

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Sixth Session)



(Vol. XXII contains Nos. 1—10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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*The sign + marked above a name indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, 19th November, 1958.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Oil India (Private) Limited

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*63. { Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 86 on the 13th August, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the examination of the report of the Assessment Committee in respect of the assets of the Assam Oil Company has since been completed;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) by when the Oil India (Private) Limited is expected to be formally incorporated?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Oil India (Private) Limited is expected to be incorporated as soon as the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which are being processed at present, are finalised.

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Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know the precise reason for this delay in arriving at a final decision regarding this assessment?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): There is no particular delay which I notice here. The Committee was set up some time back and on most of points there is unanimous agreement now. Only a few remain to be resolved and very soon, perhaps in two or three weeks or earlier, those points will also be resolved and then we shall go ahead.

Shri V. C. Shukla: By what time do Government expect to complete the examination of this report?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Within a few days.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether this Company will do the distribution of petroleum and petroleum products?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir.

Shri Hem Barua: Before this Oil India (Private) Ltd comes into operation, may I know if the Government propose to examine the recommendations of these American consultants as also of the Location Enquiry Committee for the establishment of a single unit large scale refinery instead of splitting the refinery into two and thereby involving duplication of the capital expenditure all the time?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All these questions have received the consideration of the Government, i.e., the recommendations of the consultants referred to by my hon. friend or of any other man with regard to the location of these two refineries and the decision of the Government has been taken.

Shri Muhammad Elias: What will be the total paid up capital of this company?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Rs. 15 crores, if I am not wrong.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : क्या माननीय मंत्री इस कम्पनी की फार्मेशन और जिस एग्जीमैंट के मुताबिक यह बनाई जा रही है, इत्यादि, सभी चीजें सभा पटल पर रखने का विचार कर रहे हैं या रखेंगे ?

श्री के० दे० मालवीय : इस मिनटिमें मैं कुछ तो बयान दिये जा चुके हैं और और जो बाकी माननीय सदस्य चाहेंगे कि उनका भी सभा पटल पर रखा जाये उस पर भी विचार करके मैं रख दगा।

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the original purchase figures of the machinery and other assets of the Assam Oil Company are available to the Assessment Committee for the purpose of valuation?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I think the papers in connection with the original purchase have been examined by cost accounts officers and also by members of this Committee, but I speak subject to correction.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मुझे मालूम हुआ है कि जिस कम्पनी में इस सम्बन्ध में काम करने की बातचीत चल रही है उसमें यह तय हुआ है कि जितने समय के लिए लीम दी जा रही है उस समय में जहाँ तेल नदी निकाला गया था या जहाँ काम नहीं किया गया था उस जगह को भी लीम उसको दी जायेगी, क्या यह सही है ?

श्री के० दे० मालवीय : जी नहीं, ऐसी बात नहीं है। जहाँ जहाँ लीम असम प्रायन कम्पनी को दी गई थी इस कम्पनी के संगठन के पहले उस पर गवर्नमेंट कायम है और उसी क्षेत्र के धन्दर जो तेल निकाला गया है उसी के

सम्बन्ध में ही गवर्नमेंट और आसाम प्रायन कम्पनी में समझौता हुआ है।

Shri Narasimhan: Arising out of the hon. Minister's answer, what is the proposed arrangement for distribution of the oil likely to be produced by Oil India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The processed oil from the Assam refinery will be distributed by an arrangement which is still to be finalised.

Shri V. C. Shukla: The hon. Minister has just now said that they are thinking of making arrangements for distribution of the oil to be produced here. May I know on what lines the examination is being made? Are the Government contemplating to float another private limited company for distribution of oil or are they going to use the existing trade channels for this purpose?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As I said, all these questions are still under examination by the Government and I am not in a position to give any final reply.

Law Commission Report on Judicial Administration

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{ **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
 { **Shri Ram Krishan:**
 { **Shri Sanganna:**
 { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
 { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
 { **Shri Supakar:**
 { **Shri Nagi Reddy:**
 { **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:**

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 743 on the 30th August 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received and examined the report of the Law Commission on the reform of judicial administration; and

(b) if so, the nature of decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri E. M. Hajarnavis): (a) The Government have received the Report. As the Report is a voluminous document dealing with many important matters, it will take considerable time to examine it and to take further steps

(b) Does not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government will be circulating the report to the various States and also to the various High Courts for their opinion before the Government of India takes any decision on it?

Shri Hajarnavis: It will certainly be circulated to the various State Governments because many of the matters are on the concurrent list and it is a convention that in respect of such matters the State Governments are always consulted

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether one of members of the Law Commission, Shri Satyanarayana Rao, has appended certain remarks about the appointment of judges and because those remarks are not acceptable he has expressed his desire retire?

Shri Hajarnavis: It hardly arises out of this question. However, matters contained in the Law Commission's report are still under examination.

Shri Supakar: May I know whether in considering the recommendations of this Report, Government have taken any step to avoid the delay in disposal of cases consistent with maintaining the standard of the judgments?

Shri Hajarnavis: As I said in reply to the earlier question dealing with the matter of the report, it is still under examination.

Mr. Speaker: It is still under examination.

Report of the Central Pay Commission

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Shri Tangamani:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnam:
*65. { Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Kunhan:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Dr Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri U L. Patil:
Shri Hem Barna:
Shri Jadhav:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received the final report from the Central Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the nature of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Shri Tangamani: Even during the last Session when this question was asked a similar reply was given. In view of the fact that more than 15 months have elapsed since the setting up of the Pay Commission, may we at least know when its Report is expected?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The Commission has taken oral evidence of a very large number of representatives of unions. They have also to examine the experts, statisticians and economists and also the Secretaries of the Government. Therefore they will

require still some more time to finish that oral evidence and then they can submit their report.

Shri Tangamani: Is it not a fact that all the organisations of the employees have tendered their memoranda and have also given evidence before the Commission? Is it also not a fact that since the interim relief was given prices have gone up? May I know whether the Government would at least direct the Commission to give another interim relief?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The Commission itself recommended the interim relief and it is open to the Commission to give any further relief or not. It is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Commission and Government has nothing to do with this matter.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that this abnormal delay has caused serious discontent among Central Government employees and that they are seriously thinking in terms of launching a struggle? May I know whether Government would consider payment of second instalment of interim relief as the Commission had recommended the interim relief of Rs. 10 but they made it Rs. 5?

Mr. Speaker: Why all this preamble to this question?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: There has been no abnormal delay. The work is going on normally. As I said, there are so many associations that have tendered evidence. So, I do not think the hon. Member's contention is right.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether the Pay Commission has recommended a second instalment.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I explain, Sir? The Pay Commission has said that Rs. 10 may be paid as the report is coming out soon. But there has been this abnormal delay. I want to know whether a second instalment is going to be paid to them due to this abnormal delay.

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): There is no question of any abnormal delay. The Pay Commission is proceeding with as much speed as possible under the circumstances. There is no delay and I do not think any question of any second instalment arises.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if there has recently been a meeting of the Chairman of the Central Pay Commission with the Chairmen of the various wage boards appointed for the textiles, cement and sugar industries and if so what are the points discussed at that meeting?

Shri Morarji Desai: I have no idea of what meetings the Chairman of the Pay Commission has and with whom.

Shri Muhammed Elias: May I know whether the Government is thinking of setting up another Pay Commission for the State Government employees in view of the recommendations given by the Central Pay Commission?

Shri Morarji Desai: It is not for this Government to say what should be done for the State Governments; it is for the State Governments to say what they have to do.

Shri Jadhav: May I know whether the Central Pay Commission has made any assessment of the liabilities that may be incurred?

Shri Morarji Desai: Until the report is received, there is no question of any liability.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: I asked a different question but my name has been clubbed to this question: I want to ask that question.

Mr. Speaker: What I would like to state to the hon. Members is this. The report has not yet been published. When evidence is being taken, all that they can ask is, as they have asked, why there is so much of delay. The hon. Deputy Minister has explained the position. Members can ask when it is likely to conclude, whether any interim relief was recommended and so on. But to go into the details

when the report has not been published or when it has not been sent, seems to be unnecessarily taking away the time of the House.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The evidence was completed by August 1958.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Community Development (Shri B. S. Murthy): No, no.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Is it a fact that the Government has received a communication from the Pay Commission since it received the recommendations for the interim payment informing the Government that there is going to be some more delay in the publication of the report and requesting the Government for the payment of another instalment of interim relief?

Shri Morarji Desai: It is some rumour on which the hon. Member has based the question; I have no such knowledge.

Shri D. C. Sharma: When the Pay Commission was appointed it was thought that some interim reports would be issued by the Pay Commission and action would be taken on it by the Government of India. May I know if any interim report has been sent by the Pay Commission and if not, why not?

Shri Morarji Desai: The interim report was received and effect was given to it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the Central Pay Commission has given any indication as to when it will submit its report?

Shri Morarji Desai: They will do it, as soon as they can, under the circumstances. Perhaps it will be within three or four months.

श्री अक्षत वर्सन: अभी माननीय मंत्री ने कहा कि यह राज्य सरकारों के अन्तर्गत जो कर्मचारी हैं उनके वेतनों के बारे में राज्य सरकारों को ही पहल करनी चाहिए, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सत्य है कि उत्तर प्रदेश

को सरकार ने और कुछ अन्य राज्यों ने पे कमिशन और केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध किया है कि इसका निर्णय करते समय उनके कर्मचारियों के वेतनों पर भी विचार किया जाय ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई: पे कमिशन को जो सूचनाएँ दी हैं उनमें एक यह भी है कि यह बात भी ध्यान में ली जाय मगर उससे ज्यादा और कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता।

Oil Drilling in Jawalamukhi

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- *66. { **Shri Barman:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadli:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri B. C. Prodhan:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the up-to-date progress made in the drilling for oil in Jawalamukhi;

(b) the depth to which drilling has been undertaken so far;

(c) the results achieved;

(d) whether any assessment of the natural gas found in the area has been made;

(e) what detailed programme has been drawn for drilling more wells in the area to assess the natural gas and oil potential; and

(f) what steps have been taken to exploit the natural gas for commercial purposes?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) and (b). The present depth of deep test Well No. 1 is approximately 2201 metres and of structural well No. 2

approximately 858 metres. Structural Well No. 1 was abandoned after drilling upto 850 metres.

(c) The data collected so far by the drilling of deep Well No. 1 has indicated (i) the well crossed a major thrust fault at about 1262 metres, (ii) there are a number of potential oil or gas horizons. One of these on testing indicated the possibility of commercial production.

(d) To assess the potentialities of this gas field, several more wells will have to be drilled.

(e) The drilling rig from structural hole No. 1 is being shifted to another site on the Jwalamukhi structure. Further programme will depend on the results obtained

(f) The commercial exploitation of this gas will be taken up only when full estimates of gas reserves are made.

Shri Barman: Now that drilling operations have been undertaken at several places also, may I know the comparative cost structure and whether at Jwalamukhi they have been able to effect any reduction in the cost structure?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I have explained the position to my hon. friend. There is only one deep drilling in Jwalamukhi area and that has unfortunately not concluded; it has gone about 2201 metres deep. The other two shallow drillings were started sometime back and one of them had to be abandoned because of an accident. The second was concluded at the desired depth and the results of all these drillings are being assessed. We are convinced that this area has great potentiality for oil and gas production.

Shri Wodeyar: What is the opinion of foreign experts in this matter—experts who are assisting us in the oil drilling and what is the total expenditure incurred so far in oil drilling?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I attach greater value to the opinion of our experts, now that they have been trained very well by the assistance that we have received. Our own experts give a very correct assessment of the situation. I have already referred to that assessment not only by our own but also by foreign experts.

Mr. Speaker: What is the amount spent so far?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is difficult for me to separate the amount from the rest of the oil exploration work that has been going on in the whole country. But, very roughly, I suppose the shallow drill costs about Rs. 5-10 lakhs and a deep drill, on an average, costs about Rs. 30-40 lakhs.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know the number of occasions on which drilling pipes were broken and the number of days lost on that account?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Unfortunately, there were many occasions when drilling had to be suspended but perhaps it is only once when the casing broke down. But there were other accidents on several occasions. The number of days lost are pretty large and perhaps that will come to about 30-40 per cent of the total number of days on which drilling was undertaken

Shri S C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that twelve layers for gas and oil were found and if so how many for oil and how many for gas and how many layers have been perforated?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Unfortunately, it will not be quite desirable at this stage to say quite conclusively what horizons there are for oil or gas? It is however a fact that about a dozen oil and gas horizons are being indicated in this deep well. It is only when we have reached the bottom that we can start electro logging tests again and then go to the perforation tests.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know if any blue-print is ready with the Government showing how to utilise the natural gas that would be available at Jwalamukhi?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: So far as the quantity of gas at Jwalamukhi is concerned, we have not yet been able to come to any conclusion because we have not yet drilled sufficiently in that area. Once we have found out the quantity of gas, it would be very easy for us to formulate a scheme to exploit the same.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether it is a fact that Government propose to construct a pipe line from Jwalamukhi to Delhi?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government have not considered this scheme so far.

Shri Barman: How is it that wells are drilled to a certain depth and then abandoned? Is it due to defective planning of the drilling project?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The well was not abandoned because there was any defect in the planning. We were drilling at the right place. We also got some evidence of the extension of the gas area in that well. But the pipe got choked up because of the complicated nature of the rocks there, and it was considered that it would be much better to abandon this area and take to a new one where we could gather new data. It sometimes happens in such cases; it is a part of the game.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any rough assessment has been made of the oil potential of this area?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir.

Shri Dasappa: May I know how much deeper they have got to go and how long it will take to go to that depth?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Roughly about 800 more metres are proposed to be drilled.

Shri Bose: May I know whether the experts, from their knowledge elsewhere, believe that the existence of natural gas indicates the existence of petroleum oil down below?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Generally, my hon. friend is correct; when you get gas in a well you should reasonably expect oil also in that well.

Shri Mohammed Imam: Have we reached a stage when we consider that the prospecting has met with success and that it will be an economic venture?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir, not yet.

Shri Kamal Singh: In view of the fact that exploration in Jawalamukhi area is going on for the last three years approximately, is it contemplated by the Government to fix a target date or a time limit up to which only the operations should go on?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir; it is very difficult to fix a target date in such a mechanical fashion and decide that after that date no drilling will be done. We will go on drilling till we have hopes of coming to some sort of a decision.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, . . .

Mr. Speaker. The question relates to Jwalamukhi and not Assam.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have the least objection. I am only trying to call all hon. Members who want to put questions. But I cannot call all hon. Members on the same question. I am trying to distribute as much as possible. After so many years here, I know the place from where a particular hon. Member comes and which hon. Member is interested in which particular subject. If on a particular question the same hon. Member is not called, he will wait for his opportunity on the next question.

Appointment of High Court Judges

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- *87. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1171 on the 11th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government has since received lists from all the State Governments of persons suitable for appointment as High Court Judges from among judicial officers and members of the Bar;

(b) if so, whether these lists have been referred to the Chief Justice of India; and

(c) whether the final approved list has been prepared?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) to (c). There has been no change in the position since the above mentioned question was answered. Lists have not yet been received from all the States.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether any list has been received from Punjab Government; if so, may I know the names of Judges who have been recommended by the Punjab Government?

Pandit G. B. Pant: No list has yet been received from Punjab.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what procedure is followed in preparing these lists and selecting these persons? May I also know whether the consent of the persons concerned are also obtained?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The lists are framed on the basis of the proposals received from the State authorities. No final decision has been taken in regard to any State list, and in all likelihood the names of persons who may be expected to accept the posts when offered will be entered in the list. But, in any case, before appointments are actually made, their wishes will be considered.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I want to know whether the Central Government has given any guidance to the State Governments in preparing these lists; and, if so, may I know the nature of suggestions made so that a uniform procedure is adopted by all the States in preparing these lists?

Pandit G. B. Pant: They should be competent legally and constitutionally eligible, and fit to discharge the duties of the eminent position that they are expected to hold as Judges of the High Court.

Shri Jagannatha Rao: May I know whether the State Governments were asked to consider the names of candidates of the Supreme Court, who come from different States and practise here?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Nobody had been debarred.

श्री प्र० म० तारिक : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जम्मू और काश्मीर में कितने बुक्ला को अब तक हाईकोर्ट जज बनाया गया है ? अगर अब तक किसी को नहीं बनाया गया है, तो क्या मुस्लिमबिल में उन लोगों का स्थान किया जायेगा ?

पंडित गो० ब० पन्त : हर बात का स्थान मुस्लिमबिल में पर किया जायेगा ।

Shri Achar: May I know whether the lists as they are finalised will be published?

Pandit G. B. Pant: No.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has noted the widespread complaint about the appointment of Judges, particularly Judges of the High Court, and acknowledged the validity of some of them; if so, whether the State Governments are asked to bear this aspect of things in mind when preparing the list of Judges for appointment?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The introductory part of the question is not accepted.

Shri Hem Barua: What about the second part?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether the Central Government has formulated any principles in selecting Judges whose names would appear in the All India Panel in accordance with the lists supplied by the State Governments?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The persons whose names are suggested must have served in a judicial capacity at least for ten years, and if they are advocates they must have been in the profession for at least the same period. Then, they should have enough of reputation in their own States for their fitness for such a high office. The suggestions will be made by the High Court and they will be considered later by the Chief Justice of India. I think that will enable us to make a good list.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether any instructions have been given to the State Governments to look into the question of Judges who are likely to retire in that particular High Court? For example, in Madras High Court out of 9 Judges, one will be retiring in early 1959 and five in 1960. I would like to know whether Madras State has been addressed in this matter and how many names have been invited from the Madras State Government.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I think the question which the hon. Member has put is hardly relevant. We are not concerned with the vacancies that may arise in any particular High Court in the near future. We want to prepare an all-India list which may be examined whenever vacancies occur, and it is not necessary that the number of persons nominated should bear any proportion to the likely vacancies within say a year or two or three in any particular State.

Odissi Dance and Music

***68. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1290 on the 16th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the committee appointed by the Sangeet Natak Akademi to study and report on the Odissi form of dance and music has submitted its report,

(b) if so, its recommendations; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the Sangeet Natak Akademi has visited the State of Orissa for making an on-the-spot study of music and dancing there?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The question has been referred to the Expert Committee about which I gave information to the House on the 16th September.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the Sangeet Natak Akademi has visited the State of Orissa for this purpose?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Akademi cannot visit. It is the Committee which will visit, if necessary.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether, in the meantime, any amount is being given for the propagation of this dance of Orissa at different cultural bodies here?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have already answered this question before, but I will repeat. Grants have been made in the last three years and this year also I expect grants would be made.

National Flag

*69. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new instructions have been issued regarding the hoisting and flying of the National Flag; and

(b) what are the new instructions and reasons for the same?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). A copy of the latest Rules on the subject is placed on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 29]. These Rules are not new, but the Rules previously in force have been amended to ensure that there is no unnecessary display of the Flag.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: In part (b) of the question I have asked what are the new instructions. It has been answered that there are no new instructions but the rules have been amended. Secondly, I have asked "what are the reasons for the same?", but no reasons have been given. So, may I ask whether any reasons could be stated?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The reasons have been given but they do not seem to be too many and do not cover too much of space. Otherwise the reason is here: the rules previously in force have been amended to ensure that there is no unnecessary display of the Flag.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: If the hon. Home Minister will kindly refer to Item II of the rules—Display of the Flag on Cars—he will find that the Prime Minister and the Ministers have no right to fly the Flag on their cars, while the Governors, the rulers of former Indian States and Heads of Indian Missions have been permitted. What are the principles guiding this, and do I understand that flying the Flag on the Prime Minister's car will come under the reason that the hon. Home Minister has stated?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Yes; the Prime Minister did not like to continue flying the Flag on his car.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nath Pal: Sir, we want to put some more questions.

Mr. Speaker: For hon. Members there is no chance of their flying the Flag unless they become Ministers.

Shri Nath Pal: The Minister just now stated that instructions have been issued to ensure that there is no unnecessary display of the Flag. We feel that the National Flag is the one Flag that is not sufficiently displayed in the country. There are all sorts of flags assailing our eyes. We want more of the National Flag to be flown. Will, therefore, these regulations be relaxed so that there is more and more of display of the only Flag which needs to be flown in the country?

Pandit G. B. Pant: On special occasions such as the Republic Day, the Independence Day and the like, all people are free to fly the National Flag.

Shri Nath Pal: On the 9th August—we in Bombay regard that day as a very memorable day in our history—we sought the permission of the Commissioner of Bombay to hoist the National Flag, and it was peremptorily turned down. In the light of the reply of the Home Minister, may we assume that on such days parties will be allowed to ceremoniously hoist the National Flag?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Flying of Flag is meant, I think, to strengthen the sense of loyalty and respect for law.

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि झंडे का अनिवार्यक प्रयोग किया गया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय के पास ऐसे उदाहरण हैं, जिन में झंडे का अनिवार्यक प्रयोग किया गया

है या प्रवर्धन किया गया है। यदि नहीं, तो किस कारण से इस विषय में संशोधन की आवश्यकता हुई ?

पंडित गो० ब० पन्त : हम ने अपने ही नकानों और अपनी कारों पर लगाना बन्द कर दिया। हम ने समझा कि यह घनावश्यक है। घों के भी इस तरह से बन्द किया। उस के अलग करने से किसी को नुकसान या तकलीफ नहीं पहुंची।

बी त्यागी पंसे बचेंगे।

Kidnapping of Children in Delhi

*70. Shri Bahadur Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing:

(a) the steps taken to check the kidnapping of children in Delhi;

(b) the action taken against the persons arrested for kidnapping during the last six months; and

(c) whether these kidnappers were connected with some gangs of kidnappers in the adjoining States?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) A special Missing Persons Squad has been formed to check the evil of kidnapping

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No 30]

(c) Three of the persons arrested are suspected of being members of a gang of kidnappers who were operating in Delhi, and the adjoining States.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know if the investigation of these cases has exposed the purposes for which the kidnapped children are used?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Well, the children have been kidnapped for various reasons and the cases are before the courts.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know if some dens have been discovered

where these kidnapped children are kept and, if so, in which area of Delhi they are found?

Pandit G. B. Pant: So far as I am aware no such dens have been discovered anywhere.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know if there are certain difficulties and hurdles experienced during the investigation in searching for the persons or finding proper evidence?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Well, a large number of cases have been sent to court and some have already resulted in conviction and others are under trial.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement we find that 36 persons have been arrested during the six months from 1-5-1958 to 31-10-58. May I know in how many cases of kidnapping are these 36 persons involved?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Regarding cases of kidnapping and abduction, during the period from 1st May to 31st October, 1958, out of 69 minors reported to have been kidnapped, 57 were recovered. Regarding kidnapping and abduction in 1957, there were 165 cases. Out of the 36 persons, in three cases the accused have been convicted, 32 are under trial and in one case the accused were acquitted

बी भक्त दर्शन में जानना चाहता है कि दिल्ली में इस सम्बन्ध में जो कदम उठये गये हैं उन के फलस्वरूप पिछले एक दो वर्षों में इस तरह के मामलों की संख्या घटी है या बढ़ी है ?

पंडित गो० ब० पन्त : मैं समझता हूँ कि घटी होगी। अगर न घटी हो तो घागे घटनी चाहिए।

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: What were the ages of the children that were kidnapped?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The ages vary. They were not of a uniform age

Shri B. K. Galkwad: The maximum and minimum ages can be given.

Pandit G. B. Pant: They were all minors evidently.

Mr. Speaker: They were all children, Hon. Members evidently want to know whether the children belonged to one sex, their ages, etc. Hon. Members are interested in it. Some hon. Members might have brought their children also here and they would like to avoid their children being kidnapped.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Apart from sending the accused to courts, the squad also traced 3,331 missing children and delivered them to their parents. It has been doing other very useful work.

Conduct Rules for Industrial Employees

*71. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 389 on the 21st August, 1958 and state whether separate Service Conduct Rules to govern the industrial employees under the Central Government have since been framed?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): The matter is under consideration and has not been finalised yet.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any committee has been formed for that purpose and if so, whether the various federations and the Ministry of Labour have also been associated with it?

Pandit G. B. Pant: No committee has been formed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether Government is also considering amendment and modification of the Government Service Conduct Rules applicable to non-industrial employees?

Pandit G. B. Pant: No.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether Government are considering abolishing the restrictions on participation in politics by industrial workers since we are a democracy and if so, what progress has been made in that respect?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I hope industrial workers will not benefit by dabbling with politics. But so far as the rules are concerned, as I said, the question of the revision of rules for industrial employees is under consideration.

Shri Muhammed Elias: May I know whether any action is being taken in regard to Government employees who are being removed from service on the false reports of police?

Pandit G. B. Pant: False reports are never entertained and no action is taken on reports which are considered to be false.

Shri Muhammed Elias: The police reports are never enquired into. There are many such cases where the employees are removed from service on the secret report of the police. The police reports are never enquired into by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must only put a question and not take the opportunity of giving their own opinions and what they consider right.

Pandit G. B. Pant: It appears from the nature of the question that the decision is being given by the hon. Member himself.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My information is that the industrial workers working in the various Central Government undertakings are not classified as Class III and Class IV servants. May I know from the hon. Minister whether they are Government servants and if so, why they have not been classified?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Class III and Class IV servants are certainly Government servants.

Capital Issue Control

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72 { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 2427 on the 19th September, 1958 and state

(a) whether the suggestions in regard to relaxation of the Capital Issue Control have been finally considered by Government; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b) Government have not taken any final decision in the matter

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the precise nature of the suggestions made in this regard?

Shri Morarji Desai: Various suggestions are made from time to time. The last suggestion made is that it should be removed. There is an advisory committee about this and their advice is taken whenever these suggestions come. So far there has been hardly any advice of the advisory committee which has been rejected.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: The hon. Minister said that no final decision has been taken. I would like to know what are the points that are under consideration of the Government.

Shri Morarji Desai: The point is whether it should be removed. Otherwise, when every point comes in, changes are made from time to time. If all these changes are to be stated, I will have to make a list.

Sports Enquiry Committee

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72 { Shri V. P. Nayar:
Shri P. K. Dee:
Shri B. C. Proddhan:
Shri Rami Reddy:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to enquire into the conditions etc

of sports and games, under the Chairmanship of H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the report?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not now arise. The report will however be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that this committee, which was asked to submit its report within six months, could not do so, because it could meet only twice and on both the occasions, all the members could not be present in view of the pre-occupations of some of the members in foreign countries?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: It might be true that some of the members could not attend. But there have been meetings and one or two members are occasionally absent, because it is a committee consisting of 10 or 11 members. I am expecting that the report would be submitted by the end of January.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that the drafting committee appointed by this committee submitted its interim report to Government without having an occasion to get the report perused by the committee as a whole?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: No action will be taken unless the report is considered by the whole committee.

Shri V. P. Nayar: As I understand from the terms of reference, this committee has to enquire into many aspects of deterioration in standards in sports and games. I want to know how it happened that in such an important committee, members have been chosen who have been Presidents of sports organisations for 10 years and more without a change and the standard of games has been consistently going down?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: It is quite irrelevant. The people who have been chosen on this committee are outstanding people like Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Shri Naval Tata, Gen. K. S. Thimayya, Shri Jaipal Singh and Dr. P. Subbarayan—two Members of Parliament—and Dalip Singhji. All these people have made a contribution to sports and games and they have been selected on account of the contribution that they have made. I do not accept the insinuation that the hon. Member has made.

Shri V. P. Nayar: There is no insinuation; I was stating a fact.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I intervene and correct the hon. Minister? The big committee has met thrice and not twice. As to the interim report, that has quite rightly been submitted by the drafting committee, it is not true to say that the bigger committee was never informed about what was being submitted in the interim report. In fact, when these items were formulated, we were asked to go through them and.....

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I explain?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member suggested that this report was not considered by the committee as a whole. The hon. Minister said that unless it is considered by the committee as a whole, he would not accept. Shri Jaipal Singh says.....

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister agreed that the committee with all the members could not meet even once, because some of the members had to go abroad.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I again intervene? It is not correct to say that the bigger committee never met in its entirety. It did meet in its entirety on the first, second and third occasions—twice in New Delhi and once in Bombay and the entire committee was present. Subsequently, Gen. Thimayya went to America; Shri Naval Tata also went to America and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur went abroad. While they were abroad, naturally,

they could not be present on the committee.

Shri P. K. Dee: Sometime back the Indian Physical Education Conference met at Nagpur. Did that conference decide anything to improve the standard of games in this country, besides giving free meals to school children?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: That does not arise out of this question.

Shri Barrow: One of the points made by Shri Nayar which has not been answered is that two members of this committee should have been giving evidence before the committee with regard to the deterioration of standards. How is it that they were selected as members of the committee? The Chairman of the Indian Hockey Federation and the Chairman of the committee himself should have been giving evidence before the committee on the deterioration of standard.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: May I submit most respectfully that it will not be proper to discuss individual members in this House?

Mr. Speaker: Apart from any other matter, that does not arise out of this question. Hon. Members are only anxious to know when the report will be published.

Shri Nagi Reddy: How are members who should give evidence appointed as members of the committee? That is a general question.

Mr. Speaker: I am not allowing it. Everything can be asked as a general question. The particular question is when they are going to submit the report and so on. Let us not go into the origin of it as to whether they are competent to be there or not. It does not arise out of the question. It is irrelevant.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether this Committee was also empowered to take evidence and, if so, in respect of hockey and other games

from whom was the evidence collected?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The Committee had issued a questionnaire and the questionnaire was sent round to various sports federations and all the information which was required for this purpose was collected by the Committee.

Dugda Coal Washery

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*74. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 181 on the 18th August 1958 and state:

(a) the name of the firm which has been given the contract for the setting up of a coal washery plant at Dugda;

(b) the amount of the contract; and

(c) when the civil engineering work will commence?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The contract for the Dugda washery is in its last stages of negotiation. It is expected that preliminary work of civil engineering would commence in January next.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Last time we were told that the whole thing will be finalised in the course of the next few days. May I know why there is this delay of another three months?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Clarifications on the technical aspect took some more time than what we originally anticipated.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether this Dugda Coal Washery has to supply washed coal to the Durgapur Steel Plant? If so, may I know whether this will be ready before the plant is ready?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There has not been any very specific or rigid ear-marking of washed coal from each washery to the various steel plants.

Durgapur is one of the steel projects which is likely to get washed coal from this plant. Arrangements will be made to make adequate supplies of proper type of coal to the Durgapur Steel project.

Shri Morarka: May I know the name of the person in charge of this washery? Is he the same person who was in charge of Rourkela?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is correct. The officer who is the General Manager of the washery project is the same officer who was the General Manager of the Rourkela Steel project.

Shri Morarka: Is it not a fact that because that officer was found less competent at Rourkela he was transferred to such an important project like the coal washery?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It will not be fair to malign the officer and make insinuations in the absence of the officer here to defend himself.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: On a point of order. The hon. Minister is restricting the scope of this House in putting questions regarding the capacity or otherwise of certain officers. It is not correct to say that we cannot ask a question because the officer is not here; no officer of the Government can be present in this House. Therefore, according to the hon. Minister, no question can be put at all about the officers.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member wants to raise a point of order, he must state it very briefly; then I will give my ruling. I would request hon. Members to kindly once again read the rules. If any point is sought to be raised against the inefficiency or inability or conduct of any officer, previous intimation should be given to the Minister. Of course, he is bound to answer them, not with respect to any private affairs but with respect of public affairs of an important individual. Evidently, all that

the hon. Minister wants to say is that he is not in a position to answer that question now.

Shri Nausahir Bharucha: He can say that.

Shri Nath Pai: There is no maligning here.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members are under the impression that on account of inefficiency he has been transferred from one place to another and, therefore, efficiency will be affected in the latter place. Now, the relevant rule says:

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given previous intimation to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply."

All that I would say is that no hon. Member need make an insinuation. If he wants to attack the capacity or integrity of any member of the services, he may give previous notice to the Minister, in which case he will reply.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I suggest something? I do not know the officer concerned at all. But what has been stated is neither defamatory nor incriminatory. If I say "he is inefficient", it is for the Minister to say that "he is efficient".

Shri Nath Pai: The rule that you read out will be guiding us in the future. In the question that was put there was nothing incriminatory. It was a question about the competence and a reference to competence in law can neither be incriminatory nor defamatory. So, that right may be upheld by you.

Mr. Speaker: True. Those are relevant questions. I did not disallow it on the ground of want of relevancy. If any person in charge of an important project has been found unfit for that business, an hon. Member certainly can ask the question as to how

he is going to be fit for a similar and important project elsewhere, and the hon. Minister must answer it. But evidently I thought the hon. Minister is not in possession of facts and, therefore, he would like to have notice. That is all.

Sardar Swaran Singh: May I submit that opinions about efficiency differ?

Shri Nath Pai: But they are not defamatory.

Mr. Speaker: It is not as if every hon. Member is in charge of the Ministry. He can get information only from other sources. His information is that a man has been found unfit. It is for the hon. Minister to say that he has been found fit. There is no point in saying "opinions differ". It is the opinion of the Minister that counts. He can say that the information of the hon. Member is wrong. He can say that the officer is found fit, though he has been transferred. The question admits of a simple answer.

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as the factual side is concerned, I have already given the information that the present General Manager of the Washery Project is the same person who was formerly the General Manager of the Rourkela Steel Plant.

Shri Nath Pai: What is the reason for his transfer?

Mr. Speaker: Hon Members need not be impatient.

Sardar Swaran Singh: It will not perhaps be fair to say that cases of shift necessarily involve unfitness to hold those posts.

An Hon. Member: We did not say that.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Changes in the managerial cadre often take place. In the best interests of the work an officer who formerly was the General Manager of the Rourkela project was appointed as the General Manager of the Washery Project.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What was the reason for his transfer?

Mr. Speaker: Reasons will not be given on the floor of the House.

Shri Bose: What is the installed capacity of this washing plant?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is proposed to be 500 to 600 tons per hour

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know whether in this specific instance the General Manager of the Rourkela Steel Project was transferred because he was not found suitable for the job?

Mr. Speaker: That is the very question that was put by Shri Morarka.

Sardar Swaran Singh: We could find another General Manager who, we thought, would be more suitable

Setting up of Electric Furnaces

*75. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state the progress made in the matter of setting up of electric furnaces for turning scrap iron into steel, as recommended by the Saxena Committee?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): The applications received under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for setting up of electric furnaces in the various States are under consideration

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: The Saxena Committee report was published as early as 1956. May I know why action has not been taken so far?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: I have already said that the application is still under consideration. There has been no abnormal delay on our part.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether any preference will be given to deficit areas like Assam and Rajasthan?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: The matter is still under consideration. So, it will not be proper to say anything at this stage.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know the number of applications still pending?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: It is a long list. There are about 48 applications. If you will permit me, I will give the details.

Mr. Speaker: He only wanted the number. It is 46.

