

Volume I

No. 1 — 21



Friday
4th July, 1952

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part I - Questions and Answers)

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Members Sworn [Cols. 2—18].

PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

1469

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 4th July, 1952

*The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri N. M. Lingam (Coimbatore).
Shri Jaswant Rai Mehta (Jodhpur).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR GENERAL
ELECTIONS**

*1465. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any additional staff was employed to cope with the additional election traffic handled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department during the recent General Elections;

(b) what was the expenditure incurred for this purpose; and

(c) whether any of the old staff was also engaged on an overtime basis?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) About Rs. 32,000.

(c) Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know in what part of the postal services the increase was the greatest?

Shri Raj Bahadur: If the question refers to area, I think, mostly in Punjab, Bombay, West Bengal, Madras, the Central and U.P. Circles it was the greatest.

Sardar Hukam Singh: My question referred to the services and not the area.

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Shri Raj Bahadur: It was in all categories of staff: particularly postmen, postal runners, etc.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the additional expenditure that was incurred?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have mentioned it. It was Rs. 32,066-1-11.

ELECTION POSTERS

*1466. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any candidates or parties in the recent General Election availed of the facilities provided for the display of election posters in the premises of Post Offices; and

(b) if so, what was the revenue collected on that account during the recent General Elections?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Re. 2,300.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was this concession freely availed of?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was not free. It was Rs. 50 for a candidate in a single-member constituency for State Assembly; Rs. 100 in a double-member constituency; and Rs. 250 a candidate in a constituency for the House of the People.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have the Government inquired into the causes why this concession was not availed of—whether the rates were exorbitant, or due to some other causes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No occasion for such inquiry has arisen. If the hon. Member wants it, inquiry will be made.

SAHARANPUR TRAINING CENTRE

*1467. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred for the big residential training centre at Saharanpur for thorough training of new recruits to the cadres of Postal Clerks and R. M. S. sorters in 1951-52;

(b) how many trainees came out successful in the year;

(c) whether the training work will continue in 1952-53; and

(d) if so, in which place?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Non-recurring Rs. 4,42,796; Recurring Rs. 2,37,251.

(b) Postal	...	457
R.M.S.	...	133
TOTAL	...	590

(c) Yes.

(d) At Saharanpur. Efforts are also being made to open Training Centres at Hyderabad and other places.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how far the experiment for training newly recruited Class I officers has been successful?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact, Class I officers are not wholly trained here. It is only for a part of their training that they are sent here, say, for four months out of a total period of two years of training.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Was it not in experimental centre for the establishment of training centres for Class I officers?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is essentially and primarily meant for Postal and R.M.S. employees.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know when the Government is going to start such centres in the Eastern Circle?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already referred to that in the course of my reply to earlier question. I think we might start one in Chhota Nagpur.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How does this institution at Saharanpur differ from the ordinary teaching institution? Has any new type of training been introduced here which had not been introduced in other institutions before?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Systematic and scientific training is given to the prospective employees of the department; and it differs from other educational institutions in so far as specialised technical training is also given to them.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is admission restricted to regions, or are trainees from all parts of the country admitted?

Shri Raj Bahadur: A beginning has been made, and for the present the Punjab Circle, the U. P. Circle, the Rajasthan portion of the Central Circle, and Delhi are covered.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज: इस ट्रेनिंग सेंटर में कौन से लोग लिये जाते हैं और उनकी शिक्षा कहाँ तक होती है ?

श्री राज बहादुर: इस में जो लोग कि पोस्टल क्लर्क और आर० एम० एस० के सर्टिफिकेट के इम्तिहान में पास हो जाते हैं उन को ट्रेनिंग दी जाती है ।

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज: क्या इन लोगों के रिक्स्टमेंट में शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट का कुछ खयाल किया गया ?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज: शड्यूल्ड कास्ट के बारे में पूछने पर आप...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

RAILWAY STORES ENQUIRY COMMITTEE (INSPECTORS FOR STOCK-TAKING)

*1468 **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Railway Stores Enquiry Committee to employ a firm of auditors or special inspectors for stock-taking on East Indian Railways and others, have been accepted; and

(b) if so, what was the value of stores on the 31st of March, 1950, 1951 and 1952 on different Railways?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The inventory of total stores holdings, recommended by the Railway Stores Enquiry Committee, was specially compiled for the 31st March 1951 and a statement giving the position by principal railways is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 28].

Information regarding 1950 and 1952 is not readily available.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there is any one from the Centre who is in general control of these stores matters?

Shri L. B. Shastri: One of the members of the Railway Board.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Any one member of the Railway Board, or an engineering member?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The man in charge of Engineering Section is also a member of the Railway Board.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Ministry of Industry and Supply were able to supply the stores that were required by the Railway Board for the Railways?

Shri L. B. Shastri: So far the supplies have not been very deficient. We have in our possession some surplus stores also.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In reply to part (a) the hon. Minister said "Yes". May I know whether all the Railways have been audited?

Shri L. B. Shastri: In fact the special examination by chartered accountants was in regard to the East Indian Railway and the B.B. and C.I. Railway, but not other Railways.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how far the special inspection has proceeded?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It has not been done on other Railways, but the inventory has been prepared by chartered accountants in regard to the East Indian Railway and the B.B. and C.I. Railway.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know what steps the Government have taken for avoiding excess indenting of stores as recommended by the Stores Committee?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We have disposed of certain stocks; and in future we will take care that we do not indent more than what we require.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government is aware that at many stations the inventory of the existing stores has not yet been completed?

Shri L. B. Shastri: If so, I shall see to it and shall inquire into it.

Shri Nambiar: May I know what steps the Government are taking to dispose of the old stocks of paper and other materials which have been stocked for something like 200 years?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Nambiar: If the stocks are there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members should take care to see that in putting a question they do not introduce any allegations or inferences or information which they may have received from outside. The moment they introduce any such thing, the question would be disallowed.

Shri Nambiar: The stores are there.

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to dispute the facts. The facts may be correct.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister has supplied the figures for 1951. May I know why the figures for 1950 and 1952 were not supplied?

Shri L. B. Shastri: They were not available. The chartered accountants compiled the inventory for the period ended 31st March, 1951.

JET PLANES FOR CIVIL AVIATION

*1469. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to utilize Jet planes for Civil Aviation in India;

(b) if so, when such services are likely to commence;

(c) what efforts are being made to obtain Jet planes for this purpose;

(d) whether any orders have been placed and if so, with whom and for how many; and

(e) when are the deliveries expected?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (e). There is no proposal to utilize any pure jet type of aircraft in India.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Government fully informed, Sir, of the development of jet planes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He knows that these questions are inadmissible.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*1470. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the condition of the roads in Travancore-Cochin taken over as National Highways; and

(b) whether any portion of the said roads has been metalled, tarred or concreted and if so, how much?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) 32½ miles have black-top surface, 41½ miles have cement-concreted surface and about 170 miles have water bound macadam surface. There is no section of National Highways which is not provided with a hard crust.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether the Ministry of Transport has assumed the entire liability for the west coast road in Travancore-Cochin?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes, we have.

Shri Achuthan: May I know, Sir, what is the amount contributed by the Central Government in metalling these roads?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Well, we have provided in the budget four lakhs of rupees for original works development and for maintenance and repairs six lakhs and twelve thousands.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether investigation had been made for the siting of bridges?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes.

Shri A. M. Thomas: What are those bridges, Sir?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Avoor and Periyar Bridges.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether the present line of the west coast is proposed to be changed?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have no idea.

TRICHUR-KOLLENGODE RAILWAY LINE

*1471. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any survey was at any time made regarding the possibility of linking Trichur with Kollengode by rail?

(b) If so, what is the result?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Traffic and Engineering surveys for this line were last carried out in 1946-47.

(b) The survey reports revealed that the anticipated earnings of the line would not be sufficient to cover even the working expenses. Moreover, adequate road transport facilities are already available on this section. The Central Board of Transport decided therefore that the proposal should be dropped.

Shri A. M. Thomas: What was the estimated cost of the line?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The estimated cost is for broad-gauge about 3 crores and 2 lakhs and for metre-gauge lines two crores and fifty-nine lakhs.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know the length of the line?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I am sorry I shall require notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether having regard to the number of years that have passed after investigation, the Government will again take up the matter?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We do not take up the matter just at present. We may consider it later.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government that when a survey is already made, a line will be constructed through that area at least?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is not so. Survey is first made and then other factors are taken into consideration before taking a final decision.

F.A.O. FELLOWSHIPS

*1472. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that F.A.O. has granted some travelling fellowships to Indian students for training abroad in cafeteria system?

(b) If so, how many fellowships have been granted?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Three.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, the value of the travelling fellowships?

Shri Kidwai: Well, the travel cost from this country for this training would be borne by the Government of India, Ministry of Food and Agriculture out of the grant given to N.I.W.F.C. The rest of the expenditure including subsistence allowance, tuition fees and travel cost necessary within the country to be visited will be borne by the F.A.O.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the F.A.O. has agreed to send an instructor for a catering training institute here?

Shri Kidwai: The F. A. O. will meet part of the cost and the grant made to the N.I.W.F.C. will meet the balance.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know, Sir, the basis of the selection of candidates and the nature of training they receive?

Shri Kidwai: Candidates have not been selected State-wise. The candidates were selected some time back by the Departmental Promotion Committee out of the staff that is in charge of cafeterias.

Shri K. K. Basu: Will the hon. Minister state the minimum qualifications required for this fellowship and whether they belong to any particular sex?

Shri Kidwai: Well, I may give the names of the two persons who have been sent and the other things will be decided—Sardar Sampuran Singh and Mr. R. S. Sharma.

Shri Kasliwal: Does this training include training in automatic cafeteria also?

Shri Kidwai: The results are to be watched and also what arrangements exist in other countries and then the matter will be decided.

Shri Raghavaiah: Will the hon. Minister state the countries to which they are sent and the nature of training they receive.

Shri Kidwai: Two are visiting the U.S.A. and Canada and the third man will go to a European country.

Shri K. K. Basu: Does the Government propose to absorb these fellows, when they return, in their cafeteria movement or they will be allowed to start an independent movement?

Shri Kidwai: They have been sent to study the cafeteria arrangements existing there and if they find that the local methods can be improved by their training, they would try to do so.

GROUNDNUT (PRODUCTION)

*1475. **Pandit Munishwar Das Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total acreage under groundnut crops in the years 1950, 1951 and the estimated acreage in 1952?

(b) What is the quantity of production of groundnut in the years 1950, 1951 and the estimated production in 1952?

(c) What States have recorded increase in acreage and produce and what States have recorded decrease?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 29.]

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय: क्या यह सत्य है कि मद्रास, उड़ीसा और पंजाब में जो एकरेज की जमीन में कमी हुई है उस का कारण यह है कि ग्रीन मोर फूड स्कीम के मातहत जमीनों में और अन्न उपजाया जा रहा है ?

श्री किदवाई: मेम्बर साहब मुझे इतला दे रहे हैं, हो सकता है ।

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय: इस दमियान एक्सपोर्ट इयूटी मंजूष कर देने की वजह से क्या कुछ तखमीना किया गया है कि आयन्दा उपज की एकरेज बढ़ जायेगी ?

श्री किदवाई: इयूटी षटाने की वजह यह है कि हम बाहर का मार्केट लूज कर रहे हैं और उम्मीद की जाती है कि उपज ज्यादा बढ़ जायेगी ।

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय : एक्सपोर्ट का कोटा बढ़ाये जाने से क्या ग्राउन्ड नट की उपज हमारे यहां आयन्दा ज्यादा होगी ?

श्री किदवाई: उम्मीद तो यही है ।

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज: मृगफली भेजने के लिये किस क्रिस्म के परमिट दिये गये हैं और इन परमिटों से सन् १९५१ ई० में कितना माल भजा गया ?

श्री किदवाई: एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में तो कामर्स डिपार्टमेंट से मालूम हो सकेगा । अगर मेम्बर साहब चाहेंगे तो मैं उस डिपार्टमेंट से इतला ले कर दे दूंगा ।

Shri Dabhi: What are the figures of acreage and production for the Bombay State?

Shri Kidwai: These figures have been given in the statement laid on the Table.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*1476. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the quantity of wheat that we are purchasing this year and from what countries under the International Wheat Agreement?

(b) What is the production of wheat this year in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The International Wheat Agreement is from August to July. For the year 1951-52 we have purchased approximately 14,98,000 metric tons of wheat from Australia, Canada and U.S.A.

(b) The production figures of wheat are under compilation and will be available towards the middle of August 1952.

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय: क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि अब तक इस साल के बाक़ी महीनों के लिये कोई ऐसा मुआहिदा है जिस के जरिये से हम और गेहूँ खरीद सकें ?

श्री किदवाई: इस हाउस में एक से ज्यादा मर्तबा यह कहा जा चुका है कि पहले ६ महीने में जो कुछ आना था आ चुका और बाक़ी के ६ महीने में कुछ आना बाक़ी है ।

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय: जून के आखिर तक उस के मातहत कितना गेहूँ खरीदा गया है ?

श्री किदवाई: इस सवाल का जवाब कई मर्तबा दिया जा चुका है । जून के आखिर तक जो कुछ खरीदना था, वह जो फ़ीगर दी गई है उस में है, जुलाई से नये साल की खरीद शुरू होगी ।

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि मुस्लिम मुलकों से खरीदने के लिये क्या भाव मुकर्रर किया गया है, क्या कोई युनीफ़ॉर्म रेट है ?

श्री किदवाई: भाव तो इंटरनेशनल रेट के मुताबिक है और उस का युनीफ़ॉर्म रेट

होता है, लेकिन उसके अलावा जो खरीदा जाता है उस का भाव बतलाना मुनासिब नहीं समझा जाता ।

Shri Raghavaiah: Is it a fact that at the International Wheat Conference recently held at London a decision was taken, namely that the price of wheat was not going to be decreased but that on the other hand it was going to be increased?

Shri Kidwai: The meeting of the Conference will be resumed some time afterwards to fix the price for the next year.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know the price paid by the Government of India for the wheat purchased from abroad?

Shri Kidwai: The landed cost of the pooled wheat that has been imported from all sources is Rs. 20-8-0 at port town.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether India has purchased the allotted quota from the International Wheat Pool?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the Minister in a position to tell the House whether the production per acre of wheat is showing an upward trend in the last two years or it is otherwise?

Shri Kidwai: I will just give you the figures for the last three years to show how the production has increased:-

	Acres	Tons
1948-49	23,342,000	5,065,000
1949-50	24,114,000	6,290,000
1950-51	23,983,000	6,590,000

Shri K. K. Basu: But, Sir, I wanted production per acre.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the hon. Member wanted it per acre, but the hon. Minister has given the total acreage and the total production and the per acre figure can easily be worked out.

Shri Kidwai: I think the Member would try to do it.

श्री बाबसाह गुप्त : जो आंकड़े पैदावार की बाबत इकट्ठे किये गये हैं वह आमतौर पर सही नहीं माने जाते हैं तो जो आंकड़े इस वक्त इकट्ठे किये जा रहे हैं उनकी क्या गवर्नमेंट गांव सभाओं आदि के द्वारा या और किसी अन्य प्रकार से इकट्ठा करने की तजवीज में है ?

श्री किशोर्षी : पिछले दो साल से इन आंशकों को सही करने के लिए गवर्नमेंट ने एक नया तरीका अख्तियार किया है, कुछ पाटियां मुस्लिफ स्टैड्स में जाती हैं और वहां फसल काटते वक़्त कुछ रक़बे की फसल खुद काट करके अन्दाज़ा करती हैं कि गवर्नमेंट की जो रिपोर्ट हैं वह ग़लत हैं या सही हैं।

DECCAN AIRWAYS PLANE (REPORT)

*1478. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the main points made out in the report of the enquiry into the air accident near Delhi this year of the Deccan Airways Plane;

(b) if there have been any recommendations particularly regarding the Deccan Airways;

(c) if so, what they are and what action Government propose to take on them; and

(d) whether the report has assigned any cause of the accident?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) The Report is a long one. Copies of it have been placed in the Library.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, failure of the port engine probably due to starvation of fuel supply just before landing, when the plane was taking a steep turn of some duration in a banked attitude.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I have at least the broad lines of the report? I have asked only for some main points in the report, not the whole report.

Mr. Speaker: The report is already in the Library. It will be difficult to summarise that report in a short form in the Question-hour.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the enquiry committee has gone into the causes of so many accidents to the Deccan Airways planes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The enquiry committee essentially concentrated itself on the accident that was referred to it for enquiry.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether there was anything mentioned in the report as regards the overstraining of the pilots due to not having had sufficient rest?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: These questions were put some time back and there was also a short notice question on it.

