I hope they will continue to do the same in future.

So far as the question of trade unions is concerned, my two friends here more than anybody else in this House or outside are aware how strongly I personally am in favour of the recognition of trade unions in order to provide a proper channel through which employers can negotiate with the workers. The disorganized worker is liable to fall into the hands of agitators and other troublemongers, but if there are recognized trade unions, I am personally of the opinion that trouble in industry is likely to be avoided rather than to be encouraged, and I must say that whenever we have had any discussions with the employers on the subject they have always been very liberal in this respect and have been in favour of recognizing trade unions. I hope that that process will continue and before long we shall have recognized trade unions working all over the country in all industries for the benefit of the working classes as well as the industry of the country.

One labour leader made the suggestion that we ought to consult workers with regard to troubles in industries and other labour matters. With that suggestion I am in complete agreement and my two friends already know that I have never hesitated to express my opinion that in all cases connected with labour, the employers as well as workers and the Government and the public representatives are all to be consulted because in those meetings we have to deal with problems which are of

[Sir Firoz Khan Noon.]

great value to the country; and we are already taking steps to bring to the notice of the Provincial Governments this very suggestion which my two Honourable friends have already made to me in our private conversations. I have not slept over those suggestions. They are under active examination. But in this respect we have to carry the provinces with us as it is the Provincial Governments who have to administer all labour legislation.

So far as the question of legislation in the interest of labour is concerned, Honourable Members are aware that we have already had the War Injuries Compensation Ordinance and we have also taken steps to secure the safety of workers from enemy attacks while working in factories. We have the Technical Services Ordinance to ensure that workers are kept in certain notified factories and are assured of fair conditions. We are also taking steps to make our labour tribunals to serve the purpose of labour exchanges for technical personnel. Apart from this, Honourable Members are aware that we have recently been dealing with Workmen's Compensation Act which is also designed to help the worker in certain difficult circumstances.

Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of the House any longer and I wish to assure my Honourable friend that what he has at heart is also at my heart and he will receive my fullest co-operation in anything that he wishes to do to remove injustices where they exist in the case of labour and to see also that the interests of industry from the national point of view are also fairly and justly treated, and with these assurances I think that he will remain satisfied and it will not be necessary for him to press his cut.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, in view of the assurances given by my Honourable friend, I wish to withdraw the cut motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.
Repressive Policy of the Government.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The question of repressive policy has been discussed in this House on many occasions and there is no necessity for me to go into the details that have already been gone over again and again. When the war came all the Congress Governments were working and the whole of India was satisfactorily carrying on as a constitutional country. The British Government joined the war and also declared that India was a party to the war. Objects of the war were declared and it was at that time that Indians started demanding a declaration from the Government so that they may know as to where they stand in connection with the objects of the war. It was with the British Government's denial to fully describe the status of India that the political agitation began and this repression was started. At the time when the Defence of India Act was passed, certain assurances were given to the House. They have been read again and again before the House and so I will only quote a part of the speech of the Leader of the House at that time. Quoting Mr. Churchill, he said:

"This is a war to establish and revised the stature of man. Perhaps it may seem a paradox that a war undertaken in the name of liberty and right should require as a necessary part of its process the surrender for the time being of so

many valuable liberties and rights. We are sure that these liberties will be in hands which will not abuse them and which will cherish and guard them and we look forward to the day confidently when our liberties and rights will be restored to us and when we shall be able to share them with people to whom such blessings are known."

Now, Sir, this undertaking was given by the Leader of the House in respect of the Act that was to be enacted and was to be an all-India Act. There was no suggestion, there was no idea that this Government will cease to be responsible for the administration of those laws. But this Government is adept in the art of creating fictions. They have created political fictions and the political fiction that they have adopted in this particular case is the fiction of Provincial Autonomy. When, as a matter of fact, almost seven Provincial Governments were not functioning and those provinces were absolutely under the bureaucracy, this fiction of Political Autonomy continued and the Government of India persistently refused to consider the question of political prisoners under the Provincial Governments. Sir, my point is that so far as the rights of subjects are concerned, this Government is a very great constitutional Government but so far as their own purposes are concerned that constitution comes to an end. They separated Burma from India. They said that one country will have nothing to do with another

The Honourable Mr. M. S. Aney: The Government of India did not separate Burma from India.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I am sorry their masters did it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated: Non-Official): The agents are also responsible for their masters' action.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: They separated India and created a number of problems—that of immigration, that of export and import, that of perpetual disputes between Indians and Burmans.