Cost of Neyveli Lignite Project

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*76. { **Shri Nagi Reddy:**
 Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state the amount of increase in cost of the Neyveli Lignite Project, over original estimates?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Orders for the entire plant and machinery required for the various schemes, including the mining scheme in progress, have not yet been placed. In regard to ground water control, which is an integral part of the mining scheme, experiments are still in progress on the nature of the equipment to be obtained. In the circumstances, it is not possible at present to estimate the exact increase in the cost of the project as a whole. Roughly, it is believed that mainly on account of increases in the prices of steel and other materials and changes in wage levels in the countries from which machinery and equipment are likely to be imported, as also of increases in the prices of indigenous materials in India, the total cost of the project may go up by about Rs 10 crores over the original estimate of Rs 68.9 crores. Another important factor which has contributed to this increase is that the specialised machinery to be procured from Germany for removal of over-burden had to be specially re-designed to deal with the hard strata encountered at Neyveli.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether the re-designing is to be made because the first design was not proper?

Sardar Swaran Singh: As I have tried to explain in some detail, full information about the nature of the strata was not available at the time of the first designing and the design had to be changed in view of the later information and more precise information about the hardness of the strata.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: The hon. Minister stated that the estimated increase is roughly about Rs. 10 crores. I would like to know how much of the Rs 10 crores will have to be in foreign exchange.

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is very difficult to give really a breakdown of that.

Mr. Speaker: The Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

National College of Physical Education

*77. { **Shri R. C. Majhi:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan and estimate for the construction of a building for the National College of Physical Education have been prepared by the Government;

(b) if so, the estimated amount of the plan;

(c) whether construction of the building has started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimani): (a) to (d). The Central Public Works Department have submitted rough estimates costing Rs. 73

lakhs for the construction of the College buildings, hostels, and staff quarters and for provision of furniture. These estimates are now being scrutinised by the Board of Governors of the College with a view to bringing down the cost. After the estimates are revised and approved by the Board of Governors, the construction of the work will be undertaken.

Welfare of Scheduled Tribes in Orissa

*78. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1116 on the 20th March, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the request of the Orissa Government for an additional allotment of Rs 2.65 crores for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes under the Centrally sponsored programme has been considered and approved; and

(b) if so, whether the entire sum asked for has been advanced to the State?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). The request of the Orissa Government for an additional allotment of Rs 2.65 crores for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes under the Centrally sponsored programme over and above their existing ceiling of Rs 2.55 crores under the Central Sector and Rs 3.18 crores under the State Sector of the Plan for this purpose, has been considered but not found acceptable.

Investigation into Electoral Rolls of Kerala

*79. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala State has completed the inquiry into complaints regarding irregularities in voters' lists of the State; and

(b) the nature of his findings?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri E. M. Hajarnavis): (a) and (b). Three

complaints were received in the Election Commission from the Kerala Pradesh Youth Congress Committee, the Cannanore District Congress Committee and the Kottayam District Congress Committee alleging various irregularities in the preparation of the electoral rolls. All the three complaints were sent to the Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala, for investigation and report. The result of the investigation is as follows:—

The complaint made by the Kerala Pradesh Youth Congress Committee alleging deletion of names from the voters' list was found vague. No specific instances were brought to the notice of Government.

The complaint alleging inclusion of names of persons below the age of twenty-one years made by the Cannanore District Congress Committee was not correct.

The Third complaint from the Kottayam District Congress Committee relating to obtaining of signature, under threat of violence, to an application withdrawing an objection to the inclusion of certain names in the voters' list was found to be true. The Chief Electoral Officer has, however, added that the blank withdrawal was not presented to the Revising Authority and accordingly did not affect the disposal of objections which were decided on their merits.

Colombo Plan

- *80. { Shri Tridib Kumar
Chaudhuri:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and leadership of the Indian delegation to the Colombo Plan Consultative Conference held this year at Seattle, U.S.A; and

(b) the principal items of agenda discussed at the Conference?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. G. Gopala Reddy):

(a) The composition and leadership of the Indian delegation as under:—

1. Shri B. R. Bhagat, Deputy Minister for Finance—Leader.

2. Shri B. K. Nehru, ICS, Commissioner-General for Economic Affairs Washington—Deputy Leader.

3. Shri N. C. Sen Gupta, ICS, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs,—Alternate to Leader & Deputy Leader.

4. Shri B. V. Radhakrishnan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.

5. Shri S. S. Marathe, Assistant Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs.

6. Shri K. Narayanan Nair, Deputy Financial Adviser, Indian Embassy, Washington.

(b) the provisional agenda fixed for the meeting is as under:—

- (i) Working Arrangements.
- (ii) Review of Meeting of Officials.
- (iii) Presentation of Draft.

Annual Report.

- (a) Part I; Chapters I & II.
- (b) Part II; Country Chapters.
- (c) Part III; Contributions & Technical Assistance.
- (iv) Regional Impact of National Development programmes: Experience and Problems.
- (v) Technical Assistance: Report of the Sub-committee on Technical Assistance.
- (vi) Colombo Plan Information Unit: Report of the Sub-committee on Information.
- (vii) Arrangements Relating to the Next Meeting:
- (viii) Other Business.

हिमालय के तलहटी क्षेत्र में तेल सर्वेक्षण

*८१. { श्री भक्त वर्मान :
श्री नवल प्रभाकर :
श्री डी० चं० शर्मा :

क्या इस्पात, लान और ईंधन मंत्री दिनांक २६ अगस्त, १९५८ के तागकित प्रश्न सख्या ८९८ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करें कि :

(क) तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग द्वारा उत्तर प्रदेश में हिमालय का तलहटी क्षेत्र में तथा पंजाब में शिवालिक पर्वत के तलहटी क्षेत्र में इस बीच कितने-कितने स्थानों का सर्वेक्षण किया गया है;

(ख) उन स्थानों में से प्रत्येक के बारे में अब तक किस प्रकार की रिपोर्ट मिली है,

(ग) इस कार्य के कब तक पूरा होने की आशा है, और

(घ) इस कार्य में और अधिक तेजी लाने और अनुकूल स्थानों पर ड्रिलिंग करने के बारे में कौन से कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

लान और तेल मंत्री (श्री के० डे० बालाबोय) (क) इस समय में कोई सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया गया।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

(ग) इस विषय में अभी कुछ निश्चित नहीं कहा जा सकता।

(घ) हाँशिवागपुर में जा परोक्षणीय ड्रिलिंग हो रही है उन का काम प्रगति पर है। अन्य स्थानों का निर्वाण जो सर्वेक्षण हो रहे हैं उन पर निर्भर करेगा।

Lignite Deposits in Jammu and Kashmir

*82. Shri A. M. Tariq: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state the results of the survey of lignite deposits in Jammu

and Kashmir conducted by the Geological Survey of India?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): The investigation of Lignite deposits in the Nichahom area by the Geological Survey of India with the help of drills is still in progress. The drilling operation has temporarily been discontinued due to adverse weather conditions but will be resumed in April 1959. The result of the investigation will be known after it is completed.

It has however been calculated that about 35 million tons of lignite are available but the reserves of economically workable lignite can only be regarded as limited.

Fabricating Shop at Durgapur

*83. Shri Nath Pal: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 658 on the 21st August, 1958 and state.

(a) the foreign exchange required for setting up of a fabricating shop at Durgapur.

(b) the total foreign exchange spent in importing fabricated steel during 1957 and 1958 so far, and

(c) the likely import of fabricated material for all the steel plants including the one at Bokaro and the other Government projects?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) About Rs 2 crores for the shop contemplated

(b) No statistics are maintained of imports of fabricated steel work separately

(c) About 250,000 tons for the three steel plants in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur together.

Purchase of Ammunition from Europe

- *84. {
 Shri U. C. Patnaik;
 Shri Raghunath Singh;
 Shri Parulekar;
 Shri R. C. Vyas;
 Shri Rameshwar Tanti;
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh;
 Shri Naldurgker;
 Shri Goray;
 Shri A. K. Gopalan;
 Shri Kunhan;
 Shri Narayanankutty Menon;
 Shri Naushir Bharucha;

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1034 on the 8th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the inquiries instituted into the purchase of ammunition from an European firm in 1952 have been completed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the same;

(d) the action taken thereon; and

(e) the cost of the ammunition which was found unserviceable?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) to (c) Enquiries have been held more than once. They have since been completed. The relevant reports are under detailed examination by Government. The quantity of unserviceable ammunition, if any, and its cost can be assessed only after the examination is completed.

Prices of Melting Scrap Iron

*85. Shri P. R. Patel: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Saxena Committee appointed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had recommended to Government to decontrol the melting scrap iron prices;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been accepted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise the current prices of melting scrap iron and remove the difference between the two grades of melting scraps?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) The decision of the Government is that this recommendation will be considered on merits at the appropriate time vide Government's Resolution No. PLGB-55(33)/57 dated the 13th November, 1957.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Fire in the North Block.

- *86. {
 Shri Vajpayee;
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri;

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in the North Block of the Central Secretariat, New Delhi, on the 23rd October, 1958;

(b) the damage caused thereby;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the causes of this fire; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some recorded files, two wooden wall-racks, a few items of stationery and some spare copies of old communications were burnt.

(c) and (d). The matter is still under investigation.

Kanada Novel "Chenna Basava Nayaka"

*57. { Shri Mohammed Imam:
Shri Agadi:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has gone through the Kanada Novel "Chenna Basava Nayaka";

(b) whether it is a fact that representations have been made to him not to permit its publication in other languages; and

(c) action taken thereon?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir, in an English translation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Sahitya Akademi has decided not to proceed with the translation of the novel.

Smuggled Arms from Ordnance Factories

*58. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the arms and ammunitions captured from the dacoits operating in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have been found to be of the pattern made in Ordnance factories at Khambharia and Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, what additional precautionary measures have been taken to prevent smuggling of arms and ammunitions from those factories to the dacoits?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Limestone for Durgapur Steel Plant

*59. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether a permanent source of limestone for Durgapur Steel Works has been located; and

(b) if so, its location?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). For the first few years of operation of the Durgapur Steel Plant it has always been the intention to draw limestone from existing sources in the Dirmitrapur-Hathibari, area of Orissa. It is only when both the Rourkela Steel Plant and the Durgapur Steel Plant are expanded, would it become necessary for new sources to be located. Investigations are going on, at present, in the Shahabad district of Bihar and the Sambalpur and Sundergarh districts of Orissa.

Agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation.

*90. { Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri Kodliyan:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question Nos. 94 and 102 on the 13th August, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the negotiations with the Governments of countries in Europe in respect of devising suitable arrangements to avoid double taxation on foreign investors in India have since been completed and any agreements signed; and

(b) if not, the progress made in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) and (b). A statement giving the position is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The position regarding the stage of negotiations with the Governments of countries in Europe for conclusion of

agreements for avoidance of double taxation up to 13th August, 1958 was furnished in the statement laid on the Table of the House in reply to the Starred Question No. 94.

The further progress made in the matter since then has been as follows:

(1) **Switzerland:** The formalities necessary, for giving the form of law to the agreement for avoidance of double taxation of aircraft enterprises between India and Switzerland have been completed. On being published in the Gazette of India dated 1st September, 1958 the agreement has come into effect in both the countries from that date. The copies of this agreement have already been laid on the Table of the House on the 17th September, 1958.

(2) **Denmark:** An agreement for avoidance of double taxation of income between India and Denmark has been initialled at the official level at New Delhi on the 3rd November, 1958. This has now to be ratified by both the Governments, which is expected to be done before the end of the current year.

Balance of Payment Position with U.K.

*91. **Shri D C Sharma:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of India's balance of payment with the United Kingdom; and

(b) in case it is adverse the steps that are being taken to meet it?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B Gopala Reddi): (a) During April-June, 1958, the last quarter for which balance of payments statistics are fully available, there was a deficit of Rs. 50.5 crores on current account with United Kingdom.

(b) Various steps taken recently to check the fall in the country's foreign exchange reserves are expected to have effect on our balance of payments with UK as well.

Survey of Forms of Drama

*92. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 2620 on the 24th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the work of survey of various forms of drama found in different parts of the country has been completed; and

(b) if so, the result of the survey?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir. The preliminary survey is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise.

Engineering College in Delhi

*93. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made towards the establishment of an Engineering College in Delhi;

(b) what are the important details of this scheme;

(c) whether any site has been selected and construction work started; and

(d) what would be the recurring and non-recurring expenditure involved?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) to (d). The detailed plans and estimates of the Engineering College are being worked out. Efforts are also being made to secure a suitable site.

Foreign Exchange

*94. { **Shri V. P. Nayar:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Bimal Ghose:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules in force regulating the foreign exchange allowed to businessmen for their travels abroad; and

(b) whether there is any check on the actual expenditure incurred by Indian travellers abroad?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi):

(a) Exchange is granted on business grounds provided the Reserve Bank of India or the Ministry of Finance, as the case may be, are satisfied about the essentiality of the visit.

(b) Exchange is released on the basis of the scales laid down for various countries for the minimum essential period. There is no special check on the actual expenditure incurred by Indian travellers abroad except in the case of exchange released on medical grounds. In the case of exchange released for medical treatment abroad, the applicant has to submit in due course a statement of expenditure incurred together with vouchers, bills etc.

Singareni Collieries

- *95. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 217 on the 18th August, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the terms and conditions of the Central Government's participation in the development of the Singareni Collieries have since been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The present discussions with the Andhra Pradesh Government commenced only in September this year. Considerable progress has been made already and the terms and conditions of the Centre's participation have been

finalised for the most part. The agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Government is expected to be concluded very shortly.

Ferro-Manganese

*96. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the export of ferro-manganese from India in recent years;

(b) the countries to which India is exporting ferro-manganese at present; and

(c) whether any target for production of ferro-manganese in the countries during the Second Five Year Plan period was fixed?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) Belgium, Burma, Greece and the United States of America.

(c) Yes; 160,000 tons.

Development of Museums

*97. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1010 on the 8th September, 1958 and state:

(a) how much central assistance has been made available to each of the eight State Governments who had formulated schemes for development of museums within their jurisdictions;

(b) whether any other State Governments have since formulated similar schemes; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) No further request in this respect has been received from any other State Government.

(c) Question does not arise.

High Altitude Research Stations

- *98. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shrimati Ila Palchowdhuri:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 735 on the 30th August, 1958 and state the progress since made in setting up of two High Altitude Research Stations?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): A statement is placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix I, annexure No 31]

Production of Lubricating Oil

- *99. { Shri V. P. Nayar:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1018 on the 8th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether it has been finally decided to produce lubricating oil in the refinery to be set up at Barauni,

(b) what additional steps are being taken to produce lubricating oil in the country;

(c) whether any firm has been asked to submit a project report for the establishment of lubricating oil plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps taken, if any, to persuade the existing oil refineries to produce inter alia lubricating oil also?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Establishment of lubricating oil refinery in the public sector is under examination.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Unless quotations are received from all the firms and final selection is made it is not possible to disclose any details.

(e) The Digboi Refinery is already producing Lubricating oils. The other refineries are not designed to produce this product.

Central Advisory Board of Archaeology

- *100. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Bagnunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 14th annual meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology has recommended the setting up of Advisory Boards of Archaeology in every State and to encourage universities and research institutions to undertake archaeological excavations, and

(b) if so, whether Government has accepted this proposal?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir, but the Board reiterated an earlier resolution that liberal grants should be given to learned institutions and societies undertaking excavation on approved lines

(b) The principle of giving grants to learned institutions for undertaking excavations had been accepted in principle and grants are being paid already subject to availability of funds

Military Engineering Service

93. Shri V. C. Shukla: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of civilian employees in Classes I, II and III in M.E.S. category-wise;

(b) the number of those who are permanent in their present grade and those in lower grade separately, category-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not confirming persons in their present grades?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Central Government Servants

94. Shri V. C. Shukla: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Central Government servants in all categories, category-wise; and

(b) how many of them are permanent and how many temporary?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a)

Class I.	12,556.
Class II.	18,532.
Class III.	7,51,635
Class IV.	8,24,664

the total being 16,07,387 on the 1st November, 1957.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible

Mirza Ghalib's Delhi House

**95. { Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's consideration of the matter of acquiring the Delhi house of Mirza Ghalib for the purpose of converting it into a memorial, has since been completed; and

(b) if so, nature of decision taken?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Electrification of Kutab Minar.

**96. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state the progress made in regard to the electrification of the Kutab Minar in Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): The electrification of the interior of Kutab Minar has already been completed and a scheme for flood-lighting the exterior of the Minar is being worked out.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिये हस्पताल, स्कूल आदि

६७. श्री पद्म देव : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री एक ऐसा विवरण सभा-घटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे जिसमें निम्न बातें बताई गई हों :

(क) १९५८ में अब तक हिमाचल प्रदेश प्रशासन के कर्मचारियों के लिये कितने हस्पताल और घोषचालय, स्कूल, विश्राम-गृह, बाल कल्याण तथा प्रभृति-गृह, वाचनालय तथा खेल के मैदान खोले गये; और

(ख) उन पर कितना व्यय हुआ ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (पंडित गो० ब० पन्त) :
(क) कोई नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

हिमाचल प्रदेश में विकास योजनायें

६८. श्री पद्म देव : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री एक ऐसा विवरण सभा-घटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे जिसमें निम्न बातें बताई गई हों :

(क) द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत हिमाचल प्रदेश को नियत की गई निधि में से अब तक कितनी रकम व्यय की जा चुकी है ;

(ख) योजना के अन्तर्गत प्रशासन पर (अर्थात् कर्मचारियों के वेतन, महंगाई भत्ते, यात्रा भत्ते, और प्रतिभर भत्ते, पेट्रोल आदि) और बास्तबिक योजनाओं पर कितना-कितना व्यय हुआ; और

(ग) वर्ष १९५८-५९ के लिये निर्धारित राशि में से अब तक कितना व्यय हो चुका है ?

गृह-संभालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री वातार) :
(क) से (ग). सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और जल्द से जल्द वह सभा-पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

सरकारी विभागों में विदेशी

६६. श्री पद्म देव क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री एक ऐसा विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे जिसमें निम्न बातें बताई गई हो

(क) भारत के प्रत्येक सरकारी विभाग में प्रत्येक देश के कितने-कितने विदेशी काम कर रहे हैं, और

(ख) उनमें टैक्निकल और गैर-टैक्निकल कर्मचारियों की संख्या कितनी है ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (पंडित गो० ब० पन्त) :
(क) और (ख) एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट १, अनुबन्ध संख्या ३२]

हिन्दी की शिक्षा

१००. { श्री पद्म देव :
श्री डॉ० चं० शर्मा :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री एक ऐसा विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे जिसमें निम्न बातें बताई गई हो

(क) सरकारी कर्मचारियों को हिन्दी सिखाने के लिये केन्द्र तथा राज्यों में भ्रमण-भ्रमण इस समय कितने केन्द्र चल रहे हैं तथा वे कहा-कहाँ स्थित हैं, और

(ख) हिन्दी न जानने वाले लगभग

कितने कर्मचारी हैं और वे कब तक हिन्दी सीख लेंगे ?

गृह-संभालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री वातार) :
(क) एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट १, अनुबन्ध संख्या ३३]

(ख) लगभग ४ ५ लाख, इनमें सैनिक, औद्योगिक और चतुर्य श्रेणी के कर्मचारी शामिल नहीं हैं। ये सभी कब तक हिन्दी सीख लेंगे, यह कहना कठिन है।

Civilian Works in Ordnance Factories

101. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the value of work done for civilians including other Government departments during 1957 and upto 1st November, 1958 in Ordnance Factories?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah):

Calendar Year	Value of work done for civilians (Rs in lakhs)
1957	330 12 (provisional)
1958 (upto August 1958)	205 70 (provisional)

Defence Stores

102. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the value of stores purchased from UK and other European Countries during 1958-59 so far and the value of stores to be purchased during the rest of the financial year?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): Value of stores for which payments were made upto 31st August, 1958—Rs. 27.51 crores

Anticipated payments during rest of the current financial year—Rs 54.49 crores.

Foreigners in Ordnance Factories

103. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreigners employed in Ordnance Factories at present;

(b) whether they are all on contracts; and

(c) dates on which contracts are to be terminated or dates of the expiry of the contracts?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) 11 are in service and 5 are on leave pending retirement.

(b) Only 4 out of 11 in service at present are on contract. The rest are permanent employees.

(c) The contracts of 4 foreigners will expire in January 1959, September 1959, November 1959 and February 1960.

Industrial Workers in Ordnance Factories

104. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial workers in Ordnance Factories reverted during 1956-57; and

(b) the number among them who represented against their reversion during 1957 and upto 30th September, 1958?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) 1729.

(b) The required information is not readily available and is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha

Mercy Petitions

105. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mercy petitions received during the period from the

1st January to the 1st November, 1958;

(b) the number of petitions on which death sentences have been commuted; and

(c) the number of petitions rejected?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The number of mercy petitions received during the period from 1st January to 1st November, 1958 was 122.

(b) In 26 cases, the death sentences have been commuted to imprisonment for life.

(c) 76 mercy petitions have been rejected and 20 are still under consideration.

Scholarships for Study in Foreign Countries

106. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) number of students granted Government of India scholarships for higher studies in foreign countries during 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far;

(b) its State-wise break-up; and

(c) the amount spent and to be spent on those students?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) to (c). Two statements giving the requisite information for each of the two years 1957-58 and 1958-59 separately, are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 34]

Limestone for Rourkela Steel Plant

107. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state the source from which limestone required for the Rourkela Steel Plant would be acquired?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Limestone required for the Rourkela Steel

Plant will be obtained from the Hathibari Purnapani area. It is expected that fully mechanised quarrying operations in this area will commence by about the middle of 1960. In the meanwhile, quarrying is being done on a limited scale by manual labour. In order to supplement this supply special arrangements have been made to obtain limestone from M/s. Bird & Co. from their Bisra Limestone Quarry.

Tomb of Sher Shah Suri's Father

108. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the historical building "Tomb of Sher Shah Suri's father in Narnaul" stands in a ruined condition; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to protect the building?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) The tomb of Sher Shah Suri's father is not a protected monument and as such it is not possible to say about the present condition of the tomb. When it was last inspected in 1953, it was reported to be in a fair condition.

(b) The tomb has been provisionally selected for protection.

Taj Mahal

109. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken for preservation of the Taj Mahal at Agra?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): Ordinary as well as special repairs have been carried out whenever necessary since 1940 and a provision of Rs. 1,04,500 has been made for the repairs during the current financial year.

Plane Purchased by Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited

110. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1148 on the 11th September, 1958 and state:

(a) the total cost of the plane purchased by the Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited;

(b) when it was purchased;

(c) how often it is used; and

(d) the annual expenditure for its operation and maintenance?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Rs. 5,19,890. The plane was purchased from I.A.C. and thus there was no expenditure by way of foreign exchange.

(b) In April 1958.

(c) On an average 30 hours per month.

(d) It is estimated to cost about Rs. 1 lakh

Steel Melting Shops

111. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the purification work at the steel melting shops and water works at the blast furnaces in Steel Plants has been started;

(b) if so, whether it is according to the schedule;

(c) the progress made so far; and

(d) the expenditure incurred upto date?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (d). The steel plants consist of a number of sections which in turn are made up of a variety of machines, water supply, gas supply and electrical supply system etc. The details of these and the actual progress are more for the engineers engaged on

these at site. The Hindustan Steel Private Limited and Government are interested in the progress of work of the major sections as a whole and unless some detail requires the attention of the Company or of Government it does not come, as a matter of routine, to their notice. It is understood that there is no purification work or water works separately for the steel melting shops or the blast furnaces. The water works including the purification works for the steel plant as a whole in each of the three places have been taken up for construction and progress is generally satisfactory.

In Rourkela, the weir across the river Brahmani might not be ready until after the monsoons of 1959. This would not, however, affect the working of those portions of the plant as would be commissioned by them. Constructional difficulties have been met with in the water channel from the river Damodar in Durgapur. These again are not expected to hold up the commissioning of the plant.

Foreigners in Steel Plants

112. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1858 on the 11th September, 1958 and state:

(a) the total number of foreigners in the employ of the contractors and the consultants of the Steel Plants, separately;

(b) whether any of them is being paid by the Hindustan Steel (Private) Ltd. or Government; and

(c) whether Government's permission is taken before they are employed, concerning their salary?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Statistics are not maintained of foreigners employed by the contractors. There are 42 foreigners employed by the Technical consultants in Rourkela, 55 in Bhilai and 9 in Durgapur.

(b) Salaries, allowances, travelling and medical expenses of the Resident Engineer of Indien-Gemeinschaft Krupp-Demag and his Assistants serving in India are borne by the Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited upto a limit of Rs. 70 lakhs.

The salaries of five foreigners employed by the International Construction Company are borne by that Company. The salaries of the other four foreigners are paid by the Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited.

(c) Under the Indian Income-Tax regulations, approval of Government is required to contracts between a foreign technician and his employer in India, in all cases where exemption from income-tax is to be claimed. The terms of employment, including salaries, of foreign personnel have to be approved by the Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited in all such cases where salaries are to be borne by the Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited.

Shifting Cultivation in Orissa

113. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the amount spent by the Orissa Government during 1956-57 and 1957-58 out of the Central Grants for arresting shifting cultivation amongst the tribal areas?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): Rs. 7.21 lakhs.

Excise Duty on Tobacco

114. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of arrears and collections of excise duty on tobacco in Orissa during 1957-58 district-wise?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): A statement showing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 35.]

Houses for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

115. Shri Kumbhar: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation made by the State Ministers' Conference held on the 15th and 16th February, 1958 that 10 per cent. of the members of the General Housing Co-operative Societies financially assisted by Government should be from the Scheduled Castes, has since been implemented by the Union Territories;

(b) the names and localities of the Union Territories, where it has been implemented so far; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, Annexure No. 36].

Central Institute of English, Hyderabad

116. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1399 on the 19th September, 1958 and state the further progress made with regard to the setting up of the Central Institute of English, Hyderabad?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): The Central Institute of English, Hyderabad has started functioning with effect from 17th November, 1958.

Reorganisation of Commercial Education

**117. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:**

Will the Minister of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs be pleased to state the progress made so far in examining the question of re-organisa-

sation of Commercial Education by a Joint Committee of the Inter-University Board, the All India Council for Technical Education and the University Grants Commission?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): An Expert Committee has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University, to survey the whole field of Commerce Education and to suggest measures for its reorganisation and improvement. The Committee held its first meeting on the 14th August, 1958 and has drawn up its programme of work.

International students House in Delhi

**118. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the further progress made in regard to the construction of an International Students' House for foreign students in Delhi; and

(b) what will be the intake capacity of the House?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No further progress has been made in the matter since Starred Question No. 861 on the subject was answered in the Lok Sabha on 3rd September, 1958.

(b) When the entire building is completed, it is expected to accommodate about 300 students.

Punjab Regional Formula

**119. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bahadur Singh:**

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 189 on the 18th August, 1958 and state the further progress made in the working of the

Regional Formula under the Punjab Regional Committees Order, 1957?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): As already stated in answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 189 on the 18th August 1958, the two Regional Committees started functioning with effect from the 26th November, 1957. The Regional Committee for the Hindi Region has held nineteen meetings so far and the Regional Committee for the Punjabi Region nine meetings.

Children's Book Trust

120. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1423 on the 2nd April, 1958 and state:

(a) the details of the work done so far by the Children's Book Trust; and

(b) the plan of work to be done during 1959?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) The Trust has undertaken an investigation into the type of books to be produced by it. A questionnaire was prepared by the Trust and was sent out to a representative section of Educationists, Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Principals of Schools and Colleges, Directors of Education, Social Workers, Writers, Artists, etc. The replies received are being studied by the Trust.

The Trust organised an International Exhibition of Children's Books in April, 1958. A collection of 4,000 children's books from 40 countries has also been made by the Trust which is being utilised as a Reference Library.

The Trust is also collecting information regarding writers and artists capable of writing and illustrating children's literature.

(b) The Plan of work for 1959 includes:

(i) Acquisition of the plot of land already allotted.

(ii) Construction of suitable buildings for housing the Press and Office of the Trust.

(iii) Preparation of material for at least 2 dozen books complete with text, illustration etc., for children between the ages of 3-12 on a graded structure.

Opium Cultivation in Punjab

121. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) from which year opium cultivation is proposed to be totally stopped in Punjab; and

(b) the steps being taken in this regard?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) There is no cultivation of poppy in Punjab for the production of opium. Cultivation of poppy for the production of poppy heads and seeds has been banned in that State with effect from the 31st March, 1958.

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

Foreign Exchange Surrender by Residents of India

**122. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Damani:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India have asked persons residing in India who acquire foreign exchange to surrender it to its exchange control department within one month of acquisition; and

(b) if so, the total foreign exchange, dollar and sterlingwise, surrendered upto the 31st October, 1958?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Deval): (a) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the Notification issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, on the 28th September, 1958 and published in the Gazette of India on the 4th October, 1958 every person in or resident in India, who owns or holds or who may hereafter own or hold any foreign exchange, whether held in India or abroad, expressed in the currency specified in the schedule laid on the Table, [See Appendix I, annexure No. 37] has to offer the same or cause it to be offered for sale to an authorised dealer in foreign exchange against payment in rupees at the rate for the time being authorised by the Reserve Bank of India in this behalf. This has to be done before the expiration of one month from the date of this order or in the case of person who hereafter owns or holds such foreign exchange within one month of the date of his so owning or holding. This order does not apply to—

(i) such foreign exchange held by authorised dealers within the scope of their authority;

(ii) persons authorised by the Reserve Bank of India to hold such foreign exchange for business or other purposes within the scope of the authorisation in their favour;

(iii) maintenance of, and operations on, any account in foreign currency maintained outside India by persons in or resident in India but not domiciled therein; and

(iv) any sum held in an account expressed in pound sterling provided that such account was in existence prior to the 8th July, 1947.

(b) Exchange Control Statistics maintained by the Reserve Bank of India do not indicate separate accounts in respect of foreign exchange sold to authorised dealers in response to this Notification. The information is, therefore, not available.

233(A1) L.S.D.—3.

Rehabilitation in Andamans

123. { Shri Barman:
Shri Subodh Hanada:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons sent to Andamans from Sealdah station during September, 1958; and

(b) the mode and method adopted for the rehabilitation of these persons there?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) Seven hundred and twentyone persons;

(b) Under the Colonisation Scheme each settler family is given a recoverable loan of Rs. 1730 for the purchase of bullocks, utensils, seeds and manure and construction of a house. In addition, an *ex-gratia* grant of Rs. 1050 for subsistence allowance and passage money is given. Each settler family is also given 5 acres of cleared land for paddy cultivation and another 5 acres of un-cleared hilly land for horticulture and pasture purposes.

Students Pursuing Engineering Course

124 **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state number of students receiving scholarships or any assistance from the Government of India who are undergoing degree or diploma course in Engineering (separately)?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): The total number of students in receipt of scholarships given directly by the Government of India or by the Central Institutions with assistance from the Government given for that purpose is:

Degree Courses	710
Diploma course:	1

In addition, selections are being made for 69 scholarships for degree

courses and 24 scholarships for diploma courses;

The above scholarships are exclusive of scholarship awarded by the Central Government for the students of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Communities.

क्रोमाइट

१२५. श्री पद्म देव . क्या इस्पात खान, और इंधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत में क्रोमाइट की कितनी वार्षिक मांग है ,

(ख) क्रोमाइट की कितनी मात्रा प्रति वर्ष भारत में उत्पन्न की जाती है और कितनी विदेश से आयात की जाती है , और

(ग) इस में आत्म-निर्भरता प्राप्त करने के लिये सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

खान और तेल मंत्री (श्री के० दे० मालवीय) : (क)

१९५८ में . १२,८५० टन

१९६१ तक . ७०,००० टन प्रतिवर्ष

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों में उत्पादन —

१९५५ . ८९,३४९ टन

१९५६ . ५२,९८६ टन

१९५७ . ७८,५४२ टन

क्रोमाइट का आयात नहीं किया जाता ।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

नेशनल फायर सर्विस कालेज, नागपुर

१२६. श्री पद्म देव क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष १९५७-५८ और १९५८-५९ में अब तक नेशनल फायर सर्विस कालेज, नागपुर ने कितने लोगों को प्रशिक्षित किया है ; और

(ख) क्या उक्त कालेज के पाठ्यक्रम की एक प्रति सभा-घटल पर रखी जायेगी ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (पंडित गो० ब० पन्त) :

(क) तथा (ख) . मांगी हुई सूचना का एक विवरण सभा-घटल पर रख दिया गया है ।
[पुस्तकालय में रखा गया देखिये अनुक्रमिका संख्या एल० टी० १०१२/५८]

Permanency for Non-Industrial Employees

127. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80 per cent. of the non-industrial staff in Defence establishments has been granted permanency; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): (a) The policy of Government is to fix the permanent strength of non-industrial posts at 80 per cent. of such posts as may be required on permanent basis and not to convert 80 per cent. of non-industrial posts into permanent posts; and

(b) In most cases confirmations have been effected. In some cases confirmations against permanent posts are held up for completion of certain administrative formalities such as preparation of seniority lists, recruitment of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for reserved vacancies which had been provisionally filled by candidates belonging to other communities which process takes a long time, assessment of suitability for confirmation and medical examination, which have to be gone through before eligible employees can be confirmed. In other cases, the requirements of posts on permanent basis are being worked out.

Defence Production Exhibition

128. { Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Barman:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Defence Production Exhibition was held at New Delhi in September, 1958;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on it;

(c) the number of units who participated;

(d) the number of people who visited the Exhibition and the amount earned by way of gate-money, and

(e) whether Government propose to organise similar exhibitions in other parts of the country?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The expenditure incurred on the Exhibition amounted to Rs. 57,000

(c) Nine Defence organisations participated in the Exhibition.

(d) About 80,000 people visited the Defence Production Exhibition and a sum of Rs. 17,45,555 was collected as a gate-money.

(e) There is no proposal at present.

Theatre Hall for Armed Forces

129. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a theatre hall has been constructed by the Defence Ministry at the Exhibition grounds on Mathura Road, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the total expenditure involved;

(c) the capacity of the hall; and

(d) the reasons for the construction of such a hall?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): (a) Yes. The Auditorium forms part of the Defence Ministry Pavilion in the "India 1958 Exhibition".

(b) About Rs. 4 lakhs for the Auditorium. This includes cost of electrification, sanitary fittings, sound proofing, furniture, etc.

(c) 540

(d) The Auditorium was constructed mainly to provide a suitable and convenient place for holding conferences, lectures, Defence Services shows, etc

Ex-Servicemen's Advisory Committee

130. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1648 on the 8th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of appointing an Ex-Servicemen's Advisory Committee by associating with it ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken; and

(c) the composition and functions of the Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) to (c). The matter is still under consideration of Government. As already indicated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1648 answered on the 8th September, 1958, it will take some time to arrive at a decision in the matter.

Entry of Pakistanis into India

131. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to stop the entry into India of Pakistanis without permits;

(b) how many Pakistani Nationals

entered India without proper travel documents during 1958 so far; and

(c) how many of these were arrested for violation of permit rules?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) (i) the number of check posts in the border areas has been increased;

(ii) mobile units to patrol the border areas more extensively have been attached to the check posts;

(iii) the co-operation of the local people in the border areas is being enlisted to bring to notice cases of unauthorised entry;

(b) The number till the end of July is 8,045.

(c) The number of persons who have been arrested and convicted during the same period is 2813.