Shri A. C. Guha: But the report was not available then.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : क्या यह बात सच है कि डेकन ऐयरवेज में जो आये दिन हादसे हो रहे हैं, उन से लोगों का विश्वास कम हो रहा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : यह बात सही नहीं है।

Shri Nana Das: May I know the total number of people killed in air accidents in India during 1951-52.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if any of the recommendations of the committee has been given effect to?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes; several.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know on which of the recommendations of the committee action has been taken?

Mr. Speaker: It is again going into the report.

✓ **Shri Syammandan Sahaya:** Is the hon. Minister aware of the recent impression about the Deccan Airways which is incorporated in the saying as it goes now: fly other airways and see the world; fly Deccan Airways and see the next world?

Shri A. C. Guha: Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to the conclusion of the committee that the accident was due to error of judgment by the pilot when attempting landing during night. He misjudged the approach, under-shot and hit the top branches of a tree.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am afraid the hon. Member is referring to the Dum Dum accident, not the Safdarjung accident.

CENTRAL CIVIL SERVICES

*1479. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any temporary employees in the Central Civil Services; and

(b) what are the rules regulating recruitment, promotion etc., of such persons?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes.

(b) Rules regulating recruitment, promotion, etc. to the various posts/grades differ from Service to Service. In the case of the same category of posts/grades, requirements for temporary recruitment are not generally different from those for permanent recruitment. All temporary employees (i.e. those that do not have a lien on any permanent post) are governed by the provisions of the Central Civil Services (Temporary Service) Rules, 1949.

Shri Krishna Chandra: May I know whether these posts are temporary or the employees working in those vacancies are temporary?

Dr. Katju: Which posts?

Shri Krishna Chandra: I want to know whether these employees are temporary, or whether they are working on posts which are temporary?

Dr. Katju: The question still requires some clarification.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister referred to the temporary nature of the establishment. He wants to know whether the posts against which they are shown are temporary or the employees are working in a temporary capacity against those posts?

Dr. Katju: There are temporary posts and temporary employees.

Shri Krishna Chandra: For how long have these temporary posts been in existence?

Dr. Katju: From one year, I believe, to ten years.

Shri Krishna Chandra: Has any legislation been recently passed for recruitment, etc., of the Central Services?

Dr. Katju: I am not quite sure about any legislation. But may I add, Sir, that during war-time there was enormous expansion in the Secretariat and recruitment was made to these posts on a temporary basis. We are trying to absorb as many as we can. We are trying to make them permanent, quasi-permanent. It is a very complicated matter.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal before Government to disturb the Central Secretariat Reorganisation Scheme arrived on the recommendations of the United Public Service Commission?

Dr. Katju: I do not think so. The implementation of the Central Secretariat Reorganisation Scheme has been nearly completed and it is being worked out.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the displaced persons who were permanent employees in their original homes and had served for more than twenty years and who have been absorbed here are all kept on temporary lists?

Dr. Katju: The general statement is not quite accurate. Some are temporary; some are permanent; some are quasi-permanent. I would ask my hon. friend, if he wants a detailed answer, to let me have the favour of a question about it.

Shri Nana Das: May I know the number of Scheduled Castes among the temporary employees.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

"GROW MORE FOOD" ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*1480. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the personnel and terms of reference of the Committee appointed for examining the working of the "Grow More Food" campaign; and

(b) the progress made by the Committee so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Government of India Resolutions No. F.1-2/52-GS(P), dated the 8th and 18th February 1952, copies of which are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 30.]

(b) The Committee has just concluded its work and submitted its report to Government.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: Do Government propose to lay a copy of the report on the Table of the House?

Shri Kidwai: Of course..

Shri Jhulan Sinha: Is the hon. Minister in a position to give a succinct survey of the recommendations?

Shri Kidwai: The report itself will be placed on the Table of the House and while doing so Government will give its views on the recommendations.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know the expenditure incurred by this committee and how long it took to complete its report?

Shri Kidwai: I can give the duration of the committee's work. I would ask for notice in regard to expenditure. The notification appointing the committee was issued on the 8th February 1952. The committee submitted its report a week ago.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government has decided to accept all the recommendations and implement them?

Shri Kidwai: As I said the committee's report was received only a few days ago. It will take time and discussions. But I think that in a few weeks' time we will decide on the recommendations of the committee.

Shri Namdhari: Will Government be pleased to give land facilities to co-operative farms for grow more food, if land armies are organised?

Shri Kidwai: I do not know how this arises from these recommendations. But that matter will be considered.

RAILWAY STORES

*1481. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of Railway stores purchased during 1951-52 and how much worth was allotted to each Railway;

(b) the total value of the stores in stock with each Railway on the 31st March, 1951;

(c) whether these stocks are verified physically every year;

(d) whether they can be transferred from one Railway to another for use;

(e) the total amount worth of stores proposed to be purchased during 1952-53; and

(f) from which countries this purchase is proposed to be made?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Rs. 93.22 crores. This is a provisional figure as the accounts for the year 1951-52 have yet to be closed. A statement giving details by Railways is being laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 31.]

(b) Rs. 57.69 crores. The statement referred to in part (a) gives the railway-wise break-up of this figure.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) Rs. 98.28 crores.

(f) Mainly India and European countries.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: May I know the total approximate value of stores declared unserviceable during 1951-52?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I would require notice of that question.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether any of these stores are unserviceable and liable to deterioration.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I cannot give precise information on this point. All these stores are verified physically every year.

पंखित मनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय: क्या यह सही है कि स्टोर का एक खासा हिस्सा बाहर पड़ा रहता है और उस को ठीक से रखने की जगह न होने की वजह से वह सड़ता और सूखता है ?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री: पूरी जानकारी तो मुझे नहीं है लेकिन अगर ऐसी हालत है तो कुछ खास दिक्कतों की वजह से ही होगी। फिर भी इसे सुधारने को पूरी कोशिश करेंगे

Shri Nambiar: May I know what the proposals of the Government are to dispose of the paper and corrugated iron sheets which are there in large quantities?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We do not propose to dispose of them outright by sale in the open market. As a first step, we are now adopting the procedure for inter-railway utilisation on an All India basis.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether it is a fact that, as the report says, there are materials for 200 years' consumption or not?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have no information on that point.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether the verification was by the officers themselves or by external auditors?

Shri L. B. Shastri: As I said before, this was investigated by chartered accountants in the case of two Railways; but in other Railways, that has been done by the Railway officers themselves.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether in the reports of these auditors they said anything to the effect that external auditors must be employed to do this checking?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No, but the Shroff Committee report had suggested that the checking may be made in the case of a few Railways at least, so that future checking may be made on the same pattern by the Railway officers.

Shri S. C. Samanta: With reference to the answer to part (a) of the question, may I know how much stores were directly purchased by the Railway department, how much through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and how much through the Communications Ministry?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I shall require notice.

ALIPORE POST AND TELEGRAPH FACTORY

*1483. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to shift the Alipore Post and Telegraph Factory;

(b) if so, details of the changes proposed; and

(c) the estimated expenditure involved in the removal?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

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

SCHEDULED TRIBES (LITERACY)

*1484. **Shri R. B. Parmar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of literacy among the Scheduled Tribes in the different States; and

(b) where it is the highest and the lowest?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The information asked for is not available at present.

श्री आर० बी० परमार: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि संविधान के अनुसार दस वर्ष में आदिवासियों को समान दर्जे पर लाने के लिये सरकार ने कोई योजना बनाई है या बनाने की इच्छा रखती है?

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैं समझता हूँ कि इस के बारे में आनरेबिल मेम्बर ने अलग से कुछ क्वेश्चंस टेबिल किये हैं। Is that so?

श्री आर० बी० परमार: मैं ने तो नहीं किया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: तो किसी दूसरे ने किये होंगे।

डा० काटजू: सवाल तो यह है या था कि परसेंटेज क्या है, जवाब यह है कि मालूम नहीं। अब मेरे दोस्त यह पूछ रहे हैं कि योजना बनी है। शायद आप को मालूम है कि हर एक स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ने शिक्षा के प्रबन्ध के लिये योजनाएँ बनाई हैं, और उन पर काम चल रहा है।

Shri Natawadkar: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of India have declared a war against illiteracy among the tribals in this country with the help of the State Governments?

Dr. Katju: I thought we were very peace-loving people. We are trying to do our best to eradicate illiteracy.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what steps the Government have taken in order to assess the illiteracy amongst the tribal people?

Mr. Speaker: He does not want figures; he wants to know the steps.

Dr. Katju: I mentioned just now that schemes have been prepared to eradicate illiteracy at the earliest possible time within practicable means. My hon. friend knows that grants are made by the Central Government and the State Governments also spend moneys on the schemes. Progress depends very much upon the enterprise of the State Governments and social welfare workers.

Mr. Speaker: We go to the next question.

Shri Velayudhan: One question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: These questions are beyond the scope of this particular question.

Shri Velayudhan: It is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: May be; but these are not within the scope of the question. Next question.

Shri Velayudhan: It is very important.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; it is a matter of opinion. Next question.

MADRAS HARBOUR

*1486. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for the expansion of the Madras Harbour is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) whether any amount has been sanctioned for the scheme and if so, how much?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The Scheme consists of two Stages. The first stage comprises the following works at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.15 crores:

- (i) Conversion of the North quay into a general cargo berth plus a passenger depot;
- (ii) Construction of a new collier berth south of the East Quay to be called South Quay IV; and
- (iii) Construction of an additional berth for handling ore and non-dangerous oils to be called South Quay III; and construction of a new spending beach under South Quays III and IV and a small reclaimed area for storing ore between the eastern breakwater and the Sand Screen.

The Second Stage contemplates the construction of a wet dock capable of accommodating four ships of 600 ft. in length drawing 30 ft. each and of ancillary facilities.

This Stage of the Scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 4.90 crores.

(c) Yes. Rs. 1.15 crores for Part A of the Scheme. The expenditure will be met by Madras Port Trust from their own resources.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: Is it a fact that by this expansion of the Madras harbour the world famous Marina beach is going to be affected adversely?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is not our information.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know whether the work of expanding the harbour has already commenced?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It has not yet commenced.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know how long it will take to complete the work? There must be a time limit.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I cannot give precise information on that point. But, it will be possible to answer that question when the work has actually commenced.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that there was a huge volume of opposition to expanding the harbour towards the south in the city of Madras?

Shri L. B. Shastri: About that, of course, I cannot say anything. But the Ports Technical Committee which considered the requirements for Major Port development went into this case and they have made this recommendation and on the basis of that recommendation we propose to proceed ahead.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the Minister aware that in the Legislative Assembly of Madras there was a question raised on this, and the Government promised to communicate the views of the Members there to the Central Government, as regards the damage that would be caused if the port were extended towards the south?

Mr. Speaker: The point is whether they have received any communication from the Madras Government as promised on the floor of the House.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I do not know about that; but I am prepared to look into it.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether the development scheme of the Cochin port is inter-connected with the development scheme of the Madras Port?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I do not think it is inter-connected. They will be extended and improved separately.

Shri Venkataraman: Are the Government aware of an equally very strong opinion that the Madras harbour is not able to accommodate all the vessels calling and so it is absolutely necessary to extend the harbour?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; it is only giving information.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is the scheme being executed according to the recommendations of the Major Port Development Board or has it been altered?

Shri L. B. Shastri: So far as I am aware, it is being implemented in accordance with the recommendations of that Committee.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

TELLICHERRY-MAKUT RAILWAY LINK

*1487. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to connect Tellicherry by rail with Mysore through Coorg;

(b) if so, why it has not been taken up;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the editorials in the "Mail" of Madras and the "Mathrabhumi" of Calicut on the need for such a railway line;

(d) whether it is a fact that survey of the proposed line was once made from Tellicherry to Makut; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not proceeding further in the matter?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) Adequate justification could not be found for the construction of the line.

(c) In the absence of the date of publication, it has not been possible to trace out these editorials.

(d) Yes.

(e) After examination of the survey reports it was at the time decided to shelve the project on financial grounds. The area is at present well served by roads on which buses ply.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: In view of the changed circumstances existing to-day, may I know whether Government propose to reconsider the question of linking Tellicherry with Mysore?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No, Sir.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government is aware that there is greater traffic between Mysore and Tellicherry via Coorg?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Well, the hon. Member may be knowing about it better than myself.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that the route between these two places passes through hilly tract and the hill products have to be taken to the cities and ports, may I know whether the

Government would consider the matter again in view of the changed situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. These are all giving information and making suggestions.

Shri Velayudhan rose—

Mr. Speaker: Does he really want any information or has he only got some more arguments to advance?

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that such a line is very necessary for the agricultural and industrial development of Malabar, Coorg and a portion of Mysore?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am sorry I cannot allow these questions.

TAPIOCA

*1489. **Jonab Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tapioca has been experimented as a substitute of rice;

(b) whether it was first experimented in the State of Travancore-Cochin and with what results;

(c) what are the different edible preparations from Tapioca;

(d) whether it is being experimented in Assam and with what result;

(e) whether Government propose to extend the same to other States as well; and

(f) what aid for this experiment the Governments of Assam and Travancore are getting annually from the Government of India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, certain experiments have been carried out by the Food Technological Research Institute Bangalore, of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(b) A small experimental demonstration plant was put up in Trivandrum early in 1951 for showing the method of production of synthetic grains using tapioca as the raw material. It is reported that while some persons like the product, there were others who did not care for it. The results are, therefore, inconclusive.

(c) Dry chips, tapioca starch or flour, tapioca suji, sago.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) Nil.

Jonab Amjad Ali: With regard to the answer to part (a) of the question may I know whether any chemical analysis has been made in order to ascertain the food value of tapioca?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, Sir.

Jonab Amjad Ali: What is the result? What relation does it bear to rice?

Shri Kidwai: It is claimed, and analysis also shows, that it has got as high nutritive value as rice.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know the cost of producing 1 lb. of synthetic rice from tapioca?

Shri Kidwai: Well, I have no information about that, but I can supply the information if a question is put.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is the hon. Minister aware that Travancoreans relish pure tapioca better than this synthetic rice?

Mr. Speaker: The information is taken.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Government of India has advised Travancore-Cochin not to allow tapioca to be transported from Travancore-Cochin State?

Shri Kidwai: I will consider the suggestion.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Has synthetic rice been produced in marketable quantities?

Shri Kidwai: No, Sir.

POWER LIFT IRRIGATION

*1491. **Jonab Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have started power lift irrigation;

(b) the aid each of such States is now getting from the Government of India on account of this; and

(c) to what other States the Government of India propose to extend the same?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Power lift irrigation is now in vogue in all the States. A statement showing the financial assistance so far given to States during 1952-53 for power lift irrigation is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 32.]

(c) Requests for financial assistance from other States will be considered, when received.

Jonab Amjad Ali: Has the Government received any representation from the Government of Assam in this respect?

Shri Kidwai: Assam has been given some grant.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Has the Government of Madras sent any application with respect to Madras?

Shri Kidwai: Madras is also on the list of States which have received both the grant and the loan.

MADURA-BODINAYAKANUR RAILWAY LINE

*1493. **Shri K. S. Gounder:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of restoration of the dismantled Madura-Bodinayakanur Railway Line has been taken up;

(b) if so, at what stage the work stands at present; and

(c) when is it expected to be completed?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) Preliminary works for restoration of the line were commenced in October 1951 and are nearing completion. Actual linking of the track is expected to be commenced by 15th July 1952.

(c) The work of restoration is expected to be completed during 1953-54.

Shri Kandaswamy put a question in Tamil.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question. He may give a translation of his question.

Shri Nambiar: I will translate it.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I translate it?

Mr. Speaker: No, no. Next question.

POTATO CULTIVATION

*1494. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land were under potato cultivation during the year 1951-52;

(b) whether there will be any increase during the current year; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). The 1951-52 Final Estimates of Potato are scheduled to be released in October

1952, and the sowings of 1952-53 crop are due to start in October-November 1952 only. Therefore, neither the 1951-52 estimates have been finalised nor can it be said at this stage as to what the acreage in 1952-53 will be.

According to the 1951-52 First Estimate of Potato, the acreage under the crop was 523 thousand acres and this was 5,000 acres more than the 1950-51 First (Adjusted) Estimate.

Shri M. Islamuddin: May I know which State produces the largest quantity of potatoes and which State the best quality?

Shri Kidwai: I have not got the figures State-wise, but I think Bihar produces the largest quantity.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know what steps are being taken by Government to increase its cultivation?

Shri Kidwai: With regard to potatoes, there is no difficulty in getting any quantity in the market. The problem is of improving the quality. Government have got research institutes for this purpose and they have adopted various measures to help the cultivator to produce better quality of potatoes.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

IMPROPER STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN BOMBAY

Shri Pataskar: Will the Minister for Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that considerable portion of American wheat unloaded in Bombay is being damaged owing to improper storage and the heavy rains in Bombay; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken or has been taken to prevent this damage and for proper storage?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). On the 13th June 1952 when during one hour there was a heavy downpour of 4½ inches, water percolated through the roofs and valley gutters of the Sewri godowns and affected the bottom layers of the stacks in spite of the bags being covered by tarpaulins. The wet grain is being reconditioned but it is estimated that about 60 tons of grain will remain damaged. This godown which had to be used owing to severe pressure on godown space has since been vacated.