We find that Burma was separated from our country; we also find that the Premier of that country after seeing Mr. Churchill was detained on his way back from England, and now Burma is under the Indian command. That political fiction was there only so far as the Indians were concerned; but now that the question of defence has come in, it is under the Indian command; and the Indian taxpayer has to meet the cost of the defence of Burma. I do not say that it is not the duty of the Indians to defend their country even in Burma—they must be prepared to defend even in far away places. All I say is that now that Burma is attacked, it has come under the Indian command as a subsidiary to India and not as a separate country. That fiction was only for the time being in order to create disputes between our people and the Burmese, but as soon as an emergency arose they say that Burma and India ought to be under the same command. Similarly, this Provincial Autonomy is very difficult to understand—as to how far the Provinces working it are really autonomous. They are administering these Defence of India Rules in the worst possible way, even carrying on a vindictive policy; but when we come to the Government of India and ask them, for some relief they say that because of Provincial Autonomy they have neither got any information nor can they interfere.

After the assurances given to this House for the proper administration of this law, it is not decent for Government to deny their responsibility, on the fiction that Provincial Autonomy is at work in some provinces. What happens after that? War comes nearer to India and the Government consider revision of their policy. I do not know whether it was in consequence

[Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi.]

of the opinions of this House or the changed conditions due to the war, or to their own sympathetic mentality, the Government started reconsidering their policy. It took them days and days and perhaps months before they could come to a decision on this point. Ultimately, after the last Session of the Assembly had adjourned, they came to a decision to release some of the political prisoners. No doubt we thank them for that, but the question is whether they have any imagination and whether they understand the situation, and whether they even now realise that the detention of these persons was nothing but wrong. I submit they had a narrow-minded policy when they wanted to invent a formula for the release of political prisoners which they could apply as they liked. The formula they invented was that the offence must be a formal one. What was the necessity for this formula? According to the statement of the Honourable the Home Member there were 7,216 persons who had committed various kinds of political offences, had been tried by the courts and had some definite terms of imprisonment. That number was 7,216. The Home Member also told us at the time that out of this number, 5,655 were satyagrahis; and in dealing with those who had been detained under the Defence of India Rules, he told us that out of 1,759 detenees 493 were satyagrahis, 310 were of a category to which the Resolution did not apply and about 956 were suspected of revolutionary tendencies. Those were the categories which were dealt with before the House. It will be strange to find that most of these 493 persons who were satyagrahis were not released. My point is that the formula whatever it was must have been applied to cover the cases of every person convicted of a non-violent political offence or detained for it, and not on the extent of the offence. One person might have made a speech of two hours and you do not apply the formula to him; another makes a speech of fifteen minutes and you apply the formula to him. Yet another man though he spoke only for five minutes is considered to have made a harsher speech and so the formula is not made applicable to him. How do you bring in these distinctions? Are these things recorded? You have a formula which the authorities can apply to any one they like and leave the others? I can just give an example. Maulana Habibur Rahman, an ex-President of the All-India Majlis-i-Ahrar met Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai about the co-ordination of the activities of the Ahrars and the Congress. Both of them met at Allahabad. After they had both returned to their places, one was detained by the United Provinces Government and the other when he returned to Lahore was detained by the Punjab Government under the Defence of India Rules. After the coming into operation of this formula one gentleman has been released, the other is continuing in jail. Why should there be this difference in treatment? I had just an opportunity of meeting Maulana Habibur Rahman, and I can assure you that it is impossible for people who have been living a decent life outside, to carry on under those conditions. I had to go from Allahabad to Montgomery for seeing this gentleman, and the time of interview allowed was half an hour. You can very well conceive that a person who wants to meet him has got to travel 1,600 miles before he can talk for half an hour. Then at the time of the interview, two jail officers, one sub-inspector of police and one other police officer were present. Of course, there was no harm by their being present, because I had nothing confidential to talk to him, but when we find this condition is applied even when his wife and children go to meet him, when *purdanashin* ladies go to meet him, then you can understand the rigour of the law. Personally it was no inconvenience to

me to talk before the jail officials but of course it was humiliating. But so far as *pardanashin* ladies are concerned, they are not expected to talk to their own people in front of outsiders, and probably no *pardanashin* lady would talk to her husband in the presence of outsiders, and, particularly, in front of an audience of that type. This law is applicable not merely to Maulana Habibur Rahman, but it is applicable to every other detenu.