Land for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

132. Shri P. K. Kodiyam: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have directed the States to distribute land to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes free of cost;

(b) if so, how many States have distributed land to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) the total acreage of land so far distributed?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) The State Governments/Administrations have been advised to give preference to Scheduled Castes/Tribes in the allotment of land.

(b) and (c). The information available in this Ministry is given below:—

(i) Allotment of land to Scheduled Castes:—

State	Period	Acreage
Bihar	Upto March, 1958	47,220
Rajasthan	April, 1956 to August, 1958	4,22,476*
Bombay	1947-55	8,52,973†
Madhya Pradesh	1954	2,00,000‡
Orissa	1952-56	21,603
TOTAL		15,44,27

(ii) Allotment of land to Scheduled Tribes:—

State/Territory	Period	Acreage
Bihar	Not available	44,350
Bombay	1947 to 1955	8,91,581
Orissa	1954-55 to 1955-56	35,364
Tripura	1951-52 to 1957-58	26,453
Manipur	1951-52 to 1957-58	5,330
TOTAL		10,03,078

Information from other States/Union Territories has not yet been received.

Ministers' Tours

133 { Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Naushir Bharucha:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the tours of Ministers and Deputy Ministers in India and abroad during 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58; and

*Information is for 16 districts. only.

†Includer land given on lease.

‡Information is for 3 districts only in Madhya Bharat region.

(b) the break-down of the respective figures, Ministry-wise?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant):

(a)	Year	Amount Rs.
	1955-56	6.52 lakhs
	1956-57	8.21 lakhs
	1957-58	5.57 lakhs (approx.)
	Total	20.30 lakhs

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Free and Compulsory Primary Education

134. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Wodeyar:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in regard to the introduction of universal free and compulsory primary education in India during the Third Plan period;

(b) whether any tentative schedule has been drawn by Government; and

(c) if so, whether a copy of the schedule will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): (a) to (c). The Government of India have accepted, in principle, the target to provide free and compulsory education for all children of the age group 6 to 11 years by 1965-66. The details as well as the financial implications of the proposal are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments.

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

135. { Shri B. C. Majhi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate number of suitable candidates are not forthcoming for admission to under-graduate and post-graduate courses in the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to induce more students to come forward for admission?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Explosives in Manipur

136. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 6th October, 1958, Manipur Police seized over two maunds of gun powder and other explosives in village Luyangshungbam about five miles from Imphal?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Yes.

Gold Smuggling

137. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many cases of smuggling of gold were detected during the months of August to October, 1958 in India?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): 288.

Supply of Iron and Steel to Punjab

138. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iron and steel

supplied to Punjab in 1958-59 so far under the various quotas, and

(b) whether the supply made is far below the demand of the State?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) A total quantity of 24,883 tons of steel was allotted to Punjab State during the period from 1-4-58 to 30-9-58 against which 9,228 tons were despatched upto July, 1958

(b) Yes, Sir

Custom hold up of Goods for Nepal

139 Shri Bose: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter written by a German Engineer of the Ford Foundation from Kathmandu Nepal in the *Statesman* of 11th October, 1958 regarding the working of the Custom Office in Calcutta resulting in abnormal delay in releasing certain machineries and causing damage to them

(b) the facts of the matter, and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The German Engineer has made the following allegations

(i) that the clearance of his personal belongings was delayed for 9 months by the Customs,

(ii) that a small toolgrinder which reached Calcutta in January, 1958 was delivered only in October, 1958,

(iii) that the Customs Department delays the release of machineries meant for Nepal

The allegations have been enquired into and it is found that the fault for the delay did not lie with the Custom House. In all cases where delay has occurred the importer's clearing agent had either not submitted the Bills of

Entry in time or not produced the necessary Import licences. The unconscionable time taken by the importer and his agent in producing the necessary documents was the cause of the delay mentioned in the letter.

(c) Does not arise in view of what has been stated at (b) above

Bharat Sevak Samaj

140. Shri Rajendra Singh: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount of grants-in-aid given so far to the Bharat Sevak Samaj?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): The total amount of grants-in-aid given from the funds of the Central Government to the Bharat Sevak Samaj since 1953-54 to 1958-59 is Rs 80,92,180, according to the information so far collected. A statement showing year-wise, the grants-in-aid given to the Bharat Sevak Samaj by the various Ministries/Departments etc is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, Annexure No 38]. Most of the grants are in respect of specific schemes approved by the Government thus, for instance, nearly Rs 62 lakhs were granted by the Education Ministry for running Labour and Social Service Camps throughout the country.

Utkal University

141 Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No 900 on 26th August, 1958 and state

(a) what are the different projects for which the Utkal University has asked for further financial grants from the University Grants Commission;

(b) amount of grant asked for against each project, and

(c) whether this has been considered by the University Grants Commission?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): (a) to (c) A state-

ment is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I; annexure No. 39.]

Water-logging in Delhi

142. { Shri Ram Krishan.
Shri D. C Sharma:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that problem of water-logging in the rural areas of Delhi territory has been aggravated recently;

(b) if so total area under cultivation that has been affected by water-logging, and

(c) nature of steps taken to save this area from water-logging?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B Pant): (a) Yes Particularly, the land in the vicinity of Najafgarh has suffered from heavy water-logging due to excessive rainfall in the catchment area

(b) Approximately 1000 acres of land could not be sown for the rabi crop this year

(c) The matter has been receiving active consideration and examination by experts. It is proposed to re-grade the Najafgarh drain which has silted up owing to receipt of sewage and industrial waste, throughout its length, and to de-silt its tributary drains, so that the water from the Najafgarh Jhil can be drained into the river Jamuna as early as possible after the monsoon

Rs. in
crores.

(i) increase in level of prices and wages	4.20
(ii) increase in price of furnaces *a	0.74
(iii) increase in price of rolling mills *b	0.36
(iv) increase in price of electrical equipment *c	5.70
(v) increase in price of cranes *d	0.36
(vi) increase in price of steel structures *e	0.34

Notes

*a. Due to provision of slag removal, anchorage of chambers, special design of roller-heart, increase in quantity of refractories due to their being imported.

*b. Longer roller tables, some changes in design, additional grinding machine, additional ingot buggy, additional boiler and changes in tinning line.

*c. A number of additions made during detailed planning, cost of cables and signalling system, and motors and electrical equipment ultimately selected being different from what had been envisaged in the original project report. One of the main reasons was to standardise electrical equipment of three well known manufacturers so as to cut down the cost of spares and the cost of operation. These changes in electrical motors and equipment were scrutinised and approved by the International Construction Co in addition to Indian-Gemeinschaft

*d. Three additional cranes, elongation of sliding contact lines, increase of spans and load capacities and additional equipment like motor room ventilation

*e. Elongation of rolling mill bay by one span, enlargement of soaking pit bay, yard gantry and increased weight of structures for additional strength

Steel Re-Rolling Mills

143 Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to U.S.Q. No. 2642 on the 24th September, 1968 and lay a statement showing:

(a) the details of:

(i) additional equipment ordered;

(ii) change in design;

(iii) increase in wages, freight, transport and erection charges.

(iv) provision of additional stores, which have cost an additional sum of Rs. 24 crores for the Rolling Mills at Rourkela;

(b) the technical agency which examined these prices; and

(c) whether Government accepted these prices as quoted or whether any reduction was negotiated?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). For the rolling mills the estimate in the detailed project report was Rs. 48.44 crores. In the revised estimate, the figure is Rs. 72.36 crores—an increase of Rs. 23.92 crores. During the negotiations in Germany in August 1956, this difference had been explained as follows:

The f.o.b. part of the two estimates are Rs. 32.37 crores and Rs. 44.07 crores—a difference of Rs. 11.70 crores.

In the new estimates, ocean freight has gone up by Rs. 0.65 crores mainly on account of additional supplies and partly on account of increases in freight between the submission of the detailed project report and the preparation of the revised estimates. Erection costs—including civil engineering, structural and plant erection, inland transport and handling—have gone up by Rs. 4.62 crores on account of (1) provision for inland transport which had not been made in the original estimates and (2) increased cost of Indian work. Costs of Indian supplies have gone up by Rs. 2.60 crores. Additional spares have been provided to the extent of Rs. 4.35 crores.

The quotations were scrutinised both by Indian-Gemeinschaft Krupp-Demag, the technical consultants for the Rourkela Steel Project and the International Company, the general consultants to the Ministry of Iron & Steel. Government accepted the advice that these quotations were reasonable.

It would be recalled that on releasing the German suppliers from their obligation to invest in the equity

capital of Hindustan Steel Private Limited, a reduction of about Rs. 2.9 crores was obtained in the prices quoted. In the figures given above, this reduction in price has been taken into account.

Estimated Cost of Durgapur Steel Plant

144. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of Rs. 14 crores and odd to be paid to the Indian Steel Works Construction Company for technical services is included in the final estimates of Rs. 138 crores for Durgapur;

(b) if so, under what head it is included; and

(c) the reasons for not showing it separately when it is so shown in the agreement?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The estimate of Rs. 138 crores for the Durgapur Steel Plant proper is made up of:

	(In crores of rupees)
(i) FOB supply	77.32
(ii) Shipping and insurance	7.07
(iii) Technical services charges	14.13
(iv) Site works including construction equipment	14.43
(v) Indian plant and Indian work (target price and erection of cables)	23.11
(vi) Railway freight and handling	1.48
TOTAL.	137.54 or Rs. 138 crores roundly.

In the contract no separate prices are shown for each of the sections. The cost of plant and equipment, technical services charges, site works and Indian plant and work allocated to

various sections result in the following total costs for each of the sections:

	(In crores of rupees)
Coke ovens	18.88
Blast furnaces	18.34
Melting shops	23.67
Rolling mills	32.53
Wheel, tyre & axle plant	10.83
Central engineering	5.70
Power plant	5.33
General services	7.68
Transportation	4.60
Site preparation	3.39
General civil engineering and central services	6.59
	137.54
	or Rs. 138
	crores
	roundly

'General Services' in the above allocation refers to all inter-connecting services between various sections of the works which do not form part of any one section, like steam distribution, electrical power distribution, blast furnace and coke oven gas distribution, water supply, drainage, sewage, oxygen plant, etc. 'General civil engineering and central services' include, among other things, administrative offices, stores, buildings, stockyards, telecommunications, boundary wall and a weigh bridge at the main entrance.

Claims of Indian Steel Works Construction Company Ltd.

145. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to U. S. Q. No. 2741-A on the 24th September, 1958 and state:

(a) the total number of claims submitted by the Indian Steel Works Construction Company Ltd. under the price variations clause of the contract with them;

(b) the amount involved in each claim;

(c) the reasons given in justification of these claims; and

(d) whether all these claims have been accepted by Government?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (d): The basis on which claims for escalation can be made is clearly described in the Contract itself. The claims must be related to increases in the cost of materials or of labour compared to the basic period. These claims are usually included as items of the regular bills for progress payments or for payments on shipments. The settlement of escalation claims is, therefore, a matter of day-to-day business of the Company. Individual claims are too many to be enumerated. But it is understood that the total amount claimed so far is about £2 million.

Expenditure on Bhilai Steel Plant

147. Shri Nath Pal: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred so far at Bhilai on the Soviet Chief Engineer and other Soviet experts;

(b) what is the maximum limit if any, fixed for that expenditure; and

(c) whether any part of this expenditure is incurred in foreign currency?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Rs. 93.4 lakhs.

(b) No limit has been fixed. The number of Soviet experts is determined from time to time according to the actual requirements of the Project. Salaries and other terms of employment have been settled for each category of expert.

(c) Payment is made in rupees into a special account with the Reserve Bank of India. Amounts credited to this account are convertible into pounds sterling if desired.

Life Insurance Corporation

148. **Shri Anirudh Sinha.** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) the average time taken by the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company Limited in settling death claims during the two years preceding the date of nationalisation of insurance industry, and

(b) the average time taken in settling death claims arising between the 1st September 1956 to the 31st of August, 1958 under policies issued by the Oriental prior to nationalisation of insurance industry?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai) (a) 10 months and 6 days

(b) 12 months, 16 days

Export of Melting Scrap

149. **Shri P. R. Patel.** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) the annual tonnage of melting scrap exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned during 1952 to the 30th October, 1958, year wise, and

(b) whether the scrap Traders and Exporters Association has estimated the present melting scrap arising to over a million tons and what is the Government's estimate?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh). (a) A statement showing the tonnage and value of scrap exported is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No 40]

(b) It is true that the Scrap Traders and Exporters Association have estimated the present melting scrap arisings to be over a million tons, but estimate made by the Saxena Committee is only about 4,00,000 tons at present.

Naga Hostiles

150. { **Shrimati Mafda Ahmed:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri V. C. Shukla:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that hostile Nagas have resumed activities on the Manipur border and killed one sepoy of the 4th Assam Rifles in the first week of October, 1958, and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to comb out the hostile gangs from the hideouts in the hills?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) and (b) A sepoy of the Fourth Battalion of the Assam Rifles was fatally injured on the 1st October 1958 near Village Kalhang. The case is under investigation. There has been some activity on the part of the Naga hostiles in Manipur recently. Necessary steps have been taken to comb out the affected areas.

Posts of Secretaries in Ministries

151 { **Shri Mohammed Imam:**
Shri Jadhav:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the number of Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries in each Ministry of the Government of India in the years 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59 as at present

(b) the number of Joint Secretaries promoted as Additional Secretaries during each of these years, and

(c) the number of posts of Joint Secretaries created in each Ministry during the above years?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No 41]

Hindi in Delhi Administration

152. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the six member Committee appointed by Delhi Administration to suggest measures for change over to Hindi by the Delhi Administration has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) No

(b) Does not arise

State Law Ministers' Conference

153. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state

(a) the up-to-date position with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the State Law Ministers' Conference held in 1957 so far as the Central Government is concerned, and

(b) the position of implementation of these recommendations by others concerned therewith?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri R. M. Hajarnavis): (a) and (b) A statement of the conclusions reached at the Law Ministers' Conference held in 1957 along with a statement of the progress made in their implementation is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No 42]

Underground Fires in Mines

154. **Shri Rajendra Singh:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of underground fires in the collieries at present; and

(b) the action Government has taken to extinguish and prevent these fires?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No 43]

Foreigners' Act 1946—Tripura

155. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the number of people in Tripura on whom notices under Foreigners Act, 1946 have been served during 1958 so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Judicial Commissioner's court of Tripura has declared that the District Magistrate is not competent to issue such notices under Foreigners Act, 1946, and

(c) if so, action proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available

Gold Smuggling

156. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of gold smuggling rings effectively broken up and the number of agents and their principals engaged in smuggling activities brought to book during the last two years?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): It is not possible to state the exact number of gold smuggling rings that might have been effectively broken up during the last two years as a result of the anti-smuggling measures taken by the Government. However, it might be stated that 828 persons including principals and their carriers and agents, who formed part of about 250 rings were apprehended during the period 1st January, 1957 to the 31st October, 1958

Scheduled Tribes

157. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent in Punjab out of the allotted amount for the Scheduled Tribes by the Central Government for the execution of Medical and Public Health Schemes in 1956-57; and

(b) the names of the places where the money has been spent?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). The following amounts were allotted to the Punjab Government for execution of Medical and Public Health Schemes for Scheduled Tribes during 1956-57:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| (a) State Plan Schemes | Rs. 32,800 |
| (b) Centrally Sponsored Programme. | Rs. 39,060 |

Information regarding the money spent out of the allotment and the places where the money was spent is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

Untouchability

158. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far in the Punjab State out of the total allotment made by the Central Government during 1958-59 for the removal of untouchability and the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in that State; and

(b) the items on which it has been spent?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). The required information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**STATEMENT BY THE FINANCE MINISTER ON HIS RECENT VISIT ABROAD**

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement regarding my recent visit abroad. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1006/58].

NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER COAL MINES (CONSERVATION AND SAFETY) ACT

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.O. 1990 dated the 29th September, 1958 under sub-section (3) of Section 8 of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1007/58].

REPORT OF TARIFF COMMISSION

Sardar Swaran Singh: I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, a copy of each of the following papers:

- (1) Report (1958) of the Tariff Commission on the revision of the retention prices of steel produced by the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, and the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Limited.
- (2) Government Resolution No. SC(A)-2 (246)/57 dated the 13th October, 1958.
- (3) Statement under the proviso to sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, explaining the reasons why a copy of each of the documents referred to at (1) and (2) above could not be laid within the period prescribed in that sub-section. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1008/].

NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER THE DELHI DEVELOPMENT ACT

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): I beg to re-lay on the

Table under section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957 a copy of each of the following Rules:

- (1) The Delhi Development Authority (Election of Representatives of Delhi Municipal Corporation) Rules, 1958, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 891 dated the 17th May, 1958. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-867/58].
- (2) The Delhi Development Authority Rules, 1958, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 479, dated the 14th June, 1958. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-868/58].

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS FOR LIGNITE IN QUILON AND TRIVANDRUM DISTRICTS

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement regarding results of investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India for Lignite in Quilon and Trivandrum districts in Kerala State. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1009/58].

NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER THE ALL INDIA SERVICES ACT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to re-lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951, a copy of each of the following Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. No. 790 dated the 13th September, 1958 making certain amendments to Schedule III to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.
- (2) G.S.R. No. 791 dated the 13th September, 1958 making certain amendments to Schedule III to the Indian Police Service (Pay) Rules, 1954. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-937/58].

NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER ALL INDIA SERVICES ACT

Shri Datar: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951, a copy of each of the following Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. No. 950 dated the 18th October, 1958 making certain amendments to Schedule III to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.
- (2) G.S.R. No. 974 dated the 25th October, 1958 making certain amendments to the Indian Civil Service Provident Fund Rules, 1942.
- (3) G.S.R. No. 975 dated the 25th October, 1958 making certain amendments to the Indian Civil Service (Non-European Members) Provident Fund Rules, 1943.
- (4) G.S.R. No. 976 dated the 25th October, 1958 making certain amendments to the Secretary of State's Services (General Provident Fund) Rules, 1943.
- (5) G.S.R. No. 982 dated the 25th October, 1958 making certain amendments to Schedule III to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1010/58].

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-NINTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DISAPPEARANCE OF FILES FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Shri Assar (Ratnagiri): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the

[Shri Assar]

Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported disappearance of some files from the Ministry of Finance, New Delhi"

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): The facts of the matter are as follows

The Ministry of Finance, like many of the other Ministries of the Government of India, has had to face a shortage of office accommodation in recent years, with the result that a number of almirahs containing the records of the Ministry have had to be (and are being) kept in corridors and verandahs. In order to prevent unauthorised removal of files from Government buildings and for other security purposes, Security Guards have been posted by the Ministry of Home Affairs wherever necessary. In the North Block of the Central Secretariat Buildings, Security Guards are posted at all the entrances and no file or other Government property can be taken out of the building without proper authorisation. Instructions also exist that confidential papers should be stored in a locked safe, the key of which should remain in the personal custody of the Section Officer concerned and that the safe should not be used for storing any unclassified papers

The Branch of the Finance Ministry dealing with the work relating to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power is situated on the ground floor of the North Block. Several almirahs containing the records of that Branch are kept in the verandah opposite to the room occupied by the staff of that Branch. It appears probable that some time between 8th October, 1958 and 23rd October, 1958 all the records kept in one of those almirahs were stolen, although the loss was not definitely detected or reported till the 4th of November, 1958. As far as the present information goes, the files lost

were thirty-five in number; they were copies of the agenda and the proceedings of the meetings of the Bhakra Control Board for the years 1953 to 1958 and the Bhakra Nangal Project Estimates for the years 1951 and 1953. No files of a confidential nature are reported to be missing. The loss of the files has been reported to the police for necessary investigations. Police investigations are in progress. Departmental enquiry has also been initiated with a view to allocating responsibility and one officer has been suspended, pending completion of the enquiry

STATEMENT RE: INDO-RUMANIAN
AGREEMENT FOR ASSAM
REFINERY

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): May I read out the statement, Sir. It will take five minutes

Mr. Speaker: Do the hon Members want the whole thing to be read out?

Some Hon. Members: Copies may be supplied

Mr. Speaker: I am prepared to circulate a copy of the statement.

Some Hon. Members: That is all right

Mr. Speaker: It may be laid on the Table.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I lay the statement on the Table

Mr. Speaker: Hon Ministers, whenever they want to make a very long statement, may state it in a concise form and lay it on the Table of the House

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I can read the first and the last paras.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): If it is not a long statement, it may be read.

Shri M. R. Masani (Ranchi-East): A copy of the statement laid on the

Table this morning by the Finance Minister may also be made available to the Members.

Mr. Speaker: Very well

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As the House is aware, Government approved the proposal to conduct negotiations with the Rumanian Government with regard to the offer of assistance made by the Rumanian Prime Minister when he visited India in March 1958. A Technical and Economic Mission was deputed to this country by the Rumanian Government and they gave the details regarding capital and operational costs. In order to enable further clarifications being obtained quickly and also to conduct negotiations for the setting up of a refinery in Assam it was decided to depute an Indian team to Rumania in June/July 1958

This Delegation was able to obtain all the necessary details as well as a draft of an Agreement as prepared by the Rumanian Government for consideration by the Government of India. This draft Agreement was examined in consultation with the other Ministries concerned and I was able to obtain the concurrence of the Rumanian Government, while at Bucharest to some essential changes being incorporated in the Agreement. I must thank the Government of the Rumanian People's Republic for agreeing finally to our suggestions on clauses relating to non-convertibility of initial payments in Indian rupees, gold parity, patents, jurisdiction, etc

The development of the Assam oil fields and the refining of crude oil from this source is one major project. Its constituent parts are the production and transportation of crude oil by a pipeline to be constructed in two stages, a refinery in Assam to process approximately 0.75 million tons per annum and a refinery in Bihar to process approximately 2 million tons per annum. With the conclusion of the agreement with the Rumanian

People's Republic, the Assam Refinery will take shape gradually and, I hope, be on stream by April, 1961. The offers of collaboration for the construction and erection of the Bihar Refinery are at present under consideration and a decision is expected to be taken shortly. As the House is aware, the refineries will be entirely in the Public Sector and the production and transportation of crude oil have been entrusted to Oil India Private Ltd, a participatory scheme with the Burma Oil Co./Assam Oil Co. in which Government of India have 1/3rd share. The Government have taken reasonably speedy actions to see that the Public Sector Projects are established according to a time schedule. Likewise, I hope that the Oil India Private Ltd which has hitherto been functioning under the aegis of an ad hoc Board of Directors and is shortly being incorporated will also take concerted measures to ensure that the production of crude oil is kept at or about 2.5 million tons per annum and to lay and construct the pipeline upto Barauni in accordance with the time schedule already indicated to them.

Statement

As the House is aware, Government approved the proposal to conduct negotiations with the Rumanian Government with regard to the offer of assistance made by the Rumanian Prime Minister when he visited India in March 1958. A Technical and Economic Mission was deputed to this country by the Rumanian Government and they gave the details regarding capital and operational costs, for different alternative patterns of production. These were necessarily tentative. In order to enable further clarifications being obtained quickly and also to conduct negotiations for the setting up of a refinery in Assam it was decided to depute an Indian team to Rumania in June/July 1958.

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[Shri K. D. Malaviya]

draft of an Agreement as prepared by the Rumanian Government for consideration by the Government of India. This draft Agreement was examined in consultation with the other Ministries concerned and I was able to obtain the concurrence of the Rumanian Government, while at Bucharest to some essential changes being incorporated in the Agreement. I must thank the Government of the Rumanian People's Republic for agreeing finally to our suggestions on clauses relating to non-convertibility of initial payments in Indian rupees, gold parity, patents, jurisdiction, etc.

The salient features of the Agreement are briefly as follows:

(a) The Government of Rumanian People's Republic have agreed to offer on long term credit a sum of Rs 52,380,900 being the total value as estimated at present of the supplies to be made and the technical and other services to be rendered by them for the erection and construction of the refinery to be located in Assam. This will be subject to an interest of 2.5 per cent per annum 15% of the credit offered will be repaid in six instalments, the first one to commence thirty days after signing of the Agreement and the last one thirty days after having put the refinery into operation and having obtained the full range of products. The balance of 85% of the total credit will be repaid in ten instalments, with the first two instalments commencing on 31st December, 1961, and the last one ending on the 31st December, 1965. The Rumanian Government would buy Indian goods as far as possible against the payments made under this Agreement, and the balance of credit not thus utilised, will be converted into transferable free currency, after 1st April, 1961, if so desired.

(b) The Rumanian Government will undertake, under the terms of the Agreement

(i) to design the petroleum refinery,

(ii) to supply the equipment and materials for the process units and auxiliary installations;

(iii) to ensure that the design as well as the machinery and equipment supplied by them conform to the best and up-to-date Rumanian technical standards in regard to quality of materials and workmanship;

(iv) to ensure by the Rumanian engineers and technicians deputed to India the technical assistance in construction work and technical supervision for the erection of the refinery,

(v) to train Indian technicians in designing, erecting and operating the Refinery in Rumania;

(vi) to put the refinery into operation;

(vii) to indemnify the Indian Government in case of an infringement of a foreign patent

(c) The Indian Government will be responsible inter alia to

(i) to select the refinery site,

(ii) to collect and put at the Rumanian party's disposal data and information of local nature for the designing work;

(iii) to furnish all temporary facilities necessary for the construction and erection of the refinery,

(iv) to supply construction materials,

(v) to supply materials from indigenous sources, even though the Rumanian Government have agreed to supply them, thereby reducing the total value of the credit offered,

(vi) to draw up a Technical Assistance Contract and conclude it within thirty days of the signing of the Agreement;

- (vii) to transport and handle all materials and equipment including construction equipment;
- (viii) to store and preserve the equipment and materials required for the construction of the refinery;
- (ix) to construct and erect the refinery with the assistance and under the technical supervision of the Rumanian engineers.

I have no doubt that this collaboration with the Rumanian Government for the establishment of the first oil refinery in the Public Sector will pave the way for greater association with them on other projects as well.

The development of the Assam oil fields and the refining of crude oil from this source is one major project. Its constituent parts are the production and transportation of crude oil by a pipeline to be constructed in two stages, a refinery in Assam to process approximately 0.75 million tons per annum and a refinery in Bihar to process approximately 2 million tons per annum. With the conclusion of the agreement with the Rumanian People's Republic, the Assam Refinery will take shape gradually and, I hope, be on stream by April, 1961. The offers of collaboration for the construction and erection of the Bihar Refinery are at present under consideration and a decision is expected to be taken shortly. As the House is aware, the refineries will be entirely in the Public Sector and the production and transportation of crude oil have been entrusted to Oil India Private Ltd. a participatory scheme with the Burma Oil Co./Assam Oil Co. in which Government of India have 1/3rd share. The Government have taken reasonably speedy actions to see that the Public Sector Projects are established according to a time schedule. Likewise, I hope that the Oil India Private Ltd. which has hitherto

been functioning under the aegis of an *ad hoc* Board of Directors and is shortly being incorporated will also take concerted measures to ensure that the production of crude oil is kept at or about 2.5 million tons per annum and to lay and construct the pipeline upto Baramuni in accordance with the time schedule already indicated to them.

12.10 hrs.

ASSAM RIFLES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend Assam Rifles Act, 1941.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend Assam Rifles Act, 1941."

The motion was adopted.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I introduce the Bill

12.11 hrs.

POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Poisons Act, 1919 be taken into consideration."

The Bill is essentially non-contentious. It is very simple. In fact, the amendment sought is of a formal nature.

The Poisons Act, 1919, which is in force at present did not apply to Part B States. It was applicable to the rest of the country. When the States Reorganisation Act was passed, the

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary. Part II—Section 2. dated 19-11-1958.

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

laws that were then in force in the various States continued to be operative in the areas comprised in those States. Several of the Part B States now form part of bigger units. The result has caused some little confusion and difficulty. Within the same State in the major part, this Act of 1919 is in force, while in the areas which were formerly comprised in Part B States the old State Act is still in force. So, in order to remove this anomaly, this amending Bill has been brought. It only seeks to apply the all-India Act of 1919 which was amended in 1956 to apply to all the States in the country, except that so far as Jammu and Kashmir State is concerned, only that part which relates to the import of poison will apply to that State. The rest is not being introduced into that State as, under the Order which governs the extension of laws, we cannot do that.

So, this is a very simple measure, and I hope it will be readily accepted by the House

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Poisons Act, 1919, be taken into consideration."

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): Speaking on the Poisons (Amendment) Bill, I am reminded of the tragedy which overtook several people in Kerala recently because of the serious lacuna in the legislation as it existed then. The hon. Mover says it is in order to introduce a sort of uniformity in the legislation that now he brings forward this Bill. I wonder whether the Government would have thought of any change to the existing legislation on the subject if the tragedy to which I referred had not occurred. The States Reorganisation Act was passed some time ago and yet this was not noticed, and to my mind the impression is

that the serious attention of Government has been drawn to this shortcoming in the legislation only on account of the fact that subsequent developments after the incident showed that Government were not quite powerful enough to prevent abuse by certain merchants.

When we think of amendments to the Poisons Act, we should also take into account the exact situation that prevails in the country. It is not a question whether, on account of the States Reorganisation Act, a change here or there in the existing Act becomes necessary or not.

As you know, the original Poisons Act was promulgated in the year 1919 or so when there was hardly anything which was handled by anybody except those of the medical profession which could be termed as poison. In those days, apothecaries, doctors, chemists and druggists alone were supposed to keep poisons, and the law as it was then framed meant only the restriction of the distribution of such poisons as were kept by the medical practitioners from reaching consumers who might consume them indiscreetly and cause themselves harm. In those days, as I find from one of the two speeches made on the original Bill, the speech by the great V. J. Patel, the only industry which was affected was the leather tanning industry for which some poisons were used. Here, when we think of changing the present law regarding poisons, we should take into account, and very serious account, what is happening in the country with respect to poisons.

I need not go into all these details, because this is not the place to discuss the details of chemistry of poisons. Nevertheless, we must consider that today poisons are being handled in an unrestricted fashion by countless numbers of people, whether it is in the agricultural sector or in the industrial sector. You know, Sir, that such potent lethal poisons as potassium cyanide have become very necessary in

small industries like tampering steel. You know also that in several industries salts of copper which are deadly, salts of barium and salts of phosphorus have become common. These were not envisaged at the time the original Act was contemplated. The situation today is that in the industrial sector, we have necessarily to resort to the use of solid, liquid and gaseous poisons. Solids, liquids and gases which contain poisons, and which are killers, are now being transported from one end of the country to the other subject to certain restrictions which were thought of at a time when these poisons did not go from place to place as we find now.

Then, there has been the greatest danger, in recent years, of the increasing and indiscriminate use of the most deadly poisons in the field of agriculture. A cry has been raised, and repeatedly raised, that agricultural production must necessarily be increased. No doubt it has to be increased, but on the pretext of increasing agricultural production, monopoly firms are dumping into our country poisons, the toxicity of which has never been studied.

You know that one of the commonest insecticides which we use in our country is DDT. If I read out extracts from the *British Medical Journal* or the *American Medical Journal* on the evil effects of DDT, you will be amazed. DDT has such bad results on cattle which feed in the areas where it is sprayed that even in their milk there is a precipitation of DDT. In children who feed on the milk so distributed, doctors have found a sediment of this DDT in their fats. The effects of DDT have not been studied as yet, and that is the mildest of poisons which is used as insecticide. There are ever so many other poisons, weedicides, fungicides and insecticides which are being allowed to be dumped into the country by firms like the Imperial Chemicals on the basis of certain advertisements and claims made by them. One can read in the press every day of Tata-Fison with photographs of both these people saying that this

insecticide is a positive cure. It may be a positive cure, but really, more than that, it is a positive menace also to the people who handle it. That is why I submitted that we are facing a very grave danger in the matter of poisons which are being allowed to be handled by all sorts of people who do not know anything about these poisons. Government failed to take serious note of the increasing and indiscriminate use of poisons all over the country and bring in suitable amendments to the law even though time and again there have been reports in the press.

I need not go into all that also, but here is an extract from no less a paper than the *Harijan* of December 15, 1951 which makes very interesting reading now. It quotes the *London Health Review* and says:

"It was long ago proved in experiments by Dr. Sir Edward Mallanby (he is one of the authorities on poisons) that the poison gas (Nitrogen trichloride) used to bleach 90 per cent. of the flour used in this country was the cause of hysteria in dogs, that diseases of a similar serious nature were likely to result from the use of this poison (which is also used in the manufacture of deadly chlorine gas) in flour for human consumption. Immediately this discovery was made, the American Government banned the use of the deadly gas as harmful and an unnecessary adulteration of the 'staff of life' (bread). But British milling interests were too strong to allow human health to come before their profits, and people continue to be poisoned by the gas which is the cause of serious disease and death to human beings."

This was about one of the mildest poisons used in 1951, when the whole group of organo-phosphorous compounds had not found any use. And this is what the *Harijan* has commented:

"It is hoped that the food authorities of the Government of India

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

will give their serious attention to the above matter of poisoning peoples' food for monetary profit of merchants and doctors."

But what has happened?

Mr. Speaker: All that is interesting. But may I know how all that is relevant, so far as the extension of this Act is concerned? There is already a Poisons Act, and this Bill merely seeks to extend it to the former Part B States areas. The Part B States were not part of the British India then, and, therefore, this could not be extended then. Now, it is sought to extend the Act to the whole of India. Possibly, this will be relevant for the purpose of a separate resolution, to suggest to Government to bring forward more restrictive measures or to make more restrictive rules or regulations etc. But I do not know how all this arises out of the general discussion of the Poisons (Amendment) Bill

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am not discussing that, but I submit that in the matter of poisons which affect the lives of countless numbers of people, the fact that the States Reorganisation Act has required a particular change is not the main thing which has to be taken into consideration. There are reports and reports which go to show that Government should take some very firm action and introduce a comprehensive legislation. My only complaint to Government is that just as they have taken this opportunity to bring forward a legislation in line with what is necessary, they ought to have brought forward a comprehensive legislation, which they have not done. For, I find that in the recent *Report of the Kerala and Madras Food Poisoning Cases Enquiry Commission*—a commission which consisted of very competent men, chemists, pathologists and everybody else—the very first recommendation is:

"Control should be imposed by a comprehensive statute or statutes on the manufacture, storage, trans-

port, distribution and use of insecticides which are regarded as highly toxic . . ."

If you read the original Act, you will find that no such control is possible under the existing legislation. What is now sought to be done by this amending Bill is merely an extension of the limited control which Government has, which will not at all meet the requirements of the situation. The situation being rather serious, as you know, Government ought not to delay even for a moment the bringing forward of a comprehensive legislation to take powers to completely control not merely the storage and distribution but also the use and handling of these poisons, for, as you are aware, it is playing with people's lives. The tragedy which occurred in Kerala should not be repeated. But by the amendment which is now sought to be made, it is not possible to check it

I have every liberty now to transport a poison which is not known to be a poison. Even the original Act does not define what a poison is. Poisons may be anything. All the crude drugs which may be used from the Ayurvedic herbs may also contain little doses of poison, but they are quite safe doses. That poison and the poison which is contained in an organophosphorous compound should be distinguished in this Act, and unless Government want to see that those who introduce these new things in the name of insecticides, weedicides and fungicides should run away from this country with all the profits . . .