The hon. Member is aware of the heavy pressure which has been put on the storage available to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. A very large amount of additional godown storage space has had to be hired or acquired. Some of these godowns needed repairs. Every effort is being made to carry out effective repairs. I have appointed a Panel of Storage experts to go round the godowns where large quantities are stored to help in the immediate improvement of storage conditions.

Shri Pataskar: Were these godowns repaired just before the monsoons?

Shri Kidwai: They were hired or acquired just before the monsoons.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that three new godowns were ordered to be constructed under the orders of your predecessor, and were they not ready for goods to be stored therein?

Shri Kidwai: It is true that when we found that we would have a larger stock than our storage capacity could accommodate, some godown space was hurriedly hired or acquired and new construction was ordered for three godowns.

Shri Dabhi: Were these hired godowns properly inspected before foodgrains were stored therein?

Shri Kidwai: We had not much choice and whatever we could get we had to acquire with the hope that we would be able to repair and put them in good condition for storage.

Shri S. S. More: May I know what is the total quantum of the damage done?

Shri Kidwai: I have said it is about 60 tons.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the authorities concerned have been negligent in this matter to any degree?

Shri Kidwai: I have explained that owing to pressure, we had to acquire certain godowns, and we had to accept them in whatever condition they were. These godowns, most of them, are working satisfactorily, but as I have said, a party of experts is going round seeing every godown, every storage, to see what can be done.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question is not that.

Mr. Speaker: He has explained that circumstances had forced them to take whatever they could get. There was no choice for them. That is what he said in the first part of his reply.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether those concerned anticipated the downpour of rain and whether there has been any negligence?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. His question was with reference to negligence. He is now putting it a little differently.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Was it not possible for the Government to get these 60 tons of wheat distributed among the people on the day it was drenched by water?

Shri Kidwai: After the heavy downpour, the godown was immediately inspected, and it was found that all of them was not damaged. The water came from below and damaged some wheat. The wheat so damaged was immediately taken out.

Shrimati Jayashri: May I know Sir whether this damaged wheat was in a fit condition for human consumption.

Shri Kidwai: That portion which was fit for human consumption was taken out, and after being dried, was distributed. Sixty tons have been found to be unfit for any use.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: What is the amount of grain stored in Bombay?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice for it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

यात्रियों को सुविधायें

*१४७३. **सेठ गोविन्द दास:** (क) :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५१-५२ वर्ष में सारी रेलों पर यात्रियों को सुविधायें प्रदान करने में कितनी राशि व्यय की गयी?

(ख) सुविधाओं की मुख्य मदें क्या हैं ?

(ग) क्या प्लेटफार्मों और यात्रियों के प्लेटफार्मों के ऊपर छादकों (शेड) की व्यवस्था भी सुविधाओं में गिनी जाती है ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The expenditure during 1951-52, booked so far, is Rs. 2,35,28,000.

(b) Details of the principal items of amenities provided during 1951-52 are given in the Pamphlet 'Towards Better Conditions of Travel' circulated to the Members of the House with Budget Papers.

(c) Provision of sheds over passenger platforms is treated as a passenger amenity but provision of new passenger platform in an existing station is not classified as such. Extension, raising, widening and surfacing of existing passenger platforms, however, come under the category of passenger amenity works.

मध्यम श्रेणी और तीसरी श्रेणी के डिब्बे

*१४७४. **सेठ गोविन्द दास:** (क)

क्या रेल मंत्री मध्यम श्रेणी और तीसरी श्रेणी के डिब्बों में अब तक लगाये गये पंखों की संख्या बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

(ख) मध्यम और तीसरी श्रेणी के कितने डिब्बों में अभी पंखे लगने बाक़ी हैं ?

(ग) क्या कोई ऐसा कार्यक्रम निश्चित किया गया है, जिस में यह लक्ष्य रखा गया हो कि इतने समय के भीतर तीसरी श्रेणी के सभी डिब्बों में पंखे लगा दिये जायेंगे, और यदि रखा गया है तो कितना ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) About 4,600 in Inter and about 12,400 in III.

(b) About 300 Inter Class coaches and about 2000 Third Class coaches of those selected for fitting. It is not proposed to fit up coaches due scrapping shortly.

(c) The coaches are fitted up as they come in for overhaul. In view of the shortage, they are not withdrawn from use only for this purpose. New coaches incorporate all the features of the improved standard adopted—viz., 12 fans, a coach, better lighting and better sanitary and other facilities.

पर्यटक (टूरिस्ट)

*१४७५. **सेठ गोविन्द दास:** (क)

क्या यातायात मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५१ में और इस वर्ष में अब तक विदेशों से भारत में आये पर्यटकों की संख्या क्या है ?

(ख) इस स्रोत से अर्जित डालरों की राशि क्या है ?

(ग) पर्यटकों को क्या सुविधाएँ दी जाती हैं और देश के विष भागों में स्थित पर्यटक कार्यालयों के ऊपर कितना व्यय होता है ?

(घ) क्या पर्यटकों को ले जाने के लिये भारत में सरकार के पास विशेष बसें हैं ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) 1951 about 20,000 tourists. First four months of 1952...7,235 tourists.

(b) Attention is invited to the reply to starred question No. 144 given on 20th February 1952.

(c) The facilities provided by the Government include tourist information offices, tourist literature and guide services. For the overseas visitors frontier formalities have been simplified and a Tourist Introduction Card which is issued to them ensures special assistance in respect of quick customs clearance, railway reservation and accommodation in dak bungalows.

The expenditure incurred on the Regional Tourist Offices in 1950-51 and 1951-52 is Rs. 1,04,985 and Rs. 1,25,200 respectively.

(d) No.

RANAGHAT-LALGOLAGHAT RAILWAY LINE

*1482. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for extending the Ranaghat-Lalgolaghat Branch line of the Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railways beyond Lalgola upto Jangipore in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal connecting Jangipore directly by rail with Calcutta;

(b) when the said scheme is likely to be taken in hand; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation on the subject from the local people of Jangipore?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No such scheme is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

PAPER MILLS

*1485. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware, or their attention has been

drawn to the accumulation of stocks and reduction in the output of some of the paper mills engaged in the manufacture of special varieties of papers and boards due to the non-availability of wagons for the movement of such papers and boards?

(b) What steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to make available to the mills concerned their minimum requirements of wagons, so that production can at least go on unhampered?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes. Representations in this regard have recently been received from Messrs. Rohtas Industries Ltd., Dalmianagar, and also on their behalf from the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Paper Mills Association, Calcutta.

(b) Being the finished products of the paper factory, their paper and boards constitute 'preferential traffic' under item 9(v) of the Railway Board's General Order No. 7, dated 16th June 1952 which covers finished products of certain industries including the Paper and Straw Board factories. The requirements given by Messrs. Rohtas Industries Ltd. are for via Waltair to the South and via Balharshah to Secunderabad (for Mushirabad out agency) the movements for which are subject to limited capacities, shared by the various types of essential traffic. The feasibility of accommodating their traffic to a greater measure than at present is under consideration.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON IN MADHYA PRADESH

*1488. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land were under cotton cultivation in Madhya Pradesh in 1951-52 season;

(b) the quantity of cotton that was produced in the same year; and

(c) the varieties of long staple cotton that are produced in Madhya Pradesh?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 1951-52, Final Estimates of Cotton are not yet available. According to the fourth estimate, the area under cotton in Madhya Pradesh in 1951-52 was 3,021 thousand acres.

(b) The quantity produced according to the Fourth Estimate is 691 thousand bales of 392 lbs. each of cotton lint.

(c) H. 420 of Madhya Pradesh Verum Combodia and Burl.

INTEGRATION OF POST OFFICES IN RAJASTHAN

*1495. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that integration of Post Offices in Rajasthan has not yet been finalised;

(b) when it is expected to be completed;

(c) how many post offices there were before the integration of Post Offices;

(d) whether they are all intact or not; and

(e) how many new Post Offices have been opened after taking over them?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 264.

(d) No, some ex-State Post Offices which existed side by side with Indian Union Post Offices have been closed.

(e) 285 rural and 8 urban.

प्रति एकड़ मध्यम-मान उपज

३४१. श्री एन० एस० जोशी: क्या साब तथा कृपि मन्त्री यह चार वर्षों में प्रत्येक राज्य में हुई प्रत्येक पदार्थ की प्रति एकड़ मध्यमान उपज बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे।

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Statement I showing the average yield per acre of different crops of each State during the last 4 years is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 33.]

FOREIGN PLANTATIONS

342. **Shri Datar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plantations belonging to foreigners in the States of Mysore, Coorg, Madras and Travancore-Cochin;

(b) the total average and value of these plantations;

(c) the capital invested by them in each of the above States; and

(d) whether they receive any special treatment at the hands of the Government of India?

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The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). A reference is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No. 151 on the 23rd May, 1952.

(d) No, Sir.

QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY STAFF

343. **Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing quarters for the Railway staff at Katihar;

(b) the number of quarters necessary to accommodate the existing staff;

(c) the number of quarters proposed to be provided;

(d) whether the construction work has been taken up; and

(e) if so, when it is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) 1166.

(b) 3409, if every railway employee is to be given a quarter. Certain number of staff have their own arrangements and do not need railway quarters.

(c) Construction of 74 quarters was provided in 1951-52 Programme. 70 units have been programmed for construction during 1952-53, and the construction of 50 units is proposed to be provided in 1953-54 Programme.

(d) and (e). Construction of 74 quarters programmed for 1951-52 is nearing completion. The quarters programmed for the current year are expected to be completed by 31st March 1953.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

344. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what amount was sanctioned to carry on the "Grow More Food" Campaign in 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) Was the whole amount spent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Rs. 14.87 crores as loan and Rs. 10.37 crores as grant during 1950-51 and Rs. 10.95 crores as loan and Rs. 7.45 crores as grant during 1951-52.

(b) This information is not yet available. It can, however, be presumed that a substantial portion of the amounts sanctioned was spent by the State Governments.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

345. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Central Government on medical institutions during last three years (year-wise);

(b) the amount contributed to each State for medical education during last three years; and

(c) the number of medical institutions in India?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) On the assumption that information is required in respect of medical educational institutions only, a statement giving the required information is attached. [See Appendix VIII annexure No. 34.]

(b) Nil.

(c) A list of medical educational institutions in India is attached. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 35.]

VACANCIES IN RAILWAY III SERVICES

346. Shri P. L. Kureel: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies in Class III services that occurred during the year 1951 on the Railways;

(b) the number of vacancies filled by Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Anglo-Indians;

(c) the number of quota of reserved vacancies in respect of the communities mentioned in part (b) above brought forward from the previous year;

(d) the number of candidates who applied for the same;

(e) the number of the candidates selected of the communities mentioned in part (b) above; and

(f) if the number of selected candidates was less than the quota reserved were the Organisations representing the Community asked to supply candidates as required under the Home Ministry's order, if not, why?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Volume III

Friday

No. 1

4th July, 1952



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 4th July, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-20 A.M.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF
ARCHAEOLOGY.

مولانا آزاد : جناب میں تحریر کرتا ہوں کہ یہ ہاؤس ایک ایسے قہقہے سے جو اسپیکر تھہرا دیں۔ تین ممبروں کے چناؤ کی کارروائی انجام دے۔ یہ ممبر۔ ہینٹرل ایڈوائزی بورڈ آف آرکیالاجی میں جو گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے بنائی ہے اس کے ممبر کی حیثیت سے کام کریں گے۔

[The Minister of Education, Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): I beg to move:

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, three members from the House of the People to serve on the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology constituted by the Government of India."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, three members from the House of the People to serve on the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

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ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

مولانا آزاد : جناب میں تحریر کرتا ہوں کہ یہ ہاؤس ایک ایسے قہقہے سے جو اسپیکر تھہرا دیں۔ اندر سے دو ممبروں کے چلنے کی کارروائی انجام دے۔ یہ دونوں ممبر آل انڈیا کونسل ذر ٹیکنیکل ایجوکیشن میں اس کے ممبر کی حیثیت سے تین برس تک کام کریں گے۔ ان کی ممبری ۲۹ اپریل سنہ ۱۹۵۵ میں ختم ہو جائیگی۔

[Maulana Azad: I beg to move:

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to be members of the All India Council for Technical Education for a term of three years ending the 29th April, 1955."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to be members of the All India Council for Technical Education for a term of three years ending the 29th April, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

COURT OF ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

مولانا آزاد : جناب میں تحریر کرتا ہوں کہ مسلم یونیورسٹی علی گڑھ کے ریوائڈ اسٹیڈیونٹس کے اسٹیڈیونٹ ۸ کے ملاز (۱) آؤٹ ۱۸ کے ماتحت یہ ہاؤس ایک ایسے طریقے سے جو اسپیکر تھہرا دیں۔ دو ممبروں کے چلنے کی کارروائی

[مولانا آزاد]

انجام دے - یہ دونوں ممبر مسلم
یونیورسٹی کے کورٹ میں اس نے ممبر
کی حیثیت سے پانچ برس تک کام
کرینگے ۔

[Maulana Azad: I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of item (xviii) of Clause (1) of Statute 8 of the revised Statutes of the Aligarh Muslim University, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to be members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University for a period of five years."]

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of item (xviii) of Clause (1) of Statute 8 of the revised Statutes of the Aligarh Muslim University, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to be members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University for a period of five years."

The motion was adopted.

COURT OF BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

مولانا آزاد : جناب میں تحرک
کرتا ہوں ہوں کہ ہندو یونیورسٹی
بنارس کے ریوائنڈ اسٹیچوٹس کے
اسٹیچوٹ ۱۲ کے کلاز (۱) آئٹم ۱۷ کے
مطابق یہ ہاؤس ایک ایسے طریقے سے
جو اسٹیکر ٹھہرا دیں - دو ممبروں کے
چناؤ کی کارروائی انجام دے - یہ بنارس
ہندو یونیورسٹی کورٹ میں اس کے ممبر
کی حیثیت سے پانچ برس تک کام
کرینگے ۔

Maulana Azad: I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of item (xvii) of Clause (1) of Statute 14 of the revised Statutes of the Banaras Hindu University, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to be members of the Court of the Banaras Hindu University for a period of five years."]

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of item (xvii) of Clause (1) of Statute 14 of the revised Statutes of the Banaras Hindu University, this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct,

two members from among themselves to be members of the Court of the Banaras Hindu University for a period of five years."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I beg to move:

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to sit on the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Medical Research."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to sit on the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Medical Research."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform hon. Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees:

Date for nomination election.

1. Central Advisory Board of Archaeology	7-7-1952 10-7-1952
2. All India Council for Technical Education	
3. Court of the Aligarh Muslim University	
4. Court of the Banaras Hindu University	8-7-1952 11-7-1952
5. Indian Council of Medical Research	

The nominations for these Committees will be received in the Parliamentary Notice Office upto 12 noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Deputy Secretary's Room (No. 21) in the Parliament House between the hours 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

53 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

In this respect, I have practically clarified the position yesterday. There are no points that have been received or suggested to me for consideration, so far as this Appropriation Bill goes, though there are points in respect of the other Bill. I shall deal with them and dispose of them when the other Bill is taken up.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Sir, yesterday, when you were pleased to restrict the scope of the discussion on the Appropriation Bills, you were also pleased to refer to the practice of the House of Commons. May I bring to your notice the practice which prevails in the House of Commons, and which has been described in this booklet *House of Commons at Work* on page 209?

Mr. Speaker: I am thankful to the hon. Member for inviting my attention to some booklet which is referring to that. I can assure him that the practice in the House of Commons has been studied by me and all the Officers of the Parliament Secretariat in greater detail, and the debates of Parliament will show to him, if he studies them, instead of making a mere reference to some little booklet, that the practice as mentioned by me is the correct practice. But, I may also mention to him one point, that though the practice in the House of Commons will certainly be a very valuable guide, I do not think, in all matters of details also, we need necessarily bind ourselves to the House of Commons practice. So far as the practice represents general principles, we accept them, because they show the result of human experience and the result of the working of democracy for a pretty long time. But there too, the practice is changing from year to year as circumstances change. In this light, I do not think we need go on the basis of the practice in the House of Commons. The chief and principal point is, as I said yesterday, that usually we have no repetition of the same debate. It is therefore that I said that if any new points of public importance which were not discussed previously are going to be discussed, then matters stand on a different footing. The points are not merely to be different points of details, but generally points

of public importance. I stated that yesterday very clearly, and specifically requested Members of the Opposition to state their points. In pursuance of that, they have already stated the points. I believe, the hon. Member who now wishes to raise this point on the Railway Appropriation Bill is also a signatory to that. Naturally, the presumption is—or rather the fact is—that so far as the Railway Appropriation Bill is concerned, they have no points which they wish to discuss, as they have not intimated any to me. I really do not see what now the point is in again raising this point of order or information.