Then, Sir, another thing is, they are not allowed to mix with other political prisoners in the jail. Recently, I have heard that
 4 P.M. Maulana Habibur Rahman had a very serious heart attack, and he has lost about 25 lbs. in jail, and no doctor is allowed to visit him without the permission of the D. I. G., C. I. D., who resides at Lahore. You have got to correspond with him, before permission is granted even to the medical officer to visit him. Again, I have heard that recently they have gone a step further. Before a visitor is allowed to interview the detenus, he has to send his photograph along with his application, in fact he must carry the photograph with him so that it may be compared with the one he has sent with his application. Are these things conceivable in any civilized country? If a person wants to see a detenu detained in the jail, he must first send his photograph along with his application to the D. I. G., C. I. D., at Lahore. In most cases the D. I. G., C. I. D., is bound to refuse permission, but if perchance he grants the request of the applicant to go to Montgomery jail,—which is considered to be the Andamans of Punjab Jails because it is situated far away from Lahore and other places—he has to take his photograph with him and fulfil all the other requirements imposed by the police authorities. As I pointed out yesterday, there is no competent doctor available in the city itself. What about the jail? If you want to take a doctor to the jail, it means a certain amount of money which is not to be paid by the Government. When I went to Montgomery there were about 18 or 20 detenus in the jail. Now, Sir, I have heard that all of them have been removed from Montgomery to Gujrat jail and Maulana Habibur Rahman is all alone.

Mr. President (the Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: This kind of treatment can only be characterised as vindictive, and I say that it is for the Government of India to consider the cases of these people.

Coming to the general aspect of the case, I would like to know the actual number of persons who are still under detention, and how Government propose to deal with their cases. My one complaint is that the Honourable the Home Member told us that these people are suspected of revolutionary activities, but whether they were engaged in violent or non-violent activities is also a fact which is not known to us. Will the Government make it a point to tell the persons who are being detained the reason for their detention? We cannot even ask the Honourable Member as to whether the case of a certain person comes within the definition that has been invented by the Government of India, as we do not know the reason for his detention. The position is a difficult one. So it is necessary that in cases of persons who have been detained, they should be informed of the reasons for which they have been detained. Now I find that the Provincial Governments have appointed committees to examine the cases of detenus. I think the thing must be done rapidly. No doubt.

[Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi.]

the Government of India is a very heavy machinery. It moves and moves so slowly that I remember that on the arrival of Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-Shek, nothing was done, but they brought a Resolution of welcome to him at the time when he departed from this country. They move so slowly. They have also to remember the Persian proverb—

"Tā tirgāq az Iraq āwurda shawad, mār quzida murda shawad."

"Till the specific remedy will be brought from Mesopotamia, the snake-bitten will die."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I have also finished, Sir. I only hope that the Government of India will consider all these matters.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, on this occasion I do not wish to deal with the question whether the repressive policy of the Government of India is justified or not. I had on several occasions protested against that policy. Today, Sir, I wish to deal with the question of the necessity of early liquidation of that policy. The Government of India on December the 4th by issuing a communique has partially liquidated that policy, and on this occasion, Sir, I would like to tell the Government of India to complete that liquidation at the earliest moment. When on the 4th of December they issued their communique, they forgot certain factors in the Indian situation. In the first place, Russia some months ago entered the war, and on account of the entry of Russia into the war, the Communist party in India and also others who follow the Marxist policy had changed their attitude towards the war. It is true that they were at first opposed to India's participation in the war, but after Russia's entry into the war, they decided after some consultation among themselves, that the war had become a popular war, and the Indian public should unconditionally support the war. It is true that at the same time they made certain demands for improvements, economic and political, but their main thesis was that the war having become a popular war, it should be unconditionally supported. Similarly, Sir, the Kisan leaders too came to the same conclusion. I know that Shujahanand, the greatest Kisan leader of India, has declared in a statement that the war, after the entry of Russia, has become the peoples' war. I feel, Sir, that after this change in the attitude of the Communist and Kisan leaders, the Government of India should have released them immediately.