Mr. Speaker: The original Act provides for specifying the nature of the poison with respect to which a licence is necessary

Shri V. P. Nayar: You know exactly the case which arose in the follidol incident. Follidol is a poison which contains parathion. Even two milligrams of it are fatal to a man. And it is not merely that; it is not an ordinary type of poison which requires

to be taken before it can kill a person; it is a contact poison. If I place two grains of it on my body, then I am finished. Even in the case of such a poison, when we have the law as it is, and which now the Home Minister is seeking to extend to the territories comprised in the erstwhile Part B States, you have seen that folioidol was packed in hundreds of drums, labelled on one side as poison and on the other side as harmless. This is one of the most virulent, most potent and most lethal poisons known in the world today, and yet, with impunity, an importing firm could transfer, without having regard even to the small precautions which are necessary, packages containing this poison to a distant place; and the packing was not properly done, and, therefore, the packages leaked, and what is more, it was allowed to be transported along with foodstuffs which resulted in that tragedy.

This is not the only poison. If folioidol was the only poison which is increasing in its use, then I would not have said anything, nor would I have spoken on this Bill at all. But you know that in the name of killing mosquitoes, gammaxene is used; in the name of killing flies

Mr. Speaker: Has not enough been said to request the Home Minister to bring forward a comprehensive Bill?

Shri V. P. Nayar: In doing so, I submit, the Home Minister should take these things also into consideration. I do appreciate the spirit with which this Bill has been moved for consideration, but I have a feeling that the Home Minister may not have known all the details which not merely make it necessary but compel the Government to bring forward a comprehensive legislation, instead of merely bringing forward this amending Bill to extend the meagre provisions of an Act which was originally drafted in 1919, when Government did not know anything about poisons, when the people were not using any poison in their day-to-day life. But the context is completely

different today, and hundreds and thousands of people in our country have necessarily to use poisons, the nature of which they do not know, but which they are forced to use because of the higher technique in agriculture or industry.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): The hon. Member knows a great deal about poisons, which many of the hon. Members here do not know. So, he should be allowed to continue. And his speech is becoming very interesting.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection. I shall arrange for a lecture under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group

Shri V. P. Nayar: Do I deserve that honour?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, certainly

The hon. Member has said enough to show that a comprehensive legislation ought to be brought forward.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I request the hon. Member to tell us what poisons are useful for human beings?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has got ample opportunity outside. We are sitting here only for five hours

Shri V. P. Nayar: Several poisons are used in medicines also, but there is hardly any poison which will restore young age. That is the only poison which is still beyond human ingenuity.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): Does the Hon. Speaker fear that too much of this will poison the debate?

Shri Achar (Mangalore): In fact, we have had a discussion on the subject during the last Session.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I shall conclude by once again requesting the Home Minister to consider the present context of things when there is an unrestricted use of poisons merely because some monopoly firm imports it and advertises it saying that this is a fly-killer

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

to the perfection, or that this is a mosquito-killer to the perfection, to take this very serious and menacing situation into consideration and assure us that no time will be lost in promulgating a law which will have all the necessary controls to prevent the misuse by any firm or any person of any poison which is dangerous to human life or the life of cattle or the life of plants.

Shri Achar: May I just say a word or two? I am not going to make a speech. But I would just recall to your mind and to that of the Home Minister that we had a full discussion on this matter during the last session.

There was a report by the Ministry of Health, Government of India, and also the Report of the Kerala and Madras Food Poisoning Cases Enquiry Commission. These were fully discussed last time, and that very poison, which my hon. friend has just now referred to, namely follidol, was the subject-matter of considerable discussion on that occasion.

In the course of that discussion, we saw the great danger of allowing these poisonous substances to be imported, and that too, not in a proper condition. In fact, the follidol which comes from Germany formerly used to be imported in aluminium containers. Somehow, the rules were relaxed, or I do not know how it happened, it began to be imported in wooden containers.

They begin leaking and get mixed up with foodstuffs also. As a result, in Kerala there were something like 100 deaths and more than 300 to 400 attacks. The people suffered.

So I agree with what Shri V. P. Nayar submitted, that we have to have a full enactment dealing with this matter fully. In fact, last time I also partook in the discussion. It has at least to be examined whether the condition of importing has been changed. Formerly, it used to be imported in aluminium containers, now they are using wooden boxes and sometimes these start leaking and get mixed up

with foodstuffs also. Consequently, serious disasters and even deaths occur.

So when we are having an enactment to deal with this matter, I too felt that we must have a more exhaustive law on the subject, especially in view of the fact that we are getting several kinds of insecticides in plantations for agricultural purposes. Though, no doubt, they are for agricultural purposes, they are at the same time very poisonous. Follidol is a very virulent sort of poison.

I only want to draw the attention of the Home Minister to the Report of the Ministry of Health which contains several recommendations also as to how these regulations have to be framed. I would request him to consider the question of having a full enactment on this matter.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Do I understand that poisons are all imported into this country and we have no poisons of our own in this country?

Shri V. P. Nayar: We have poisonous cobras

Pandit G. B. Pant: I listened to Shri V. P. Nayar with real interest. I am really sorry that a tragedy which involved many lives should have occurred in Kerala. The Report of the Committee that was appointed to deal with that matter has already been brought to the notice of Parliament. We are, however, concerned here with a very simple amendment. So far as that goes, I think Shri V. P. Nayar has no objection.

As to the grave situation that exists today, I wonder if he has moved any resolution or given notice of any non-official Bill for tightening the existing law, regulations or rules. Considering the feeling that he has expressed over this subject, I would have thought that some sort of initiative would have been taken by him. He is presumably aware of the fact that the Poisons Act of 1919 was amended in 1956. It is of a fairly comprehensive character. Any poison or anything which is regarded as poison can be

brought within the purview of this Act. The State Government has only to notify a specific thing as being poison and the rest follows. If there were any very grave menace in Kerala, it was open to the State Government to issue a notification and to take such other steps as it might have considered necessary. There was nothing to prevent the State Government from doing so. In fact this Act, though a Central Act, gives the powers to the State Governments. They have to issue notification and rules, and their discretion is not fettered in any way. If there has been any remissness, I think the Central Government cannot be blamed for that.

Shri Nayar may also be knowing that the subject of poisons appears in the Concurrent List, so that if any State Government wanted to supplement, to further tighten the rules and laws relating to poisons or, having regard to the existing situation, thought that amendments of a far-reaching character were necessary, it was free to proceed accordingly.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Today the practice is that the Central Government give import permits and allow the import of such substances. None of the State Governments is informed about the ingredients of substances so allowed to be imported. It is only when such a tragedy takes place that governments can take note, because the Report says that paratheon cannot be detected by any known method; it so happened that in Kerala there was a specialist who was in U.K. only last year and he alone could find out traces of that; nobody else could.

Pandit G. B. Pant: If a thing cannot be found out, then neither the law framed by the Central Government nor by the State Government can make any difference.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The import people know.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Whatever may be imported, once a thing has been imported by a State, it is open to the State Government to do as it likes.

Shri V. P. Nayar: There is no process.

Pandit G. B. Pant: It can frame any rules and regulations. It can even specify a thing which is not poison as poison, because there is no test. I think Shri V. P. Nayar knows that there is absolutely no test, no criterion, even prescribed as to what is poison. The State Governments have given a blank cheque under the Act of 1919 which, as I said, had been amended in 1956. But I have no objection, and I appreciate what he said. I am not an expert on poisons. I have not specialised on the subject. I take it that he is an expert and is in a better position to advise me.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Except in speech.

Pandit G. B. Pant: At least he is an expert so far as speech goes; I do not pretend to be so even to that extent.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I said that my speech has no poison.

Pandit G. B. Pant: If it is only in the matter of speech that he is an expert, then I am afraid what he has said does not bear too much weight.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I said my speech has no poison, but I know something about poisons.

Pandit G. B. Pant: He cannot have tried various poisons and still be here hale, hearty and robust in order to tell us what we should do. Perhaps he has not used poisons. I would not advise him to do so even for the purpose of acquiring special knowledge.

But leaving that aside, I think it is desirable that the matter should be fully examined, and if any changes are called for, they should be made. I do not in any way turn down any suggestion to that effect.

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

The present Bill, as I said, is a very simple one. I do not see how the points to which my attention has been drawn are really germane to the Bill before us; nor does it debar the introduction of any other Bill. So far as this Bill goes, there can be no objection. As I said, if the situation was grave in any place, new rules could be issued by the State Government, and if any new law was needed, as the subject happens to be included in the Concurrent List, the State Government could well have introduced a Bill and got it passed by its own legislature.

It seems that no State Government has felt the urgency or importance of this matter to the extent that Shri Nayar has felt. So if even the State Governments have not been concerned to that extent, I think he cannot blame us for not having realised the gravity of it to the extent to which he now realises or to which, he imagines, people should realise. But all this is protected. If there is any lacuna or defect, it should be set right. I hope so far as this Bill is concerned, there will be no difference of opinion in this House.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Poisons Act, 1919, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

Clause 3 (Amendment of section 3).

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 12,—

after "In section 3" insert—

"and clause (b) of section 6"

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3A (New)

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Rajampet): Sir, I beg to move my amendment No 2

Page 1,—

after line 13, insert—

"3A Amendment of section 3.—in section 8 of the principal Act after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be added namely:—

"(4) All rules made under this Act by the Central Government or by any State Government shall be laid for not less than thirty days before Parliament or the State Legislature, as the case may be, as soon as possible after they are made and shall be subject to such modifications as Parliament or such Legislature may make during the session in which they are so laid or the session immediately following."

Pandit G. B. Pant: He wants to amend the original Act. Probably that cannot be done.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister says that this Bill is only extending the scope of the original Act. The original Act itself is not amended by it. Therefore, it does not seem to be in order.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I point out to the hon. Minister that it is difficult for us to find out what rules have been made and what regulations have been made. In the original Act, there is the power to make rules and regulations. In fact, even in our Library we could not find the Acts that applied in the State of Travancore-Cochin. It is not available. I agree to the extension of this law to all the States if it is done even without a reference or notification of the rules and orders. But some arrangement should be made so that important regulations that are made, are available to us.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation has recommended to this House that in such cases where rule making power is delegated to the administration, those rules should be placed before the House. We are only following the recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation. I do not think that there should be any difficulty for the hon. Minister to accept this amendment.

Mr. Speaker: I can only say that since the Committee on Subordinate Legislation was formed, we have invariably requested the Government and the sponsors of any Bill that wherever power is given to frame rules they should add this clause also, viz., that it will be laid on the Table of the House for such modification as the House will desire. This, I find, is an original Act where there is no such provision. It is an Act of 1919. Then the rules were only issued by way of gazette notifications. If a precedent were necessary, this House can go into the original Act also. I leave it to the hon. Minister.

On a prior occasion when the Detention Act was sent to the Select Committee, power was given to the Select Committee to modify not only those sections which required modifications on account of the Bill, but also independently even those sections which had not been touched upon. If

the hon. Minister is agreeable the House can certainly modify the original Act, even to that extent. I leave it to him.

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): There has been a precedent even in the proposition laid down by the hon. Speaker now. You can act in any circumstance.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is only with the consent of the hon. Minister.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Then I ought to have been allowed to say something on this. You circumscribed my speech.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, when the rules are framed

Pandit G. B. Pant: The position is not as simple as it would appear, because under the original Act, the rules are to be framed mostly by the States. So, we cannot ask the States' legislatures to undertake any responsibility. It is open to the States' legislatures to make any provision they like about the rules that their governments make. We can say that the rules that are framed by their governments will be laid before the legislatures or if they do not so choose then they will not be so laid. In fact, the whole scheme of this Act of 1919 is intended to give certain rights and powers and to impose certain responsibilities on the States. The Centre has very little to do in the matter. We cannot pass a law here to the effect that rules that are made by the State Governments shall be placed before the State legislatures. We will be encroaching upon the domain of the State legislatures. If it were only in connection with our own legislation, I would have had no objection to have even a rule to that effect and I may say apart from that if any rules are framed by us we will place them on the Table of the House even if there is no provision in the Act itself. But we cannot introduce any amendment which will affect the State legislatures.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Could the hon. Minister tell us whether there is any rule framed by the Centre which calls upon a man who imports or applies for a import licence of anything which may contain a poison to exactly describe the poison and its potency?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I cannot say anything about that. I can say that if any rule is framed by the Central Government we will place a copy of that on the Table of the House and it will be open for Parliament to accept it or to reject it or to amend it and we will be bound by the decision of Parliament.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: The subject matter of the Bill is in the Concurrent List and not in the State List. So, whatever legislation is passed here with reference to this subject the States, I think, are bound to agree to that under the Constitution. Therefore, in the circumstances if you include the provision in this Bill, there will be sufficient safeguard for us to see that the rules are placed before the State legislatures

Mr. Speaker: So far as two points that have been raised are concerned, the hon. Minister has given an assurance that whatever rules that may be framed by the Centre will be placed on the Table of the House so that hon. Members may move Resolutions thereafter accepting it or rejecting it or even trying to modify it.

So far as the other point is concerned, I do not want to give a ruling now because it is not necessary to go into that matter. But once this house passes a legislation in the Concurrent List and clothes the various States with power to frame rules it is not open to this House to say that those things must be laid on the Table of the House so that they may have an opportunity of seeing them. I am of the opinion that now the matter does not arise and therefore I do not want to decide it. It is only academic now. So, now let us confine to what has been sprung up now, viz.,

that the House agrees that in a repealing Act or in an extending Act, we do not go into modification or amendment of the original clauses. Therefore it is not necessary to pursue this matter. It is enough, I think, as the hon. Minister says that whatever rules that are framed by this Government are placed on the Table of the House

Now, clause 3A is not pressed.

The amendment for the insertion of New clause 3A was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill"

The Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I ask for an answer to a question? Will the hon. Minister tell us whether the Government contemplate bringing a comprehensive legislation on this and, if so, by what time we may expect it, because it is a serious matter?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered it.

Shri V. P. Nayar: He says that he sees the point which I made.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member, who is in possession of all these things, could bring an amending Bill. What is the meaning in repeating the same thing? The subject is in the Concurrent List and therefore the States

may also look into the Report of the Kerala and Madras Food Poisoning Cases Enquiry Commission and then take suitable action.

Shri V. P. Nayar: My point was that most of these poisons are controlled at least at the time of their arrival by the Government of India, so that it is necessary for the Government of India to formulate all the vigorous provisions.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I have already indicated that we will look into the matter.

Mr. Speaker: I shall formally put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

12.51 hrs.

INDIAN ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members; 30 from this House, namely: Sardar Hukam Singh; Shri Pondekanti Venkatasubbaiah; Shri Vinayak Rao K. Koratkar; Shri Maneklal Maganlal Gandhi; Shri Chandramani Lal Choudhry; Shri Shree Narayan Das; Shri Shivram Rango Rane; Shri Ramappa Balappa Bidari; Shri K. R. Sambandam; Shri M. Ayyakkannu; Shri N. K. Pangarkar; Sardar Amar Singh Saigal; Shri M. G. Uikey; Shri Abdul Latif; Shri Pulin Behari Banerji; Shri Bhagwan Din Misra; Shri Ram Shanker Lal; Shrimati Krishna Mehta; Shri S. Hansda; Shri Diwan Chand Sharma; Shri

G. D. Somani, Shri K. T. K. Tangamani; Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair; Shri Shraddhkar Supakar; Shri Ignace Beck; Shri Purushottamdas R. Patel; Shri Baishnab Charan Mullick; Shri Premji R. Assar; Shri Braj Raj Singh, and Shri Jaisukhlal Lalshanker Hathi and 15 members from Rajya Sabha:

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.

Sir, this is, in a way, a measure which seems to amend the existing Electricity Act of 1910; it is a non-controversial measure. We find that in 1910 the generation and consumption of electricity was very meagre compared to the present position. The Acts that were passed in 1887, 1893, 1903 and 1910 were passed having regard to the conditions then existing. The first Act of 1887 was passed only with a view to have some safety measures for the protection of life and property. There were not so many electric power generation plants then; there were no such large distribution lines or big hydro-electric power stations. So, in a way, that was an Act only for protecting life and property. Subsequently, in 1910 also, the Act that was passed took into consideration some other safety measures but it also provided for the terms and conditions on which licences should

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be given—and revoked—for the use of electricity and the obligations of the licensees, etc. But even then the position was very different. For the information of the House. I may say that in 1910, there were only nineteen plants as against 451 in 1957. The power generating capacity in the public sector in 1910 was 15,000 kws. as against the present 1,683,000 kws. In the private sector the figure was 16,000 kws. as against 1203,000 kws. The total then was 31,000 kws as against the 29 lakh kws. now

We are making huge strides in the power generation and consumption in the country and it is necessary that the Act has to be amended with the changing circumstances. As is mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the amendments are of four or five categories

One is that the rights given to the consumers with regard to or in relation to the private licensees are different from those of the State Governments. Wherever the State Government is distributing or supplying power, the same terms and conditions do not apply—those conditions which apply to the private licensees. It is, therefore, necessary that the consumers of power should have the same rights whether the power is supplied by the State Government or by a private undertaking. They must have the same benefits and no distinction so far as the consumers are concerned should be made with regard to the rights which they have. Therefore, that is one category of amendment which this measure seeks to enact.

Then, there is another amendment which this measure seeks to enact for the benefit of the consumers—the right to get electric connections. The rule at present is that if a distribution line is passing through a particular locality, and if a person residing in that locality wants electric power in that locality, six or more persons have to sign a requisition and guarantee a certain amount as a

return. Otherwise, they would not get connection. By this Bill, the number of persons who should request for the supply of power is reduced from 6 to 2. That means that any two persons can send a requisition and under the minimum guarantee that is to be given for the returns, they will have the power.

The third important amendment is this. We know that in big towns the landlords do not sometimes give facilities of electric connections to the tenants if they want that they should change the tenant somehow or the other. They are restricted from ejecting the tenants or terminating the tenancy under some legislations. There are other difficulties. Sometimes even though the tenant is prepared to pay all the charges and take connections for electricity, the landlord would not like to get the connections. The result is that the tenant suffers all the inconveniences and may have, perhaps, to vacate the premises. Very often it happens. We have an amendment here

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh) Which is that clause?

Shri Hathi: I think it is 11. Of course it will mean that the tenant who wants the connection, the persons who give the connections and the wiremen who do the work have to take all the precautions and see that the property is not damaged. That is only natural. That will be also subject to inspection. In fact all the safety precautions of the electric installations are taken.

13 hrs.

Whenever there are accidents or fires the electrical inspectors inspect and find out the causes of the accidents; why the fire took place or why the accident occurred. But there is a lacuna in that the inspector has not got the power to call people to tender evidence. The result is that some-

times either the enquiry is delayed or they do not get sufficient evidence on the strength of which they would be able to come to any particular conclusion. Therefore certain powers are sought to be given to the inspectors to summon witnesses, etc. With the expansion of electrical undertakings there are so many Central Government installations, inspection of which is necessary. Inspectors are to be appointed by the Central Government for the purpose of inspection of these installations.

Then there is an amendment which relates to supply of electric power to essential services. Sometimes private licensees would not given immediate priority to supply which is necessary for essential services. This amendment lays down that the essential services should be supplied with power.

Whenever a private individual wants electric connection the practice at present is that upto the first hundred feet the undertaking or the licensee has to meet the expense, for the remaining portion the consumer has to pay. Now when that particular undertaking is acquired by the State Government or Board or transfers hands otherwise, the question of compensation comes up, and disputes arise with regard to the cost of those lines. Now there is no specific provision as to what should be the basis. Here it is provided that whatever the consumer has paid for should not go to the licensee. If the licensee has spent only for the first hundred feet and the remaining expenditure has been borne by the consumer, in the calculation of compensation the licensee should get only for whatever he has spent and not for what the consumer has paid. There was no specific provision to this effect. It is now sought to be done by an amendment.

Sometimes the cost of street lighting is rather high. Although poles and supports of the private licensee existed they were not allowed to be used for the purpose of street lighting. These are small matters, but experience has revealed that without in-

fringement of rights we can reduce the cost without hardship to anybody if the undertaking's poles and supports are used for street-lighting either by the local bodies or by the State Governments. These are some amendments which are of a minor nature. They are non-controversial in character, but having regard to the various difficulties experienced by the consumers, the State Governments and local bodies, they are necessary.

According to the terms of the licence, licensees are required to do certain works with a particular time under an agreement. But there was no power to forfeit the security in case the licensee did not do that within the period, with the result that although they were required to do certain things, they would not do it, or, things were being delayed and the authorities had no power to forfeit the security, because it was not provided for. Various disputes took place on account of this. The proposed amendment gives power for the forfeiture of the security in case of non-fulfilment of a contract or agreement.

These are some of the important amendments. I would not like to take much time of the House. After all this Bill is being referred to a Joint Committee where hon. Members will have an opportunity to improve the Bill. The main idea is, as I submitted in the very beginning, that with the expansion of power we have to see that the consumers get the facilities of its use and power is not restricted by certain devices either on the part of the licensees or any other authority. The progress of a country is judged by the quantum of electricity consumed by it and as more and more electricity is consumed for industrial, agricultural and domestic purposes, we have to change the legislation to suit the changing conditions. A few years back there were only six hydro electric stations and a dozen diesel engine sets. There were not so many transmission lines or undertakings in the public sector. There were not so many thermal stations. The transmission lines consisted of about

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thirty to forty miles in the Mysore State. With the expanding power potential in the country and increase in the number of consumers of electricity it was thought necessary that certain amendments should be made.

I would like to submit one point. This measure is something different from the one which the House passed, the Electricity (Amendment) Act, which provided for the creation of Electricity Boards. It was meant for coordinated development of power in the country. This Bill deals mainly with the terms and conditions of the licensees, under what circumstances they could be revoked, the terms of compensation in case of acquisition, the rights of consumers vis a vis private undertakings or licensees, the control which the State Government could exercise over them, etc. We have also provided that in the matter of amendment of terms and conditions of the licensees, the Electricity Boards which have been formed in all the States should be consulted. Naturally, they will play an important part.

Sir, these are some of the major amendments, which I have submitted before the House. I hope the House will accept the motion.

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): Sir, I have to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a very serious point. Perhaps you know, Sir, that there was a great strike by electrical workers. I intervened when they were on strike. When they went on hunger-strike, I went to the hon. Minister, Shri Patil, who was at that time in charge of this Ministry. He agreed that he would do everything to help those workers. I went and told that to the workers and they agreed to call off the strike. But after that Shri Patil told me that he did not mean that, he did not say that he would do everything. He did not do anything. Yesterday evening Shri Lakshmi Narayan, a great leader

Hon. Member is very industrious. I would request him to read the Rules of Procedure. I do not want to shut him out. Hon. Members here are anxious to hear him. I find that whenever he rises there is a certain amount of applause. Therefore, I do not want to deny him the privilege of addressing the House. But let me first of all place the motion before the House. After that, if he wants to speak on the motion I will allow him. If he wants to speak on other matters, he may communicate them. If Shri Patil is not here, Shri Hathi is here along with his chief.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I only wanted to point out what the hon. Minister is doing.

Mr. Speaker: Let me first place the motion before the House. If he wants to speak I will allow him after I have placed the motion before the House. Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members; 30 from this House, namely: Sardar Hukam Singh, Shri Pendekanti Venkatasubbaiah, Shri Vinayak Rao K. Koratkar, Shri Maneklal Maganlal Gandhi, Shri Chandramani Lal Choudhry; Shri Shree Narayan Das; Shri Shivrang Rango Rane; Shri Ramappa Balappa Bidari; Shri K. R. Sambandam, Shri M. Ayyakkannu; Shri N. K. Pangarkar; Sardar Amar Singh Saigal; Shri M. G. Ukey, Shri Abdul Latif; Shri Pulun Behari Banerji, Shri Bhagwan Din Misra; Shri Ram Shanker Lal; Shrimati Krishna Mehta; Shri S. Hansa; Shri Diwan Chand Sharma; Shri G. D. Somani; Shri K. T. K. Tangamani; Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair; Shri Shradhdhar Supakar; Shri Ignance Beck; Shri Purushottamdas R. Patel; Shri Baishnab Charan Mullick; Shri Premji R. Assar; Shri Braj Raj Singh and Shri Jaisukhlal Lalshanker Hathi and 15 members

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Member may kindly resume his seat.

from Rajya Sabha that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session;

that in other respect the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I want to know whether these people who have been recommended as members of this committee know anything about this strike. Do they know anything about this fact that Shri Lakshmi Narayan came to me yesterday and told me that they are going to strike once again? I am very much against strikes. I even suggested to him that he should go to Shri Pande or approach Pandit Pant so that there may not be any strike. I only want to ask the hon. Minister whether there are some people on this Committee who know about the strike which was a very serious one when Shri Patil was there. Do they know anything of this new fact that a strike might be declared and then the whole of Delhi will be in darkness?

Mr. Speaker: The House is now fully aware of it. If the hon. Member wants to give further information, he can offer to give evidence before the committee. If the committee likes, and the matter which he wants to convey to the committee is considered to be relevant by the committee, then he will be called upon by the committee to give evidence.

Shri Nanshir Bharucha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was rather surprised when the hon. Minister introducing this Bill said that this was non-controversial. In fact, the amending Bill leaves out many things, and it is necessary that the House should concentrate attention on these points.

In the first place, the major question, namely the question of nationalising electrical enterprise, has been completely side-tracked. Though in the Statement of Objects and Reasons the hon. Minister mentions that the views of the private enterprise have been considered, Sir, I should like to know whether, when we are making amendments to this Act regarding the method and manner in which private electrical enterprise might be taken over either by the State Electricity Board or by the State Government or by the Municipality, it would not be worthwhile for this House to lay down once and for all a policy for nationalisation of electrical undertakings.

It appears to me that the Government of India have not made up their mind on this vital question. I should like to ask the hon. Minister why this opportunity is not being taken in making this amendment to lay down the policy which, I think, the Government is in agreement with.

In the first place, let us consider this aspect of nationalisation. Today we are amending this Act and we are prescribing priorities with regard to option which might be exercised by certain bodies for the purchase of certain enterprises. Assuming for a moment that the licence of a private licensee has been revoked, according to the priorities prescribed in this particular amending Bill the State Electricity Board is first asked to exercise its option of purchase. On the refusal of the State Electricity Board to take it over the State Government is given the next option. If the State Government also does not take it over, then the local authority of that particular area has the option. If

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even the local authority is not willing then, very probably, another private entrepreneur would come and take its place. I ask the Government whether it would not have been wise in the first place, instead of laying down these various priorities, to make it obligatory on the State Electricity Board to take over such private enterprises the licences of which have been revoked for some default or other. That would be one way of making a beginning with nationalisation of electrical enterprises.

Sir, it might be argued that there might be cases in which the cost of purchase might be so great that the resources of the State Electricity Board might not suffice. Here I would ask the Government to consider seriously the question that once and for all a policy may be laid down that whenever, for purposes of nationalisation, any commercial or industrial undertaking is taken over, the purchase price need not be paid in cash but it may be paid in interest-bearing transferable bonds. This is not a new principle which I am laying down. This principle has been accepted by the Government of Bombay. When we did away with *inam* lands and various types of tenure savouring of zamindari, the State did not pay cash; it paid the compensation in the form of interest-bearing transferable bonds redeemable, after a period of 20 years or so.

Therefore, while we are now amending the Act and saying that in the case of private enterprises which are not able to function for one reason or other and the licences of which are being cancelled the option to take over them should be offered to various bodies one after the other, one should have thought that the Government should have come forward with a proposal that it should be made obligatory on the State Electricity Board to take over such enterprises. Therefore, in the most fundamental point,

namely, the question of policy that this Government should adopt with regard to nationalisation of electrical undertakings, the Bill is not only silent but it moves in a retrograde direction, and that is a big defect so far as this Bill is concerned.

The second point to which I desire to invite the attention of this House is, I am not against private enterprise entering in this field for a limited number of years and acting under certain rules and regulations. It may not be possible all of a sudden to evolve a policy whereby we can cut out all private enterprise in this field. But I submit that a beginning can be made and a beginning should be made, and I should like to know whether the Government has thought over this policy at all.

Also, I am of the view that a beginning should be made by restricting the percentage of profits and also restricting certain privileges in the licence. It is a good thing that the Government has taken powers for amending the provisions of licenses. I do not know how far they will be exercised in the nation's interest, but I presume that these powers will enable the Government, if the Government is so minded, to proceed with nationalization gradually.

One of the reasons why we insist upon nationalization, apart from the fact that the profits of a nationalized concern would be diverted to the nation's exchequer, is that the consumer must get the benefit out of such enterprises. The hon. Minister in the course of his speech has pointed out that the consumer is being benefited. In fact, if we turn to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, we find that the objects of the Bill are to enlarge the scope of the facilities for the consumers of electricity. My grievance is that this so-called scope of facilities is still very narrow, and the consumer requires relief in many directions, some of which I shall point out.

I could appreciate one of the things in respect of which the hon. Minister seeks an amendment, namely, clause 11, giving powers to the occupier to give his consent for reception of electrical energy, a consent which was hitherto denied by the landlord and often arbitrarily. But I am afraid even as the amendment stands, it will not help the occupier much and for two reasons. First, assuming I am a tenant in a particular building and I desire to take electrical energy, I apply to the licensee for giving me a connection, the landlord must be consulted, but I myself, notwithstanding this amendment, may not be free to give my consent as a tenant, because of two reasons: first, I may be prevented by the terms of tenancy from giving any such consent. Secondly, in the Bombay Rent Act, as the provisions stand now, no structure can be altered without the consent of the landlord and that becomes a good ground for ejecting the tenant. Therefore, unless the amendment is comprehensive enough to say that notwithstanding anything contained either in any of the Rent Acts or in the Transfer of Property Act or in any of the terms of tenancy, consent may be given by an occupier, I am afraid the facility which you seek to give is likely to be rendered nugatory. I would like the Minister to consider that matter also.

The consumer requires relief in many respects. I speak with some experience, because I have been a member of the Bombay Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking for a period of six years, and I know what the difficulties of the consumers are. First, let us begin with the question of the new consumer requiring supply of electrical energy. In regard to the supply of electrical energy, I notice that the hon. Minister has reduced the number of persons required from six to two. But is that enough? If the minimum guarantee that is required to be given which has been put down at 15 per cent....

Shri Nathi: The number of persons has been reduced from six to two.

There, what happens is, the undertaking, according to their own calculation, demand any amount as guarantee for two years. We have, therefore, fixed that such guarantee should be 15 per cent, on the cost of transmission equipment excluding the sub-station. I may make that clear that purely on the transmission line expenditure, 15 per cent guarantee is given.

We have prescribed that limit, otherwise, it was not there. Formerly the guarantee varied from undertaking to undertaking and they could ask anything for the security amount.

Mr. Speaker: They want only 10 per cent.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Hissar): Supposing it is one per cent.

Shri Hathl: The calculation might differ.

Mr. Speaker: I understood the other day that they have have proposed to reduce it from 10 or 11 to eight per cent. Progressively it should be made cheaper instead of putting it up to 15 per cent. Subsidies are given to various schools and colleges and hospitals and so on, but with respect to the affected areas where the main source for irrigation is water-supply, especially in backward areas, the hon. Minister, in spite of the best of wishes, cannot spend a single pie on any big project, and so the question is whether it should not be a cheap, commercial method. 15 per cent seems to be on the heavy side.

Shri Hathl: It is 'not exceeding' that.

Mr. Speaker: You can say 'not exceeding 100 per cent'! Though the discretion is there, the discretion must be limited.

Shri Nausahir Bharucha: My experience has been that, in the Committee, we used to receive numerous applications from the new consumers and the officers of the Committee used to bring

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an estimate for many hundreds yards of cables to be laid and saying so much is the expenditure involved in granting the connection and therefore a minimum guarantee of income must be given from the new consumers. What I am pointing out is that it is absolutely unfair; it is an outmoded and old-fashioned rule. Take, for instance, a locality which is gradually developing and where, to begin with, two new consumers come forward. Is it fair and just that those two consumers must bear the burden of laying down the cable as if the company or the licensee has no prospect of further developing that area? What I am pointing out is that if it is really desired to make available electrical energy to new consumers, we must progress further and therefore the burden on the initial consumers must be as low as possible. What the present amendment seeks to do is

Mr Speaker: Is there no provision that though in the initial stage all the weight and burden has to be shared or borne only by two people who want it, the burden could be lightened for others who want it, later on? Is not the burden lightened within a period of say, four or five years? The people who want it first could be thought of as promoters so far as this is concerned, they having come sooner. But some people are waiting to see immediately, to throw the burden on one person does not seem to be just. Is it justice?

Shri Hathi: I think this point will have to be considered. I also feel like that.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; in the Joint Committee. It may also be considered whether in an area where there is no source of irrigation, except perhaps well-supply for water, you cannot reduce it and where you may not be so strict. The reduction from eight to two seems only to favour the rich men and not the poor men. There is no harm if they by themselves take it up. If the hon. Minister can kindly

consider this aspect and see that whatever measures are provided for here must be suited to the capacity of the poorer section of the country, it may be good.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: What I was suggesting, therefore, was that the Act which we are called upon to amend is an half a century old statute, and therefore there are very old, outmoded ideas which required radical revision. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister one thing. Since this Bill is going to the Joint Committee, I would request the Committee to consider this aspect. I am of the opinion that where there is a developed locality or a locality which is likely to develop, then it should be made obligatory on the licensee to provide the necessary distribution mains but no type of minimum guarantee should be asked for, because, our experience has always been that wherever we have laid new mains, within a period of two or three years we are called upon to enlarge the mains because of demand rising to a great extent. On account of this minimum guarantee, new areas remain undeveloped. There are no people coming forward, and this is a grave hardship on the consumer. Particularly on the industrial consumers who colonize uninhabited localities, this would be of great importance.

The second point is that as a consumer, my experience and our experience has been that the bills prepared for the consumption of electrical energy, whether for domestic purposes or for domestic equipment or for industrial purposes, are often highly inflated. It has been my own unfortunate experience, so far as the New Delhi Municipal Committee's Electrical Branch is concerned, and the bills vary, for instance, for power supply, anything from 235 units down to 75. Surely the consumption does not vary so widely. I wrote to the New Delhi Municipal Committee six letters, but there was

not even an acknowledgment. This is not a complaint from me only. It is a general complaint from everybody and it has appeared in the newspapers also. Then I wrote to the Home Department asking them to try and ask for a reply. The Home Department wrote a letter and then the Secretary of the Electric Supply Committee wrote to me that "the files of your papers are lost". Because I happened to be an M. P. and contacted the Home Department, I could get this much reply. What about the poor consumers?

I want the hon. Minister to amend this Act making it obligatory on every licensee to reply to every complaint from the consumers, because if the inflated bills are not paid, the electric supply will be cut off. There is no remedy whatsoever. It is no use saying that the consumer can go to court, because I cannot go to the court for Rs. 25. Even if I go to the court, they can bring lawyers and make it impossible for any consumer to obtain redress. If you really want the consumer to get relief, in that case, my suggestion is that first of all you must lay down in the Act that the licensee shall reply to any letter of complaint addressed by a consumer if it is sent by registered post. This is not a new suggestion. It is already incorporated in the Bombay Police Act. If the owner of a motor-car does not reply to any enquiry from the police department, it becomes a criminal offence. So, the first step in curbing the arbitrary powers of licensees is to make it a legal obligation in the Act that they should reply to complaints.