Shri S. S. More: May I make one submission, Sir? As a matter of fact, I am interested in having the liberties or the freedom for discussion according to the rules which have been framed in the Constitution. One of the articles refers to the Appropriation Bills and there is also another rule in the Rules of Procedure, which do not mention any such restriction on the right of the Members to discuss the relevant points. Even in the House of Commons, the members are allowed to discuss the relevant points without any insistence by the Speaker that new points should be mentioned. I am only therefore asking you to allow a discussion on those points. I am only academically interested in the principle, not that I am going to participate in the discussion. Chiefly, I am academically interested in seeing that our rights should be clearly defined for the purpose of our future guidance.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think any further discussion on this point is necessary. I am not so much interested in the academic discussion of problems. I feel interested in a fair and equitable opportunity being given to every Member of this House to participate in the debate, and the fullest opportunity of freedom of expression and speech. I do not see how any Member's right is restricted, if he is told not to repeat or if he is told that he may not take an inordinately long time, as if he has the right to hold the entire House in detention, because he wants to exercise his right. I need not go into the general question, of what the rights are or liberties are. Hon. Members will agree that any right of any Member has to be so exercised as to allow an equal right to all other Members. Taking that into consideration, it is not possible to allow any discussion according to the sweet will of an individual Member. He has to adjust himself to the convenience of all and the greatest liberty can be achieved by society only with the greatest restraint upon an individual Member in that sense. So, I am very clear on

[Mr. Speaker]

that point. I have no desire to come in the way of the liberty of any person. That is why I said yesterday that if there are any important points. I should like to know what those are, because after all, the responsibility of regulating the debate is on the Chair. An individual Member has no responsibility in that matter, he only knows himself and his arguments and his liberties. But it is the Chair that has to protect the liberties of all, and therefore it is necessary that I should have some information, some inkling or some knowledge of the points that they are going to raise. Otherwise, if I were not to do that, what will happen is that any hon. Member may get up and say that he has something new to say, and I must allow him to speak and by the time he has finished, I will find that he has merely repeated what has already happened. It is because of that kind of waste that this becomes necessary. I need not refer to the rules which the hon. Member has referred to. But I may invite his attention to rule 279 of the Rules of Procedure, which says that:

"All matters not specifically provided in these rules and all questions relating to the detailed working of these rules shall be regulated in such manner as the Speaker may from time to time direct."

It is impossible that there shall be a detailed code of rules to regulate every point that arises. Somebody has to be there to exercise some discretion, and I believe we need not go here into those points.

So far as the Railway Appropriation Bill is concerned, the hon. Member himself has said that he is not anxious to take part in the debate and that it is an academic question. I would grant him that right, but so far as practice is concerned, I shall stick to what I have said. I think on the academic side that ought to satisfy him.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Sir, I have got a fresh point which I wanted to bring to your notice. It came to me only this morning.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He need not mention that point.

Shri Nambiar: I will give you.....

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately, I may say he is too late. A passenger coming to the station after the train time cannot expect the train to come back. (Interruption.) I asked yesterday for notice. I am so sorry he is too late. He will get an opportunity next year.

Shri Nambiar: In Madras there is a strike, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. May be; we have nothing to do with that at present. The point should have been mentioned. It is in the interest of the House, hon. Members will see that we lay certain precedents which would be useful for us as best traditions for all times. It is not a question of establishing certain practices, traditions and conventions for all times to come. We have to take into consideration the balance of convenience and inconvenience of hon. Members. I quite appreciate the hon. Member may feel the inconvenience just at this moment, but I am not much impressed by his argument. But whatever it may be, I am putting the motion to the House. So far as the other Bill...

Shri Nambiar: You promised, Sir, that if there was a fresh point you would consider...

Mr. Speaker: No, I did not promise that. I did not say merely fresh point; I said a point of importance which was not discussed before.

Shri Nambiar: It is important, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. May be that is his estimate of it. I have no knowledge as to how far it is important. He should have given notice of it. If he was not there, his friends were there; and the document which came to me as containing important points is a common document, coming after consultation of all the Members of the Opposition parties. Now to try to raise a point like that at this moment does not really appeal to me. I would not say anything else now. (Interruption). He wants to raise a point which he thinks to have importance, but the Chair does not think so. He need not waste the time of the House on that.

Shri Dhulekar (Jhansi Distt.—South): Sir, you very kindly pointed out that the Opposition might put in any new points which they wanted. Will you kindly tell us whether on this side of the House we have no opportunity of putting our point of view?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think Members of the majority party have the defenders of their points in the Government. They need not much care about it.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Do we take it, Sir, that your decision will be considered as a precedent on future occasions?

Mr. Speaker: I believe I am giving this kind of rulings right from 1950.

Shri K. K. Basu: The character of Parliament has changed.

Mr. Speaker: The character has not changed. It has changed in this sense only that it is now more representative of the Indian people. So far as the principles are concerned, I do not think there is any change at all.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): I have made a very cursory search of the rules and I find that rule 192 says that the procedure in regard to an Appropriation Bill shall be the same as for Bills generally with such modifications as the Speaker may consider necessary. I would submit, Sir, that the principle is that the same procedure should apply in the case of Appropriation Bills unless, of course, the Speaker, for some extremely important considerations, thinks it necessary to stop the debate.

Mr. Speaker: I quite agree with that position, and I think that any discussion on the Appropriation Bill, unless points are fresh, will be useless waste of time. It is a very important consideration, and the Chair has its own right of discretion vested in it under the rules, to make such modifications as it thinks fit. The procedure in the case of a Bill will be that first there will be the consideration motion; then there is the second or clause-by-clause reading, and then there is the final or third reading. There the procedural part, so far as that rule goes, ends. The other part is the part of allowing discussion. Now, there too, even in ordinary legislation the Speaker has got the power to stop the discussion in case he finds that there has been sufficient discussion. Then there is the closure move and hon. Members know that. Though there is usually no time-limit so far as legislation is concerned, it is not absent. The Chair has got the discretion of accepting the closure and, of course, the House may vote upon it. So I need not dilate on that. I am going to follow this procedure, that I shall put the motion before the House and I shall immediately proceed to take votes on this without any discussion on any of the motions. That is the precedent, as I said, even in Western Parliaments and we have been following it here for the last three years.

So far as the other Bill is concerned, the Appropriation Bill in respect of the other Demands for Grants, I have received the points which the hon. Members have given to me and when that Bill comes, I will state to the House what my views on those are and then I shall hear again if they want to say anything—not on the

procedural part of it. Now, without disclosing, of course, all the details I may only state that there are some points that are raised therein which are really important, and I do feel that they were not discussed in the 18 days' discussion; and therefore, some time has to be allowed. But what that time exactly will be and what those points exactly will be, I will say when I come to the second Bill. I am clear about the first Bill which I will put to the House now.

The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3 were added to the Bill.
The Schedule was added to the Bill.
The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I beg to move:
"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:
"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: I will first place the motion before the House and then I will state whatever I have to state about the scope of discussion.

Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53, be taken into consideration."

In respect of this, I have received intimation of the points proposed to be raised. There are in all seven points mentioned. I shall read them, so that the House may know what they are:

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Speaker]

(1) Grants allocated last year for specific purposes (e.g. Malampuzha Project) which were unutilised, suspended and abandoned.

(2) The appropriation of Rs. 30 lakhs for the National Income Committee, which has so far not reported, leading to serious interference with announced plans for reconstruction and development.

(3) The reported failure of our foreign loans programme, and the consequent effect on the economy of the country, in regard to the ways and means and the planning budgets.

(4) The recent steps taken to identify the Administration with the Congress Party, e.g. the Planning Commission being present at Congress Party meetings and Working Committee meetings, and the constitution of special group committees of the Congress Parliamentary Party, at which officials are present to take advice.

(5) Proposed abolition of Standing Committees of the House.

(6) The Bharat Sevak Sangh, with possible expenditure of public money, as an adjunct of the Party in power.

(7) The appointment of afforestation officers by the Government, in the light of the progressive denudation of forests, with its effects on crop acreage and soil erosion.

These are the seven points. There is another intimation by Shri Gurupadaswamy. I shall refer to that later.

Now, as regards these seven points, points Nos. (4) and (6) seem to be allied and I have treated them for all practical purposes as one point. And there is a further point—No. 5—proposed abolition of Standing Committees of the House. These points were not touched, so far as I remember, in the discussion during the last 18 days, and I believe they are very important points on which Parties should have their say and the Government also should have an opportunity of explaining their position. Therefore, I would allow discussion on these, shall I say, two—they are in fact three, not two; but I will take them as two—points. As regards the other points, I can say in detail as to why I reject them, but I need not take the time of the House in doing that.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): Are we to understand that we cannot discuss the subject of foreign loans?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it can be touched now. It is not a point which was not touched at all during the course of discussions. I know that hon. Members may like to put their views pointedly again—as some hon. Members put it yesterday, "emphasise a point"—but we are not here now to "emphasise" any point. This is the ruling of the Chair. It may be arbitrary, but it is a ruling.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The hon. Finance Minister has made certain observations in regard to the kind of foreign assistance we are getting, which, we feel, ought to be countered, if it is possible for us to counter it from the point of view of the Opposition; and that is an opportunity of which we can avail ourselves in the course of the discussion on the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will see that this is not to be taken as an opportunity to meet every argument of every other person or Member in the House. That way again the discussion will be repeated. But whatever that may be, I am not going to occupy long by giving reasons. In short, that is my conclusion, unfortunately for the hon. Member.

Now, there is the other intimation. **Shri Gurupadaswamy** raises three points: (1) Capital punishment; (2) Prison reforms; and (3) Delegated legislation. I am not quite sure—I did not make any inquiry—but capital punishment and prison reforms, are more or less questions for the States. In any case, I am very clear that Prisons is not a responsibility of the Centre. If I am wrong, the hon. Law Minister will correct me.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): You are referring to capital punishment. Capital punishment anyway is the responsibility of the courts. The law prescribes capital punishment. It is for the Judges to say whether in a particular case they will award it or not. The question of policy for Parliament is whether they should retain capital punishment as part of the statute. Neither the State Governments nor the Central Government award capital punishment to anybody.

Mr. Speaker: My point was whether it is competent for the State Governments to legislate on the subject of capital punishment.

Dr. Katju: I imagine it is in the Concurrent List.

Mr. Speaker: I believe there is some Bill also which has been brought in. I do not know whether it is a private Member's Bill.

An Hon. Member: Private Member's Bill.

Mr. Speaker: In any case, Members will have an opportunity of discussing the question of capital punishment if and when that Bill comes up. We need not take any time now. *(Interruption)*. Let the hon. Member not interrupt. Hon. Members should first hear completely what I am going to say. I am not going to decide finally. Before I say that I rule, I always give an opportunity to hon. Members to have their say.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I make one last submission, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: In respect of these points?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The previous points.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that is closed.

Prison reforms is decidedly a matter for the States. So far as delegated legislation is concerned, hon. Members will see that the Rules of Procedure provide for a Committee for examination of delegated legislation. Of course, this committee is not yet constituted, but in course of time that Committee will be constituted. So, far as these three points are concerned, either the points are not important, or we shall be anticipating some further discussion or some further action. In that light, I have not thought it fit to put any of these three points for inclusion in the discussion on this Bill.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): My first point 'Capital Punishment', Sir, is a Central subject...

Shri S. C. Deb (Cachar-Lushai Hills): On a point of order, Sir. What are the three points?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The expression 'Point of Order' is used, it appears, by some hon. Members in two senses—'Point of Information' is included in the 'Point of Order'. There are three points which he wants to discuss. They are:

- (1) Capital Punishment.
- (2) Prison reforms.
- (3) Delegated legislation.

These are the three points which the Chair is not prepared to accept as points properly to be discussed on an Appropriation Bill. Members will remember the occasion in respect of which these points are pressed. The points are very important in themselves. There is no doubt about it. But whether they are important points so far as the discussion on an Appropriation Bill is concerned, that is the question to which our mind is to be applied. I should like to hear Shri Gurupadaswamy.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Sir, so far as capital punishment is concerned, I feel that it refers to the fundamental law of the land and it is a Central subject.

Mr. Speaker: He need not argue that point.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Yes, Sir. You were kind enough to inform the House that there will be a Private Member's Bill on this matter. But I do not know whether that Bill will come up for discussion and how far the discussion on this point can be anticipated, I do not understand.

And further, Sir, so far as the point of delegated legislation is concerned, you were good enough to say that there will be a Committee appointed in course of time but the appointment of that Committee I feel does not in any way prevent us from discussing the points coming under 'delegated legislation'. After all the Committee may be there or may not be there. But we must agree that it is the sovereign right of Parliament to go into this question of delegated legislation because it is very important in view of the fact that recently there is progressive decline of parliamentary control over the executive. And I also feel, Sir, it is the fundamental right of the hon. Members present here to go into this question as it pertains to the liberties of the people. That is all my submission, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Even after having heard Mr. Gurupadaswamy, I say that I cannot concur with him. So far as the present discussion is concerned—I do not want to rule generally as to whether the points are important or unimportant or what their nature is—the result is this that we shall have discussion on these three or two points as I said—if you combine Nos. (4) and (6)—which means "Identification of the administration with the Congress Party" in the two ways that are stated there and "abolition of Standing Committees". Now let us start.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): In order to facilitate discussion, so far agreed lists of names from the Opposition have been submitted. But from today such a practice may not be possible and I hope the Speaker's eye will be there to adjust the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Speaker's eye has always been there. It may not be so watchful in respect of certain Members as they may desire. That is a different thing. Although it is the usual practice to give the lists, the Speaker is never bound to go by those lists. They are just for his guidance and for his information. But I think that hon. Members who wish to speak may attempt just to rise but not stand all at once and unless called upon by the Speaker may not begin to deliver their speeches.

I think a period of two hours, inclusive of the reply from the Government side to the debate, should be sufficient for these two points.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: How much for the Government side?

Mr. Speaker: It is rather difficult to define but we could possibly be fairly short and the Government must have at least, I think, one hour to explain the position.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Any time limit?

Mr. Speaker: The time-limit is 12 o'clock and at the end all the motions will be put to the vote of the House. Let the hon. Members choose between themselves. Let them have one or two of them to have their fullest say or let them have half a dozen to have their say in brief.

10 A.M.

That is an arrangement between themselves. But so far as the end is concerned, we shall take the motions for voting at 12 o'clock and thus finish the things.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central): Sir, will the discussion be confined to the Members of one Party only or.....

Mr. Speaker: That is not the idea. It is not the case that one Party can make all sorts of allegations and state facts and the other Party has no right to reply. Certainly, they will have a right. The discussion on a motion when started becomes the property of the whole House. But the point is that it is not fair to the whole House that only certain Members should hold the field all the time and thereby take an advantage of the time-limit to deprive other people from participation in the discussion. That is the point.]

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): With your permission, Sir, may I submit that in regard to Demands we had cut motions and in regard to specific clauses of the Bills we have got the procedure of amendments. What will happen here in this case?

Mr. Speaker: As I said, there is going to be a discussion on the consideration stage of the motion and in that consideration stage these are the two points. Identification of the administration with the Congress Party is one. And the second is the abolition of Standing Committees. I think these points are clear enough and we need not take any more time of the House on them.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I understand, Sir, if the only points to be discussed are these Nos. (4), (5) and (6)? You were good enough to indicate that Government may have one hour. So far as I am concerned, I hope not to take more than ten minutes or possibly 15.

Mr. Speaker: When I said one hour, it meant the Government side should have one hour.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (Amravati East): I say that 45 minutes should be utilised by us.

Mr. Speaker: That also is to be adjusted between the hon. Members and the Leader of the Party.

The points for discussion in respect of this consideration are: "Identification of the administration with the Congress Party with special reference also to Bharat Sevak Sangh" and "the proposed abolition of Standing Committees". These are the two points.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): Is it the procedure that amendments are to be moved?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will see that just as in the case of Finance Bill anything would be said by way of a grievance, in this case also anything can be said but the hon. Members should see that they say only with reference to certain specific points and not generally. Yes, now let us proceed.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): It is our bitter experience to see that in this country Government is thoroughly and fully identified with the Congress Party and to facilitate matters it is fresh within the memory of many how the Prime Minister of the Government unceremoniously ousted the revered President of the Congress from

officer. (An Hon. Member: Who was ousted?) I feel sorry to say that my friend Mr. Tandon was ousted last year. I feel sorry that because they govern the country, the Congressmen, whether of importance or no importance, by the help of their officials and by bringing pressure upon them, get things done according to their ideas. And I believe, Sir.....

Hon. Members: We cannot hear. Louder please.

Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe, Sir, that to my mind there is strong comparison between important Congressmen at this time in our history with the nabobs or officials of the British East India Company.....