The Honourable the Home Member had stated that he has taken steps to appoint some reviewing authority, and that the Provincial Governments too have done the same thing. But, Sir, this method of reviewing of cases does not suit persons of all temperaments and also persons who belong to certain organizations. I shall read, Sir, a sentence from one of the letters I have received from a detenu which makes his point of view very clear.

"I have seen your suggestion that in the near future we may be given an opportunity of explaining our new view point regarding the war. I am confident you will

appreciate it when I point out to you that so long as I am held in duress, I cannot be expected to make any statement which can even remotely be interpreted as an awkward attempt to buy my freedom."

Sir, there are people who are sensitive, who have a very high sense of their dignity, who have a very high sense of their freedom of human beings. They do not like to make a statement while they are in jail regarding their views so that it might be said that their change of attitude was in order to secure their release. Well, Sir, I am personally a man of practical bent of mind, but still I appreciate the view expressed by a friend of mine in his letter.

Then, Sir, this reviewing authority and the procedure do not suit people who belong to a party. The Government of India while writing to those people as to why they were detained have stated that they were detained because they were members of the Communist Party and they were acting in accordance with the views of the communist party. The Government, when it recognises that people were detained on account of being members of a party, should also recognise that it is not easy for individuals belonging to that party to make declarations regarding their policy unless they have an opportunity of mutual consultation. Most of these communists are in jail. They have no opportunity of mutual consultation, they, therefore, find it difficult to express their views. I have no doubt that the Government of India will realise this difficulty, and, if I may say so, when I had a talk with the Honourable the Home Member on this question, I thought he appreciated the difficulty and I suggested to him that if some of the detenus did not send in a reply he should write to them again. I find now that he has done that, but we have to deal not only with the Government of India but with Provincial Governments as well. I find from reports in the newspapers that the Madras Government had appointed a Judge to review the cases, and as a result of the review only four persons have been released. This disappointing result, in my judgment, is due to the fact that people in jails in Madras had no opportunity for mutual consultation. They do not know what their colleagues in Bombay have stated. On account of this the difficulty has arisen. I would like the Honourable the Home Member and the Government of India, therefore, not to depend too much upon this dilatory process of reviewing. It is a dilatory process because the Honourable Member spoke about reviewing on November 18th, and the reviewing is not yet finished. It is going on. I would, therefore, suggest to the Honourable the Home Member now not to depend too much upon this dilatory reviewing procedure. I would suggest to him to take other steps to liquidate the repressive policy.

I feel that the Government of India should now take note of another situation that has happened during this war, and that situation is that the Government of India, the British Government and the allies have become the allies of Russia. This has made a great change as regards the attitude of the British Government and of the British people towards the communists, and I hope that the attitude of the Government of India also will change towards the communists. If they treat Russia as an ally, let them treat the Indian communists as an ally. As a matter of fact, some of the commanding officers and the Governor in Malaya offered co-operation to the Chinese communists. If they could do that, I think they can also

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

offer co-operation with the Indian communists. You may have read in the papers that recently the anniversary of the Red Army was celebrated all over the world. Mr. Churchill sent a message of good wishes to Mr. Stalin regarding the anniversary of the Red Army Day. I thought that on that day the red flag with hammer and sickle would fly over the Viceregal Lodge in Delhi and also on the room of the Honourable the Home Member in the Imperial Secretariat. But, unfortunately, I did not see the red flag there on that day. But I would like the Honourable the Home Member to consider this question seriously, whether he should treat the Indian communists with that distrust which he might have been justified in showing some time ago.