Also it is no use telling the consumer that his meter will be tested provided he pays Rs. 6. I submit that some simple procedure should be laid down by the creation of some sort of a tribunal which will be empowered to fix the charges for domestic supply in the event of any difference between the consumer and the licensee. I would also put it down that periodic checking of meters should be made an obligation on the licensee. It is no

use saying that if I pay Rs. 5, then only my meter will be checked. The fees for checking meters should be reduced to, say, 8 annas. I do not see anything extraordinary about checking of meters. These are old ideas which required to be revised.

Mr. Speaker: Are not the readings taken month after month?

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Yes, but the difficulty is this. In the consumers' department, meter-readers are provided. They generally go to a place at random and take the reading, and after that the bill is prepared. One month I get a bill for 75 units and in another month I get a bill for 235 units. Sometimes after two or three months, the meter readers take readings.

Mr. Speaker: Is not the signature of the owner taken then and there? As a matter of fact, in my house, the meter was wrong and showed 50 more units. I wanted refund; it is still pending.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Sometimes after a year we get the bill.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I propose that this gentleman, Mr. Bharucha, must be put on the committee.

Mr. Speaker: If he were on the committee, he would not have spoken at all.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Coming to the question of the constitution of the Central Electrical Board, as usual, it is a body which is completely packed with Government officers and the interests of either the licensees or the consumers are not represented. I would rather alter this clause of the Bill, so that there may be at least two members who will represent consumers' interests and one or two members representing interests of private electrical enterprises. This is very necessary, if the board is to be truly representative. Otherwise, they would only look to the administrative side of the question and the question of given relief to the

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

consumer will go by default. So, I request that the composition of the board should be altered accordingly.

Coming to page 11 of Bill, you will find that a new clause has been instituted namely, preference should be given in the matter of new supply to certain bodies such as:

- “(a) any establishment belonging to, or under the control of the Central Government or the State Government; or
- (b) any other establishment notified by the State Government in the Official Gazette, being an establishment which in the opinion of the State Government, is essential to the life of the community.

At first sight it appears that Government establishments should be given preference in the matter of supply of electrical energy. But it is not so actually. There are enterprises in which Government is interested only commercially. Government enters into those enterprises as nothing more than an ordinary trader and I do not see why the Government, because it possesses the power, must get preference in the matter of getting supply over other private enterprises. I do not understand why because the Government runs a steel factory, it must obtain priority in the matter of supply as compared to any other public company, which may be performing the same useful function. Therefore, I strongly object to Government establishments being given preference in the matter of supply.

Government have also acquired the power in the Bill for control, regulation and distribution of electrical energy. This was a long overdue measure which the Government should have brought long before. Anyway, I would invite the attention of the House to one thing, namely, this power would probably be used in case of breakdowns, failures, scarcity of power supply, etc. Before using this

power for one reason or the other, the principles and policies should be formulated. The circumstances in which the power would be used, in what proportion the distribution will be made, etc. should be laid down clearly. These should not be left to the will of the Government.

Taking it as a whole, I find that in all important points with which the House is vitally concerned and on which the House would like to know the opinion of the Government, the Bill is completely silent. I think the time has now come for this House once and for all to decide that in a matter of public utility service like the supply of electrical energy, it shall be the concern of the State and private enterprise must be gradually eliminated. I have already said that there is no question of payment of compensation, because compensation can be paid in interest bearing transferable bonds. If these things are done, I am sure we can be properly set on the road to progress and development of important projects.

I hope the Committee will bear in mind the various suggestions which I have made and amend the Bill accordingly, even if it would mean a revolutionary departure from out-moded ideas.

13.38 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukundapuram): Though the scope of the Bill is only to amend the original Electricity Act of 1910, certain fundamental principles which govern the whole policy of the Government of India towards electricity are highlighted as far as this Bill is concerned. When the Government comes forward with a piece of legislation, whether it is amending or substantive in character, the legislation itself is a subjective reflection of the Government's own policy for the time being and

also objectively, it is a reflection of the implementation of the Government's policies. About 44 years ago, the then existing British Government in India enacted a legislation which was for that particular time comprehensive. Later on, circumstances began to change and in 1948, after independence, another Act was passed which comprehensively covers the entire field of electricity, including matters covered by this piece of legislation which is sought to be passed in this House today. The later Act was passed far far earlier when electricity had no significance, as far as this country was concerned, both as a question of economic policy and as a question of political policy. After such a long number of years, when the very conception of our political economy has undergone such a change at the hands of this own government, if the government comes down with only a piece of amending legislation, certainly it is a serious reflection on the Government's policy or lack of policy, as far as electricity is concerned.

I take this opportunity to bring forward before this House a review of the Government's own electrical policy so that the House may be aware that in passing this legislation we are not, at least for the time being, closing the chapter as to what all should be said about electricity. Every hon. Member of the House knows that electricity plays such an important part, as far as the economy of a particular country is concerned. It becomes all the more important in a country like ours, which had such a colossal backward economy, being under the British colonial rule for more than 200 years, and which is trying to jump across an era of 200 years of development, as far as the industrialisation of the country is concerned. A reference has been made in the big book which purports to tell us about the findings of the Committee which sat from 1953 onwards and which went into the matter, saying what are the amendments which are to be brought forward as

a piece of legislation to the original Electricity Act.

A very illuminating factor, as far as the terms of reference is concerned, is that the Committee was asked by the Government of India to take into consideration the legislation existing in other countries in relation to matters connected with electricity before finalising their report. So, it is so disappointing to note that a high-power Committee appointed by the Government of India to make recommendations, as far as amendments to the parent Act are concerned, and also about a comprehensive piece of legislation, failed to make any substantial improvement in the Act by taking into account the legislation that is existing in other countries. As this Bill is going to a Select Committee, I submit that it is very high time that the Government comes forward at least with a categorical declaration of their electrical policy, instead of appointing committees at random which go into certain Acts, and then come forward with a Bill, which can only be a piece-meal legislation which touches only a small part of the whole subject.

Going into the 1910 Act and also the developments that were there, as far as that Act was concerned, we find that the question of amending this Act arose even as early as 1928. Certain draft pieces of legislation were prepared and the only excuse that is given today is that because of the intervention of the war in 1939 no legislation could be brought forward during the war period and so the matter could not be seriously thought over and, therefore, Government waited till this time to bring forward this legislation and, in the meantime, they appointed a Committee. But, in 1948 when the Government came forward with the Electricity Supply Bill in the Parliament what prevented the Government from bringing a comprehensive and composite piece of legislation including in it all the points that are now included in this Bill? There is no reasonable excuse given by the

[Shri Narayanankutty Menon]

Government for not bringing that legislation. Even though that is a matter of procedural character, that factor alone reflects the fact that the Government today has no integrated policy, as far as either production or supply of electricity is concerned, and that is also reflected in bringing forward such a piece-meal legislation.

The Second Five Year Plan contemplates big industrial advance, as far as the country is concerned, and according to indications and also the declared policy of the Government in accordance with the socialistic pattern of society the tempo of industrial development of the country has to take additional impetus during the Third and Fourth Plan periods. If our country has to develop and our industrial tempo has to develop, and you say and also according to your policy, is it good enough that even today you do not have a concrete policy as far as electricity is concerned, which is the very basic and vital element in the industrialisation of the country?

Certainly I can say that the Government's policy or lack of policy in the matter of electricity is a misnomer and whatever policy has been declared by Government has been undergoing constant change at the hands of some other sources in the country. They are making very valid assessment as to how far the Government will go during the Second Five Year Plan and the Third Five Year Plan. I will read for the benefit of the hon. Minister a document which was sent by the Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co., of India Limited to their London office, giving a fair assessment of the pattern of average consumption and production in India till the year 1969. And reading that document I wonder who is planning the policy on electricity, which is the policy on our own economy. Is it the private enterprise which has come from foreign lands or the Government of India or the Planning Commission? It is surprising and most disappointing that a Company which imports fuel,

another form of energy, makes its own estimate for the future supply and production and import of fuel from foreign countries, basing its conclusions on its own experience of the inner details of the Government of India and the working of electricity undertakings. It declared that the Government of India is only talking in terms of increased production of electricity and that they are convinced that even during the Third Plan these talks will remain only in air. Therefore, they calculate that in 1969 more and more fuel will be imported. I will read out only two lines which are very illuminating and self-explanatory.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member know anything about the authenticity of the document?

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: As far as I am concerned, this document is genuine.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He was pleased to tell us that it was a communication from the Company to its parent office. Therefore, it is difficult to conceive how the hon. Member can check up its authenticity. Anyhow, he must make sure that it is a genuine document.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: As far as the document is concerned. I have tried myself to verify the authenticity, the sources from which I have received etc. It is left for you to decide. Personally, I am convinced that it is a genuine document.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Many things are to be taken into consideration. Only the hon. Member knows the sources from which he got it, whether they are reliable etc. How can I decide at once whether it is genuine or not? It is for the Member to decide.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: That is why I am pointing out this. As the circumstances stand today, the Government of India should know the

estimates of the oil companies, because foreign exchange is involved. Therefore, it is only for the purpose of scrutiny by Government that I am placing this document here. I am prepared to read out two sentences from that document. It is only for the information of the hon. Members and the Government which may verify it from their own sources.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then that shall have to be placed on the Table of the House

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: I am prepared to place it on the Table. The document is entitled "FORWARD ESTIMATES OF TRADING 1959-1963 (FINAL) & 1968" Under the heading "ADVANCE OF THE GRID" it is stated on page 9:

"We do not envisage any effect on off-take from the Grid bill till such time as Government develop rural electrification on a large scale. At present they are only on the fringe of the problem and we doubt whether any significant progress will be made even by the end of the Third Plan period. By the end of the Second Plan period it is estimated by Government that about 3 per cent of India's 5½ lakh villages would be electrified."

Shri Hath: By the second?

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: By the Second Five Year Plan period. Their own estimate. As far as this particular document is concerned, I place it on the Table.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is all right. It is only an estimate by a company. What they think that the Government might do. There is nothing.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: I attach great importance to this. It is based upon this estimate that they are making their own financial plans and the plans for the import of other

types of fuel in which they are trading, till the year 1969. When such a company, having such international ramifications and reputation for trade makes such an estimate, certainly they have got something to do as far as our country is concerned and I have specifically pointed out this to show in terms of this piece of legislation the manner in which the Government is dealing with this particular aspect. And also taking into consideration certain other estimates by independent sources, certainly, I can say that the Government's own policy is no policy at all. And, especially at this time, I take this opportunity to tell the Government that the Government should come forward with a categorical declaration of policy and also the machinery and the legislation so that that policy may be implemented.

Shri Hath: I want to clear point of information. Was this communication from the Government to somebody or from a private individual to another individual?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: By a private individual firm to their own office; their assessment of the situation, what they think that the Government might do in the coming years.

Shri Hath: Under the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: What they might do in the coming years plus what they think what they should do in the coming years.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is for them to think what they should do.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: That also is there.

Shri Hath: How can we stop that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants only to press this much that the policy of the Government as it is being pursued now is being view-

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

ed by other firms in this manner,—what they think of the policy—and according to that they are phasing their programmes and their own finances and other things.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: That is right.

The second factor is regarding the observations made by my hon. friend Shri Naushir Bharucha regarding the question of nationalisation. Even when this Bill is drafted and certain safeguards are sought to be given, in respect of Electricity Boards, as far as the so-called private sector in this industry is concerned, the Government has not evolved a policy whether the Government is going to encourage the development of private enterprise in the production and supply of electricity or progressively, in the future, Government is going to follow a policy whereby the private sector which is already existing in the Electricity field is going to be eliminated. There is lack of declaration of the Government's policy as far as the private sector is concerned. One important aspect that can be seen from this whole affair is, this Bill or the provisions which relate to the private sector is not the result of the Government's policy in Electricity, that it is to be incorporated in the public sector and whatever our future development in the Electricity field should be in the public sector, but because of certain difficulties felt by the Government, when the private sector holds certain cities and also certain undertakings and also consumers to ransom in the past few years. It is only to meet this emergency that the Government has come forward, because the whole pattern of the amendments reflects the need to avoid certain difficulties that they have come across. In the past, we have seen in many places in India the private enterprise which has been in the field for a long time holding these public utility concerns and the manufacturers, especially the different

public utility concerns and the consuming public to ransom because of their own actions. An attempt is being made by the Government to rectify certain mistakes and also to make some provisions whereby the Government can step in. How far these provisions are satisfactory is a matter to be examined today. The Joint Committee, of course, will be going into the details. When the Joint Committee goes into the details of the proposals, certain basic principles are also involved.

The first point is the provision in the Bill today that when private undertakings are taken by the Government or by Electricity Boards or by public local authorities, the nature of the compensation that has to be paid is the fair market price. It is so innocuous as the hon. Minister said when he read it in so many lines. But, the question of practical implementation of this comes in different States and also in different places. Sometimes you will find it impossible to take a whole thing on a commercially profitable scale. Our own price structure of certain machinery which we used to import in the 1930-1940 period and the 1940-1950 period and the foreign exchange position in the international market was so low. Today, because of the foreign exchange difficulties and because of the non-availability of certain types of machinery because they are not being manufactured by the original manufacturers, in the international market, the prices of those machinery have shot up considerably. Irrespective of the book value of this machinery, the actual cost and even 10 to 15 times the actual cost of the machinery have been already taken from the profits by these concerns. If you take a comparative standard, of the market price regarding certain types of machinery, even after taking 10 to 15 times of the price, we will have to pay 10 to 15 times the original price that they have paid. That is the real state of

affairs if this principle of fair market price is going to be applied. In the case of many electrical concerns, if you directly apply what is provided in this Bill, fair market price, it is impossible to find out the fair market price for particular pieces of machinery because that type of machinery is not available in the Indian market today, that type of machinery is not available in the international market today. What is the criterion? What is the basis on which any evaluating authority will decide on a fair and reasonable price, as far as this machinery is concerned?

I submit, first of all, that there is no morality behind it when we are not expropriating any private property as far as this is concerned. The alternative suggestion which the Government could have brought forward is, as in the case of private property or properties of private companies, the book value correctly represents without any appreciation the real value that a private individual or company has invested in it. What is immoral or what is improper and what is the injustice involved if the book value of certain types of machinery which have been there in the company is paid to it for the purpose of taking over a concern due to certain types of misconduct by the private undertaking itself? Because, we contemplate only revocation of a licence in certain circumstances. My submission is that it will create numerous difficulties and an impossible situation to the various State Governments when confronted with such circumstances that unless the price as laid down in this Act is paid by them, the undertaking could not be taken over. Under the law, if these companies are to be paid the price provided here, it will be not a reasonable bargain; it will be impossible for many Governments to purchase the private undertakings. Therefore, the whole purpose of this amending Bill will be defeated because of this provision alone. My submission is this. The Joint Committee should seriously consider about the method of compensation that is to

be given to the private undertakings when the private undertakings are taken over, and also the reasonable way in which this compensation could be paid and also the procedure and the machinery whereby this reasonable compensation could be fixed. These are the minimum things to be provided for in order to avoid difficulties likely to be encountered by the State Governments and local authorities whenever these private undertakings are taken over by them.

14 hrs.

There is another important aspect concerning this Bill as well as the Indian Electricity Supply Act of 1948. Because of the peculiar nature of this legislation, because of the just controls which this legislation imposes upon the profits of these undertakings, a very serious situation has arisen, and a large number of workmen in these undertakings, both private and public, are not entitled to get a legitimate share of the profit as other workmen are getting. The Government will be well aware that because of certain legal restrictions and also restrictions on the distribution of profits in this industry, workmen in many electricity undertakings cannot get their share in the profit even though their brethren in other industries do get it. As the hon. Minister is aware, the Indian Electricity Supply Act provides how the profits of the electricity boards and also the electrical undertakings are to be distributed, and the Government knows very well that by applying the principles of the so-called Bombay formula, no worker will be entitled to get bonus. That is one difficulty.

The second difficulty is that in the States when the electricity workers quite reasonably, in comparison with other industrial workers, ask for more wages and bonus, the electricity boards are not in a position to grant the demands because of the statutory restrictions in the Indian Electricity Act and the Indian Electricity Supply Act. I appeal to the hon. Minister

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and also to the Members of the Joint Committee that this particular question which has undergone judicial scrutiny many times by the labour appellate tribunal during 1955 and 1956 . . .

Shri Hathi: I think we have made that amendment in the Electricity Supply Act of 1948. We made that amendment about the question of bonus.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: I am aware that after the appellate tribunal ruling an amendment was made, but unfortunately even though that amendment was made, it has not yielded any result because the interpretation of the sharing of profit and of cost structure remains today the same. It is quite salutary that profits be limited by legislation as also the sharing of the profits. At the same time, the limitation that is imposed upon the distribution of profits should not in any way affect the rights of the workmen in regard to their wages or bonus.

My last submission is—a lot of details regarding that has been mentioned by my hon. friend Shri Bharucha—that the whole approach should be that, whatever be the difficulties, electricity should be made available at a cheaper rate to as many people as possible, especially in the rural areas where considerable difficulty is being experienced on the irrigation side regarding the rates as also in getting the electric supply line to particular localities. The main difficulty is that a premium has to be paid if electricity is to go to a particular locality. Top priority should be given to food production, and irrigation is a basic factor in food production. So, where electricity is to be consumed for irrigation purposes, all these conditions of the payment of premium, number of consumers etc., must be exempted. Also, in the supply of electricity in the rural areas for the purpose of power consumption, certain concessions may be given, so that difficulties will not

arise in the consumption of electricity either for irrigation or power purposes.

There are many clauses in the Bill which require reasonable alterations, but these are to be looked into by the Joint Committee, and a full-fledged discussion will be there in the House after the Joint Committee reports on the matter. My only request is that the Joint Committee, instead of confining its discussion and review to the amending Bill alone, should, with a broad perspective, start from 1910 onwards when the original Electricity Act was passed, review the history of all the legislation including the 1928 draft and also the Electricity Supply Act of 1948, and, if possible, make it a compact and codified legislation removing all the difficulties in the various legislations, so that Government can with more ease go forward with implementing its own policy. I hope the Joint Committee will take all these aspects into consideration instead of confining itself to the amendments put forward in this Bill alone.

**श्री नवल प्रभाकर (बाध दिल्ली—
रक्षित—अनुमति जतिमां) :** उपाध्यक्ष
महोदय, यह जो बिजली संशोधन बिल हमारे
गामने है उस के मिलसिले में मैं अपने निर्वाचन
क्षेत्र में जो लोगों को निजी कंपनियों से
कठिनाई उठानी पड़ रही है उसके बारे में
प्रकाश डालना चाहता हूँ ।

मेरा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र नरेला है । वहां पर
एक निजी बिजली कंपनी है जिसको सरकार
ने लाइसेंस दिया हुआ है । पर उसकी रेट बहुत
ऊंची है । जब कि यहां दिल्ली में साढ़े तीन घाने
प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से बिजली मिलती है
तो नरेला में जो एक छोटा सा कसबा है वस
घाने प्रति यूनिट पर बिजली दी जाती है ।
वह जो इतना भारी अन्तर है वह मेरी समझ
में भिन्न चाहिए । भारत से जो बिजली

दिल्ली को जाती है वह नरेला के पास में गुजरती है। वहाँ पर दिल्ली बिजली सप्लाई अथॉरिटी ने एक खम्भा भी खड़ा कर दिया है किन्तु कुछ कानूनी दिक्कतें ऐसी आ गयी हैं जिनकी वजह से नरेला के लोगो को दिल्ली की तरह सस्ती बिजली नहीं मिल पाती और यह जो निजी कम्पनी है वह वहाँ के लोगो को तरह तरह से परेशान करती रहती है। कभी वह कम्पनी अदालत में इज्जत आर्डर ले लेती है और कभी और बाधाएँ खड़ी कर देती है जिनके कारण वहाँ पर सस्ती बिजली नहीं पहुँच पाती।

कम्पनी की ओर से वहाँ पर कुछ नाजायज कार्रवाई भी होती है। मैं वहाँ गया तो मैं ने देखा कि वहाँ पर हर कजूमर को कम से कम एक खाम कीमत तो देनी ही पड़ती है। चाहे एक कजूमर दो यूनिट ही बिजली जलाये पर उसे वह खाम कीमत तो देनी ही होगी। जहाँ तक मुझे खयाल है वह कम से कम कीमत दो रुपया दस घाना है। अब अगर एक कजूमर दो यूनिट बिजली जलाता है तो भी उसको दो रुपया दस घाना तो देना ही होगा, यानी उसको एक यूनिट बिजली एक रुपये और पांच घाने की पड़ेगी। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह जो अन्तर है यह हटाना चाहिए। मैं तो यह कहना कि दिल्ली के आसपास के जो कसबे हैं वहाँ पर दिल्ली से बिजली जानी चाहिए और यह जो निजी कम्पनियाँ हैं इनको तुरन्त हटा देना चाहिए। इस कम्पनी से वहाँ पर बड़ा भारी असुविधा है। इस सम्बन्ध में पहले राज्य सरकार को भी मैं ने कई बार लिखा था पर इस दिशा में कोई काम नहीं हुआ। अब कारपोरेशन बन गया है और अब बिजली के वितरण का काम कारपोरेशन के हाथ में चला गया है। कारपोरेशन से भी इस बारे में काफी लिखा-पढ़ी हुई है। कारपोरेशन बिजली देना चाहता है किन्तु जो कानूनी दिक्कतें हैं उनके कारण लोगों को बिजली नहीं मिल पाती। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस विल में कोई ऐसा प्रावजन

होना चाहिए कि ये निजी कम्पनियाँ जो धड़गाबाजी लगाती हैं उसका रास्ता बिल्कुल बन्द कर दिया जाना चाहिए और जनता को जो लाभ मिल सकता है उसका रास्ता खोल देना चाहिए।

यहाँ पर दिल्ली में जो बिजली दी जाती है तो उस सिलमिले में मीटर की सीक्योरिटी के नाम से एक खास रकम जमा करवायी जाती है। और यह देखा गया है कि यह सीक्योरिटी की रकम इतनी होती है कि इससे एक नया मीटर ही खरीदा जा सकता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि यदि यह रकम देने के बजाये कोई उस रकम में अपना मीटर खरीद कर लगाना चाहे तो उसको ऐसा करने की पूरी छूट होनी चाहिए। जो बिजली सप्लाई करने वाली कम्पनी है वह यह देख ले कि यह मीटर ठीक से काम कर रहा है या नहीं। वहाँ पर दिल्ली में कजूमर को रुपया जमा करना पड़ता है और साथ ही ६ घाना महीना मीटर का किराया भी अलग से देना पड़ता है। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि या तो मीटर का किराया ही ले लिया जाये करे या यह रकम ही ले लें। परन्तु हो यह रहा है कि मीटर की सीक्योरिटी के नाम पर भी एक रकम ली जाती है और प्रति मास उसके लिए किराया भी लिया जाता है। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि यदि कोई धादमी अपना मीटर नहीं लगा सकता तो उस हालत में बिजली कम्पनी या जो संस्था बिजली वितरण करती है वह या तो उसका किराया ले ले या सीक्योरिटी की रकम ले ले। इस विल में इस तरह का कोई प्रावजन होना चाहिए।

मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। वह यह कि यहाँ पर दिल्ली में घरेलू उपयोग के लिए बिजली बहुत कम मिलती है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि वह ज्यादा मिलनी चाहिए। घाम पास की जो कालोनीज हैं उनमें भी बिजली की बहुत कमी है। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि लोगों को अधिक से अधिक बिजली मिलनी चाहिए।

[श्री नवल प्रसाद]

एक सुझाव मैं धीर देना चाहता हूँ। दिल्ली में बड़े-बड़े दफ्तर हैं, जहाँ सारे दिन बिजली जलती है, पंखे चलते हैं, हीटर जलते हैं। किन्तु रात के समय यह बिजली बिल्कुल खाली रहती है। तो मेरा एक विचार सुझाव यह है कि दिल्ली में जो करीब ३०० गांव हैं उनको रात के समय यह बिजली बेदी जाया करे। इससे किसानों को बहुत लाभ हो सकता है और इससे पैसावार बड़ाने में भी बहुत सहायता मिल सकती है, और जो बिजली के खर्च व होने से नुकसान होता है वह भी नहीं होगा। जो मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल में कोई इस तरह का भी प्राविक्य कर दिया जाये कि रात के समय दिल्ली के किसानों को बिजली मिल सके ताकि वे अपने कुओं से सिंचाई धारि करने के काम में उसे लाने लें। यह सुझाव कुओं के निर्धारण क्षेत्र में भी लोगों ने किया है। उनका कहना है कि यदि रात को यह बिजली उनको मिल जाये तो इससे वे अच्छी तरह सिंचाई कर सकते हैं। तो मैं समझता हूँ कि मासलीय मन्त्री जी इस तरह ध्यान देने और अगर सम्भव होगा तो इस बिल में इस प्रकार का प्राविक्य कर देंगे।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय लेकिन अगर रात को बिजली गांवों में खर्च हो गयी तो अगले दिन दफ्तरों के लिये नहीं रहेगी।

श्री नवल प्रसाद जितनी बिजली दफ्तरों में दिन में खर्च होती है उतनी रात में नहीं होती लेकिन बिजली की मशीन तो बराबर चलती रहती है और उसकी जितनी शक्ति है उतनी बिजली पैदा करती रहेगी। अगर उसका खर्च नहीं होगा तो वह बेकार पड़ी रहेगी और उसमें नुकसान रहेगा। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि अगर इस तरह का प्राविक्य किया जा सके तो किया जाना चाहिए।

यही सुझाव मुझे देने थे। मैं धाधा करता हूँ कि उन पर ध्यान दिया जायेगा।

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): The history of this Bill is quite interesting. In the year 1953 Government had appointed an advisory board to propose amendments to the Electricity Act of 1910. The Board submitted its report in the year 1956, and today, in the year 1958, as we are going to close the year, Government are coming forward with this Bill before this House. This is yet another testimony to the slow lethargic unfolding of the proverbial red tape. I wish this kind of lethargy should not have been associated with the concept of energy, power and dynamics. I hope the hon. Minister will kindly take the trouble of acquainting the House with the circumstances under which this inordinate delay has taken place over this simple matter.

At this stage, of course, I do not propose to go into the details of the various provisions of this Bill. We look forward to the fact that the Joint Committee in their wisdom will try to improve many of its provisions which certainly require adequate change. At that stage, we shall be offering our views for what they are worth. But, at this stage, what I do propose is to invite the attention of the Joint Committee as also of this House to some of the provisions which really need reconsideration.

In the first place, the consumers' point of view has been totally ignored. It has been said by no less a person than the Prime Minister of India that we are living today in the age of cow dung. About 90 per cent of our energy requirements are still derived today from cow dung. It is really a pity that while the whole world is awaking to the new possibilities of atomic energy, we still have to depend on cow dung to provide us with the energy requirements. In such a context, Government would have been well advised to consider, while drafting this Bill, how to expand the possibilities of greater consumption not among Government establish-

ments alone but among the people at large.

It pains me to say that Government have been putting a premium on the most unimaginable kind of fleecing of the consumers in regard to the supply of electricity. Let me take the case of the electrical energy which is produced in Hirakud. I do not know if the hon. Minister is aware of it. The Sambalpur Electricity Co., which is a private company, is purchasing electricity at the rate of 10 nP per unit, and it is being sold to the consumers at the rate of 83 nP. Similarly, the Cuttack Electricity Co. which is owned by a foreign concern, the managing agents of which continue to be the Octavia Steel Co Ltd., is also getting electrical energy from the thermal power station at Chowdwar which is fed by the Hirakud electricity grid at the rate of 15 nP, and it is being sold to the consumers in the Cuttack city at the rate of Rs. 0-6-2 or so—I do not know what will be its equivalent in terms of naya paise; it will be about 38 nP or thereabouts. There, you find the enormity of the proposition that the electrical energy which is being produced in State concerns like the Hirakud project is being supplied to these private concerns at a nominal rate, and the consumers are asked to pay this kind of price which bears no ratio whatsoever to the actual cost that they have to pay.

Therefore, my first submission to Joint Committee would be to insert some provision in this Bill to ensure that if at all these private companies are allowed to function in this sector, there should be a reasonable ratio, and there should be a reasonable margin of profit. Otherwise, this kind of price will act as an inhibition against the consumers, and against the expansion of electricity consumption among the consumers. That is my first suggestion.

My second suggestion is in regard to the State Electricity Boards, which feature very prominently in this Bill.

In more than one matter, the State Electricity Board is intimately connected with the functioning of this law. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many States are having no State Electricity Boards as yet, and how, in the absence of State Electricity Boards in those States, this law is going to function.

It is true that the State Governments are there, but for very obvious reasons, it was considered necessary to have State Electricity Boards, where the consumers' interests would have to be represented. I do not know what will be the composition of these Boards. According to my information, these Boards will represent the consumers' interests to a very great extent—in the composition of these Boards, there will be consumers' representation also. But if you substitute the State Electricity Boards with government departments, you immediately get the answer. There the consumers have no representation whatsoever. Therefore, the Government in their own wisdom had thought that this should be entrusted to the State Electricity Boards, and in no case whatsoever they can substitute State Electricity Boards with State government departments. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many States are yet without Electricity Boards and how this law is going to operate in those States in the absence of these Boards. It is quite all right to say that in the absence of these Boards the State Governments will function. But still my objection lingers; the State Governments have not taken the consumers' interests into account; nor are they going to take the consumers' interests in the new set-up.

The third thing is about the compensation that has to be paid to the electricity undertakings under private control. Now, the provision which has been made about the fair market price and the quantum of compensation etc. has thrown open the flood-

Shri Mahanty]

gates of litigation. I am sure this Bill, if enacted in this form, will be a veritable paradise for lawyers from the High Courts to the Supreme Court. What is the concept of a fair market price? Before I come to other considerations, I would like to acquaint this House with one point. When it comes to land, article 31 of the Constitution is amended to the effect that if the Government acquires land in public interest the compensation may be notional; at any rate, it will stand no judicial review. Whatever will be determined by the legislature will be final and binding. But that is not the case here in this Bill. So I would like to ask: why this lop-sided sympathy for the industrialists who are still using outmoded machinery; possibly they have got enough in return out of depreciation charges alone, let alone the profit. We find here that it should be the fair market price. As to how that fair market price will be determined, lengthy provision have been made and if there is any dispute, it will be referred to arbitration.

The Government owe this House an explanation, whether in the present context it is necessary, in framing a legislation of this nature, to bind down the local authorities or State Governments to a position that if they acquire an undertaking which is essential in its nature, fair compensation should have to be paid and that too at the fair market price. I believe the Joint Committee will devote their attention to this aspect of the question and take care to see that the fair market value and its calculation is well simplified; otherwise, it may just be the case that when State Governments or local bodies go to acquire such electricity concerns under private control there will be all kinds of litigations and they will be floundered time and again over clause 7A which provides for compensation.

There is another provision which also needs certain clarification. You will find that the Government may issue directions to those concerns

under the proposed new section 22A. That provides that the Government can direct a licensee to supply power to State concerns or establishments in preference to other consumers. It is true that in certain cases the State stands on a different pedestal of its own from mere mortals like us who are the creators of it. It is true, for instance, that the State enjoys exemptions from certain taxes like income-tax and so on and so forth. But here is a matter which is vital for the very existence of the people themselves. The wording used is 'State establishments'. Had it been 'State undertakings of an industrial character', possibly I would not have opposed that proposition, because State industrial undertakings are, after all, national undertakings, and for that it is well worthwhile, for the people to stand some sacrifice. But 'Government establishments' may mean anything under the sun; it may mean just an office; it may mean even a hotel or a guest house; it may also mean any commercial establishments and so on. Here in this particular case there is no justification whatsoever why State establishments should enjoy preference over normal consumers. I believe this kind of discrimination is rather too odious, and when we want that our consumers should be redeemed from the dim smokiness of the kerosene age, the Government should take care to see that they stand some sacrifice and allow the consumers some kind of amenities.

Therefore, I would once again appeal to the wisdom of the hon. Minister as also to the Joint Committee to take care to see that this kind of discrimination proposed in the directives to be issued under section 22A is removed.

There is another aspect to which we must direct our attention. Our pace of industrialisation is intimately related to the availability of cheap electric energy. It is quite fatuous to suggest that solution of unemployment in India can be facilitated by the

setting up of big steel plants in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur. These gigantic industrial concerns have not much employment potential because they are going to be automatised. For instance, in all these three new plants we are going to have electric furnaces instead of coke oven plants. So the more the pace of this automatisisation, the more the number of people who are thrown out of employment. Therefore, it is time to consider how in the countryside, in the villages, small cottage industries grow up and how also those small cottage industries function according to modern techniques. For that, electricity is essential. It pains me to say that even though the Hirakud project has been completed and all its electricity potential ready, still we are not producing the electric energy, for we have no market. It is the Government's view that we have no market. Yet people are thirsting for electricity.

Now, Government should not merely take a legalistic or technical view of this matter. They ought to take an overall view of the subject. They have also to recognise that the destiny of this country is intimately related to the expansion of electric energy not in a few cities but in the countryside. When I scan this Bill in that light, I find no provision whatsoever. I only find that same old bureaucratic attitude of giving preference to government establishments where the babus will possibly plod over some useless papers, where the officers will write their notes under revolving fans while the countryside will go dark and there will be no irrigation facilities where the irrigation facilities could be made available due to the application of electricity. That is denied to them. As I said earlier, we are living in the age of cow dung and it does not reflect well on this administration to allow the rural people wallow in the darkness. They should take a little more dynamic attitude and eschew this kind of an attitude. (It has taken them about

three years to draft a legislation.) If these suggestions are implemented, I believe we have got every reason to look forward.

Shri Panigrahi (Puri): I would like to submit that though it has come after 48 years, still this Bill wants to serve some useful purpose. But the principle which we need in our policy is lacking in this amending Bill. Even after Independence, the generation and distribution of electricity was governed by the Indian Electricity Act of 1910. It was purely a regulatory and restrictive measure. As the hon. Minister has said in his introductory speech, during the last eleven years, India has made a tremendous progress so far as power is concerned. So far as hydel power is concerned, our progress is commendable. When, after 48 years, we are going to introduce an amending Bill, we must take into consideration the new factors and developments which have come into place in our national and economic life in the last eleven years. There are three or four factors which necessitate a very scientific and reasonable approach to those problems so that we can develop a real national power policy for our country.

In 1955, the private companies owned 45.4 per cent of the public utility installations and 43.7 per cent of the total installed capacity of electricity in this country. During these last eleven years, the Government has been proposing to electrify hundreds of villages and many people in the villages want to avail themselves of this new power for increasing food-grains production. In Madras itself, in 1955, more than 16,000 lift irrigation pumps were operating with the help of electricity and in U.P. more than 3,000 tube wells were operating with electricity. This new factor should be taken into consideration. Electricity is going to the village not only for domestic purposes but for the purpose of increasing food production in the villages. By the supply of electricity, the farmers are enabled to take

[Shri Punigrabi]

course to lift irrigation and tube wells. But this amending Bill does not keep in view this new development.