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Member kindly resume his seat? I do not think it is a matter on which we really want to have a correct decision or to raise any heat or controversy. I am just watching to see as to how the Congress comes in here or how the internal administration of the Congress is concerned here. I wanted to see as to what his argument is. I would request hon. Members not to refer to something which is not quite relevant to the points that are being discussed. I do not know on what he is trying to base his argument. Therefore, I am allowing just a few seconds or a few more sentences. But that apart, I will also remind the hon. Member that the point at issue is not the Congress organisation or the Congress participation in the country outside with this or that. The principal point is, so far as parliamentary government is concerned, whether it is proper for the Party in power, whether it is the Congress or the Party which the hon. Member himself represents or any other Party for the matter of that, to associate the administration with its own machinery in a manner so as to influence the whole thing, according to him, in an adverse manner. That is the only point to be discussed and discussed, first, academically and then in the practical application of the facts. Therefore, let us ascertain the facts. That is the real scope. Let us not raise heat unnecessarily by going into the Congress administration.

Dr. N. B. Khare: That is exactly what I have been pointing out when I compared the present Congressmen to the nabobs of the East India Company. That is all. It is patent to anybody, it is complained of everywhere, including the Press, that Congressmen interfere too much with administration to the detriment of justice and fair-play.

The second point is that a new organisation has been formed under the name and style of the Bharat Sevaks Samaj. It is supposed to be a non-political organisation although the Communists and the so-called communalists like me are banned from it, and it is only meant to carry on constructive work and to help in bringing to a successful end the Five Year Plan. In the first place, I should point out that to say that it is a non-political organisation is itself politics of a high order. It is founded, sponsored, managed, ruled and bossed over by Congressmen—it can never be a non-political organisation. I have a shrewd suspicion that this organisation is brought into being simply because the Government or the Congress High Command realises that the old Congress organisations are now getting out of gear and are getting rotten from internal dissensions. They will not be useful for future elections, therefore, this Bharat Sevaks Samaj is established simply because it should help in the next elections to restore the Congress to power. That is my shrewd suspicion—I may be wrong, I hope I will be wrong, and I shall then stand corrected—but that is my shrewd suspicion. Therefore, it is very wrong to finance it out of State funds which are paid by all and everybody.

[SHRI PATASKAR in the Chair.]

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I find myself in a very difficult situation because even though we have got rather used to the lash we receive occasionally from the Speaker's rhetorical whip, I was not quite prepared to be so tied hand and foot as it were when we were discussing the Appropriation Bill. Anyhow, since we have to speak under certain limitations I will try to do what I can and I shall have to forego the temptation of referring to the speech, the rather delicious speech but somewhat reminiscent of the curate's egg, which was good in parts, which was delivered by the hon. Finance Minister yesterday. I shall have to forego the temptation of referring to certain points which he had made and which I had hoped I would get an opportunity to attempt to counter. I shall therefore confine myself to the points which the Speaker has reserved for our consideration.

I would say first of all, that we on this side of the House take a very serious view of the reported decision of Government to abolish the Standing Committees which have been associated with the different Departments. We take a very serious view of it because we do not think it is a purely routine matter of no particular

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

significance. We are afraid it is connected with certain fundamental policies which this Government is going to pursue and those policies we fear are not to the benefit of this country. Now, the idea of the association of Members on these Standing Committees certainly is that Members of Parliament of different persuasions have an opportunity of getting to know how the administration is run and to offer their suggestions if they have any in regard to the improvement of the administration. But the position as now adumbrated is this that except in so far as the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee give us some little chance, the Opposition will have no other opportunity of getting to know those elements about the administration which it is important that we should know if we are going to make any constructive contribution to the discussion in this House.

As far as I am concerned, I have certain rather serious apprehensions because I feel that this exclusion of the Members of the Opposition from some knowledge of the inner working of the administration is linked up with certain policies which the Government is pursuing, policies which were previously characterised as indicative of our Government's unfortunate subservience to certain interests abroad. I wish in this connection to draw the attention of this House to certain provisions of the Mutual Security Act which was passed in the United States of America which is extremely relevant for our purposes because the Indo-American Technical Assistance Agreement is conditioned by the provisions of the Mutual Security Act. As I had said before, it is openly stated in that Mutual Security Act that the object of American assistance to different countries is to promote the foreign Policy of the United States and there are provisions to which I shall draw your attention, Sir, in the Mutual Security Act which say very openly that assistance is not going to be offered to countries which behave in a particular manner. I fear that the Government of our country has got an idea that the Opposition, in spite of Mr. Chester Bowles, includes unfortunately a certain number of undesirable people and there is a fear in the minds of Government that if these undesirable people have an access to the inside functioning of the administration then that would be a matter of which serious notice would be taken by the Government of the United States and the assistance to

which we look forward, on which we have pitched our hopes in such pathetic fashion, as the hon. Finance Minister did in his Budget speech, would no longer be forthcoming. I would like to refer to section 511, sub-section (b) of the Mutual Security Act which reads thus:

"No economic or technical assistance shall be supplied to any other nation unless the President finds that the supplying of such assistance will strengthen the Security of the United States and promote world peace, and unless the recipient country has agreed to join in promoting international understanding and goodwill and in maintaining world peace and to take such action as may be mutually agreed upon....."

Please note the word "mutually"—
".....to eliminate causes of international tension."

This is a provision in that Act which is the sheet-anchor of the entire assistance programme of the United States of which we have rushed to take advantage in this country. And this provision proves beyond the slightest possibility of equivocation that the assistance we are getting is an assistance with very definite political strings. We have to mutually discuss things with the United States, otherwise assistance will not be forthcoming. There is also another paragraph to which I should like to draw the attention of the House.

Mr. Chairman: May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that the discussion is confined only to two points. Of course, he has made an attempt indirectly to say why Standing Committees are abolished, but I think he should not go too far into the details of the agreement and all those matters.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: My point is very clear and that is this. It is only on account of certain commitments which unfortunately our Government has made with the United States that I fear, I apprehend—if my apprehensions are wrong, I would like to be corrected—that we are excluded from the opportunity of work on the Standing Committees which are going to be abolished.

Mr. Chairman: That point has already been made by the hon. Member. But to go into details of that agreement, I think would not be warranted when our discussion is confined to these two points.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: If it is your ruling, I shall not go into details of it. But I would like to pass on—if the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Finance Minister wishes—the information which I have in my possession which is absolutely authoritative, in regard to the provisions of the Mutual Security Act and I hope that the House will take note of the Mutual Security Act.

We take, therefore, a very serious view of the abolition of the Standing Committees because it denies the Opposition an opportunity of getting to know how the administration functions.

I shall refer next to the other point which has been permitted for discussion, namely the Bharat Sevak Samaj business. It is a very good idea to associate our people with planning. Actually every time we have spoken on planning we have said that the most important problem which this country's Government has to face is the problem of convincing the country that the planning is conducted in their own interests and therefore they should not hesitate to stint themselves, if necessary, in the execution of these plans. Therefore, the idea of a Bharat Sevak Samaj is a very good thing. But what we fear is that the Bharat Sevak Samaj is going to be another auxiliary of the Congress Party. We have found that in the group discussions that the Congress Party holds and which are fairly publicised, members of the Government and members of the Planning Commission take part. As members of the Congress Party I think they are entitled to go. But we have found indications of a close association of the members of the Government with the functionaries of the Congress Party in a fashion which we apprehend is going to lead to results which we do not like, as far as the country's interests are concerned. In regard to Bharat Sevak Samaj also, our apprehension is that this is going to be another Congress-sponsored body whose object would be to carry on Congress propaganda with the support of the State's resources.

In illustration of my thesis, I would refer to a camp which was recently held in Khadralla, in Himachal Pradesh, for which the Education Ministry—I challenge them to correct me if I am wrong—made a grant of Rs. 4,000 to the sponsors of the Khadralla Youth Camp, which was sponsored openly, unequivocally by the All-India Congress Committee's Youth Department. I would refer hon. Members to the Library of this House where there are

copies of the *Congress Sandesh* where there are copies of the *Hindustan Times*, a Birla paper, where open statements are made and articles written by spokesmen of the Congress Party that the Khadralla Youth Camp was sponsored by the All-India Congress Committee's Youth Department. Moneys belonging to the Government of this country, that is moneys paid by the people of this country, have been spent for the running of this Khadralla Youth Camp. The camp as such has possibly done good work. I am not concerned with that, but here is an indication of the way the wind is blowing. If the Khadralla Youth Camp which is a Congress-sponsored organisation can get assistance from the Government in this fashion, is a rather surreptitious fashion, we do not know how the Bharat Sevak Samaj is going to function later.

I do not wish to say hard words, because the hon. Prime Minister has been a fighter in the cause of anti-fascism. But the formation of this Bharat Sevak Samaj reminds us of the formation of bodies like Storm Troopers and similar organisations and we do fear that this kind of thing is going to lead to results which are extremely detrimental to the interests of the country. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot go into details, because you will pull me up, but I would like to say with all the emphasis that I can command that these straws in the mind are extremely dangerous and the abolition of the Standing Committees, the exclusion of the Opposition from any participation and opportunity of getting acquainted with the working of the Government and the proposed formation of the Bharat Sevak Samaj in the face of what has been done in the case of the Khadralla Camp are extremely dangerous symptoms of which the country should be aware in time.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I should like briefly to address myself to the question of the Bharat Sevak Samaj and the Standing Committees. On the 12th of June the hon. the Leader of the House while replying to the debate on Demands of the External Affairs Ministry made a statement that it is eventually for this House to decide the question whether or not the Standing Committees of the various Ministries should be continued. Speaking from my place in the Opposition, it occurs to me that every procedural and constitutional assistance should be made available to Members of the Opposition to come to grips with the activities, the day-to-day working, of the various Ministries of the Government of India. There are no ideological or other considerations for me to say

[Dr. Lanka Sundaram]

this. But it occurs to me that without some sort of continuous contact with the working of the machinery of Government, it will not be possible for most of us on this side of the House to be able to make any useful contribution.

After all parliamentary government is government by discussion—I am not going into the larger issues—based on competent knowledge of details, we want that access, and I dare say there would not be any suggestion on the part of my hon. friends opposite that most of us on this side would not behave responsibly, or would not keep the secrets. In fact, Sir, I was heartened from the little experience we had only a couple of days ago when the Prime Minister called a few of us for an informal discussion, and I am very happy to say this now on the floor of the House that no information—there was quite a bit of it confidential and secret—has leaked out to the press. I would like these questions to be judged from this little experience which has heartened me as a Member in the Opposition.

I feel, without the continuance of the Standing Committees, at any rate as far as the major Ministries are concerned, it will be extremely difficult, and it would constitute a handicap to most of us here on this side of the House to intelligently and effectively participate in the discussions leading to the improvement of the administration of this country. As one who raised this question on the 11th of last month as regards the Standing Committee for External Affairs, I feel I should make these few observations purely from the procedural point of view, in order to assist Members of the Opposition to discharge their duties not only to this House, but also to their constituencies, and also to assist, wherever possible, the Government, for the time being, in the administration of the country.

As regards the Bharat Sevak Samaj, I should like with your indulgence, to make a few observations. It was fourteen months ago that the Planning Commission was good enough to write to me a letter asking me to submit a note on the manner in which Sarvodaya work was being done in my part of the country. I am glad my hon. friend Mr. Nanda is here this morning. Such a note was written by me because myself and a number of my colleagues have been doing this work for a number of years. My hon.

friend Dr. Jaisooriya has come all the way to participate in the Sarvodaya, without subscription, without membership, thousands and thousands of people working together towards the building of roads, repairing of tanks, digging of canals, and so on and so forth, as a symbolical gesture, that the villagers are not left to themselves, and that town-people, educated people, people in high social position are willing to co-operate.

As a result of that memorandum, my hon. friend Mr. Nanda was good enough to have a discussion with me last year. I am referring to this, only to show that there is no disposition on the part of any one of us here on this side of the House to withhold co-operation to the Government, provided Government comes forward. I went to the electorate as a *swachchanda Congress vadi*. Not one single Congressman as such accepted the invitation to come forward and work. I am making the statement with some sense of responsibility, because I believe in Sarvodaya. Why I make this point will be plain when I say this. I do not find any disposition on the part of the Congress Party, and certainly of the Government as such, to invite all sections of the people, whatever their political persuasions, to join them so as to serve the people as servants and not as rulers. I have compared very carefully the original draft constitution of the Bharat Sevak Samaj given by the Planning Commission last year and the little printed booklet issued a few days ago and made available to hon. Members of this House. So far as the rules and regulations of this particular organisation are concerned, I do not see any State aid given to it. But I have a suspicion that eventually the State Governments, at the provincial as well as district and local levels will come into the picture, and finance will be found in order to enable this organisation to carry on. I would only make an appeal to my hon. friend Shri Nanda and also the Leader of the House that every attempt should be made by the Government in order to make it possible for every individual in this country, whatever his political persuasion, to become a member of this organisation. I have been very carefully watching the early membership of the Delhi branch of the Bharat Sevak Samaj, and I have not come across many people of parties other than the Congress becoming members. Of course, I am not passing my verdict on the formative stages of the local organisation in Delhi. But a right approach must be made by Govern-

ment because this Bharat Sevak Samaj has the *imprimatur* of the Planning Commission, so that every one, whatever his political persuasion, may come forward to co-operate. For that an attempt must be made in all sincerity, and I am sure the hon. the Leader of the House and my hon. friend Shri Nanda would not forget this point when they eventually decide upon the details for the launching of this really wonderful organisation, without which, to my mind, there will not be any possibility for this country to be re-vivified.

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta North-West): I support the views of my colleagues on this side of the House that the abolition of the Standing Committees to the Ministries is a very retrograde step, and I oppose this measure from this side. The hon. Members on the Treasury Benches have often appealed to us that there are many matters which have to be treated above party basis. The hon. Minister of Planning has particularly mentioned Planning in that connection. But what do we find? To this Planning Commission the Congress Party Members are invited, but I do not know of any occasion where any Opposition Member has been invited. It is very well known to the House that a large number of Members in the Opposition have taken a very prominent part in planning in the past. I might go further and say that the whole idea of planning in this country was initiated by one of them. But the present action proves that the Party in power is proceeding towards fascism, because they are trying to exclude the Opposition Members from getting an intimate knowledge of the mechanism of administration. It should not be forgotten that though four-fifths of the Members of the House belong to the Congress, they represent only 45 per cent. of the population and the majority of the people of this country do not think in the same way as the Congress does. Therefore, to try to exclude the persons who represent the majority of the people of this country from getting a knowledge of the mechanism of administration appears to me to be a very retrograde step.

I might refer in this connection to the working of the Legislatures in the United States of America. There you have got Congressional Committees and Senatorial Committees for many of the important items. Even an item like atomic energy development which is considered—for reasons not very clear to me—to be a very closely preserved secret is not kept away from the Members of the Legislature. I know something about atomic energy

development and I have never been able to understand why atomic energy development and everything connected with it has been kept a close preserve and the Members of this House are not allowed to know anything about it. As I was saying, in the United States of America there is a Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy and the whole matter of policy, the whole matter of administration with respect to atomic energy is freely discussed there. Of course, when those reports come before the public, certain matters are excluded from them.

In the matter of Planning I think the Opposition has got a good deal to contribute and therefore if the Standing Committees are allowed to function they will be able to obtain knowledge as to how planning is being done. I may refer in this connection to the fact that with regard to this Planning we have not been able to represent our points of view to the Government. There are many things in Planning where we can make a very good contribution. I think that all this Planning as visualized by the Government of India is going to be an idle day-dream unless you can formulate measures for the raising of finance. And, as far as I have seen, the measures which we have taken for the raising of finance are absolutely futile.

I do not wish to take more of the time of the House. I would only like to say that any attempt made by the Party in power to proceed towards fascism would be resisted by people on this side with all the strength which we have.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indian): I wish to say a few words about the proposed abolition of the Standing Committees. As one of the oldest Members of this House—oldest not from the point of view of age but from the point of view of membership—I feel very strongly that this proposal is, as Dr. Saha has just pointed out, not only a retrograde but even an undemocratic measure. I have always felt that the work and the proper functioning of these Standing Committees have represented a vital and even an integral part of the whole machinery of Parliament, and [I should have thought that those of us who were interested in promoting healthy parliamentary conventions would have been interested to encourage, to nurture and to foster these Standing Committees. None of us who have been members of these Standing Committees and have participated in their work and discussion in the past ten or even fifteen years can

[Shri Frank Anthony]

for one moment say that Government has not been strengthened, that Government has not drawn from the experience of the members of these Committees. And I do feel that Government is gratuitously dashing away one of the sources of its strength in abolishing these Committees, from all sections of the House. As I see it, this proposed step is a step by which Government is knocking away one of the pillars of our parliamentary structure. I should have thought that the leaders of the Congress Party would have endeavoured to secure the maximum of co-operation from all sections of the House. And in the past it has been the experience that these Committees have functioned as a source of strength to the Government. What has been the actual experience of those of us who are not members of the Congress Party, in the functioning of these Committees? More often than not, non-Congressmen have agreed with Government policies after they had been placed for consideration and analysis before the members of these Standing Committees. With the result, that those policies after they have emerged from these Standing Committees have had the support of non-Congressmen, and Congressmen who are members of the Standing Committees. If they had accepted, as they have often done, the policies evolved by the Government in the Standing Committees, and they have been bound, if not to support those policies, at least not to speak against them and not vote against them, in this House. What will happen now? Gratuitously, Government will compel not only those who may be here to oppose for the sake of opposition, but even those who wish to support the Government, or to judge governmental policy objectively, to speak against and vote against governmental policies. I may respectfully submit this: that it will not be good enough to have informal discussions, haphazardly to invite one or two people from certain groups, in order to superficially discuss some particular aspect of governmental policy. This kind of superficial *ad hoc* discussion can never take the place of the work of the Standing Committees.]