I do not wish to deal with this question at great length, but I would like to make an appeal to the Government of India and the Honourable the Home Member. My appeal is this. We find from papers that there is to be an announcement, an important announcement regarding constitutional changes in India. I would like the Government of India to take steps to make another important announcement along with that announcement, namely, that all the security prisoners and all the political prisoners in India are released. If the announcement which the British Parliament, Mr. Churchill and others are going to make is to receive proper consideration at the hands of the Indian people, I think a simultaneous announcement that all the security prisoners are released will help a good deal towards the proper reception of that announcement. I, therefore, make an appeal to the Honourable the Home Member, to the Indian Members,—the Honourable the Law Member, the Honourable the Leader of the House and other Indian Members of the Executive Council—and if my voice could reach Great Britain, I would make an appeal to Mr. Churchill the Prime Minister, an appeal to Sir Stafford Cripps who has recently become the Leader of the British Parliament, to Mr. Attlee and to my friends of the Labour Party and the trade union movement in England, that this is an occasion to liquidate the policy of repression. When they are announcing constitutional reform, they should not fail to make an announcement that all the political prisoners in India are released and everybody here is free. If the constitutional reform announcement is to announce the freedom of India, I am sure that announcement must include the freedom of the people at present rotting in the Indian jails.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: We have been dealing with this question of repressive policy from time to time on the floor of this House, but the present time has its special value. Sir, repression is the result of weakness, a weakness that comes out of fear and out of guilty conscience. Whom are the British Government repressing? People who are suspected of cherishing the thought of freedom. Why is the whole world mad after human slaughter? The whole world has become a mere shamble, and why? Because nation after nation has come under the heels of the Nazis, and Mussolini and Hitler have taken it into their heads to repress all nations of the world and subdue all countries in order to make themselves the topmost nations in the world. Sir, His Majesty's Government and Russia and 26 other nations have joined and combined together to carry on the war to maintain the freedom and power of democracy. Democracy is sought to be crushed by Fascism and Nazism.

Sir, the policy of repression in this country has been going on ever since 1818 and it has become the creed of the British Government in

India. It is disgraceful for any civilised Government to have a law on the Statute Book by which patriotic men are sent to jail without trial, without even a show of trial and they are still persisting in that policy. Is it not incumbent upon the Honourable the Home Member to think thrice and to give his best consideration to this question of repressive policy at a time when he wants every Indian to think that this war is the war of India? Long have we strained ourselves to convince the British Government in India that this policy will not work and that this policy will not pay in the long run. At such a time when every Indian is inclined to help the Government why should not the British Government change its policy? Mr. Joshi has very clearly put that the British Government has now Russia as its ally. It is an ally which is so helpful, so brave and so courageous that it has made it possible for England to carry on this war. Therefore, the communists who are intellectual communists only and who are not actual communists but have only accepted the philosophy and the ideology of Russia should not be confined in jails. Why should these people who were found guilty and convicted some 15 or 20 years ago for any political activity be kept in jails even now? It is the duty of the Government to show human sympathy towards them and to create love between the government and the governed. It is indeed a matter of pity that we have been talking to ears which do not hear. Ours is a cry in the wilderness yet. But Government should take the present situation into consideration and the Honourable the Home Member should not make any further delay in coming to a decision about those prisoners who have been still rotting in jail for over 20 years for their political work. Their convictions and their craving for independence might have led them away but the time has now come to consider their cases and give them freedom when world is fighting for freedom. Sir, it is high time that this policy should be abandoned and the policy of friendship should be adopted.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell (Home Member): Sir, this cut motion has been made an occasion for reviving topics of discussion which have been debated in this House several times lately and some of which are still under debate. The House will, therefore, excuse me if I do not attempt to go over all the ground which has been covered in previous speeches. At the debate at the last Session I attempted to explain as fully as I could the policy of Government in regard to the imprisonment or detention of persons whose activities were believed to be prejudicial to the prosecution of the war. I gave the House then the figures of these persons and I also explained the relations between the Central and the Provincial Governments in administering the Defence of India Rules. I showed there that Provincial Autonomy was no fiction but it was a matter which had to be taken into consideration. I can give the Honourable Member the figure which he asked for when he wished to know how many persons were still under detention. I can give the figure up to the 15th of January only. On that date 1,189 persons were undergoing sentences of imprisonment for offences against the Defence of India Rules in the whole of India. Those offences include offences of all sorts and not only those in regard to which repression is alleged. Then, on the same date 1,171 persons were undergoing detention in the whole of India under Rules 26 and 129. Those, again, include persons about the propriety of whose detention no question could possibly be raised. Even supposing that all these figures were included within the scope of the Resolution, it would be impossible for anyone to maintain

[Sir Reginald Maxwell.]

that repression existed in this country when only, roughly 2,200 persons are in any kind of custody out of the 400 millions of Indians.