Secondly, the Government of India has decided, with a view to increase employment opportunities in this country, to disperse the industries that are concentrated in towns and urban areas. If any policy needs to be formulated so far as power is concerned, it must have a rural bias, a bias for industries in the rural areas. We have to see whether this amendment seeks to achieve this thing by affording facilities in the villages for the spread of industries, for providing irrigation facilities to the numerous farmers to increase foodgrains production.

We have also to see whether our power policy will be able to supply electricity at cheap rates to the different villages for industries which need power at cheap rates. The amending Bill lacks in fulfilling these three main objectives.

My hon friend, Shri Mahanty, also referred to the river valley projects. We are spending more than a hundred crores of rupees every year for executing them. I was looking into the rates of thermal and hydel power, the cost of production and the cost at which it is delivered to the consumers. The maximum cost of production for hydel power in the country is 0.54 annas and the minimum 0.054 annas. As far as thermal power is concerned, the maximum at one place is 5.33 annas and minimum is 1.72 annas. So far as the hydel power is concerned, it works out to 2 or 3 nP and not 10 nP. In Hirakud, we get electricity at the rate of 7 nP per unit. There are these powerhouses which are getting electricity from Hirakud: Cuttack Electricity Company, Sambalpur Electricity Company, Puri Electricity Company. Berhampore and Chatrapur get their supply from Machkund. They are getting their supply at a very low rate but why should they charge from the consumers such high rates? It is 7.50 annas in Orissa. It is different

in Jaipur. It varies from place to place and State to State. In Cuttack it is 7.50 annas; in Jaipur it is 8.4 annas. Somewhere it is at the maximum; somewhere it is at the minimum. In Puri, which gets its electricity from the Hirakud power grid, the consumers pay 2.25 annas and in Bhubaneswar which is at a distance of about 18 miles from Cuttack it comes to about three annas. They are getting the supply at such low rates but they are charging such high rates to the consumers.

So far as the supply of electricity for irrigation purposes is concerned, in Andhra the maximum is 1.50 annas and the minimum is one anna. In Kerala it is the lowest. I do not know how it is but in Kerala for industrial purposes it is only 1.20 annas but in West Bengal it is 6.9 annas for domestic purposes, for industrial purposes it is 4.50 annas. When the Government is spending about a hundred crores of rupees every year for providing cheap electricity in such a large quantity to the people, how is it that these rates are varying so much from place to place? I do not say that there should be a uniform rate, it may not be possible but there must at least be some equality in the ratio of difference prevailing in different States.

So far as the existing electricity supply undertakings are concerned, my hon. friend Shri Mahanty referred to the Octavia Electricity Supply Company. Last Year it made a profit of Rs 3 lakhs, while they are getting electricity at a very cheap rate. If the hon. Minister ever goes on a tour to Cuttack town he will find that every month there is break-down of electricity supply at least four times. Sometimes the important daily newspapers will be published only in the mornings instead of in the evenings because of the failure of electricity for the whole night. For the last so many years this company is going on inertly, and the State Government does not dare, I do not know why, to take any

action against this company. It is making a huge profit by getting electricity at 7 to 8 nP. per k.w. and selling it to the consumers at more than six annas. Therefore, this is a thing which needs consideration, but the present amending Bill has not attempted to look to these main objectives so far as the power supply policy of our country is concerned.

Sir, there is a connection between expansion in electricity production and growth of industry. I was looking through the report given on calcium carbide production in this country. They have made a very important suggestion in that report. They have said that the production of calcium carbide involves consumption of a large volume of electricity. About 3500 to 4000 units are required to produce one ton of calcium carbide. Therefore, the cost of power contributes a very important element in the cost of production of calcium carbide. Power rates in the Scandinavian countries and Canada where larger plants have been established for production of calcium carbide are as low as 0.91 pies per k.w., and they have estimated—in India the lowest rate at present is 3.96 pies, prevailing only in Kerala, but the rate for some of the manufacturers like Birla Jute Manufacturing Co. Ltd., is 8 pies per k.w.—that an increase of one pie per k.w. of power involves an increase in expenditure of about Rs. 20 per ton for production of calcium carbide. Therefore, when we are producing electricity, and the plan is that we shall produce it in more quantities, we must take into consideration the question as to how cheaply we can provide electricity for these industries which utilise electricity to a very great extent.

Similarly, in the case of certain industries like electro-chemical and electro-metallurgical industries, they consume more electricity. Therefore, we should see whether any provision can be made whereby some relief can be given to those industries which consume more electricity for production

purposes. The disadvantage that Indian industries are suffering today from lack of availability of power should also be kept in view when Government proposes to formulate any policy so far as utilisation of power or electrical energy in this country is concerned.

About nationalisation of electrical undertakings my hon. friend Shri Bharucha has put forward his arguments very strongly. I would like to add my arguments also. The country needs to nationalise all public utility electricity undertakings in the country. I do not suggest that they can be taken over overnight or in a month, but the policy should be directed in such a way that there should be progressive nationalisation of almost all the utility electricity undertakings now existing in the country. Take the case of the Calcutta Electricity Supply Company. Last year it made a profit of Rs. 10 lakhs. That is something surprising. They are now getting electricity from the D.V.C. at a very cheap rate. Still they make a profit of Rs. 10 lakhs and they go Scot-free. Therefore, it is necessary that there should be progressive nationalisation of all these electricity undertakings in this country so that ultimately all the electricity undertakings would come under the control of Government.

I have to say a word about operational efficiency. It does not speak well of Government to take over electricity undertakings and go down in efficiency. There is one report with regard to U.P. Government. There it is said that operational efficiency so far as electricity utilisation in U.P. is concerned is going down. It was 24 per cent in 1954-55 whereas it came down to 21 per cent in 1955-56. It has been stated there that even though the Electricity Board undertook an investment of Rs. 70 lakhs for increasing the efficiency, actually it went down by 3 per cent. Therefore, that also needs consideration, when Government proposes to have Electricity Boards in all the States. At present

(Shri Panigrahi)

Electricity Boards are there only in six or seven States. There is no Electricity Board in Orissa. Who will be the authority in charge of utilisation of power in those States where there is no Electricity Board? My hon friend Shri Mahanty has raised that point. The State Government is there to look into it. But the question is, the consumers should be represented when policies with regard to utilisation of our national power resources, utilisation of power to the best advantage of the people are being considered, so that they can look to the interests of the consumers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Sinhasan Singh

Shri Mohammed Imam (Chitaldrug) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does Shri Imam want to speak?

Shri Mohammed Imam: Yes

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have now called Shri Sinhasan Singh, I will call him next.

श्री सिंहासन सिंह (गोरखपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा कि श्री महन्ती जी ने बताया है यह विधेयक बहुत देर में आया है। इस विधेयक को लाने से पहले हमने तीन और विधेयक पास किये थे जिन की इनकी आवश्यकता नहीं थी जिनकी कि इस विधेयक की आवश्यकता थी। हमने सबको के बारे में एक विधेयक पास किया था, फिर माप तोल के बारे में एक विधेयक पास किया था और ये विधेयक ऐसे थे जिन को कि ग्राम लोग आज तक नहीं समझ पावे हैं, आज भी उनको काफी दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। अब उनको किलोमीटर इत्यादि की जानकारी करने में जो दिक्कत पैदा होगी, उसका सामना करना पड़ेगा। इसके पहले इसी सत्र बैठक पर एक कमेटी का गठन थायद १९५३ में हुआ था। अब इस विधेयक के बारे में आप

एक ज्वायंट कमेटी बनाने जा रहे हैं। उस कमेटी के विचारार्थ मैं कुछ सुझाव प्रस्तुत करूंगा। इसको पहली पास किया जाना चाहिये था, ऐसा मैं कहना चाहता हूँ।

इस विधेयक को देखने से पता चलता है कि आप मूल विधेयक में ग्रामूल परिवर्तन करने जा रहे हैं, पुराने अधिनियम में ग्रामूल-चूल परिवर्तन करने जा रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि अच्छा होता अगर उसको खत्म कर दिया जाता और नए रूप से विधेयक लाया जाता। वह पुराने आधार पर बना था, पुरानी बातों को लेकर उसको बनाया गया था। आज हम बिजली के युग में चल रहे हैं। पुराने युग में बिजली कुछ ही लोगों के लिए होती थी या सरकारी कामों के लिए होती थी। ग्राम लोगो को बिजली मिलना बहुत मुश्किल होता था और वह बिल्कुल अप्राप्य हुआ करता था। लेकिन आज गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से हर एक सूबे में कुछ न कुछ बिजली के कारखाने बाँटें वे हाइडल हो या थर्मल बन गये हैं और उनको बढ़ाया भी जा रहा है। आज बिजली का काफी प्रयोग भी किया जा रहा है। आज गावों में भी बिजली का उपयोग होता शुरू हो गया है और हम चाहते भी हैं कि गावों के लोग बिजली से लाभ उठावें वहाँ का व्यवसाय भी बढ़े और वे अधिक प्रशन्न भी पैदा करें, उनकी खेती बढ़े। हर तरह से बिजली देश का एक महान् अंग होने जा रही है।

बिजली किस तरह से लोगों को सुलभ हो, इन आर भी गवर्नमेंट का ध्यान गया है। आज जो गवर्नमेंट यह बिल लाई है, उसको इसके लिये धन्यवाद देने हुए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल के अन्दर वे सुविधाएँ सुलभ नहीं हैं जो कि सुलभ होनी चाहियें। आज इस बिल में कारखानों के लिए वे सुविधाएँ सुलभ करने की कोई चेष्टा नहीं की गई है जो उनको सुलभ की जानी चाहियें थी। आज हम रबी आन्दोलन चलाते हैं, खरीफ आन्दोलन चलाते हैं,

हैं, अधिक धन उपजाओ आन्दोलनो का श्रीगणेश करते हैं और साथ ही साथ बिजली भी अधिक मात्रा में पैदा कर रहे हैं। तब यह भी चाहते हैं कि लोग बिजली का उपयोग करें और बिजली को मदद से मिचाई करें। लेकिन मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि आज गोरखपुर में बिजली की दर इतनी अधिक है कि जो खेतीहर है वह आपके नलकरो में पानी नहीं लेता है चूँकि बिजली की दर बहुत अधिक है। यहाँ पर अभी केवल और उड़ोसा में जो रेट बताया गया है उसको मुन २२ मूझे हंगनी हुई। उन लोगों को वही अधिक मान्य पड़ना है जबकि हमारे यहाँ उसमें कई गुना अधिक है। मैं आपका बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहाँ खेतों के लिये जो बिजली दी जाती है चार महान पहले उसका दर आठ आना यूनिट था। मैं आपको अपने अनुभव के आधार पर बतलाना हूँ कि चार एकड़ धान में एक पानी लेने के लिए मुझे १०१ रुपये का चार्ज देना पड़ रहा है। अब आप समझ सकते हैं कि इस दर से कौन सा खेतीहर आपकी बिजली में चल रहे नलकरो में पानी ले सकता है। चार एकड़ धान की खेती के लिए पानी लेने के लिए १२१ रुपये देना पड़ा है। मैं न जब भाव पृथक्ता में मस बताया गया कि एक रुपये में ११,००० गैलन पानी देते हैं। इस हिसाब से एक यूनिट में ५५३३ गैलन पानी हुआ। इस तरह से आठ आना यूनिट हुआ। इस भाव पर कौन पानी ले सकता है कोई भी नहीं। अब दर कम हुई है और १६,००० गैलन एक रुपये में दिया जायेगा। अब इस १६,००० गैलन को बाटा जाये तो ५५३३ गैलन नलकूप से एक यूनिट बिजली में निकलता है यानी पाँच आना या सवा पाँच आना फी यूनिट ईंटना है। इस दर पर भी लोग नहीं ले सकते हैं। आप यह शिकायत करते हैं कि बिजली का पूरा उपभोग नहीं हो रहा है। अभी पार्सबट्टी साह्य ने कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली के उपभोग में कमी हो गई है। यह बात तो स्वतः प्रमाणित है कि उपभोग में कमी हुई है। गोरखपुर में थर्मल प्लांट बना

हुआ है १५,००० किलोवाट का। वहाँ पर चार प्लांट लगे हुए हैं लेकिन उनमें से एक ही अभी तक चल पा रहा है, तीन बन्द पड़े हैं। सरकार की शिकायत है कि कोई बिजली लेने वाला नहीं है, लोगों की शिकायत है कि कोई बिजली देने वाला नहीं है। इसी असमज में हम पड़े हुए हैं। एक तरफ तो बिजली देने वाला कोई नहीं और दूसरी तरफ बिजली लेने वाला कोई नहीं है। लोग बिजली की माग करते हैं और उनको बिजली नहीं मिलती है। समझ में नहीं आता कि क्या बात है। आज जो बड़े-बड़े खेतीहर हैं वे चाहते हैं कि वे अपने ट्यूबवैल्स को बजाय डीजल इंजिन के बिजली से चलायें, उनको बिजली नहीं मिलनी है। उनकी दरखास्तें मालो पड़ी रहनी हैं, कोई एक्शन नहीं लिया जाता है। गोरखपुर में एक व्यक्ति जोकि देवरिया के वे लखनऊ तक गये कि उनको उनके ट्यूबवैल्स के लिए बिजली दी जाये, नहीं मिली। जब बिजली खेतीहर लोगों के लिए और देशान्तों में रहने वाले लोगों के लिए मगई जा रही है या मुहैया की जा रही है तो फिर जब खेतीहर बिजली मागता है और उसको नहीं दी जाती है तो उसका उपभोग कौन करेगा? गावों और कस्बों में लोग बिजली चाहते हैं उनको नहीं मिलती है।

बाकी रही दर की बात। हमारे भाई नौ नौ पैसे और तीन पैसे की शिकायत की है। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में दर में कमी हो जाने के बाद भी—पूर्वी क्षेत्रों में, जिन के बारे में यह कहा जाता है कि वहाँ धन की बड़ी कमी है और जिसकी तरफ हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार का भी ध्यान गया है और शायद वह साठे सात करोड़ रुपये पूर्वी जिलों के उत्थान के लिए व्यय भी करना चाहती है ताकि वे स्वावलम्बी हो जायें—आज ३६ नये पैसे फी यूनिट के हिसाब से बिजली दी जाती है जोकि गवर्नमेंट द्वारा जो बिजली दी जाती है उसकी दर है। लेकिन जो प्राइवेट लाइसेंस है, उनके द्वारा जो बिजली दी जाती है उसकी दर

[श्री सिंहासन सिंह]

नी भ्राना की यूनिट है गोरखपुर में। नी भ्राना की यूनिट के हिसाब से आप ही बताइये कि कौन बिजली लेगा। सिवाय बड़े-बड़े आदमियों के दूसरा कोई भी इस रेट पर बिजली नहीं ले सकता है। इसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि बिजली होते हुए भी वह खर्च नहीं हो पा रही है। दिल्ली में जहाँ पर कि हम रहते हैं, हम को साढ़े तीन आने की यूनिट पहले और बिजली के देने पड़ते हैं और जो पावर है उसके लिए हमें केवल डेढ़ घाना की यूनिट ही देना पड़ता है। इसके मुकाबले में मैंने आपको बतलाया है कि १६,००० गैलन पर साढ़े पांच आने की यूनिट के हिसाब से हम को वहाँ देना पड़ता है। समझ में नहीं आता है कि यह जो रोग है यह कहा है और इसका क्या इलाज है। मुझे नहीं पता कि इस रोग का इलाज भी किया गया है या नहीं। मैं तो समझता हूँ कि कुछ भी इसका इलाज नहीं किया गया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि ज्वायंट कमेटी विचार करे कि अगर खेतीहर लोग माग करते हैं कि उनको पानी के लिए बिजली दी जाये तो उनको प्राथमिकता दी जाये। यहाँ पर जो प्राथमिकता दी गई है वह सरकारी दफ्तरो को दी गई है। आज अगर कहीं पर कोई सरकारी दफ्तर खन जाता है तो उसको प्राथमिकता मिलेगी, खेतीहर को नहीं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस प्राथमिकता के सवाल पर भी कमेटी विचार करे। अगर आप चाहते हैं कि अधिक भ्रान पैदा किया जाये और अगर वह बिजली सप्लाई करने से हो सकता है, तो आपको सस्ते भाव पर बिजली देनी होगी। यदि आपने ऐसा किया तो हमारी जो भ्रान की आवश्यकता है वह पूरी हो सकेगी या उसको पूरा करने में मदद मिलेगी और आपको बाहर से कम भ्रान मंगाना पड़ेगा या बाहर से भ्रान मंगा की आवश्यकता ही नहीं रह जायेगी।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मीटरों की खराबी के बारे में यहाँ पर शिकायत की गई है। यहाँ पर कहा गया है कि इन्स्पेक्टर

जा कर जाँच करने के बाद जब से वह खराबी पैदा हुई हो तब से कुछ कमी बेची कर सकेंगे। इस तरह का कुछ तरीका आज तक रहा है। हमारी शिकायत है कि कम्पनियों द्वारा जो बिजली दी जाती है वहाँ पर इसके लिए पहले दस रुपया जमा कराना पड़ता है और अगर दस रुपया जमा नहीं कराया जाता है तो जो मीटर की खराबी है वह उम्मीद तर्ह से चलती रहती है और चार्ज बढ़ता रहता है। इस में किसी तरह से कज्यूमर को कोई सुविधा नहीं मिली है। इधर तो कज्यूमर को सुविधा है कि दरखास्त दे, नोटिस दे, इन्स्पेक्टर आवे, जाच करे। लेकिन कम्पनी को सीधे अगर वह दरखास्त करता है कि हमारा मीटर खराब है आ कर देख लो तो उसको पहले तो दस रुपये जमा कराने पड़ने हैं और अगर खराबी निकल आये तब तो दस रुपये उमको मुजरा दे दिय जाते हैं और अगर खराबी न हो तो जन्म कर लिये जाते हैं। इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि न वह दस रुपये जमा करता है और न जाच होनी है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस पर भी विचार होना चाहिए।

इसमें एक अच्छी बात है। इसमें कहा गया है कि अगर दो आदमी बिजली चाहें तो लाइन बन सकती है। पहले छ आदमियों के दरखास्त देने पर यह हो सकता है। रबी आन्दोलन में हम ने देखा है कि उमम भी यह है कि अगर छ आदमी दरखास्त दे ली खाद मिलती है अन्यथा नहीं। अब खाद लेने वाला पहले छ आदमियों की खोज करे तब जा कर खाद की सुविधा से फायदा उठाये और अगर उसको पांच और आदमी नहीं मिलते हैं तो वह इस सुविधा से लाभ नहीं उठा सकता है। इसमें छ की नायाबिलिटी और रिस्-पामिबिलिटी साथ होती है। इसी तरह से खेतीहर को जब बिजली की जरूरत होती है तो उसको एक या दो आदमी अब खोजने होंगे और उमको बिजली मिल जायेगी अन्यथा नहीं। छ से दो जो किये गये हैं, यह स्वागत-योग्य है। इससे अगर कम हों तो उसके

खर्च पर यह चीज होगी। यह जो किया गया है, यह खुशी की बात है।

मैं कमेटी में यह भी अनुरोध करूंगा कि वह देख कि बिजली सस्ते भाव पर कैसे मुलभ की जा सकती है। अब आप हाईड्रॉ से या थर्मल से बिजली पैदा करना चाहते हैं और यह आपको सस्ती भी पड़नी है। जब ऐसी बात है तो इसमें महंगे होने का क्या कारण है। आपने जो विभाजन का काम किया हुआ है वह खर्चीला है। एक ही नलकूप पर काम करने के लिए दो अलग अलग इंजीनियर हैं, एक बिजली का और दूसरा पानी का। नलकूप बनाने वाला एक इंजीनियर है और दूसरे काम के लिए दूसरा। बिजली और नलकूप व गूल के अलग एम० डी० ओ० हैं। पेट्रोल दोनों के लिए अलग अलग है। एक ही कुएं पर दो व्यक्ति अलग अलग काम करते हैं। बिजली के अलग एक्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर होते हैं और नहर और नलकूप के अलग एक्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर होते हैं हालांकि दानों ने इंजीनियरिंग का इम्तिहान पास किया है और उनको कोमेन नीलज है और बिजली का जानकार इंजीनियर नलकूप और गूल को भी बना सकता है। इस तरह में अलग अलग आफिसमें को न रख कर आप खर्चों को कम कर सकते हैं। और इस तरह आज जा उबल खर्चा होता है वह बन्द किया जा सकता है।

मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की बावन आपको बताना कि पहले हमारे बड़ा डा चीफ इंजीनियर्स होते थे जब कि आज ६ चीफ इंजीनियर्स हैं। आज हो यह रहा है कि 'जा नीचे' (एक्चुएल) काम करने वाले कर्मचारी हैं उनकी यह शिकायत है कि हम तो काम करने मरे जाते हैं लेकिन हमारी मर्यादा बढ़ने का बजाय हमारे ऊपर के अफसरान यानी सुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ की तादाद में बड़ोत्री होती जाती है। जो हमारे कर्मचारी लाइन बनाने वाले हैं उनकी यह शिकायत है कि हम तो लाइन बनाते बनाते मरे जाते हैं और हमारी सख्या जहां १ थी

वहां २ कर दी गई है लेकिन सके विपरीत जो हमारे सुपरवाइजर्स होने हैं इन्स्पेक्टर्स और सुपर इन्स्पेक्टर्स हैं उनकी तादाद बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ा दी गई है और वे इतने अधिक हो गये हैं कि हम उन्ही की ग्रामद के सिलसिले में देख रेख करने में ही रह जाते हैं। और एक्चुएल काम नहीं कर पाते। इसलिए कुछ सुपरवाइजरी स्टाफ में कमी की जानी चाहिए और ऐसा करने से खर्च में कमी होगी। नीचे के कर्मचारियों की जो कि वास्तव में काम करने वाले होते हैं उनकी सख्या आप भलबत्ता बढ़ायें ताकि अधिक काम हो सके।

इसके अनिरीकन मेरा सुझाव यह है कि बिजली और पानी यह दोनों विभाग एक ही मंत्री के अधीन रहने चाहियें। यह बड़े हर्ष की और प्रशंसा की बात है कि उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने पहले पहल इस दिशा में पग उठाया है और अभी वहां पर जो मंत्रिमंडल का पुनर्गठन किया गया है उसमें पावर और डरीगेशन यह दोनों विषय एक ही मंत्री को सौंपे गये हैं। यह बहुत खुशी की बात है कि यहां वन्द में पहले ही पावर एंड डरीगेशन एक मन्त्रालय के अधीन है। यह विषय एक ही हाथ में होने चाहिये क्योंकि इन दोनों का आपस में गहरा सम्बन्ध है और सलिए यह दोनों चीजें एक ही मंत्री के पास रहनी चाहियें।

15 hrs.

इन मुझाबों के साथ मैं मयकत प्रवर समिति में अपील करूंगा कि इस में उचित परिवर्तन करें ताकि लोगों को आमानी से और सही रेट पर और कम कीमत पर बिजली मिल सके।

हमारे गोरखपुर और देवरिया में २७ मिले हैं जिनमें कि हर एक के पास बिजली मौजूद है और अपने अपने क्षेत्र को वह इवन्ग कर सकती थी। मैंने उनके लिए प्रयत्न भी किया और मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हू कि सरिया शगर मिच प्रदर नगर गोरखपुर

[श्री सिंहासन सिंह]

बाले पीने दो घाने की यूनिट की दर से बिजली देने को तैयार थे जबकि वही बिजली सरकार अपने यहां साढ़े तीन घाने की यूनिट ४ हिसाब से पैदा करती है लेकिन उनसे बिजली सरकार ने नहीं ली और आज वह ३००० किलोवाट बिजली बेकार पड़ी है। उसका उपयोग होना चाहिये। जहां कहीं से हमें बिजली मिल सके या जो हम पैदा कर सकते हो उसका सदुपयोग करें। हमारे गोरखपुर और देवरिया में ऐसी मिलें हैं जो कि बिजली पैदा करती हैं और उम बिजली का आप सदुपयोग करें। अच्छी फमल पैदा कर सकते हैं लेकिन आप उसका फायदा नहीं उठाते। मैं मानूँ कि एक मिल ने यह आफर दिया था कि वह डेढ़ घाने और पीने दो घाने की यूनिट की दर से बिजली सप्लाई करने का नैयार है लेकिन हमने यह देखा कि उसका फायदा नहीं उठाया गया और नतीजा यह हुआ कि न तो उसकी बिजली ली गई और न ही गवर्नमेंट की बिजली उस क्षेत्र में गई जहां कि उसकी जरूरत थी और वह क्षेत्र अभी भी अंधेरे में पड़ा हुआ है।

मेरा मन्त्री महोदय ने अनुरोध है कि वे हम पर विचार कर और जहां पर बिजली पर्याप्त मात्रा में और सही कीमत पर उपलब्ध हो उसका सदुपयोग करें और उम बिजली को बेकार पड़ा न रहने दें।

15.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: GANGA BARRAGE PROJECT

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Barrampore): Sir, I beg to move—

“That the statement laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of Irrigation and Power on the 2nd September, 1958, regarding Ganga Barrage Project, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, this statement, as you know, was made during the last session of

the House and it has been before us for the last 2½ months. Even when the statement was made, some of us, not only on this side of the House, but many friends on the other side as well, who have some knowledge of the relevant facts of the matter and also some knowledge of the history and fate of the Ganga Barrage proposal since it was mooted in a concrete project form in 1951-52, felt that we should seek the earliest opportunity to discuss this subject on the floor of this House. It would not have been necessary if we were not already acquainted in the course of the past six years with the surprising procrastination, evasiveness, and indecisiveness, and I might even go to the length of saying, the attitude of hostility, with which the proposal was greeted since it came before the presiding deities of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power in the form of a complete project report.

During the course of the last six years, we have seen three successive Cabinet Ministers and two Chairmen of the Central Water and Power Commission dealing with this matter. A project report based on investigations extending over a period of three years from 1948 to 1951 was before them on which they could take a decision much earlier. But unfortunately, the statement of Janab Ibrahim before us makes no reference to these facts. Indeed if this statement was not presented to this House by so eminent and respectable a gentleman as Janab Ibrahim, I would have no hesitation to call it outright as a dishonest and insincere document. I have yet to come across any official documents which excels this one in the art of *suppressio veri* and *suggestio falsi*. I will presently prove with such facts and papers that I have in my possession what I mean by this observation. But before that, I must deal with a question that often comes up.

I have often found hon. Members in this House fail to understand and

appreciate why we, the members of this House from West Bengal, are so keen and so persistent in raising this matter again and again on the floor of this House during the Question Hour, during Budget discussions and on every other conceivable occasion. The other day, an hon. Lady Member, whom I hold in high respect, wanted to twit me by saying that we always want to raise a discussion on Ganga Barrage Project, because it is the most important political question in West Bengal today. Perhaps she made that observation in joke, but she meant to imply that this is an issue on which different political parties in Bengal, whether belonging to the Congress or to the Opposition, view with each other in demonstrating before the people of West Bengal that they are fighting for the cause of Ganga Barrage. I have no hesitation in admitting, "Yes, we the people of West Bengal are united solidly behind this demand." I can also assert that I am echoing the sentiments of our friends from West Bengal sitting on the other side of the House, when I say that both the Government and the Opposition in West Bengal are united behind this demand.

The West Bengal State Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council passed unanimous resolutions very recently demanding the immediate implementation of the plan. But whatever happens in Bengal nothing seems to move the present Government here. The Ganga Barrage issue is almost an issue of life and death for West Bengal and that is why we are so sentimentally keen about it. That is why we are so persistent in raising that demand repeatedly on the floor of this House.

As the hon. Minister has also mentioned, the idea of erecting a barrage across the Ganga is not a new thing. It has been there for the past 105 years. But it has been only after independence, in 1948 to be precise, after partition, in consultation with the

Union Government the West Bengal Government undertook the investigations in this matter. Since then, for three years investigations were carried on, elaborate investigations. In 1949 the responsibility of making these investigations was transferred to the Central Water and Power Commission and after three years, that is, in 1951, a complete project report with blue-prints were prepared. It could not be placed before the Government, I do not know why, before the Draft Report for the First Five Year Plan was formulated. Some time was unnecessarily taken up in unusually long correspondences to and from between the C.W.P.C. and the Irrigation Department of the Government of West Bengal and when it came up for consideration it was too late and we could not have it in the First Five Year Plan. We were told at that time that there are several difficulties, further investigations needed be carried out, there might also be some objection from the side of Pakistan, because the waters of Ganga eventually flow into Pakistan and there was the Barcelona Convention to which we were parties. So we were informally asked not to press this question very hard openly till the Government were ready with their investigations. That was in 1952-53. But somehow it seemed that the Government were unwilling to take up the matter or to arrive at a decision even at that stage. The Bengal Government repeatedly approached the Central Government to do something about the matter and I understand the C.W.P.C. also submitted the whole scheme again to the Government for its consideration.

A technical committee was appointed with Mr. Gokhale as the Chairman, but that Committee was never allowed, I do not know why, to finish its deliberations. The Committee co-opted a Dutch expert who, in a separate report, highly recommended the project and said that this was the only way by which the Bhagirathi and Hooghly could be resuscitated and the

[Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri]

navigability of sea approaches to the Calcutta port maintained. But even then nothing was done. I do not know what was the inhibition that was operating in the mind of the Government.

But here I have in my hand a paper, a note prepared by three agencies of the Central Government some years back. It is a note on "Irrigation and Power Projects" compiled jointly by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, the Central Water and Power Commission and the Natural Resources Division of the Planning Commission and circulated on 28th October 1954. At that time the then Minister of Planning of the Union Government was contemplating holding a conference with the members of Parliament from West Bengal regarding the various multi-purpose power projects in the State of West Bengal. Some of us wanted to know at what stage the Ganga Barrage project was at that time. Here I want to read a portion from that note. I also want the House to take special note of these remarks, although it is in a summary form here, because the statement placed on the Table by the hon. Minister, Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim seeks to create the notion that although the Ganga Barrage Project is not a new one, although the idea has been in the air for the last 105 years, it is only very recently that the project has concretely come up before the Government in order to take a decision upon it. That is why I have to stress this point very much. This last statement is not based on fact. That is why I have said that this document defeats every other official document that I have come across in the art of *supressio veri* and *suggestio falsi*. What does the note say? It observes:

"Ganga Barrage—construction of a barrage across the Ganges near Farraka, Bihar-West Bengal border. Longest barrage in the

world—7,812 ft. long, an irrigation cum-navigation and flood control project costing about Rs. 40 crores. The barrage will be constructed across the river Bhagirathi. Also for irrigating the areas in Jhalangi and Bhagirathi."

Then reporting on the state of investigation it says that investigations were completed. This is a note prepared by the three agencies of the Central Government in the year 1954. It says:

"investigations completed and the project report prepared and sent to the State Government."

It was not only sent to the State Government of West Bengal, but I find that—

"it was also proposed to the Ministry (i.e., the Ministry of Irrigation and Power) to have the project examined by the Technical Advisory Committee."

But, then there is that inevitable "but"—

"but due to water dispute with Pakistan the proposal appears to have been kept in abeyance by the Government of India."

That was in 1954. A number of years went by without anything being done and eventually the time came for the preparation of the draft framework of the Second Five Year Plan. Even at that time the State Government of West Bengal approached this Government with the request to do something about the matter and take a decision thereon. As a matter of fact, it seems the State Government of West Bengal, in their outlay of the draft Second Plan submitted to the Planning Commission, allocated Rs. 30 crores for Ganga Barrage. The draft was discussed with the Planning Commission in September, 1957, but for inexplicable reasons the scheme was struck from the State Plan and

necessarily from the Central Plan also. We are yet to know the reasons why it was dropped unceremoniously. Of course, we know that Pakistan might be raising objections. Pakistan has been raising objections about anything and everything under the sun, if it is something related to Indian interests. Are we to go by Pakistan's objections even in these vital matters? In the mean time, we have withdrawn from the Barcelona Convention as well. I took some care to go into the provisions of the Barcelona Convention. I do not think that even the Barcelona Convention would have prevented us from undertaking the work of this barrage. Now, we are no longer in the Barcelona Convention. We fail to understand why all these six or seven years, the Government could not come to any decision even then. The statement informs us that recently comprehensive investigations were carried on by a famous German River and Harbour expert, Dr. Hensen.

15.22 hrs.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

I find from the discussions on this subject that took place in the other House that the hon. Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power as well as the hon. Minister said on that occasion that Dr. Hensen had recommended that further investigations must be held in regard to this scheme. Of course, Dr. Hensen is a very competent and an internationally known expert could not but suggest that because, in a project like the Ganga Barrage scheme which will take at least 10 years to complete continuous investigations have to be carried on every year, hydraulic measurements have to be taken, periodic reports have to be prepared and in the course of the execution of the Plan, many changes may have to be introduced. I do not have the time in my hands to go into all the details of the recommendations that Dr. Hensen has

made. But, this much I can say. He has made a nine point recommendation and all the nine points of that recommendation are in favour of this scheme.

Not only that. Here I am quoting Dr. Hensen. He says:

"There is no other way of stepping the long term deterioration of the Bhagirathi-Hooghly except by regulation of the upland supplies. Such a regulation is only possible with the construction of a barrage across the Ganga. I am of the opinion that the proposal for the construction of a barrage across the Ganga is the best technical solution of the problem. It is the most purposeful measure with which the long term deterioration in the Bhagirathi-Hooghly can be stopped and possibly converted into a gradual improvement."

That is what the latest investigation undertaken by a leading foreign expert says. I fail to understand what prevents the Government, in the light of these investigations, in the light of the substantive project report, and Dr. Hensen's recommendations in taking a decision in the matter. Unfortunately, the statement before us gives no indication about that. The statement only says that the Government has been seized of the problem. As a matter of fact, as one well known paper, the *Statesman*, remarked editorially, the most remarkable thing about the Ganga barrage proposal has been the lack of expeditiousness in its implementation. It has been talked about for the last 105 years; for the last 11 years, I might say since the transfer of power, also we have done nothing else. The Government took the initial steps—both the West Bengal Government, the Government of India and the Central Water and Power Commission. But no further progress has been made.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I will require some more time, Sir

Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact, I propose to give the hon Member half an hour. He has now taken 25 minutes. I wanted to caution him in advance so that when he is at a crucial argument, the ringing of the bell may not embarrass him. There are five minutes, he can deal with the important points.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: As I was saying, the Hon'ble Minister's statement gives no indication,—neither the discussion that was held in the other House nor the replies that were given to that debate by the hon Deputy Minister and the hon Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim—threw any light on the question, when this proposal is going to be taken up for implementation. They only said that the project has got to be changed because in 1954 certain floods took place. Certain floods did take place in 1954. In 1956, more floods and more devastating floods took place. But, is that any reason why a decision on this crucial matter in this vital matter for the life of West Bengal, for the future of such an important port as Calcutta cannot be taken up at all?