There is another matter which I would ask the Leader of the House to consider seriously, before this decision is finally taken. If the Government does decide—I believe it will be an unwise decision—to abolish these Standing Committees, then, one of two interpretations will be placed

on this step and any amount of explanation from the Treasury Benches will not prevent the people from making one of two interpretations. My hon. friends who have spoken so far have made one interpretation more or less and that interpretation is that this proposal has been inspired by a sense of dictatorship. That has been the main theme and main complaint. If we look at international history and experience, we find that where a majority party seeks more and more to confine to itself the administration of the Government, where a majority party seeks more and more to disregard the other groups and parties, where the majority party seeks more and more to identify itself with the Government or Government seeks to identify itself with the majority party, then parliamentary conventions and democratic conventions become a casualty. I would particularly appeal to the Leader of the House to look at both these interpretations. One interpretation is that this is inspired by a dictator-complex.

What is the other interpretation? It is an interpretation which has not been made so far. Let us face it without our tongues in our cheeks. People will say either that the Congress Party has made this decision because they identify that Party with the Government or the Government with that Party or, the other interpretation which may well be made is that this has been inspired by a sense of fear. Fear of whom? Fear of the Communists. As I said, let us face this problem without our tongues in our cheeks. [It is quite conceivable that the Government has in its possession information which justifies that fear that the Members of a certain Party, either because of their avowed or implied policy, cannot be trusted with the secrets which will be made available to them as members of certain vital Standing Committees like Defence. That is an interpretation which many of us in this House are prone to make: that because the Government feel that they cannot, in the interests of the country, in the interests of the conservation of national secrets, safely associate Members of a certain Party, this decision has been taken.]

I say, if this decision has been inspired by that fear, then the decision should have been of a more radical nature. If Government is afraid that certain Members of this House cannot be trusted with the secrets which are made available to these Members because they are members of the Standing Committees, which secrets

may be purveyed to foreign powers, Government should have adopted a radical policy. There is no point in indirectly proscribing people in this House. The proscription should have come before. If Members cannot be trusted with secrets, or to look after the national interests or with the secrets which are made available to them, they have no right to be in this House. I do not want to draw comparisons; comparisons are always odious. Even during the last war, secrets were made available to members of Standing Committees—even to those parties which were not prepared to support the war effort; the Muslim League and the Congress. Members from those parties were associated with the Standing Committees. That is why I feel very strongly that this is an unfortunate, and even an unhealthy departure.

That there is need for these Standing Committees is shown by the fact that the Congress Party has set up Standing Committees *vis-a-vis* most of the Ministries. Here again, as some speakers have emphasised, it is going to underline an unhealthy feature. It is going to accentuate this idea of identifying a particular Party with the Government and to lead to the impression in the minds of certain people that one Party and the Government are synonymous. By identifying committees drawn from one Party with the Ministries, by associating these Ministers with the Members from that particular Party, what is going to happen? I referred to it the other day, and I pleaded that Ministers should not regard themselves as creatures of a particular Party. This deliberate dissociation of other elements in this House will accentuate that feeling. Ministers will more and more feel that they are not the servants of the public, that they are not the servants of the nation, but that they are the servants or minions of a particular Party. This is the tendency which we have to guard against. I would ask the Leader of the House to consider what I have said. I am not, I have made it clear, opposed to dictatorship. I have never had any doubt about that; I have said it over and over again. I feel that dictatorship is the best form of Government for India. That is the only form of Government which will make our people active. It is the only form of Government which will make our nation strong.

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivandrum): I agree.

Shri Frank Anthony: If we are working towards dictatorship, do not

let us pay lip service to the principles of parliamentary democracy on the one side while pursuing insidiously dictatorship on the other. Let the Leader of the House tell us that in the interests of a firm unitary dictatorial policy we have decided to do away with the Standing Committees. If he says so, I shall categorically withdraw all I have said. If we are working towards dictatorship, which is benevolent in certain respects, ruthless in others, I am quite prepared to say to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, 'Abolish all these trappings of democracy'. I would be the first to support him. But, if the Government still wishes to subscribe to parliamentary democracy, and to the trappings of parliamentary democracy, then, I would ask the Government to consider that this is one of the main, and as I said, one of the most integral features of parliamentary democracy.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In what country, may I ask, is this the main feature of parliamentary democracy?

Shri Frank Anthony: In India, for the last several years. We are always told that we should set up our own precedents. This is one of the main healthy precedents which we have set up. I would earnestly appeal to the Leader of the House, if, as I have said, either of these two interpretations is not correct, that this policy is not inspired either by a dictatorship-complex or fear of the communists, that this very healthy precedent which we have set up should be continued.

श्री बी० डी० शास्त्री: माननीय सभा-पति जी, मैं आपका कृतज्ञ हूँ कि आप ने मुझे यहां पर बोलने का अवसर दिया। मुझे अपने उत्तरदायित्व को निभाने का ऐसा मौका संसद् में मिल सका है। हमारा देश आजाद हुआ और आजादी हासिल करने के लिये देश में सैकड़ों लोगों ने कुरबानियाँ कीं। देश ने जिस महामानव के नेतृत्व में आजादी हासिल की थी उस महामानव को आज न केवल देश बल्कि सारे विश्व से श्रद्धांजलि मिल रही है। शासन आने से पहिले कांग्रेस कहा करती थी कि हम महात्मा गांधी जी—पूज्य बापू जी—के चरण चिन्हों में चलने की शपथ लेते हैं, प्रतिज्ञा करते हैं कि हम उनके आदर्शों के मुताबिक़ हुकमत

[श्री बी० डी० शास्त्री]

का काम चलायेंगे। इस तरह से उन लोगों ने बापू के आदर्शों के अनुसार शासन की बागडोर चलाने की प्रतिज्ञा की थी। मगर मुझे बड़ा अफ़सोस है कि शासन की बागडोर हाथ में आते ही सरकार का नक्शा बदल गया, सिद्धान्त सब उलट गये, जितनी प्रतिज्ञायें थीं वह सब भुला दी गईं और जाने क्या का क्या हो गया।

इस देश के लोग आशा करते थे कि हमारा देश आजाद होगा तो हमारे देश के शासन की बागडोर हमारे लोगों के हाथों में आयेगी जिस से हम लोगों को हर प्रकार के समान अधिकार मिलेंगे, प्रत्येक व्यक्ति शासन की दृष्टि से बराबर देखा जायगा। चाहे किसी श्रेणी का आदमी हो, चाहे किसी जाति का हो और चाहे किसी धर्म का हो या भारत के किसी छोर का हो, उसे बराबर के हक प्राप्त होंगे। किन्तु आज इस सरकार ने सारी ही आशाओं पर पानी फेर दिया है। आज उसने सारा नक्शा ही बदल दिया है। कांग्रेस वालों ने जिस नक्शे की उम्मीद दिलाई थी वह नक्शा बिल्कुल ही गायब हो गया है। देश में ए, बी, सी, राज्यों का जो निर्माण किया गया है वह केवल कांग्रेस ने अपना स्वार्थ सिद्ध करने के लिये किया है। एक बड़े आश्चर्य की बात है कि जिस विश्व रंगमंच

Mr. Chairman: Order, order, we are only concerned with two points, and if the hon. Member goes on speaking generally, he would be unnecessarily taking time.

श्री बी० डी० शास्त्री: तो मैं कह रहा था कि कांग्रेस ने ए, बी, सी राज्यों का जो निर्माण किया है वह अपने स्वार्थों का पूरा पूरा उपयोग करने के लिये इन राज्यों का निर्माण किया है। जिस तरह से विश्व रंगमंच में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सम्प्रदायवाद है, ठीक

उसी ढंग से—उसी तरह से, इस देश में वैधानिक सम्प्रदायवाद है। इसी सम्प्रदाय के आधार पर ए, बी, और सी राज्यों का निर्माण किया गया है जो एक आश्चर्य की बात है। होता यह है कि ए प्रान्त का हारा हुआ व्यक्ति जिस को वहां की जनता अपने यहां के शासन के योग्य नहीं समझती है, जिसे वहां की जनता का जनमत न मिला हो, जिसे शासन में या पार्लियामेंट में या लेजिस्लेचर में कोई स्थान प्राप्त न हो सका हो वह इन राज्यों में ऊंचा स्थान प्राप्त कर सकता है, बशर्ते वह कांग्रेस का व्यक्ति है, कांग्रेस से सहानुभूति रखता है और अपने स्वार्थों को उससे सम्बद्ध रखना चाहता है। यहां तक कि ऐसे व्यक्ति को सी श्रेणी के राज्य का प्रधान तक बनाया गया है। जिस व्यक्ति को कहीं जगह नहीं मिलती है उस व्यक्ति को सी श्रेणी के राज्यों में जगह दी जाती है।

Mr. Chairman: मैं हिन्दी में जितना भी जानता हूं उसके मुताबिक आप जो कुछ कह रहे हैं उसका इस समय कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। यहां पर कांग्रेस वालों का सवाल नहीं है। यहां पर तो चार पांच बातें हैं वही यहां पर कहा जानी चाहिये।

may I bring.

to the notice of the hon. Member that he is speaking on matters which have absolutely no connection with the points under discussion.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: It is his maiden speech. He must be excused.

श्री बी० डी० शास्त्री: माननीय सभापति जी, भारत सेवक समाज द्वारा कांग्रेस अपने स्वार्थों को सिद्ध करने के लिये उसको बना रही है। इसलिये यह संस्था बनाई जा रही है कि कांग्रेस में जो लोग हैं उनके स्वार्थों की सिद्धि होती रहे।

दूसरी चीज मुझे जो कहनी है वह विन्ध्य प्रदेश के बारे में है और उस को दृष्टिकोण में रखते हुए

Mr. Chairman: That is out of order. The hon. Member should not refer to any such things.

श्री बी० डी० शास्त्री: मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि कम से कम प्रत्येक देश में प्रत्येक समाज के लिये कुछ न कुछ सहानुभूति की नीति होती है। मुझे इस सम्बन्ध में सीधी ज़िले के बारे में कहना है। वहाँ पर सोशलिस्ट पार्टी . . .

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri B. D. Shastri (Shahdol-Sidhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak here and an opportunity also to discharge my responsibility as a Member of this House. Sir, freedom came to our country and for the sake of the achievement of this freedom, hundreds of our countrymen made enormous sacrifices. Today, not only this country but the whole world is paying warm tributes to that great personality under whose leadership we could achieve independence. The Congress, before it was entrusted with the administration of the country, used to make high promises that it would strictly follow the principles of the revered Bapuji. The Congressmen pledged that they would run the Government on the ideals preached and practised by the Mahatma. Such were their words, but I regret to observe that with the taking over of the administration by the new Government things have changed for the worse, the principles have melted in thin air, the promises have been thrown to dogs and everything has gone topsy-turvy.

The people of the country hoped that with the advent of freedom, the reins of administration would be taken up by our own men, so that every citizen of the country would have equal rights and that there would be no discrimination between one person and the other. They thought that all persons, whatever their status, community and religion may be and to whatever part of India they may belong, would have equal rights and privileges. But our hopes have been

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belied by the Government of the day. The beautiful pattern of the country, for which the Congressmen had given us high hopes, has disappeared. The distribution of the States into Parts A, B and C has been done by the Congress to serve its own selfish purpose. One thing which surprises us is that the international stage.....

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. We are only concerned with two points, and if the hon. Member goes on speaking generally, he would be unnecessarily taking time.

Shri B. D. Shastri: I was pointing out that Part A, B and C States have been created by the Congress for its own selfish ends. Just as there is international sectionalism on the world stage similarly there is constitutional sectarianism in this country. It is on the basis of this narrow-minded sectarianism that Part A, B and C States have been formed, which is a matter of great surprise. What happens is that a person defeated in a certain 'A' State—a person who has not been able to secure confidence of the people, whom the people of the State think unfit for the purpose of administration and who has not succeeded in getting a place in the Government or the Parliament or the Legislature, is given a very high post in these States provided, of course, he is a Congressman, or a Congress sympathiser or one who wants his personal interests to be closely tied with the Congress, so much so that such a person has been appointed the head of a Part C State. Persons who do not find a place for themselves anywhere in the country are provided with good posts in Part C States.

Mr. Chairman: From my knowledge of Hindi, howsoever small it may be, I can understand that the hon. Member is not relevant in his observations. There is no question of Congressmen. There are only four or five points which should be referred to. May I bring to the notice of the hon. Member that he is speaking on matters which have absolutely no connection with the points under discussion.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma (Sikar): It is his maiden speech. He must be excused.

Shri B. D. Shastri: Sir, the Bharat Sevak Samaj is being organised so that the Congress may serve its own purposes. It is for the personal interests of the Congressmen that the said body is being set up.

Another thing which I would like to say is about Vindhya Pradesh and taking that into consideration.....

Mr. Chairman: This is out of order. The hon. Member should not refer to any such things.

Shri B. D. Shastri: What I mean to suggest is that in every country, there is a policy of at least some sympathy towards all sections of society. I would like to make a reference to Sidhi district in this connection. The Socialist Party there.....

Mr. Chairman: I can understand his referring to the Bharat Sevak Samaj, but I am not able to understand his referring to Vindhya Pradesh. I think the hon. Member has not been able to grasp the limits within which these points are to be considered. It is better he speaks on another occasion.

Shri Raghavaiah (Ongole): On a point of information, Sir, I would like to know whether the Chairman is limiting himself to the number of speakers that have been given from the Opposition side or whether he is going to allow a chance for a speaker who is going to put forth a new point that has not been covered by any of the speakers from the other side or from this side.

Mr. Chairman: So far as I see, up till now only the Members from the Opposition groups have spoken. It is not a question as to how the speakers must be chosen and from what side, and it is impossible for me to pre-judge who is going to raise which point. For instance, the gentleman who spoke just now pressed upon me that he would like to speak on some of these points but we found probably he was not prepared to speak on these issues. So, it is not possible to judge previously whether a Member is going to talk on a new point. However, I shall continue the discussion till 12 o'clock.

Shri Raghavaiah: He will give the point on which he wishes to speak.

Mr. Chairman: That cannot be done.

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): I have been trying to catch your eye.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, Mr. Deshpande.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I rise to voice the just and well-founded apprehension of the Opposition side regarding the misuse of the proposed organisation of the Bharat Sevak Samaj that is contemplated by the Ministry of Planning. I was agitated on this point since I read it in the newspapers and after I received the pamphlet giving details of the Bharat Sevak Samaj.

Let us not be misunderstood. We are not here deliberately to misrepresent the Party in power. In fact, I read the pamphlet of the Bharat Sevak Samaj with a sincere desire to make my humble contribution to that organisation and co-operate with the Government in its effort to bring economic prosperity to this country. But, when I was reading the clauses very carefully, I came across one clause and I found that even in the constitution of this Samaj, the same perversity of approach, the same intolerance about the other men's point of view, was apparent. I found that under the heading of disqualifications, there was one clause, that those persons who are involved in activities or those persons who believe in violence or believe in communal hatred or are connected with organisations which believe in violence or believe in communal hatred, cannot be its members. I do not know what they mean, nor am I speaking with a guilty conscience that the Hindu Maha Sabha or the Communists are Parties which believe in violence and communal hatred. I know that the Hindu Maha Sabha is the most national organisation that was ever established in this country. Yet, I am speaking because the Congress Party and their leader, responsibly, and irresponsibly sometimes, have been accusing us of communal hatred, and I do not know which is the agency which will be called upon to decide which person believes in communal hatred, which person or which party or organisation believes in violence.

Dr. N. B. Khare: The Jamiat-ul-Ulema will decide it.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: That has nowhere been made clear in the constitution of the Bharat Sevak Samaj.