I deny entirely on behalf of Government that our policy is repressive. I have looked up the definition of "repression" in the Oxford Dictionary for purposes of this debate. I find that "to repress" means "check, restrain, put down, keep under, quell, suppress, prevent from sounding or bursting out or rioting". When I consider the words "prevent from sounding", I must remark that the mere fact that the Honourable the Mover of this motion is still at large is complete answer to those who say that repression prevails in this country. But I think that the word "repression" is used somewhat loosely, or the general significance given to it in these debates is that it conveys a certain reproach to those exercising the alleged repression. That is to say, the sympathy of the speaker is on the side of the repressed rather than on the side of the repressor. That, however, depends on the point of view of the speaker. If, for instance, the Honourable the Mover found himself confronted by a hungry tiger, he would not regard it as repression if a policeman came along and shot the tiger. He would regard the matter from his own point of view, and not from the tiger's point of view. But I, on the other hand, as a disinterested spectator might say. Therefore, as I have said, these things depend to a large extent on the point of view, and that again was a matter to which I drew some attention in my speech earlier in this Session with regard to the release of political prisoners, where I deprecated the kind of assertion which says that the release of all these persons is necessary in order to conciliate the public. I know that I must be careful of what I say on this subject because the remarks which I let fall on that occasion appear to have provoked an entirely unexpected outburst from certain quarters. In fact, it has become quite fashionable to attack me personally in this connection in the press and on the public platform. Well, I do not mind such attacks; they will not influence me. In fact, I daresay that many of them are deserved. At least I can say with all the humility of which Sardar Sant Singh is capable that I realise that there may be faults on both sides.

In some respects, it is satisfactory to me to know that my least utterances can so electrify the elder statesmen. But I might tell the House that a few days ago, by one post, by the same post, I received two letters. They were both letters of thanks. They both related to persons who were detained or who were under imprisonment. In one case the letter thanked me for my intervention and said, "please accept my hearty thanks for paying prompt attention to individual cases in spite of heavy pressure of work". In that case the person referred to had obtained his release. In another case, which had not resulted in release, I also had a letter acknowledging with thanks the one which I had written giving particulars of the case and expressing gratitude for the trouble which I took in the matter myself. All I have to say is that letters like these give me far more pride and satisfaction than anything which I could derive, than any cheap popularity which I could earn by failing to take steps which I consider to be my duty. As I have told the House before, neither I nor the Government have the slightest desire to exercise repression or to keep any person in custody who is not really dangerous and whom we do not honestly believe to be dangerous.

If I believe a man to be innocent, I shall leave no stone unturned to secure his release, and if I believe him to be a menace, then I must do my best to see that he is prevented from fulfilling his object. That is the point of view from which we approach this review of the cases of persons detained which was referred to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. He asked us to remove the difficulties which there might be in the way of these people representing their cases before the Tribunals who have them under examination. I have done my best to remove every difficulty which he pointed out to me and as he admitted some such difficulties have been removed. But the object of the Government must be in regard to communists generally to find out whether in fact their attitude of mind is such that if they were at liberty, they would abstain from any activities likely to frustrate the war effort. We have a very heavy responsibility on us to see that no danger is let loose on the country in addition to the very great dangers that threaten it from outside and without any desire whatever to keep people in custody merely for the pleasure of it, we have to see that our duty in that respect is discharged and that the very great dangers which surround us are in no way augmented. The review which is now taking place will, I hope, give opportunity for sifting out cases. In several cases, I am informed that the Provincial Governments have themselves approached the matter from this point of view and without waiting for the verdict of the Tribunals have themselves taken the initiative in releasing certain persons. If that can be done, no one will be better pleased than myself. You must still remember that among the persons detained there are many who are really dangerous and the House must give the Government credit very often for knowing more about these cases than is known to members of the general public.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Is every one of them dangerous?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I did not say every one is dangerous. I shall only be too pleased to be satisfied that certain cases are not dangerous. My one object is to find out which cases then are really necessary to detain and at the same time not to take unjustifiable risks in these days. Actually my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, was complaining of the dilatory procedure which is being followed in the review of these cases. But the very case which he quoted, namely, that of Madras, appears, if his information is correct, and I may say I have no information myself of that kind, to be due to the speed with which the operation was conducted there, so that the conclusion was arrived at on some of these cases before the prisoners themselves had made up their minds whether to put in any representation on their own behalf or not. In fact, I anticipate that we may even be asked to extend the period during which the review is in progress in that Province or for us to give time for those persons to make their own representations. That, Sir, is all that I need say in answer to this motion and I hope that the House will be satisfied with what I have said and realise that there is no such thing as repression calling for any condemnation of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is—
“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”
The motion was negatived.