I would also tell the Government they know it themselves, they have repeatedly admitted as much in various places that the problem of Bhagirathi-Hooghly or the problem of the port of Calcutta is not a regional or a provincial problem. I might tell them that the entire future of the industrial economy of India, the entire future of the core projects of the Five Year Plan, the entire future of the steel mills that are coming up from Bhilai to Durgapur and the heavy industry schemes that are coming up in the steel and coal belt of India are at stake if we do not take an immediate decision on this matter. I, therefore, want to know from the Government and I will certainly demand a categorical answer, what they are

going to do about it and what prevents them from taking a substantive decision. This is a scheme which will take at least ten years to complete, even if we take it up now and decide that we have to go in for it immediately. It will take at least two years to set up the construction organisation on the barrage spot, on both sides of the river, to gather the men and materials on that spot so that we can undertake the work on hand. That is to say, at least twelve years would be required to complete the project if it is carried through with the utmost expeditiousness and despatch. In spite of their knowing all these things, why are they waiting? Is not the Calcutta port deteriorating every day? Are not the sea approaches to Calcutta being silted up, choked up, and is not the prediction of the great scientist who is no longer with us Dr Meghnad Saha, that in Calcutta we would be drowned in the saline water of the sea and choked with our own sewage coming true before our own eyes? In spite of these facts, why are the Government waiting? Why can they not tell the people that they are going to take a decision that they will take a decision and whether it is started during the Second or Third Five Year Plan they are going to implement it definitely so that Calcutta may be saved, and incidentally Bengal also may be saved, because, apart from the port of Calcutta the Bhagirathi-Hooghly is today the life-line of West Bengal? If you want to revive, resuscitate and revitalise the rural hinterland of Calcutta, the rural hinterland of West Bengal, for that also this is the only way. There is no other

Mr Chairman: Motion moved

"That the statement laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of Irrigation and Power on the 2nd September, 1958, regarding Ganga Barrage Project, be taken into consideration."

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta—Central): Mr Chairman, we are dis-

cusssing a matter of crucial importance, as my hon. friend has just pointed out, to the life and economy of the whole of India, and not merely of a part of it.

My hon. friend has already told us about the story of the Ganga Barrage Scheme which was mooted as early as 1853 and we know that in 1935 the Director of the Geological Survey of India, Dr. Beni Prasad, had made the statement that if steps were not taken properly and quickly, the Bhagirathi would become a sort of elongated lagoon, a dead river which would be no good at all as far as the economy of the region was concerned.

Many major points are involved which I wish the country takes greater note of, inside this House as well as outside. The principal points involved in this question of the construction of the Ganga Barrage refer to the navigable sea route from Calcutta port; the water supply of Calcutta and the entire region around it which has a population of nearly 10 million people; the drainage conditions of five of the most prosperous West Bengal districts.—prosperous if a year is normal and administration does not fail egregiously—the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Nadia, Murshidabad and 24 Parganas, and their exposure to increasing flood hazards. All these questions are involved in the construction of the Ganga Barrage, and the latest statement placed before the House agrees that there is a general consensus of opinion by experts that the solution to the problem is represented by the Ganga Barrage. The experts also appear to agree that the project will not require withdrawal of water from the Ganga during the driest part of the year and therefore the objections which might conceivably be forthcoming from our neighbour country might very well be met.

We have heard in this House and we have read in the papers about the increasing salinity of drinking water in Calcutta, and even the railways were affected because the boilers used the saline water and the engines would

not work properly. This is not an unprecedented phenomenon as our experts know very well. Something like it took place round about Philadelphia on the Delaware river, and about San Francisco on the estuary of the Sacramento river, and there the water supply had to be ensured by construction of reservoirs near the river's head reaches. In this country, so far as Calcutta is concerned, hardly anything has been done on those lines

My hon. friend the Minister of Transport and Communications is here, and the loss to the shipping traffic in Calcutta is something which surely must worry him greatly. There is increase in the frequency and intensity of the bores, and especially since 1919 heavy siltation has taken place in the river Hooghly, and the Commissioners of the Calcutta Port spend fortunes in intensive dredging and costly draining works without appreciable results. The only permanent and long-term solution of which we have heard from experts so far is the Ganga Barrage and, as my hon. friend has pointed out, there have been many years of investigation ever since 1853 or something like that, and the latest is Dr Hensen's report, about which, I do not know why, a lot of hush is maintained by my hon. friends over there.

If the Ganga Barrage is constructed at Farakka, and it is the demand of whoever knows a thing about the subject, and there is a feeder canal which will connect Bihar and U.P. with the port of Calcutta and the world outside by a channel navigable throughout the year, then it will reduce the flood hazards; it will improve the drainage of the fertile districts of Central Bengal; it will remove the salinity of water in the Bhagirathi; it will supply sweet water to greater Calcutta; it will remove navigational difficulties of the sea route from Calcutta; it will improve the depths over the bars and reduce the frequency and intensity of the "bores". But there has been this delay, this unconscionable delay, over the Ganga Barrage which is, to put it very mildly, extremely difficult to understand.

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

The West Bengal Legislative Council lately passed a unanimous resolution drafted by the Chief Minister himself and there have been questions in the House—I have sheaves of them here—which refer to Government's attitude in regard to this matter. and my non-friend Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri has already mentioned something about it.

I feel also that my hon. friend Shri S. K. Patil should take some more objective interest in this decision because he has lately been making some statements about a deep sea port further down the Hooghly below Diamond Harbour. I wish to submit to him and to his advisers that this does not solve the problem of Calcutta port. We know that the World Bank experts, impressed by the necessity of expanding port facilities for the rapidly expanding industrial area round Calcutta, have suggested this. It is a very good thing, but the solution they have in mind is to supplement Calcutta port and not to supplant it. You cannot send Calcutta port to the blazes and talk about a subsidiary port somewhere near Diamond Harbour. Even if it was the intention of Government just not to bother about Calcutta port, it would be physically impossible to bypass the Calcutta port and jeopardise the future if you are at all interested in the economy of our country. A port of big ocean-going steamers will increasingly become necessary with the further development of the industrial belt, and if the refinery and Assam oil production come up to expectations, the berthing of heavy tankers will have also to be provided for among other things. Today, Shri Patil knows very well, and my hon. friend the Minister of Shipping knows very well, even 7,000 ton ships can hardly navigate with a full load, and they have to be diverted to Vizag, but that sort of thing does not do the trick. Shri Patil himself has said from time to time that the Calcutta port was unable to utilise even 10 per

cent of what was expected of it, but what is he going to do about it here and now?

Even if the World Bank proposal for building another port below Diamond Harbour comes true, the problem of saving Calcutta port and developing it will remain, and the only way of doing it, as far as we can understand, is the construction of the Ganga Barrage by strengthening the flow of water in the river. Therefore, if for some reason or other, if for the reason perhaps which might weigh with the World Bank that the Ganga Barrage might cause some kind of controversy, perhaps absolutely imaginary controversy, between the riparian States of India and Pakistan, if on that ground they say, "You go ahead with the other port, we are not going to help in the matter of Calcutta port's maintenance and development", that would be a terrible disaster.

Therefore, I would tell my hon. friend Shri S. K. Patil that his implied approval of the World Bank's scheme for the new port is all right, but it must not mean a final decision to abandon the proposal to revive the Hooghly and the Bhagirathi rivers. That is a proposal which you just are not going to be permitted to deviate from.

Therefore, I feel that this is a matter on which it is extremely important that we make up our minds. There are difficulties. There is the question of money. There is the Government note placed on the Table of the House by the Minister of Irrigation and Power, which says that Rs. 56 crores have to be spent, and it is a hell of a lot of money, and so, we have to make a lot of other investigations. That is all Mumbo-jumbo. It is no good. Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri has already shown it. This question of further investigation is merely a smoke-screen put up by Government in order to hide—I do not quite know what skeletons in the cupboard of the Ministries concerned.

Then, there is the question of Pakistan. I have been informed that when the Partition took place, there was a body called the Partition Council, on which some of the members of Government have taken part. There, it was perfectly understood that the district of Murshidabad would go to India and the district of Khulna would go to Pakistan in spite of the communal position in the two districts being not very clear, only because India did have to have the district of Murshidabad for the construction of the barrage at Farakka. That was the understanding which was given at the Partition Council. That was the understanding which the Radcliffe Commission knew very well. And today, it is not for Pakistan to come forward and say that they would not approve it. On the contrary, Pakistan does not stand to lose at all. Pakistan really would be saved a lot of bother as far as floods in that area is concerned, if there is a barrage at Farakka. Therefore, I say, let us go ahead with the scheme, and let us not bypass the idea by talk of a subsidiary port. Meanwhile, we have to have interim measures. What is going to happen?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri has said very rightly and Shri S. K. Patil's advisers perhaps would say the same thing, that it would take nearly ten years to complete the Farakka barrage if it is decided upon finally. In the meantime, what happens? In 1958, the Calcutta port almost became incapable of proper utilisation. So, what is going to happen in regard to that? A number of suggestions have been made from time to time by people who know something about engineering, and there has been a suggestion that the course of the river might be shortened as between Murshidabad and Calcutta by several short-cuts of hair-pin bends at little expense, and the construction of the necessary canal from the headworks as well as the necessary earth-work to suit the available gradient, if the barrage would be taken up at the same time; and much fertile land could be reclaimed as a

result of this attempt at training the river. You have to tame the river, according to the scientific knowledge which you have got. Therefore, here and now, between the headworks which are proposed to be somewhere in Murshidabad and Calcutta, there are areas where river training operations can be pursued, as a result of which a lot of very good fertile land could be reclaimed; and for the time being, some interim measure of improvement could take place.

We could, for the time being, also set up a Ganga River Board. There are several projects in the upper reaches, like the Chambal, or the Gandak, the Son, and the Kosi Projects.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should try to conclude now.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I may be given five minutes more, because I was one of the co-sponsors of this motion.

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: These other projects on the river are also there. We do not say that those projects should be stopped, but there should be some attempt at co-ordinating the effort which is being made in order to utilise the Ganga's waters as much as possible, and, therefore, we should have a Ganga River Board.

Then again, there is the question of the Rupnarain river slightly lower down from Calcutta. In regard to this river also, control and taming is extremely necessary. My hon. friend Shri S. K. Patil stated the other day that the navigability and drainage capacity of the Hooghly is deteriorating partly on account of the deterioration of the Rupnarain; and there is a committee called the Lower Damodar Investigation Committee which is of the same view. My hon. friend Shri Hathi also made a statement where he said very clearly—and this was on the 28th of August, 1958,—in this House:

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

"According to the findings of the Lower Damodar Investigation Committee, concentrated flushing doses should be occasionally released down the rivers Damodar and Rupnarain from the reservoir behind the DVC dams in the interests of the conservancy of the river channels."

Therefore, if there is training and taming of the Rupnarain, then we shall get a lot of water coming from that side.

Then again, something perhaps has got to be done perhaps about the DVC project. Maybe, on account of the DVC project, there is a disproportionate emphasis on questions of hydro-electricity and flood control, and the result is that the life of the river Bhagirathi in particular, which sustains our country, is itself in danger. Now, it may be that certain modifications are necessary in the working of the DVC, so that much of the Damodar water which is now held up might be released, so that it can go into the Bhagirathi and flush out the silt which comes from the Bay of Bengal.

Then, again, there might be very serious studies, very serious expert studies, made of the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal, to control the silt which is carried by the flood dykes into the estuary. As a matter of fact, much of the silt which comes into West Bengal should, according to normal geographical rules, have gone into Pakistan, but that does not, because the situation, I am told, of what is called the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal near the estuary is such that the silt comes from the east, and it coagulates, so to speak, near the mouth of the Bhagirathi, and pushes itself up towards Calcutta, with the result that drainage operations have to be continued, and all kinds of other difficulties take place. Therefore, I want that there should be a serious study of the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal, so that the estuary is not in danger.

I shall conclude by merely saying that this is not merely a problem of Calcutta. This is a problem which affects the whole of our country. I know very well that perhaps for political reasons, Calcutta is a pet aversion of the Government of India. I can testify myself that in my own hearing, knowing very well that I was listening, Dr. Roy said that his State was not in the good books of Delhi. We know it very well. But I appeal to Government: do not take this shortsighted view, do not cut your nose to spite your face, do not behave in this absolutely irrational manner. From Calcutta port goes more than half of our export trade. If you are going to earn foreign exchange, whether you like it or not, you have to keep up Calcutta port. Calcutta handles 10 million tons of cargo every year. As far as communication and other facilities are concerned, for historical and objective reasons which might be regretted in certain quarters, Calcutta has come to be the centre of the country's principal industrial belt. You cannot wish off Calcutta from the map of your country.

Therefore, since all the experts appear to agree, including the foreign experts and our own experts, that the Ganga Barrage is absolutely essential, Government should go ahead with it, and if it is not going to go ahead with it, it should tell us what it is going to do in the meantime: and even if the Ganga Barrage is actually decided upon, Government should come forward very clearly with an interim scheme, a ten year scheme, for the development of Calcutta port, and for the maintenance of the Bhagirathi river. After all, the Bhagirathi river is a repository of all the traditions of which we are so proud in this country, and if the Bhagirathi river dies, who lives in this country? That is what is involved in this matter.

Therefore, I wish Shri S. K. Patil and my hon. friend over there to take the most serious view of the situation, and in spite of the lack of attendance

in this House and obvious lack of interest on the part of so many Members of this House, I wish Government does take up a really serious attitude in regard to this point and produces results which are absolutely important in the context of today.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): From the statement of the hon. Minister, I find that he has gone as far back as 1853, and he has said that it is not a new project. If the project had been taken up by Government then, the time would have come now when we could have celebrated the centenary of this scheme. But, I find that the hon. Minister has jumped from 1853 and 1930. I would like to add something which has happened in the meantime. In 1863 and 1895, eminent Indian engineers surveyed the Hooghly and expressed anxiety about its deterioration. Then in 1913-14, the then Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust made definite proposals which also called for a scientific examination of data. The Director of Survey, Bengal, arrived at conclusions so alarming as to shock everybody into a demand for a fresh technical examination. The new inquiry led to the conclusion that the bed levels in the Hooghly's headwaters had receded during the past century and that any further deterioration would be a matter of extreme gravity. It was imperative that steps should be taken to ensure the flow of water to the upper reaches sufficient to keep open the channel.

These are the documents which Government have with them. The hon. Minister has said that 'the Government of India are most concerned over the progressive deterioration of the navigable sea route of the port of Calcutta owing to the heavy siltation occurring in the river Hooghly, especially since 1919'. If Government are alarmed, what has been done since 1919? I would respectfully ask Government to let us know what has been done.

In 1946, Mr. A. Webster, Chief Engineer (Special), in his report on the future development of the port of Calcutta, re-emphasised the need to take all possible steps to improve the headwater supply of the Hooghly on which depended the very existence of the port of Calcutta. I demand of my national Government: after this Report, what has been done? How far have they proceeded in the matter?

I may mention for the information of the House that at present Calcutta Port has an income of Rs. 9.97 crores; Bombay Port has Rs. 9.62 crores and Madras Port Rs. 1.69 crores. The Calcutta Port exports more than it imports while Bombay imports more than it exports. So it is not for Bengal that the Calcutta Port should be looked after; it is for the benefit of the whole of India that Calcutta Port should be looked after and the Bhagirathi river should be resuscitated. Bhagirathi brought Ganga. The Bhagirathi is now being silted. Where are we? Should we not be awake to resuscitate the Bhagirathi river? (An Hon. Member: They do not know about Bhagirathi)

We are glad that Government are keen in the matter, but I am afraid of so many experts dealing with this and that. Let Government be certain. If they are certain of the scheme to be executed, let them depend upon one or two experts and come to a final decision. Generally, dealing with the Calcutta Port since 1952 in this House, I am of opinion that the Ministries of Irrigation and Power, and Transport and Communications will do good if they depend upon some competent experts, and see that experts' reports are not referred back and changed.

This question of the Ganga Barrage was pursued in this House and outside since 1952. We formed the opinion from statements and from talks that there will be no want of money for proceeding with the Ganga Barrage if 'international question' is solved. What is that international question?

[Shri S. C. Samanta]

Is it not a fact that when these surveys were made in India before 1947, Pakistan was a party to it? Was not the sum spent for the survey and the report of the experts shared by the East Pakistan and West Pakistan people? Surely so. So how does that international question come in? They are committed to it.

Government will pass on. In the meantime, what is the latest position? I think in 1957 Dr. Hensen came here and submitted a report to the Government. I find nothing in the 9 points which he has submitted to be re-examined. He is very anxious about it. He has said that it should be done. It may be that there might be some preliminary things which should again be examined. I would request Government not to go away from the report submitted by Dr. Hensen. Let them have that examined and start the scheme as soon as possible; as Government are very eager to take it up. It will take at least 10—15 years to be completed. Can the export and import business wait? It cannot. So some interim measures should be adopted. A suggestion has been made by a friend in the Hindustan Times of 6th November, 1958. Let Government have a canal from Damodar river cut up to a point beyond Palta Water Station, i.e., on the upper reaches of the river Hooghly, so that for the time being the flow of water from Damodar may do some good to the Port. As regards navigability and removing the salinity of water at least in that area, some interim measures should be thought of. I would request Government to ponder over the matter and take an interim measure.

My hon. friend, Shri S. K. Patil, knows that I was trying for the Geonkhali scheme for so many years. Now, I am satisfied that that cannot be taken up. But the other scheme which is going to be examined should be examined very soon and a decision taken, even if a subsidiary port is established at Haldi or other places.

Here, I would request the hon. Minister to correct one error. In papers it is mentioned as 'Haldia'. It is not 'Haldia'; it is the river Haldi. But in the Port Trust map and other papers, they have made it 'Haldia'. So people are asking: where is Haldia?

16 hrs.

However, my hon friend, Shri S. K. Patil, has taken it up earnestly and I am sure he will do it. In the meantime, he should also think about Rupnarain river and the Damodar river and see whether any steps can be taken so that water from the Damodar and the Rupnarain river will to some extent help the navigability of the River Hooghly, at least beyond Diamond Harbour so that the port that is being established at Haldi may be established at Geonkhali which will be nearer to Calcutta and which has the depth that is required.

The World Bank experts who have come from outside in 1956 all of a sudden found that the Calcutta Port was going to dogs and the import and export business that was being carried on would come to an end within fifteen years. So, instead of referring to Ganga Barrage, they thought of establishing some port down the river Hooghly, down Calcutta on the western bank of that river. I feel it very acutely. There are so many experts in the Transport Ministry and so many experts in the Irrigation Ministry. Why did not they think about it before? Are they less in intelligence than any other experts. I think them to be fit persons. There are Indian engineers and Indian experts who are more than even the World Bank experts; we are proud of them. Why did they not take up this Ganga Barrage scheme and the deterioration of the Hooghly?

I would refer to one thing. I went through the report of the Irrigation and Power Ministry for 1957-58. Though the Minister is very keen to have this scheme examined it does not

find a place in the 1957-58 report of the Ministry. You go page by page and there is no reference to it. All of a sudden in 1958 they talk of this. How could it be? What is the difficulty? The Barcelona pact is gone? Why not this scheme which has so much of utility as mentioned by the Minister in his statement find a place in the report? I would request the Government to be cautious and move forward in such a way that no time is wasted in the execution of this project. With this request, I support the proposition put forward by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): Mr. Chairman, I rise to intervene in this debate, although technically it is the business of my hon. colleague, Shri Hathi, to reply to this on behalf of the Government, because this Ganga Barrage project is not merely an irrigation or power project; it is a multi-purpose project in which various departments of the Government,—and of course the whole country, the Government of India and also West Bengal—are all vitally interested. I could tell my hon. friends opposite that so far as the question of Ganga Barrage is concerned, there is no difference of opinion between the Government and the Opposition.

If I may say so, I am even more anxious and so are my colleagues. If anything could be done to expedite the construction of Ganga Barrage, for the various purposes which I shall now explain, it is our duty to do so. If it will satisfy them, I could tell them from my personal experience that so far as the utility of any multi-purpose project is concerned, so far as the urgency of any multi-purpose project is concerned, there is no project in the whole of India as the Ganga Barrage, and that has got to be taken as early as possible. Therefore, while considering this project or talking about it, let us not talk about Government and the Opposition. There is no Government and Opposition in this; we are all interested and very vitally interested

that it should be done. Many imputations were made that all this is being done. They went even to the point of calling it almost dishonest—the word used in a different sense—but I do not want to take the time of the House by going into them all. My hon. friend Shri Mukerjee said that Government has got a bad aversion for Calcutta. I can assure him that no Government can last for even one minute if they have got any aversion for a place like Calcutta. We have no aversion; if there is anything else, we have favouritism for Calcutta because it serves a national purpose as any other city and perhaps more. Therefore, all these epithets that are really used are beside the point so far as this particular matter is concerned.

Now, I called it a multi-purpose project, and I would, in the very brief time I have got, try to explain it. I am so full of Ganga Barrage that I can give them real information for hours. I can give them all the various schemes that are in my mind, that are in the mind of Government. But there is no time for that, because this is a time-limited debate and therefore I must finish in a few minutes. I call it a multi-purpose project and, in the priority of importance, I would like to say how many things that Ganga Barrage really covers. By far the most important aspect of it is navigation. The second object, which may not be under the Communications Ministry or the Irrigation and Power Ministry, is the water-supply of Calcutta. What are the six million people of Calcutta to do if the salinity is continuously increasing? It is increasing and the low tides are making it more and more saline. Therefore, all the evil effects to which references were made are there. They are facing us in a very very threatening manner, and I do not know what is going to happen in the next five or ten years if proper remedies are not applied from now. Therefore, removal of salinity and improving the water-supply of Calcutta is next in importance.

Reference was also made to flood control. According to me it comes

[Shri S. K. Patil]

next in importance. It is a subject matter of irrigation and power. Under this flood control, we will improve the irrigation not only of India but we will positively increase the irrigation of Pakistan also. Therefore, there is no real conflict of interest between India and Pakistan. There should not be. How Pakistan looks at it is a different matter, but so far as experts are concerned there is no difference of opinion that this aspect is equally helpful to Pakistan, perhaps more helpful to them than to us. The irrigation aspect is there. That, according to me, takes the fourth place, because it is not for irrigation alone that this project has got to be done. It incidentally benefits some portions of Bihar. Like any other project of this type, we incidentally get some power also.

Now, if this is so very important, the question will be asked as to why we do not immediately take it in hand. Not only that. I will go a step further. Apart from these things that I have told you, later on, according to me, there is another possibility. The south of Bengal and the North of West Bengal are so separate that there has got to be a permanent link between the two so that West Bengal becomes a compact State.

I shall live to see the day when this is done and this is immediately to be done, because this is not only the project of West Bengal but it is really a problem, as Shri H. N. Mukerjee said and everybody for that matter said, for the whole of India. Therefore, if this Ganga Barrage is taken on hand and if this Farakka Project is really done, there is the possibility of taking that water by cutting a channel and after that joining the Tiesta and ultimately going into the Brahmaputra so that instead of going by that circuitous way by which you go today, 450 miles of that circuit will be lessened. Apart from the distance that will be lessened, we shall have a direct approach between South and North of West Bengal.

I am telling these things because perhaps you might think that I am exaggerating by calling it a multi-purpose project. It is the best project and a project which is really a must for the whole country. It is not merely for West Bengal. Therefore, having come to that decision, surely the Members from the Opposition side will bear with me when I say that there are perhaps some reasons why delay is there. The delay is not because of money; not because of the experts here. My friend Shri Samanta who is very sincere in everything that he advocates said, "Where are those western experts? Have you not got them?" I can assure him that even the western experts are unanimous with us. They also do not differ in the fact that all these things including the navigation of Pakistan will be improved by the Farakka Barrage and that by flood control their irrigation will be improved and that everything will be improved. There are not differences of opinion. Therefore, so far as the foreign experts are concerned or the World Bank experts are concerned, they do not really have a different tone on that subject.

Dr. Hensen has been mentioned. We are very doubtful indeed when Dr. Hensen came and we had him and we did not know what ultimate conclusions he may come to. But I am very glad that the Opposition members have studied the report—that even he came to the same conclusion that both irrigation and navigation not only of India but even of Pakistan would be improved by the Farakka Barrage or the Ganga Barrage.

Mention has been made by my hon. friend Shri H. N. Mukerjee of its being a navigation problem and for the time being I am more concerned with navigation although I was concerned with irrigation, but in fact I am concerned with all the rivers. My hon. friend Shri Samanta referred to Bhagirath and Bhagirathi, and he warned me that such a mythological river had to be harnessed and Bhagirath had to exert greatly in order to bring it on to this

planet of ours and that the river should not run dry. I am one with him and say that it should not only be dry and it should not be saline also. Bhagirath would not have liked to bring saline water, and if he knew that this Bhagirathi which he created after such a 'mountainous' endeavour would ultimately end by becoming saline, then surely all the effort would have been of no avail. About all these considerations, there is no difference whatsoever between that side and this side.

My hon. friend Shri H. N. Mukerjee to whom I was referring, was right when he made reference to some of my speeches and said that we are thinking of some of the subsidiary or alternate ports, and he thinks that perhaps it is in opposition to the Ganga Barrage or is something different, and that if Ganga Barrage is there, possibly there would be no need for such ports. There he is making a mistake. I can assure him, and that is my view which I firmly hold, that Ganga Barrage is all the more necessary, no matter how many ports come in. If we are thinking of a port, it is because we cannot wait until something else is done, although it is plus and it is not minus and the coming of a port does obviate the necessity of having the Farakka Barrage or the Ganga Barrage. It is a measure which in itself is good, and can be taken only for the purpose of navigation; other purposes are not served by any port. He knows it very well, and Shri Samanta also referred to it. At one time he was a supporter of Geonkhali and now he has gone in. I cannot go into that subject because it will take time, but I could tell the House whether it is Geonkhali or Haldi—I must not call it Haldia, but that is how it is written in all the documents, and unfortunately I do not know how this beautiful river Haldi was forgotten in my list of rivers—or the estuary, the difference is that we do it in order to find out that there must be one additional port, not in order to reduce the importance of Calcutta Port but to heighten the importance of it, and we did it both,

and therefore, we are doing it. That is not our opinion but that is everybody's opinion. We have got to do it in the near future, but we have not taken a decision, because we were really fidgeting with this Geonkhali and ultimately we found that it does not improve the situation, because in Calcutta Port today, in all weather, the draft is 22 feet and sometimes 26 feet, which is very small. Prof. Mukerjee was right. Even ships of 7,000 tons cannot really manoeuvre through this river all the time. 22 feet or 26 feet is no draft for a good port like Calcutta. In regard to Haldi, there also the draft is something between 25 and 30 feet, which is not ideal, because we must have 30 feet for tankers and big ships and sometimes even 35 feet for ships coming from outside. All these projects—estuary and others—are under consideration. Geonkhali having been ruled out, what remains is Haldi or estuary. Estuary will cost perhaps thrice as much, although it is the complete answer, because it will have a draft of 40 feet and more and even the biggest ships can come.

I want to assure my hon. friend, Shri Mukerjee and all those who feel that because we are thinking of an alternative, Calcutta is going to be cancelled that they are very much wrong indeed, for obvious reasons. It is not due to any aversion for Calcutta. The fact remains that Calcutta is such a wonderful port with 42 berths, worth Rs. 200 crores. Do you mean to say that the Government of India is foolish enough to throw away Rs. 200 crores for some kind of fancy or aversion? That would be folly of the highest magnitude if any Government does that. Therefore, there is nothing in Government's mind whatsoever that the importance of Calcutta port might be reduced. It is a very useful port handling a cargo of as much as 10 million tons and it is not at all the idea that it should be really written off. Therefore, wherever there is the creation of a port it has nothing to do with the reduction in importance of the Calcutta port.

[Shri S. K. Patil]

Why do we want the Ganga Barrage? In my individual capacity as well as in my capacity as Minister of the Government of India, wherever I have gone, I have had no hesitation in saying that Ganga Barrage is the first and last answer so far as all these problems are concerned, that it will change the face of West Bengal or for that matter, of India. Ultimately that is the answer and it has got to be done. But what comes in the way? Reference was made to the Barcelona Pact. I can assure my hon. friend, Shri T. K. Chaudhuri, much. Did we wait for the Barcelona Pact? He is very much wrong if he thinks that because the Barcelona Pact was there, we were waiting for it. That is gone now. notwithstanding the Barcelona Pact, we could have done that. Now that pact is not there.

Reference was also made to the lower and upper riparian rights. It is a very strange combination that it has so happened and I need not enlarge on that. This is coming in our way not only in this, but in hundred other ways also. Somehow, while there were 600 rivers—some of them are concerned in this business—and when the rivers and territories were distributed, it so happened that everywhere we became the upper riparian and Pakistan became the lower riparian. In the Indus basin also, it was the same story. About canal waters, we became the upper riparian and Pakistan became the lower riparian. Whether the rivers did it or we did it, that fact remains. So also, in the Gangetic belt, we became the upper riparian and Pakistan became the lower riparian. Why the rivers chose to go to Pakistan or whether we threw them off into Pakistan, we do not know. But that fact remains. It is not that we are afraid or that some wind of bravado or force must be shown to demonstrate that we are not afraid. We are doing something which is very right according to us. Although we are the upper riparian and Pakistan happens to be the lower riparian, as far as I can see,

although I am not a technical man, I am practical enough to understand that there would be no harm, so far as Pakistan is concerned. If there is any harm, although I had all the power and strength I would do so. What is fair and just to me, is equally just and fair to Pakistan. I am convinced and my conviction has been reinforced by the expert opinion, both of the Indian experts and the foreign experts, that navigation and irrigation even of Pakistan will be improved by this Ganga Barrage. Now that being the utility of the Ganga Barrage, please banish from your mind the idea once for all that there are two sides to this question. There is only one side and that is the Ganga Barrage must come into existence as quickly as possible in order to solve all these questions.

What has happened? These are things that are happening for centuries. It is a question of three or four centuries, not one or two years. In the river Bhagirathi there was no siltage or anything. It was a fine river with all its feeder channels coming from Ganges; they were going with abundant supply of water, flushing of water: no question of any siltage or any such thing. But a period of 300 or 400 years is not a small period and our Himalayan rivers have got a tendency to siltage which is almost unknown in some other countries. Our mountain is an infant mountain and so it has large siltage. Because of the terrific siltage it has become an acute problem, and it has been more so during the last several hundred years; still it is becoming more.

My hon. friend, Shri Samanta, asked: what happened in 1927 and 1933? How could this Government do anything in the years 1927 and 1933? What could we really do then? Whatever power we have got was only after independence? Therefore, we are responsible from 1947 as to what we have done. I can assure him that it is not because a reference was not made and

so it has not been there. I can assure him without even the permission of my hon. colleague who will ultimately reply on behalf of the Government that if it were possible and that we can go on with the project then surely, notwithstanding what the Planning Commission might have done or may do, we shall take that project in hand.

But the difficulty that we are experiencing is, and everyone of it I need not narrate in this House, that sometimes perhaps too much of expression is no good on this subject. I can only assure them very sincerely, and that I am not merely doing in order to score any debating point over the opposition that our mind is occupied on the object that as soon as possible we must undertake this project in hand. But the House will agree with me that when we undertake that project in hand, we must do it with a view to finishing it or completing it as quickly as possible. Therefore, all the difficulties which we are likely to encounter both on our side and their side have to be taken into consideration.

There is no question of foreign exchange or money. I could say that the project is so important and so very necessary that even if one pie does not come from outside, even then we have to strave ourselves and take this project in hand, because the project is so important that it will ultimately mean giving life to this country. Therefore, I can assure this House that it is not because the Government is of different mind, it is not because the experts have said anything different, it is not because another port is coming there that we are negligent towards this project. We are very anxious that this project must be put through as quickly as we can, but there are some difficulties.

I can tell the House another thing. If this project was built some 5 or 10 years back, the cost would perhaps have been Rs. 10 crores or 20 crores less. As time goes on, the cost increases. If in spite of all these things a delay has occurred, they must bear

with us that the reasons are something different. Even then, we have not been just sitting supine and not doing anything, because not to do anything is not only cutting the life line of Bengal but also cutting the life line of India. So, we want to take it up as quickly as we can.

There are so many suggestions coming from various quarters, to which I cannot refer now. Somebody, a foreign expert, came and told me: we have got a remedy. I asked: what is the remedy? Because, I have listened to all the remedies and all the proposals, so far as this project is concerned. He says, why not have a canal like the Suez Canal, a specially built canal. Some new idea. The idea was so very interesting that I sat with the expert for hours together and studied it whether there was any possibility by which we can have the depth that we required in order that the Calcutta port would be navigable: an all weather one with a depth of 30 feet or more. If a canal could do that by side-tracking the Bhagirathi or by the side of Bhagirathi, it means the same thing. We can do it with all apologies to Bhagirath whether he likes it or not. There can be a modern Bhagirath and my colleague can do it or anybody can do it. That is a project.

Another project came: why not have a bridge at Farakka? If you have to go from one end to another, you have got a circuitous route, a very difficult thing. These are un-examined projects. One does not know what exactly is the best. Surely, the Government's mind, if it is occupied on any particular subject, it is on this more than anything else. A very competent officer has been appointed by C.W.P.C. in charge of the Ganga Barrage so that constantly the matter should be kept under review. As soon as we find an opportunity of going into it, we can do it. Beyond this, hon. Members must not expect me that I should go into more details. Because, time is running, my colleague has to reply and the Mover has got to reply. But, I can tell him, whether for the matter of

[Shri S K Patil]

navigation or removing salinity of Calcutta, or the flood nuisance that is there, and also making Bengal compact, all these are problems which are not merely Irrigation and Power problems; they are problems of the whole Government, where all departments, even the Government and the Opposition are united in doing that. Therefore, whatever hurdles there may be in our way, to which if I have not made a complete reference, surely hon. Members will understand that there is some weighty reason why into every reason I cannot go at this juncture, I can assure them on behalf of the Government that no time will be wasted, even a day. When the time comes, the Ganga barrage would be there and you and I can see it in the near future not only removing one difficulty, but even 100 difficulties from which Calcutta and the whole of India suffers. This is the assurance on behalf of the Government and I hope with that assurance, surely my friends will not call the Government that we made any dishonest attempt in making the statement that we made. We stand by that statement and there is not a grain of dishonesty about it.

Shri B. Das Gupta (Purulia) On a point of information when can we expect you to take up this project—1, 2, 3 or 4 years?