Yesterday, with all humbleness, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Planning, Mr. Nanda that "I am not likely to get an opportunity to speak in the debate on Planning. Will you kindly explain in your speech whether under this clause, persons belonging to the following organisations will be excluded from working in this Bharat Sevak Samaj?" I had given the names of the Hindu Mahasabha, the R.S.S., the Ram Rajya Parishad, the Communist Party of India, the Scheduled Castes Federation, and many other organisations. I wanted a categorical declaration from the Party in power. My hon. friend asks here whether we had mentioned the name of the Muslim League. I do not know, because the Party in power does not regard anything Muslim as communal. Muslims are the most national people and

everything Muslim is national according to secular definition of nationalism. Therefore, I had not included Muslim League in that list because I knew that according to the Congress, the Muslim League, the Jamait-ul-Ulaima-i-Hind and all those organisations are the most nationalistic organisations. I am rising here to get an explanation from the Party in power, because it has been made very clear in the rules of the Bharat Sevak Samaj that the State Government will be called upon to give financial aid to this Samaj. It has been further made clear that whole-time paid workers will be appointed and a colossal gigantic machinery will be created throughout India. Protesting too much naturally leads to suspicion. Many times it has been mentioned that it will be absolutely above party politics, and that it would be a non-political organisation. This too much of protestation has led me to share the view that most probably this organisation will be misused for popularising their views.

It seems to be now impossible to popularise the Congress and this is a method of forcing and thrusting the Congress Party on the electorate in India. I want an explanation from the Party in power. In fact, as my leader Dr. Khare has stated, if our apprehensions come out to be false or are not true, none would be gladder than myself. In fact, I would have wished that all these organisations ought to get popular support. I do not know how under the aegis of the Congress Government, foundation members are being enrolled. We never knew where to go, or how to become a foundation member, whether the Minister invites only certain people to become foundation members. Everything is kept in the dark. I propose to come to the hon. Minister, if he allows us or gives us an opportunity to speak. He does not answer our letters, he does not make any announcements in answer to any requests that we make in writing. Perhaps we may get a better experience hereafter and then as I have said, these efforts of popularising these schemes ought to be made. But I would certainly have wished—I do not mind if the Congress happens to be a majority party, the members of that party have a right to do social service—that they had followed in the footsteps—even as they have taken the name Bharat Sevak Samaj, which is literally a translation of “The Servants of India Society”—of the late Mr. G. K. Gokhale and had formed non-official public social organisations for popularising various schemes. I would have wished for that. But now the Government machinery is there. But they say “the Government is ours, no

one should criticise us; now there could not be any Standing Committee, and people ought not to be associated with the administration”. I say it is not only a question of Standing Committees. Questions are asked whether in the other Parliaments of the world, such Standing Committees are appointed. I had tried to read very carefully May's *Parliamentary Practice*. The words ‘Standing Committee’ do occur there. There are many committees, and many times, the Parliament itself goes into a Committee and those Houses are taken into greater confidence than this House. My complaint is that gradually the Party in power is also being thrown into background. When the Standing Committee goes away, it is not only the Opposition that will not get the chance, but even the Party in power will not get a chance to associate and mix with the administration of the Government. I feel that it is an encroachment and a trespass on the rights, privileges and prerogatives of the Members of Parliament. We find that the majority party has elected a Prime Minister, and a leader. The Ministries are there. We do not know what they are doing. If the Standing Committees were there, we would have some control and some chance of association with the administration. I am voicing therefore the feeling of the Opposition particularly and the House generally when I say that the Standing Committees have to be restored.

11 A.M.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I indicated some time ago that it might not be necessary for me to take more than ten minutes or possibly 15 minutes. If I exceed that time-limit, you will, I hope, show some indulgence because I have been listening to what has appeared to me fantastic stories, imaginings, and distorted perversions of thought on all kinds of things, and I have been wondering what the subject under dispute is. It has seemed to me that some hon. Members—I say so with all respect—suffering from some kind of frustration have brought out all those frustrations and not getting hold of anything logical or reasonable to see, have simply given vent to their anger against the Congress and the Government. The hon. Member who spoke first in his usual way was rather heroic about it, and having performed this act heroically marched out to rest outside. I suppose the House will not expect me to take him seriously on this or any other occasion. Therefore, I shall proceed to deal with some other points. Other hon. Members have waxed eloquent about the fascism of this Government.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : ठीक तो है ।

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazari-bagh West): That is correct.]

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: One of the frustrated gentlemen there threw an interjection just now, I am very sorry that I have to deal with these interjections which have no thought or reason or logic or intelligence behind them.]

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Everything is there.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member need not interfere like that.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not mind opposition, but I do expect, if I may say so, a modicum of intelligence in the Opposition...

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Which you lack]

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If the hon. Member insists on showing his lack of intelligence, what am I to do?

We started considering two or three important points. One was about the recent steps taken to identify the administration with the Congress Party, the Members of the Planning Commission being present at Congress Party meetings, and Working Committee meetings, and the constitution of a special committee of the Congress Parliamentary Party at which officials are present to take advice. There are two or three points in that. I come to the last point. The Congress Party has constituted group meetings for study and consultation on various subjects. I would advise, if I may do so, the Members of the Opposition to employ their time equally usefully instead of concentrating on just slogans and shouting. A little study does all of us good, and the Congress Party is therefore taking its business earnestly as Members of this legislature, and are seriously trying to study these various subjects and confer with us, and ask us. If any Members of the Opposition or any group forms such a study group on any particular subject, I shall gladly come to it if they want my advice in the matter. It has nothing to do with us. It is a private party functioning. I do not know why hon. Members on the opposite side dislike to see the Congress Party functioning actively, effectively and with intelligence, because they propose to function in that way. Therefore, to object to the effective functioning of the other party is the most extra-

ordinary thing that I can think of. Apparently hon. Members of the Opposition think that—if I may quote a couplet from a famous French writer, La Fontaine,

Cet animal est très méchant,

Quand on l'attaque, il se défend.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): What is the meaning?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: "This animal",—that is the majority party—"is very wicked; when it is attacked, it seeks to defend itself".

So it seems to be the privilege of the Members of the Opposition to say everything, relevant or irrelevant, truthful or untruthful, and to attack in any way, but the majority party which happens to represent the people of India more than the minority, which happens to have come through in elections recently with great success and which ultimately has formed the Government in this country, I say, has to be treated with respect by everybody in this country.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Out of all proportion...

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That hon. Members of the Opposition do not like the normal functioning of that Party is a most extraordinary thing. Are we to take our orders and directions from hon. Members opposite? I do not see, why? On the inner working of the Party, when it is said that officers go there for advice, I really do not know where hon. Members get their facts from. It is the first time I have heard it. It has nothing to do with officers; the Party functioning or a Committee functioning has nothing to do with officers.

Now, so far as the Planning Commission is concerned, it is meeting members of the Congress Working Committee. It is true that they have met the Congress Working Committee as they met members of the Socialist Party the other day, as they met industrialists, trade unionists and others. Whoever has been interested in their work, whoever has sought to find out anything from them or who has been invited by them to come and help them, they have met and discussed. If any group of Members or any one or two or three Members of the Opposition want to discuss anything with the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission will gladly discuss with them. The only difference is that members of the Congress Working Committee are interested in

achieving things, not merely in shouting and doing nothing. Therefore, they wrestle with these problems and in wrestling with these problems they ask the Planning Commission if they would like to discuss this matter with them. The Planning Commission has written to leaders of the Praja Party, leaders of other groups and many others. Many of those leaders are on their Advisory Board with whom they have consultations frequently enough. They are prepared to consult and confer with any group and, subject to time, with any individual. I would say, because they are in search of light. They are not people wedded to any dogma; they are trying to solve these intricate and difficult and complicated problems of India and they seek light wherever they can find it; whether it is America or Russia or China or any other country, their minds are not closed to anything. And certainly they seek light from our own people, apart from outside light. As Chairman of the Planning Commission I invite Members of the Opposition, and not only Members of this House, but others outside this House to come and confer with us in regard to planning in general or in regard to our Five Year Plan. I invite them to come and discuss with the Planning Commission so that we may have the benefit of their advice. They may also realise some of the problems that face us and some of the difficulties that we have to contend against. So that there is no question of the Planning Commission becoming a sort of appendage of the Congress Working Committee or the Congress Working Committee being an appendage of the Planning Commission.

Now to the larger question to which a vague reference was made by some hon. Members—of the Congress Party in a sense of interfering with the administration. If reference is made to something that happens in the districts or locally, all I can say is this, that it has been our endeavour to prevent interference with the administration by any person, whether he is a Congressman or others. But inevitably, we do not want the administration to be isolated from the people. We want to do work with them. We want co-operation. Interference is one thing, co-operation is another. We encourage that co-operation. If hon. Members go to their constituencies, their districts, naturally they are interested in conditions there. Naturally, if they wish to confer with the local authority, they should confer with them; they should hear what they have to say and so on and so forth. They must have a

co-operative spirit. We do not want interference with local authority by members of any party. If reference is made to something that happens in Delhi—I do not know what it might be, I am speaking with all respect—I do not want hon. Members, whether of the Opposition or of the majority party, to interfere with the working of our Ministries. I do not like that at all. If they want any information, we have got methods to supply it as speedily as possible. Through the Ministries and through the various offices we can undertake to answer questions, apart from formal questions that are put here, we can have inquiries made and do everything. But it is a dangerous thing if hon. Members here belonging to any group or party interfere with the running of the administration, because then those who run it are greatly embarrassed. They cannot, of course, be disrespectful or they may not carry out sometimes the wishes of a Member; at the same time, it may be completely against their own judgment or the manner and method of the working of the Ministries, and all kinds of difficulties arise. Therefore, dealing with a Ministry or Government department should be with the head of the department. Any hon. Member can make a suggestion or make a complaint; it will be inquired into. But one thing I should like this House to remember. It seems to be forgotten what is the nature of our Constitution. Reference was made by—I forget who—one of the hon. Members to the American Constitution, to all kinds of Committees and other developments under that Constitution. Well, the hon. Member should know that our Constitution is not modelled after the American Constitution; it is completely different from it, and, so far as I am concerned, I do not want to follow the American Constitution in these and many other matters. I think, with all respect to that great nation, it is an out-of-date Constitution. It was framed 150 years ago on the basis of something previous to it. The world has changed, but the American Constitution has not changed and while I am not speaking constitutionally, I am not an admirer of the American Constitution from the point of view of a Constitution, apart from everything else. I say deliberately when we made our Constitution, it was not after the American model. It was, rightly or wrongly, largely after the British model, with some variations of course, because the United Kingdom is a small, tight little island with a unitary Government while we are a huge country which necessarily has to be a Federation, and differences creep up. But, generally speaking, this

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Parliament is modelled after the Parliament of the United Kingdom, more or less, and normally we follow its rules and conventions also, unless we want to change them. That has to be kept in mind. Let us not, therefore, get mixed up. We can have the American model if you like, we can have the Soviet model if you like, but let us not mix things up and criticise the working of this Parliament from the point of the American Congress.

When the hon. Member Mr. Anthony was talking about great parliamentary traditions, about Standing Committees, etc., I asked him where those parliamentary traditions existed about these Standing Committees, he said: "in India". The fact of the matter is that they do not exist anywhere else. However, it would be better if I deal with these Standing Committees later. I was dealing rather with the charge that this administration is a kind of party machine and all that. Again, there seems to be some misconception. This Government is a party Government. It is not a non-party Government. I am the leader of the Party, and I am the leader of this Government.

Dr. N. B. Khare: And the President of the Congress also.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon. Members opposite want to eat the cake and have it too. They want to characterise this administration as fascist, as everything that can be bad, and all that, and they want to upset it. And yet they want to have a share in the administration. They want to learn the art of administration. I thought that they had come to the conclusion that nothing can be learnt in this way and that all that they had to do was to subvert and to upset it and to start afresh and anew. Now, one cannot have it both ways. This is a party Government, and I say so with no apology, but with pride. I have been a Congressman for close upon 40 years, and it has been my pride and privilege to function through the Congress. It has been the pride and privilege of vast numbers of people in this country to do so. And, if I may say so, some of the Members of the Opposition also gained some stature through this Congress organisation.

There is one point. It is a party Government as Governments are in parliamentary democracies. That does not mean that the Government should function for the benefit of the party; that is, the administration, apart from the Ministers, etc., the permanent

services, etc., should of course be completely apart from any party or any such thing. The Ministers are party men. The Ministers naturally should function for the country and not use their governmental position for their party purposes. That is an individual matter of behaviour. But it would be wrong for the House to consider them as non-party men simply because they have become Ministers.

Again, some instances were brought forward by hon. Members, and the Khadralla Youth Camp was mentioned. I do not know where hon. Members get their facts from. Of course, the Khadralla Youth Camp was a Congress camp. Nobody is ashamed of that. We have plenty of camps. We are workers. We are not talkers like some Members of the Opposition. (Interruption)

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: But the point is whether money was given to it. No money has been given to it by the Education Ministry. Where has the hon. Member got his facts from? Not a rupee has been given by the Education Ministry or any other Ministry here to the Khadralla Youth Camp.

In the same way, references have been made to the Bharat Sevak Samaj, as if governmental money was going to flow into it. No governmental money is going to flow into it. Undoubtedly, it was my hon. colleague Mr. Gulzari Lal Nanda's idea about a year and a half ago. It is not a recent development. An hon. Member referred to some circular which he had received a year ago. This idea has been considered quite apart from the Congress, and quite apart from politics. It is an idea to get large numbers of voluntary people to work in villages and elsewhere—city people to go to the villages and generally work with the others, etc. There is nothing novel about this idea. But anyhow, we discussed it with members of all kinds of organisations and parties in India. It is rather odd, but probably I think I am right when I say that Mr. Gulzari Lal Nanda has discussed this matter more with non-Congressmen than with Congressmen.

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): That is true.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is only lately that the matter has come up before the Congress. It is true that the idea has appealed to us—the essential idea of allowing opportunities for work, and the other idea that this

should be kept apart from the political level. We do not want to get entangled with the Congress organisation as such. Undoubtedly, we want Congressmen to help it in the sense of work. There are no prizes in it. There are no office-bearers in it. But anybody who wants to work can work. Anybody who wants to take up a spade and dig can take up a spade and dig. That is all. Politics does not come in. In fact, I may tell the House that some political parties wanted to take part in it as political parties. We pointed out to them that that would not be right. They take part as individuals. If I take part in the Bharat Sevak Samaj, I take part as an individual. I do not go there commissioned by the Congress to take part in it. So also others can take part in it too, not to exploit it for political purposes. Whether it is the Congress or whether it is any other party, they can come, but we do want to keep it outside the arena of controversial politics. Whether we succeed or not I do not know. I cannot say. It is true, as I think Mr. Deshpande pointed out, that in some rule or regulation, or whatever it is, it is said that people who believe in violence or who want to function on the violent plane or on the communal plane are not encouraged in it. Well, naturally, as I pointed out, as individuals everybody is welcome. But where an organisation, which is wedded to either violent methods or definitely communal methods, comes into it, difficulties are created all over the place; not only in that work, but in all work, difficulties are created, and the result might well be that instead of our carrying on that particular work, we would have controversies and conflicts instead of co-operative endeavour, and may be, exploitation of that work for other purposes. I need not advance any argument before this House in regard to violence, but may I remind this House—many hon. Members may not remember—that this Parliament, or rather, the predecessor of this Parliament, officially by resolution condemned communalism and has directed Government not to have anything to do with communal organisations. Of course, they can have the freedom that the law gives, but the Government is not going to give the slightest encouragement to any communal organisation, whether it is Hindu or Muslim or Sikh or Parsi or any other. That is the official policy of Government which we intend pursuing. But so far as the Bharat Sevak Samaj is concerned, it is not concerned with these policies of Government; it is concerned with carrying on its voluntary work quietly, without argument. It does not want to

introduce the element of argument and conflict into its work. That is the sole purpose behind any rules that have been made. I do not know whether the rules have been finalized or not.

Now the other point is and I must point out—I will not say I protest—but I must express my surprise at the loose way hon. Members who ought to know better use words. Dr. Saha, an eminent scientist, threw about the word 'fascist' in a way which only leads me to think that the hon. Member does not know the meaning of the word 'fascist'. I may call him a 'fascist' too as a term of abuse. But surely these are words of meaning and cannot be used by scientists unless they have forgotten science and lost touch with their science. They cannot use loose words and vague words. It is a degradation of science, if I may say so. He talked about 'fascism' in this House. Why? What is 'fascism' here? Because we have not got Standing Committees of the Legislature? Now is this logic? Is this reasoning? Is this even intelligence? I just do not understand. I do put it to this House with all respect and in all earnestness that the way this House functions, the way this Government functions in this country, the way many of our hon. Members opposite function here and outside is allowed by this Government only. I should like to know in how many countries or in which country in this wide world this freedom is allowed. As a matter of fact our attitude here in regard to the Opposition ought to be appreciated not only with respect to organisations which openly have the policy of conducting activities which can only be called subversive activities but with every kind of opposition. I should like to know in what country in Asia, America or Europe or Africa Opposition of this type has greater freedom? Then I should like to discuss 'fascism' and 'authoritarianism' and the rest of it.