Pension of Inferior Servants of the Government of India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, my object in moving this cut is to try to persuade the Honourable the Finance Member to do justice to the employees of the Government of India who are known as inferior servants, as regards their pension. Sir, this question has been discussed in the Assembly several times. It was discussed during the Budget debate two years ago. I need not take up the time of the House in explaining the whole situation regarding this question. The House knows it very well; the Honourable the Finance Member knows it well also. However, I must recapitulate a few of the things regarding the present situation about pensions paid to the inferior servants of the Government of India. Sir, the Government employees belonging to the subordinate branches at present, as things stand, do not get pension equal to half their salary, after thirty years service. Sir, the Government of India do not give pension to this extent to their inferior servants. In the first place, the Government of India have put down a maximum of Rs. 8 as regards the pension to be paid to the inferior servants which acts very disadvantageously on some of the persons belonging to the inferior service. Sir, there are many people in Bombay and elsewhere whose monthly salary is much larger than Rs. 16. Some people, especially in the postmen's cadre get Rs. 30, Rs. 40 and even more in the case of some of them and in their case, ordinarily half the pension will be Rs. 15, Rs. 20 or even more. But in the case of the clerks who generally get from Rs. 40 to Rs. 200, they get full half the amount of their salary as pension. I do not know why the Government of India should have put the maximum at such a low figure as Rs. 8, so that a large number of the Government of India's inferior employees lose a great deal as regards pension.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member whether in referring to postmen he has not made a mistake? My information is that postmen are not classed as inferior servants.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am sorry, I should not have said, postmen. I should have said, telegraph peons and also the inferior servants of the Postal Department, packers and others. I am sorry for the mistake.

Sir, it was wrong for the Government of India to put the maximum at such a low figure as Rs. 8. Then, they do not show discrimination only as regards the maximum but they show discrimination as regards the number of years of qualifying service. In subordinate branches and I think in the higher services also 80 years' service is enough to enable an employee to earn full pension. But in the case of the inferior servants they were expected up to two years ago to put in 40 years' service in order to earn full pension. Then the Honourable the Finance Member on my appeal two years ago in this House, made with the support of the legislature, brought down the number of years from 40 to 35. He could not do full justice because a few lakhs might be necessary. I would, on this occasion, appeal to the Finance Member to continue his progress towards justice and take some step this year. It is true that two years ago he reduced the qualifying service from 40 to 35; I would suggest to him now to take a step which is only a natural continuation of the progress which he made then and reduce the number of years from 35 to 30. If you consider the question of cost, I think the cost will not be much. Moreover, I would place before the Finance Member one

more consideration which is that the largest number of the inferior employees of the Government of India belong to the Postal Department, and at present the Postal Department is one of the most prosperous Departments of the Government of India. I think the Government of India are making a profit of three crores of rupees this year. I hope I am right.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, I think that is right.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If the Government of India are making a profit of three crores in the Postal Department is it not just that the inferior employees of that Department should be given the benefit of a few lakhs of rupees in these prosperous days? And if there is money for the postal employees in order to extend this concession of pension then the number of employees of the Government of India in the other Departments is comparatively small. The cost which Government may have to incur will be very small. I would, therefore, suggest to the Finance Member to take this step without making much of the cost which they will have to incur.