Shri S K. Patil: I wish I were a prophet.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat) Mr Chairman, after hearing the hon. Minister for Transport and Communications, I always get the feeling that we are all carried away by his eloquence. We listen to him with rapt attention. After having heard him, one stops and wonders what actually has emanated from his great flush of words and beautiful simile, which he is such a master of. One of the main things that has emanated from his speech is that there is some great secret whereby this Ganga barrage

project cannot be put into practice. Everything has been accepted; the importance of it, not only from the point of view of West Bengal, but from the point of view of India. He has narrated six very important points and at the end he says, it is not a question of Pakistan, it is not a question of the Barcelona agreement, it is not a question of finance, but there is one big, very big secret which this House cannot know and therefore we should not press him to give us what that reason is. Even if we were not to press him as to what exactly is the secret, can we very humbly ask him, as my colleague who has just now interrupted asked, when can we expect this? Can we expect it by the beginning of the third plan? Will it be included in the Third Plan? I will tell you very frankly that at least the people of Bengal feel that there is absolutely no justifiable cause which has been shown, no logic given to us as to why this project, after having been accepted as being very necessary, as being a priority project as far as the welfare of India is concerned, as far as the welfare of the major port of India is concerned, as far as the welfare of the entire people of West Bengal is concerned, cannot be put through. One of the reasons which has been given by the Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power has been that the technical data has not been finalised. Really, the point has been made, I suppose out of great frustration, by Shri Samanta that we should be now celebrating the centenary of this project since it was mooted in 1853 and now it is 1958. The hon. Minister of Communications said: "What could we do in 1936 in 1928?" But may I point out that some of the best technical data have been handed down to us from the British times? Even the whole question of the DVC and many other projects actually started in the times of the British and we have had prominent British engineers who have handed down technical data to us. That much we have to recognise. Therefore, if technical

data have been collected over the course of so many years, and after independence when our own engineers have gained so much experience in the course of building up so many dams and river valley projects and multi-purpose projects, I see absolutely no reason why this excuse is being given to us that technical data are not full and not available.

As Shri Chaudhuri pointed out, I was also in that consultative committee for irrigation and power when Shri Nanda told us that investigations had been completed in 1951-52. This consultative committee meeting took place in 1954, but in 1952 the Central Water and Power Commission had already submitted a project report. And then we are told by Shri Hathi that there was an unprecedented flood, shifting of the river took place, and therefore re-evaluation of data began to take place. But I should like to point out that the river Ganga has been known to shift. It is not something new. In Kosi also, does not the river shift? This is not a phenomenon which is unknown to our irrigation experts, and even if we are to accept that re-evaluation was necessary, re-checking of the data was necessary, that was in 1954 and today we are in 1958. We have got foreign experts also, and yet we are told that technical data are not available. It is an amazing statement which is being made. The statement made by the hon. Minister of Irrigation and the speech now made by the hon. Minister of Communications leaves us completely flummoxed. The *bona fides* of the Government have been challenged by Shri Chaudhuri, but I do not know, I fail to understand, how the Government can now tell us that they do not know when this is going to be taken up, when it is going to be implemented. That is the question we are putting to you. We want to know very categorically when this project is going to be taken up. Time is the essence of the whole thing, because, as Mr. Hensen has pointed out, the deterioration of the sea route from Calcutta is progress-

ing, and will ultimately lead to complete loss of traffic in the course of a few decades—a few decades, not a few centuries.

Since 1947 we have already spent eleven years, and now in 1958 what has happened? Actually in August the Calcutta port authorities decided to close the Esplanade moorings. The reach of the Hooghly between Outram Ghat and Takta Ghat was closed to ships. No ships were allowed to berth in the moorings because it was found that heavy silting had raised the river bed in the reach and vessels in the Esplanade moorings had very little clearance between their bottoms and the river bed. This is what happened as late as August this year. The silting of the river between Ahiritallah Ghat and Fort Point, which is one of the most busy portions of the river, has been so heavy during the last few years that we believe that if something is not done very soon, the river will be silted up and the biggest exporting port of Calcutta will lose for us the very greatly needed foreign exchange which we know is one of the most important things we have to earn.

Not only that. The question of saline water has rightly been pointed out by the hon. Minister of Communications. Hon. Members who come from other parts of India would be surprised to know that even about 20 years ago the salinity of the Hooghly river was not more than about 70 to a million, but now during the last year it was 630 to a million. We could not drink that water, it was so bad. The engines went out of order, all that has been stated before. So, we feel that the entire water supply of Calcutta will go out of gear unless we immediately take on hand measures whereby this silting of the river is dealt with and flushing is done by bringing fresh water from the upper region.

Everybody agrees that the Farakka barrage is the most important answer

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

to all these problems. Not only that, I want to urge that not only the communications between North and South Bengal are very important. Any body who has gone through the nightmareish journey from Calcutta to North Bengal changing at Sakrigali Ghat and Manihari Ghat and all those areas, will know how important it is. What is even more important is this. If today we can accept this Ganga barrage and also have its second phase, namely the joining with the Brahmaputra and the Teesta rivers, we shall eliminate the passing through of our freight and our traffic through Pakistan. This is very important even from the point of view of several other factors.

We all seem to be agreed that the Ganga barrage or the Farakka barrage is the most important project which we have to implement. But then the big question mark comes. What is the reason for the delay? We are not accepting the position that technical data have not been made available in the course of so many years. Even taking 1947 as the year from which we can start, that being the year when our actual responsibility starts, we find that from 1947 up to 1956 is a long period of eleven years. Many other turbulent rivers are being tamed, and in respect of many other difficult rivers, data are being obtained. So, we cannot understand why when it comes to the question of the Ganga barrage, this question of technical data is brought forward as an excuse for delay.

As I have urged, time is the essence of the entire thing. What is the use of our having something when it is too late? Already, during the last year, we had felt so many difficulties in respect of the port, in respect of our drinking water, and in respect of our communications also. Therefore, I want to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister who replies, by what time we may expect this project which is a priority of priorities to be taken up, and whether it will

be included in the Third Five Year Plan or not.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): We also do not want to be delayed.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): We also want to speak. We may be given five minutes or at least two or three minutes to speak.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chandhuri: The House is sitting till 5.30 P.M. today.

16.35

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): I think practically all the points about the urgency and the importance of the Ganga barrage scheme have been urged already by different Members, and more particularly admitted by Shri S. K. Patil himself. Government have admitted the importance of it even in the statement laid on the Table of this House on 2nd September of this year. They have stated in the statement:

"There is a general consensus of opinion that the channels of the Hooghly and the Bhagirathi will progressively deteriorate, if they are left to themselves....".

and there is no other way of protecting the port of Calcutta except by having this Ganga barrage. I would not like to repeat the points which have already been mentioned and which have received sufficient attention from the House, but I would like to state two other matters.

The rivers of Matabhanga, Jalangi, Ichhamati, Yamuna, Sootia, Biddhahari and Churni are all being practically silted up, and so, any irrigation works within the districts of Murshidabad, the 24-Parganas, Nadia and also Burdwan and Hooghly have become almost impossible. I know of some community project areas in these districts where even small irri-

gation works could not be taken up because the level of the river is very high, and the river is practically dried up. All the rivers flowing by that side have silted up, and there is no water available with which irrigation could be done.

Moreover, there is also the difficulty of the drainage. While on the agricultural side there cannot be any irrigation Water, we find that occasionally, these districts are having floods, whenever there is a heavy shower of rain. There is no proper drainage for the out flow of the rain water, and the inevitable result is that there are floods devastating the standing crops. This aspect also should attract the attention of Government.

The drainage in the city of Calcutta itself is in difficulty. Even if there is a small shower for half an hour, the streets of Calcutta are flooded knee-deep. A few years ago, that was not the position; certain parts of the city used to get flooded only after heavy showers for at least two hours, but now, even if there is rain for half an hour, even a small rain, not a very heavy shower, we find all the streets of Calcutta covered over with water.

So apart from the question of drinking water and salinity mentioned earlier, the question of the drainage of Calcutta should also receive proper attention. I know that for more than two decades now since the Congress got authority over the Calcutta Corporation, they have been trying to have the drainage system examined and improved. But all their efforts have proved futile. A special engineer was appointed simply for the drainage system and I think several lakhs of rupees have been wasted without any appreciable result in improving the drainage system of Calcutta. That is also because the Bidhadhari, through which flows all the washings of Calcutta, has practically been silted up. So the problem of the drainage of Calcutta, which has a population of

about 60 lakhs, should also receive the attention of Government.

My hon. friend, Shri S. K. Patil, has made an eloquent speech and

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): I thought he said 'arrogant' speech.

Shri A. C. Guha: He did not hear me using that word; he might have thought of it in his own mind.

I do not question the sincerity of purpose, real intentions and *bona fides* of the hon Minister in this matter. But still he should give some assurance to the people of West Bengal. He should at least give an assurance that this matter will be seriously taken up. I can understand that a scheme costing about Rs. 50—Rs. 60 crores must have a proper project estimate, must have some model project. All these things have to be done. But why have so many years been wasted and these things not done? Anyhow, that is a thing of the past. But even now, if the scheme is to be taken up, these things have to be done. Government should take immediate steps to have the project estimate, the model project and all the necessary preliminary things so that the construction may be taken up at the earliest without any further delay.

Shri S. K. Patil has said that in spite of all these things, for some reason or other Government have to wait for sometime or something to that effect. But what is that reason? I do not think there should be any mystery in this matter. There should be frank discussion in this House, and if there is any difficulty, it should be disclosed to the House and the House should be taken into confidence.

I do not like to take more time, especially as there is not much time and all other matters have been men-

[Shri A. C. Guha]

tioned I hope when my hon friend, Shri Hathi, will reply, he will give a definite assurance that this scheme will be taken by a particular date so that the people of West Bengal may feel that the Government are really earnest. This is not only a question of convincing me or some other Members of this House, it is a question of convincing the people of West Bengal. I can say that in West Bengal there is a general feeling, rightly or wrongly, that Government are not serious over this matter. In a democratic set-up, we have to take into consideration popular sentiments and popular feelings, even if they are not rationally based. So I hope some declaration will be made on the floor of this House that this scheme will be taken up immediately without any further delay and the project estimates and other things will also be undertaken immediately so that we can know that by a particular date the scheme will be completed.

It has been stated that ten years will be required to finish this project. But what is to happen in the meantime to the Port of Calcutta the City of Calcutta, the communications and railway transport of Calcutta? These things cannot be allowed to remain as they are for these ten years. Something has to be done in this period almost immediately. Last year during the dry season, the entire railway communications of Calcutta were practically upset, next year it will be worse still. So something has to be done. What is to be done and has the Government any mind to do it should also be disclosed in this House.

Another point and I finish. Shri Patil has said that through this project, they would like to put West Bengal as compact region. Really there is now great difficulty in communication between North Bengal and lower Bengal. I hope he would see that there will be railway communication as also road communication for motor and pedestrian traffic. Railway communication over that barrage

would be a great necessity. If this barrage scheme is put into operation, there should be easier communication between North Bengal and lower Bengal. I hope all these things would be considered and some definite decision of the Government would be made so that the people of West Bengal may feel that the Government is really serious about this matter.

Mr Chairman: Now it is 4-45 P.M. We started at 3 P.M. The time appointed for discussion is 2½ hours. There are still 45 minutes left. But the matter has been very thoroughly discussed even to the satisfaction of many hon Members. Now I would like to know from the hon Mover of the Resolution if he would like me to stop the discussion at this stage or one or two speakers may further be allowed. Otherwise, I will call upon the hon Minister to reply to the debate. If he agrees, we may finish at 5 or 5-15 P.M. If he does not agree I will give the full time for the discussion.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: We want full time but I would not take more than five minutes.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह सभापति महोदय,
गंगा बराज व मम्बन्ध में बहुत सी बाने कहीं
गयी हैं। मैं शिपिंग व प्वाइंट आफ व्यू में इस
पर कुछ प्रकाश डालना चाहता हूँ।

गुप्तन जमाने में भारतवर्ष में
सबसे भारी पाटें ताम्रलिप्ति और नार्मपत्त-
नम रुथे। आज से २३०० वर्ष पहले ताम्र-
लिप्ति समुद्र तट पर था लेकिन आज ३५ मील
का फसना समुद्र और ताम्रलिप्ति में हो गया
है। इसी प्रकार बंगाल की खाड़ी में जा समुद्र
है वह १० वर्ष में ६ मील के हिसाब से दक्षिण
की तरफ जा रहा है। अर्थात् गंगा में इतना
इतना ज्यादा बालू आता है कि गंगा के कारण
बंगाल की खाड़ी का समुद्र दक्षिण की तरफ
हटता जाता है। इसी प्रकार आज जो कलकत्ता
का पोर्ट है उसको भी कुछ समय बाद

वही बसा होगी जो कि ताम्रसिंघ की हो गयी। यह एक प्राकृतिक चीज है जिसको कि हम और आप रोक नहीं सकते।

यह सही है कि गंगा बराज के द्वारा थोड़ा ज्यादा पानी आयेगा। इसका यह अर्थ होगा कि उससे नदी का स्तर कुछ ऊंचा हो जायेगा। लेकिन अगर आप गंगा बराज द्वारा पानी को १५ फीट ऊंचा करके लावेंगे तो आपको दूसरी ओर भी ध्यान देना होगा। इस प्रकार पानी ऊंचा करने का और परिणाम यह होगा कि गंगा के किनारे जो शहर हैं या जो खेती गंगा के किनारे होती है वह डूब जायेगी। इस बात को भी हम मद्देनजर रखना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात हमें यह कहनी है कि आजकल कलकत्ता के पोर्ट पर दस हजार टन के जहाज बड़ी मुश्किल से आ पाते हैं। करीब तीन चार दिन का वाकया है कि एक साठे आठ हजार टन का जहाज बालू में फस गया था। अगर इस गंगा बराज द्वारा आप दस पन्द्रह फुट पानी ऊंचा कर देंगे तो इनमें दस में पन्द्रह हजार टन तक के जहाज कलकत्ता पोर्ट में आ सकेंगे। परन्तु आजकल ज्यादा बड़े जहाज बनाने की टेडसी है क्योंकि उनका वास्तु आफ आपरेशन बहुत कम होता है। आजकल जो जहाज बन रहे हैं वे ६० और ८० हजार टन के हैं जिनको पोर्ट में आने — लिए ६० फीट गहरा पानी चाहिए। अगर हम गंगा बराज को बना भी ले तो हम उन बड़े जहाजों का कलकत्ता पोर्ट में नहीं ला सकेंगे। हमको प्रकृति से युद्ध करना है और प्रकृति इस पक्ष में है कि आज नहीं तो सौ बरस बाद कलकत्ता के पोर्ट की वही अवस्था होगी जैसा कि ताम्रसिंघ की हुई थी। २३०० वर्ष में ताम्रसिंघ सिंघ से समुद्र ३५ मील दूर हट गया है। बंगाल की भूमि से भी समुद्र २० वर्ष में दो मील के हिसाब से दूर हो रही है। इस हिसाब से २३०० वर्ष में कलकत्ता से समुद्र कम से कम ६० मील दूर हो जायेगा। लेकिन यह एक

प्राकृतिक चीज है। इस बालू को आप रोक नहीं सकते। इसलिये मेरा सुझाव है कि इस स्कीम की चालू करने में पहले इस बात पर गौर कर लिया जाये कि अगर गंगा बराज द्वारा नदी का स्तर दस पन्द्रह फुट ऊंचा कर दिया गया तो किनारे — बसे हुए कितने शहरों की ओर खेती को नुकसान होगा। इन कारण आन्दोलन भी हो सकता है। हमका हम बात पर भी विचार कर लेना चाहिए। मेरा तो सुझाव यह है कि कलकत्ता में तीस चालीस मील दक्षिण में पोर्ट बनाया जाये। इसके लिये सामान्य जमीन भी बहुत दिनों में सरकार का ध्यान दिला रहे हैं। वह कहते हैं कि गेयोखाली में यह पोर्ट बनाया जाये। अगर गेयोखाली को ठीक न समझा जाये तो उसमें और दक्षिण में हट कर पोर्ट बनाया जा सकता है। लेकिन अगर हम यह सोचें कि कलकत्ता के पोर्ट की रक्षा कर लेंगे तो मैं कहता हूँ कि यह नहीं हो सकता। चाहें आज हो या सौ बरस बाद हो यह पोर्ट समाप्त होगा। गंगा बराज बना कर भी आप ज्यादा से ज्यादा दस हजार टन वाले जहाजों को ला सकते हैं। पर आप ६० और ८० हजार टन के जहाजों को फिर भी पोर्ट में नहीं ला सकेंगे। गंगा बराज में तो दस पन्द्रह फुट पानी ही ऊपर हो सकता है। पर ये बड़े जहाज इनमें पानी में नहीं आ सकेंगे। आप गंगा बराज बना कर ज्यादा से ज्यादा २० हजार टन तक के जहाज पोर्ट में ला सकते हैं। इसमें ज्यादा नहीं।

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta-East)
 Mr. Chairman Sir the hon. Minister of Transport and Communications has done well by emphasising that this question of the Ganga Barrage is not a question between Government and the Opposition and indeed there should be no two sides to this question. This would have been very gratifying if we had found an awareness all along about this question. Unfortunately, we were compelled to raise this question today and to criticise Government because, although, as the hon. Minister has pointed out,

[Shri Sadhan Gupta]

there is very little to be said against the Ganga Barrage Project and, as a matter of fact, it is the only project in whose favour everything is to be said and against which nothing can be said, we did not find that awareness which we expected in the case of a project of this sort.

Even in the case of a project like the D.V.C., although we have many benefits from it—we get hydro-electric power, we have flood control and so many other things—there is still something in the debit. Through the damming of the river Damodar in its upper reaches we have deprived the lower reaches and some of the rivers into which it runs the flushing momentum which clear a large part of the silt. But in the case of Ganga Barrage we not only confer multiple benefits, numerous benefits on different parts of West Bengal, and also incidentally to our country as a whole, we even extend our benefits to our neighbour Pakistan. So, there is nothing to be said against it. Even then, we found that there did not seem to be an awareness on the part of the Government in regard to the scheme. Now, we would have been re-assured by the Transport Minister's speech if we could conclude from it that this particular project was definitely going to be taken up. But even then, he has referred to certain mysterious reasons which could not be disclosed, and which had so far withheld the undertaking of the construction of the barrage. I shall not ask him to disclose the mysterious reasons because I know I shall not succeed in compelling or impelling him to do so. But then, still, if he cannot disclose the reasons, we can conjecture that the reasons must be extra-territorial in some of its aspects and what we want to tell him and what we want to tell the Government from this House—and I think in this all sections will agree with me—that no other force outside our country has a right to hold up a project which is so vital for our interests. The longer we delay the Ganga Barrage we jeopardize the

future of Calcutta, and through the jeopardy to the future of Calcutta, we jeopardize the future of our country.

I am not worried about Shri Raghunath Singh's worries about how many thousand tons of ship we could get to Calcutta and how many feet of water we could raise because, after all, we need not plan for 2,300 years from now at the moment, and we need not also bother about ships of 60,000 to 70,000 tons. In 2,300 years we will have many scientific experiences to fall back upon and we need not cite the experience of Tamralipti to determine the future of Calcutta 2,300 years afterwards. 2,300 years before now, we had no scientific knowledge and if we had it we might perhaps have saved Tamralipti, but we can safely assume that in 2,300 years from now, we will have plenty of scientific knowledge to counteract any evil that Nature might work in relation to the coast of Bengal or in relation to the port of Calcutta.

As regards tonnage, as far as I know,—of course Shri Raghunath Singh is a shipping expert—the cargo ships up to this day do not have usually a tonnage of 60,000 to 70,000 tons. It is really luxury liners which have tonnages of 60,000 to 70,000 tons. Cargo ships have a much smaller tonnage and, as a matter of fact, even amongst the luxury liners, very few of the ships of 60,000 to 70,000 tons ply in our waters. So, I am not unduly worried, but what I am worried about is whether these weighty reasons which the Transport Minister again and again referred to still persist. If the Government is not going to disclose those reasons, I would at least request the Government to give us a categorical assurance that those weighty reasons no longer exist today, or, if they do exist, the Government will have no compunction in brushing those reasons aside and proceed with the construction of the Ganga Barrage,

weighty reasons or no weighty reasons I hope the reasons have by now lost their weight and will not impede the undertaking of the barrage.

17 hrs.

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): I think after the very lucid and clear statement of my esteemed colleague, the Minister for Transport and Communications, it is hardly necessary for me to say anything to show that the Government is all serious about the question of Ganga Barrage and that there need not be any misgivings or apprehensions. The port of Calcutta, which is sought to be improved by this project, is a port of national importance. It is not that the Government is unaware of the deteriorating position of Hooghly and its constant effect on the port.

More than 50 per cent of the country's trade is being handled at the port of Calcutta. Tea, jute and other commodities are exported from Calcutta and with the coming up of the steel plants, from 10 million tons, the cargo handled might go up to 12 to 15 million tons. So, the importance of the port is known and need not be emphasised. With the statement of my esteemed colleague, I am sure the apprehensions or misgivings which might have been in the minds of the Members must have been allayed. There cannot be a greater expression of sincerity on behalf of the Government than what has been stated on the floor of the House by my esteemed colleague.

Although in the beginning when the mover of the motion had used certain expressions I had a mind to refer to those expressions and to submit to the House that they were not used perhaps as I thought in their ordinary meaning, now I do not think I need go into those questions after the statement of my esteemed colleague. I am aware that hon. Members are keen to know as to why there has been such a long delay and why a

project, which was thought of in 1853, has not yet materialised. I can also appreciate their anxiety. All that I can say is that it is not their anxiety alone; it is not a question of Calcutta alone; it is not a question of West Bengal alone, but it is a question of the country as a whole. The Government is, if I may say so, more anxious and more keen about this project. But I know that these words may yet not be sufficient to allay the misgivings and hon. Members would like to know what we have done all these years. I have got in chronological order all that has been done from 1915 to 1957 and if I have sufficient time at my disposal I could have narrated individual years and the individual actions that were taken, the various investigations that were done and what is the latest position.

An Hon. Member: Why don't you circulate it?

Shri Hathi: If hon. Members want, I am prepared to circulate it.

Some Hon. Members: We want it.

Shri Hathi: I shall even go further and say that not only what has been done but I would even be ready to take the members into confidence and say every two months or so what is the further progress made in the investigation. I am prepared to do that.

Now, naturally the question would arise that if in 1853 this project was thought of why nothing had been done up till now. One of the hon. Members said that we have sufficient data which the British engineers had collected and that could have been availed of. We have availed of that data. I may, for the information of the House, submit that in 1946 one of the eminent engineers, although data was then available, said (I am referring to Mr. A. Webster):

"An enormous amount of survey work, data collection and, perhaps, model experimentation must be undertaken before the project can be approved."

[Shri Hathi]

Then he further says:

"It may not be unreasonable to assume that at least 20 years may lapse before the barrage can become an accomplished fact."

That was said in 1946

An Hon. Member: 12 years have passed.

Shri Hathi: That was said at a time when the data was not available to the extent to which he thought them necessary

It was in 1950 that the Central Water and Power Commission undertook the investigations. In 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954 investigations were carried on and on the basis of those investigations and model experiments certain results were achieved. Then in 1954 when the Ministry of Irrigation and Power circulated a note on the irrigation projects of West Bengal to the Members of Parliament from West Bengal, a reference was made to this in that note also. In the year 1954 the investigations were, according to the CPWC, complete to prepare the project report. But as it happened, in the mean time in the years 1951 to 1954, at least in 1954, heavy floods came and about 12 miles of river on both the sides of Farraka were eroded. That means all the model experiments that had been taken up and done on the basis of the data that were collected, when they were actually checked up and the results tried to be verified.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I make an interruption? The erosion did not take place in 1954. I come from that area. I have lived in that area from my childhood and I can tell him that between 1948 and 1950 the whole municipal town of Dhulian Ganga below Farraka with a population of 10,000 was wiped out but the barrage point at Farraka has not changed as a result of this erosion.

Shri Hathi: The hon. Member naturally knows more of the area. But it

is not a question of the particular site. The data that we have to collect does not relate to that particular site.

We have to collect data for the river as a whole, the silt that comes, the salinity that comes, the hydrology of the river and all that.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the period that is required for hydrological data, 2 years, 5 years, 10 years?

Shri Hathi: It may be 2, 5 or 10 years.

An. Hon. Member: Calcutta would have gone.

Shri Hathi: What I submit is that the statement that was made was not a statement which is sought to be said as dishonest. That is what I wanted to say.

After 1954, further data in the light of the change of the river were collected. They were examined by the German expert. There also, there is no difference of opinion about the need of the barrage. There is no question of difference of opinion between the Indian engineers and foreign experts. They all say the same thing. The only thing that was suggested by Dr. Hensen was—I shall mention what actually he suggested—

"In spite of the exhaustive information which is available about hydraulic and historical characteristics, it is not sufficient to determine with certainty all the details of the various developments in the Hooghly, for, this period of intensive measurements which have to be taken in nature is too small. Only by way of further carrying out these observations in a systematic way, one can obtain definite information which is wanting about the Hooghly and the Bhagirathi."

On the basis of this, investigations have already started. They are now in an advanced stage and I can say that we will be completing it as soon as possible without any further delay. Actually, as soon as investigations are ready, the project report can be made. There will be no delay. That is the only cause. I want to assure the Members here, because the Government itself is keen that the project report should be prepared as early as possible and that all the implications—technical, I mean—should be examined as soon as it is possible without any further delay.

So far as the question of funds is concerned, I do not think that comes in the way at all. After all, what is the cost going to be? When we have taken up projects costing Rs. 170 crores, Rs. 100 crores, and Rs. 122 crores, I do not think this project would suffer only for want of funds or this would not be included or taken up for want of funds. There is no question of want of funds. On the one hand when we say it is important from the viewpoint of preserving the port, I do not think an amount of Rs. 60 or even 100 crores would be a factor which would deter us from taking up the project. There is no question of want of funds. It is only a question that when we have to train a river and start work on a mighty river like the Ganga, we should be fully prepared and should have full data so that in future we do not have to change the designs or alter the things. That is the only point. I may further repeat that it is not any sort of hostility as the Mover of the motion said or any perverse attitude, or whatever it was called, on the part of the Central Government. After all, it is an important project. Had there been any hostility, why should the Government undertake the investigations at all and spend money? In fact, we want to do it, we want to take it up. The only point is that investigation to the satisfaction of the technical experts has to be done. I may say, or the hon. Members may say, let us start something tomorrow, but unless the

technical experts advise us and say that we can start and go ahead, I do not think any of the Members would insist that it should be started.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): The auspicious moment

Shri Hathi: I am sure that the hon. Members will agree with me that as soon as the technical data are available, the investigations and surveys are over, then and then only the project could start. Nobody would wish that we should start on insufficient data, especially in view of the advice which has been offered by all the experts. It is not one or two. Everybody thinks that the data are not sufficient in view of the particular terrain, the particular discharge, the particular behaviour of the river.

I am therefore not going to take much of the time of the House nor is it necessary for me to further elucidate any of the points. All that I can say is that there is no lack of sincerity on the part of the Government. The investigations are being taken up. As my esteemed colleague mentioned, we have placed a special officer for this purpose. We have opened a special circle. The work is being carried on, and we will see that the required data are obtained and the investigations completed as soon as possible without any further delay. Further than that I do not think any assurance is needed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: But it is not forthcoming, that is the point.

Shri Hathi: If anybody were to ask me as to when we can begin, it is not possible for me to give the exact date. I can only say we shall do it as soon as possible and complete the investigations. That is the only assurance that can be given.

Dr. E. Banerji (Bankura): The hon. Minister of Communications has very well appreciated the importance of the project, but he says that there is a

[Dr. R. Banerjee]

certain amount of secrecy which he cannot divulge. Now Shri Hathi says that only technical difficulties are standing in the way. So, is the House to assume that the reason for which it cannot be taken up which was in the mind of Shri Patil is the same as has been narrated by Shri Hathi?

Mr. Chairman: It is not necessary to make another speech for this purpose. The House can draw its own conclusions. The hon. Member can come to his own conclusions.

Shri S. K. Patil: I do not want to say anything except that I never used the word "secrecy". I may only say that this debate has highlighted certain points and really cast a responsibility on the Government of which we are conscious.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I ask one question? Will it be possible for the Government to do at least the preliminary work within the Second Plan period?

Shri S. K. Patil: Does not my reply indicate it? Should I be more precise than what I have said? I have said the debate has highlighted many points, which were before us also. Now we are further reinforced by your comments and we are conscious of our responsibility.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhary: I would have been very happy if the incomparable eloquence of Shri Patil, or the smiling self-assurance of our amiable friend, Shri Hathi

An Hon. Member: . . . could have produced something!

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhary: . . could have really assured us. I do not feel reassured, because the real question involved in this discussion is not one of technical excellence of the scheme. As a matter of fact, Hafiz

Mohammad Ibrahim's statement itself refers to that and says:

"There is a general consensus of opinion that the channels of the Hooghly and the Bhagirathi will progressively deteriorate, if they are left to themselves, and that the most effective method of stopping the long-term deterioration is by regulation of upland supplies to the Hooghly through Bhagirathi, by the construction of a barrage on the Ganga."

So, it seems Government are satisfied, and Shri S. K. Patil has also said so repeatedly that this is the best scheme, the best of the multi-purpose projects that are under consideration of Government. But the real question here is not one of technical excellence, as I said, but one of implementation, one of taking a decision that this scheme will be taken up, and from now on or from any particular date—it may take two years or three years to begin it but from the particular date—Government will allocate money and start work on the project. Somehow or other, that has not been done, and that decision could not be taken. We have not been given any shred of explanation about it. If I may quote Lewis Carroll, the explanation of Government is becoming day by day "curiouser and curiouser"

Mr Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim and also Shri Hathi have told us that certain technical investigations are still awaited, and they have in all seriousness appointed a very important officer of the Central Water and Power Commission to look after the matter and carry on those investigations. Unfortunately, we do not know, or at least I do not know from the facts that are in my possession, what that officer of the C.W.P.C. has been doing in the matter. Shri H. N. Mukerjee has referred to the sheaves of questions and answers on the

subject in his hands. I have also some questions and answers in my hands. Only during the last Session, I put a question to the hon. Minister about erosion, and I wanted to know whether the channel of Ganga was not fast eroding on its right bank and approaching the channel of Bhagirathi, and whether the possibilities or potentialities of the natural link up of the two had been investigated. He replied at that time—in spite of the fact that a very important officer of the Central Water and Power Commission was investigating into this matter—that the necessary data were being collected. It is always said that the necessary data are being collected. Shri S. K. Patil however felt that sort of explanation would not do. He therefore said that it was not a question of technical investigations. Of course, in projects like this, many more investigations will have to be undertaken and will constantly go on. So, he referred to some other reason; he did not really call it a secret reason; but he said that there is some reason,—but he was not prepared to confide it in the House or divulge what it is at the present moment—which is holding up any decision on this matter.

I would only humbly point out that the explanations for the delay, as given in Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim's statement or as has just now been stated by my hon. friend, Shri Hathi, or my hon. friend, Shri S. K. Patil, do not fit in with each other.

Before I conclude, I would only ask the Government one thing. Shri S. K. Patil referred to the necessity of making the northern part of West Bengal and the western part—the major part of Bengal—into one compact whole by improving communications and by trying to form one line or channel of communication between these two parts. I can definitely say that the West Bengal Government sent a proposal some years back about a rope-way, as an interim measure pending the construction of the Bar-

rage, for North Bengal produces like mango, tea, tobacco, etc. If I remember aright—I am sure my esteemed friend, Shri Atulya Ghosh, who is sitting opposite me will bear me out—in the Malda conference of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was then in the office now occupied by Shri S. K. Patil today, gave a definitive and categorical assurance that he would examine this proposal. May I know what has become of that proposal? Whatever may be the real fact that they cannot find money or that there is some mysterious reason which is holding up a decision in the matter of the Farraka Barrage, he should at least tell us where this later scheme stands and whether there is any hope of the rope-way being constructed.

Mr. Chairman: No reply is called for from the hon. Minister. This is a question which is not relevant to the issue we are discussing. It is entirely a different question.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: It is an interim measure pending completion of the Barrage. That is how it is relevant.

Mr. Chairman: That is not material to the subject under discussion, but if the hon. Minister wants to reply, I have no objection.

Shri S. K. Patil: This question of rope-way and so on had nothing to do directly with the Ganga Barrage. That was why all these were not touched by us in detail. But I can quite understand it, and I hinted at it, although I did not press that point. I feel that any day a bridge is better than a rope-way.

17.28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 20th November, 1958.

[Wednesday, the 19th November, 1958]

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

506-08

The following papers were laid on the Table :—

1. A copy of the statement regarding the recent visit of Shri Morarji Deesai abroad .
2. A copy of Notification No. S.O. 1990 dated the 29th September, 1958 under sub-section (3) of Section 8 of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952.
3. A copy of each of the following papers under sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Tariff Commission, Act, 1951 :—
 - (1) Report (1958) of the Tariff Commission on the retention price of steel produced by the Tata Iron and Steel Company,

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—contd.

COLUMNS

Limited and the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Limited

(ii) Government Resolution No. SC(A)-2 (246) dated the 13th October, 1958.

(iii) Statement under the proviso to sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, explaining the reasons why a copy of each of the documents referred to at (i) and (ii) above could not be laid within the period prescribed in that sub-section.

4. A copy of each of the following Rules under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957 :—

(i) The Delhi Development Authority (Election of Representative of Delhi Municipal Corporation) Rules, 1958, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 391 dated the 17th May, 1958.

(ii) The Delhi Development Authority Rules, 1958 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 479 dated the 14th June, 1958.

5. A copy of the statement regarding results of investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India for Lignite in Quilon and Trivandrum districts in Kerala State.

6. A copy of each of the following Notifications under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951 :—

(i) G.S.R. No. 790 dated the 13th September, 1958 making certain amendments to Schedule III to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—contd.

COLUMNS

(ii) G.S.R. No. 791 dated the 13th September, 1958 making certain amendments to Schedule III to the Indian Police Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.

7. A copy of each of the following Notifications under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951 :—

(i) G.S.R. No. 950 dated the 18th October, 1958 making certain amendments to Schedule III to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.

(ii) G.S.R. No. 974 dated the 25th October, 1958 making certain amendments to the Indian Civil Service Provident Fund Rules, 1942.

(iii) G.S.R. No. 975 dated the 25th October, 1958 making certain amendments to the Indian Civil Service (Non-European Member) Provident Fund Rules, 1943.

(iv) G.S.R. No. 976 dated the 25th October, 1958 making certain amendments to the Secretary of State's Service (General) Provident Fund Rules, 1943.

(v) G.S.R. No. 982 dated the 25th October, 1958 making certain amendments to Schedule III to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.

REPORT OF THE COM- MITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PRESEN- TED.

Twenty-ninth Report was pre-
sented.

COLUMNS

CALLING ATTENTION
TO MATTER OF UR-
GENT PUBLIC IMPOR-
TANCE

508—10

Shri Premji R. Assar called the attention of the Minister of Finance to the reported disappearance of some files from the Ministry of Finance, New Delhi. The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai) made a statement in regard there to.

BILL INTRODUCED

516

The Assam Rifles (Amendment) Bill

BILL PASSED

516—35

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit B. G. Pant) moved for the consideration of the Poisons (Amendment) Bill. The motion was adopted. After the clause-by-clause consideration the Bill was passed as amended.

MOTION TO REFER
BILL TO JOINT COM-
MITTEE UNDER CONSI-
DERATION

535—89

COLUMNS

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) moved that the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill be referred to a Joint Committee. The consideration was not concluded.

DISCUSSION RE : GANGA
BARRAGE PROJECT.

589—644

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri raised a discussion on the statement laid on the Table by the Minister of Irrigation and Power on 2nd September, 1958 re : Ganga Barrage Project. The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Pant) replied to the debate and the discussion was concluded.

AGENDA FOR THURS-
DAY, 20TH NOVEM-
BER, 1958.—

Further discussion on the motion to refer the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill to a Joint Committee.