Then, Sir, there is another consideration. If the Finance Member reduces that limit from 35 to 30, the amount of extra expenditure, as I have said, will be small and it will not have to be borne all at once. Only a few people will retire this year or the next year; and the additional cost on account of the change of this rule will not be very much. I hope the Finance Member when he is taking three crores of rupees from the Postal Department will not hesitate to take this step, knowing that the largest number of employees of the Government of India belonging to the inferior ranks come from the Postal Department and the amount necessary for increasing this rate of pension as well as the number of years for the other employees will be very small.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Executive Council’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, I want a reply from the Finance Member and, therefore, I shall be very brief. I happen to be the President of these ‘Telegraph Peons’ Unions and other unfortunate people. But I beg of the Finance Member to forget any dialectics between us and to remember their bad luck. They are really very unhappy; 35 years of service in this country will carry a man to a very old age. I have seen with my own eyes the miseries of many of these people who never survive to earn a pension. Many of them die much too early to earn a pension. Therefore, the period should be brought down from 35 to 30 and the pension might be raised at least to Rs. 15 or half of the pay whichever is higher. I have seen a similar position also with regard to the Accountant-General’s office. There also the position requires to be reviewed. As regards the prosperity of the Postal Department I agree with Mr. Joshi and I know that it is largely due to Sir Gurunath Bewoor’s activities; but I can assure him that the workers do not remember him with any particular feelings of gratitude. I know how bitterly they feel the position by which he earned a great reputation of having made the Postal Department such a paying concern. I will, therefore, at least request him now to exert some influence towards increasing the pensions and the period after which they earn their pension.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, my Honourable friends, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Mehta, have talked of the prosperity of the Postal Department. I must point out that that prosperity is largely due to the additional burdens which we have had to lay on the general user of postal and other services, and that it may well be that when the time comes for any additional charges on the revenue which might be the result of some change in the pensionary rules, the prosperity of the Postal Department will have gone and that the department will find itself saddled in difficult days with a permanent burden. Now, Sir, I welcome the note of—shall I say—appeasement from my Honourable friend, Mr. Mehta. I am only too glad to take cognisance of the olive branch which he has held out to me. I can assure Mr. Mehta that although he attacked me as one who is unsympathetic to the poor and the lower middle classes, he was entirely mistaken and that throughout my life I belong to those who are in favour of increasing and improving the conditions of the poorer classes. Nevertheless, Sir, I have to have regard for the position of the general taxpayer, specially at a time like this, when whatever small surpluses may appear in this Department or in that, Government as a whole are faced with a larger deficit than has occurred at any time in the history of India. We must not forget the back-ground of these problems. All I can say, Sir, is this that I will have the question again examined sympathetically. I am particularly impressed with the argument regarding the length of service which is necessary to earn a pension at all, and if relief could be given in that direction without an excessive charge being thrown on the revenues, I should be very happy to do something. I find difficulty in giving any assurance however about the amount of these pensions. I have not before me figures which would indicate what a concession in that direction would cost, but I apprehend that it might involve very large sums indeed. I will, however, have those figures calculated and I shall, at any rate, consider them, but I do not wish to hold out any excessive hopes to my Honourable friends.

Mr. Joshi has been a doughty champion of these so-called inferior servants and he has step by step and bit by bit extracted from us concessions which, I have no doubt, are well justified. He clearly believes in the maxim that constant dripping wears away a stone. I hope that I am not stony-hearted as my own quotation would suggest. I am genuinely anxious to relieve these hardships, but I must remind the House that I have a great responsibility for the whole financial position and that these things spread out in ever widening circles and that after all the general body of tax-payers in India consists of possibly 99 per cent. of individuals who are as poor as, if not poorer than, the so-called inferior servants for whom these reliefs are asked for. In addition, that 99 per cent. of the general body of taxpayers is already groaning under the increased postal charges which have had to be levied. So, Sir, I can only undertake to examine these matters again, but with reference to that general background.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, in view of some sympathy shown by the Honourable the Finance Member, I would ask for leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 7th March, 1942.