Shri Meghnad Saha: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I had been in the Fascist regime—Italy—in 1927 and 'fascism' means (*Interruption*)

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member has spoken and taken his time. He should not interrupt now. (*Interruptions*) Order, order. Hon. Members should not get excited. What I was saying was that under the garb of explanation, the hon. Member ought not to make a speech or try to give a reply. He has already had his

[Mr. Chairman]

chance to speak. I do not think there is any explanation required now. (Interruptions).

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Sir, why should he not be given an opportunity to explain?

[**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru**: May I suggest to hon. Members to show some restraint if not intelligence?

Shri S. S. More: On a point of information, Sir. Has intelligence become the monopoly of the Party in power? (Interruptions).

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Some hon. Members are getting unnecessarily excited. If the hon. Member Dr. Meghnad Saha really wanted to give some explanation, I could have understood. But he wanted, under the garb of explanation, to make a speech. (Interruptions).

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not interested in Dr. Meghnad Saha's experiences in Italy 20 years or 30 years ago. We are talking of the present day and I am challenging his statement in the present day.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): Sir, the hon. Members are denied the chance of putting forward explanations, when their statements and *bona fides* are being challenged.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Members in Opposition have been throwing out far greater challenges. (Interruptions).

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Raghavaiah: Sir, may I remind the Prime Minister....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. (Interruptions) If the hon. Members persist I shall have to be strict. It does not add to the dignity of the House.

Shri Namblar: We are not afraid of the Government, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Dr. Saha rose on a point of personal explanation. He ought to be given an opportunity to explain.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let the Prime Minister go on.

Shri Namblar: Nobody would threaten us like that.

Mr. Speaker: I want to know if the hon. Member wishes to take the functions of the Chair in his own hands? If that is not the intention, then he

must follow the procedure here. Let him not contradict or go on arguing over the whole matter. I am calling upon the Prime Minister to continue his speech.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Sir, some remarks were made by the Prime Minister against Dr. Saha and he wanted to explain the position. He was allowed two minutes to explain facts but he never got the chance. Will you give him that chance, Sir?

Shri Gadgil: That explanation can only be given after the Prime Minister's speech is over.

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. the ex-Minister leave the matter to the Chair and resume his seat.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister in the course of his speech today had made so many allegations against the Opposition—not only he made allegations which have provoked the Opposition in the House but allegations about intelligence and all other things. Not only that but the Prime Minister also has said so many things and has asked whether in any country the Opposition is allowed to function in the way it does here. If the Prime Minister at least will be ready to hear from us the facts and to allow us an opportunity to explain things, that will only be fair. After all serious allegations are made against the Opposition. He said that the Opposition Members have no intelligence and they have no patience and so many other things.....

Mr. Speaker: I understand his point. Now, if more than one persons are going to speak I do not think it is possible to allow that kind of thing. The Leader of the Party, to which those Members who are speaking more than one at a time belong, has already made his submission. I have heard it. His request is that the hon. Prime Minister should give them an opportunity of hearing what they have to say, if not here then somewhere else also. And I am sure the hon. Prime Minister will always be glad to give them that kind of opportunity. I am also sure that if they convince the hon. Prime Minister that any statements of his were wrong, I think he would be first to admit his mistake and he will not stand on any consideration of false prestige. Therefore, it is no use creating here a sort of an atmosphere of tussle and heat. Let us hear whatever he has to say and if any Member has to give any personal explanation, certainly he would be given an opportunity of personal explanation, but not an opportunity of either criticising the Chairman or side-tracking the

discussion. Now we are taking up the time of the House. It is nearing 12 o'clock. That must be remembered also. So I will request the Prime Minister to continue his speech.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I entirely agree, Sir, with what you have been good enough to say. I shall be very happy indeed to have any information, refutation, correction or however else it may be called, for anything that I have said. It is of course a little difficult to measure by a yard or weigh in a balance people's intelligence. But if there is proof of that too, I am prepared to look into that. The discussion on this subject has been going on for some time this morning and thus far, and before I spoke, Sir, no one from our side spoke. I am the first speaker on this side and we allowed Members of the Opposition to speak one after the other, and so far as I can remember there was relative peace in this Chamber although all kinds of allegations were made amounting to saying that we were stooges of America, the Mutual Security Act was read out, and it was said that we were subservient to Governments abroad, and all that. I did not say a word. The Opposition was having a field day. And then when I got up and in my very moderate and temperate language point out certain deficiencies in the arguments that had been put across from the other side and also my desire, if I may say so with all respect, to improve the Opposition Members and point out certain proper methods of having this improvement, unfortunately hon. Members on the other side do not approve—I suppose I am right in thinking that they do not approve—of something that I said. It was pointed out that there was a deep intrigue in our not having Standing Committees. One hon. Member thought that it must be connected with the American aid. This remarkable flight of imagination really surprised me because thus far I have not heard this kind of a thing whispered even. These Standing Committees were formed in 1922 or thereabouts I think, under very special circumstances which obviously no longer exist. I am not aware of any country having parliamentary institutions having Standing Committees of that type. That does not mean, of course, that we should not have them or something like them. But if hon. Members think that these Standing Committees took part in the day-to-day administration of the various Ministries as some Members said, they are mistaken—they do nothing of the kind. They met, roughly—except for the Standing Finance Committee which met more

frequently—two or three times a year and they met to consider certain projects which they recommended or passed to the Finance Committee or whatever it was. There was hardly any real insight into the administration, any opportunity for that. It was a formality and a certain check, if you like, on the previous Government that we used to have. Now, as we function today, that particular type of Standing Committee has no meaning; it was an advisory committee, now it has no meaning whatsoever.

The House will remember that on a previous occasion I said that I would welcome as much co-operation as possible from Members opposite, in fact, from the whole House. It is very difficult to find out a method or to organise a method for that co-operation. There are in the majority party a large number of Members, I think 350 or more. It is difficult for large numbers of Members to be associated with our work. But I should like them to be associated in many ways. As a private matter, party matter, we ask them to form committees to study administration. They had nothing to do with Government, it was a pure party matter. And I mentioned to the Members of the Opposition that I would like to confer with them on any important matter that arises and a few days ago we had such an informal conference about foreign affairs. Now, I suggest that that kind of a thing we are perfectly prepared to have in regard to any subject at any time, and I would go further and say that I should like suggestions from hon. Members opposite or hon. Members on this side of the House as to now we can have more co-operation in the working of Government—I am not talking of co-operation in this House but actual consultations etc. in regard to important matters. I am perfectly prepared to consider any proposal. But I do think that this old system of Standing Committees as they were is completely out of place. It does not give that real co-operation, give those real opportunities, and it was a relic of the old British days which has no place today. Therefore, we decided to do away with it, but not to do away with the possibility of consultation or co-operation. Let us investigate that and I am prepared to go as far as possible. But the House should remember that co-operation is only fruitful when one approaches it in a spirit of co-operation. If on the other hand it is just to oppose and upset then nothing comes out of it. After all, a great part of the business of administration is not what might be called

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

a thing in which there need be opposition. In administration there are many things in common which any political party would have to do anyhow. Well, we do wish to have the views of hon. Members who may be experts or who may know something in regard to those matters and as I had said, I repeat, I shall welcome any suggestions or any ways of meeting them. For my part I have some ideas which I should like to pursue but I would welcome other ways too.

About our subservience to Governments abroad, well, I do submit that in this matter I should have preferred the hon. Member to point out something that we have done which appears to him to have been dictated or governed by some other Government's advice or direction. Surely that is the test. I agree with him that that part of the Mutual Security Act which he read out represents the wishes of the American administration in the matter. I agree. And no doubt they want such help or such support from other Governments. The point is what we do about it, not what the wishes of the American Congress when they passed that Act were. The question is whether we give up our policy in any matter, divert from our policy because either of pressure from a foreign country or, if you like to put it so, of a desire to get money from abroad. At every stage and at every step we have made it clear to every country we have dealt with that we are not going to change our domestic or our foreign policy and this has been accepted. And if at any time it is not accepted, well, there the matter ends; we part company from the aid and from that country if necessary. So that the way to look upon it is this: Have we done anything? If we have done anything, let us examine it, let us get it, and let us withdraw. But merely to say that other countries want us to do something does not carry the argument much further. To take this a few steps further and to say that we have put an end to or intend to put an end to all the Standing Committees because we are afraid that people may have a peep in into the inner workings of the Government is a most extraordinary charge. Hon. Members get somewhat excited and irritated when I in my, as I said, moderate and temperate language point out to them some facts. But do hon. Members realise that they accuse us of secret deals with foreign Powers behind the back not only of the Opposition but behind the back of Parliament, of the Indian public? We

dare not show them these secret deals! That is what is said, not implied almost, said openly. That is a very serious charge. I deny it absolutely. There is nothing secret, nothing underground, nothing hidden from public view, in our relations with any country. We may be right or we may be wrong in any particular action that we may take. But speaking for my Government, speaking for myself, I have never functioned—and I say so with all respect—in politics in an underground way. I am not for a moment accusing people who function in an underground way—not that. But the whole habit of a life-time pursues me. Even if I want to do it, I could not do it. Again, if I may strike a personal note, such influence, or affection that I have received from the Indian people is because I take them into my confidence about my innermost thoughts. We cannot carry on this Government by way of deals with foreign powers. This Government would deserve to be washed off and smashed up if it did that behind the back of the Indian people or this Parliament.)

Shri Namblar: That is going to happen.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member opposite displays the attitude which I said previously about some hon. Members opposite. It is rather extraordinary how truth will out in spite of every effort to suppress it.

This has nothing to do with Standing Committees. Let us discuss our foreign policy, or aid programme as you like. Standing Committees even if they exist, it is equally easy for Government to see that nothing secret is sent up to the Committee. In fact the Standing Committees got to know nothing secret. They got to know obvious things which everybody knows.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I rise on a point of information? What is the intelligent deduction from a process of acceptance of foreign aid from a particular country which very specifically lays down conditions regarding the acceptance of that aid?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is—if I may say so—a question of your own strength and ultimately it is your own strength that counts.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Vis-a-vis the United States.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In every Parliament.....

Mr. Speaker: Not like this. That is not the way to keep the dignity of the House.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The question is not what the United States may have said we must do, but what we have agreed to. The preamble to this agreement runs as follows:

"Recognising that individual liberty, free institutions, and independence, on the one hand and sound economic conditions and stable international economic relationships on the other hand, are mutually interdependent;

Desiring to co-operate in promoting and accelerating the integrated economic development of India;

Agreeing that increase in the interchange between the two countries of technical knowledge, skills and techniques in the field of economic development is mutually advantageous; and

Considering that the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India agree to join in promoting international understanding and goodwill and in maintaining world peace, and to undertake such action as they may mutually agree upon to eliminate causes for international tension;

Have agreed to carry out the Technical Co-operation programme and its separate projects as follows."

This is not the occasion for me to discuss foreign policy. I have endeavoured to discuss it previously and I hope to discuss it again in this House and elsewhere, because it is important that hon. Members opposite should understand it. The people of India, even the average villager understands it more or less. But the intelligent person who has allowed his intelligence to be warped and twisted in one direction finds it very difficult to understand simple problems.

In regard to the Planning Commission, nothing has happened which would have really enabled hon. Members opposite to raise this point. The Planning Commission is functioning quite apart from the Congress, though it is true perhaps that prominent Congressmen are connected with it, as they are connected with this Government, as indeed it is a fact that they run the Government. One cannot forget that fact. But they run the Plan-

ning Commission, they deal with the Planning Commission in a completely non-partisan way, not even as Ministers. A Minister has greater latitude in this matter than a member of the Planning Commission. Unless he happens to be a Minister, he is in a sense an official who is not connected with any party. He is functioning as an expert in that particular work.

In regard to the Standing Committees, in my opinion, these Committees were completely out of place. They did no useful work. They might have produced an impression in some Members that they were doing some work. They were too much connected with the old British set-up for us to continue them. If there are other methods of consultation in regard to administration, I am perfectly prepared to consider them.

Shri Raghavaiah: On a point of information. Will the hon. Prime Minister make available to this House the agreements made by the Government of India with other Governments?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They are laid on the Table of the House from time to time; they are not secret.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I remind the hon. Prime Minister of the contradiction in his speech when he characterised.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He must not take advantage under the cover of a point of information to carry on other arguments. It is very wrong. It is not keeping the honour and is a breach of faith.

Mr. Gadgil: he must bear in mind the time limit.

Shri Gadgil: I want to take a dispassionate view of the points raised and the discussion thereon. Undoubtedly, the groups are study groups. Objection was taken on the ground that certain officers were present. What I want to tell the House is that the object of these groups is just to study the problems of the various Ministries with which they are associated and guidance is given in the matter of such studies by the Ministers and the officers are there to supply data and information to the Minister, not necessarily to the Members constituting the group. I think what information is given is available to the Members of this House if they ask questions and that information is bound to be given on the floor of the House. So there has been no breach of the Constitution. As the Prime Minister has rightly pointed

[Shri Gadgil]

out, whatever help is possible in the way of making information and data available would be given to the Members of the other parties also.

Reference was made that this was putting the Government in the hands of one party. I think any commentary on the political institutions and practices in the U.S.S.R. will show that the Government there and the party are indistinguishable. Therefore, in fact the leftists ought to congratulate the Congress party for having emulated the example of U.S.S.R. The real trouble is that they are suffering from a sense of frustration and they do not appreciate the real motive behind the arrangement that has been evolved.

As regards the Standing Committees, as far as I remember, two were constituted under the Government of India Act, 1935 and the others in pursuance of resolutions passed in the Central Assembly. At that time the Government was irresponsible and irremovable. But at the same time the Government felt the necessity of associating the popular element with the formulation of policy and wanted to share some information, though not power, with the representatives of the people. Therefore, we must bear in mind that the constitution of these advisory committees was a feature of a system of Government which is no longer obtaining today. Today our Government is a parliamentary Government. Therefore, all those precedents and provisions which we find in the constitution of the U.S.A. are irrelevant. There the executive is not responsible to the Legislature. Here, under this Constitution of ours you can fix the responsibility squarely on the Government. The constitution of Standing Committees, in my humble opinion, will affect that central theme of responsibility and it will be, I think, against the spirit of the Constitution as well.

What will be the manner of working of the Standing Advisory Committees, if constituted? Suppose the Members of the Opposition come and agree to anything. Knowing as we do the Leftists, they will go out and on the floor of the House they will use that position as a spring-board for something more. In other words, they will not be able to deliver the goods because they would easily say that those were individual commitments not binding on their respective parties. If, on the other hand they oppose it, obviously the Standing Advisory Committees are useless.

In these circumstances I believe that in the interests of parliamentary executive nothing should be done which will take away, even by a grain, the responsibility of the Government, which must be exclusive. They are responsible for the formulation of the policies and their execution, and if they go wrong the Constitution provides the remedy. Moreover, why should we give the Government an opportunity to say "We consulted you, and the policy has been the result of the consultation with you"? Thus there is a moral obligation to support and I think the Prime Minister is perfectly right when he said that the Government cannot share the responsibility with any other party. Therefore, the grievance of my Leftist friends is not valid, unless they have something else up their sleeve which so far they have not disclosed.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Meghnad Saha is not here. I wanted to give him an opportunity of making a personal explanation, but unfortunately he is not here. I will proceed to put the motion to the House.

The question is:—

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1952-53, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12 Noon.

ESSENTIAL GOODS (DECLARATION AND REGULATION OF TAX ON SALE OR PURCHASE) BILL.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved by Shri C. D. Deshmukh on Wednesday, the 28th May, 1952 in respect of the Essential Goods (Declaration and Regulation of Tax on Sale or Purchase) Bill. The motion is for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): The motion requires some amendment, Sir, in view of the fact

that the date mentioned there—12th June, 1952—is no longer appropriate.

Mr. Speaker: What is the new date which he proposes?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I was thinking that 11th July might be suitable.

Mr. Speaker: So when I put the motion I shall put it in the amended form, that is, substituting "11th July, 1952" in the place of "12th June, 1952".

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar (Tiruppur): This Bill is in pursuance of article 266. When article 286 was moved in the Constituent Assembly there was a lot of discussion over it, because it affected one of the very essential revenues of the Provinces. Most of the Provincial Ministers who were Members of the Constituent Assembly thought that in their own Provinces their revenues would be affected to a considerable extent as sales tax forms the backbone of the revenue in many of the Provinces.

[**SHRI PATASKAR in the Chair**]

In Madras for instance it was Rs. 15 crores and odd last year. In the course of his speech in the Constituent Assembly Dr. Ambedkar made a suggestion which was really the reason for the fear. I am reading from page 326 of Volume X of those Debates, which refers to the discussion on this clause. He said:

"With regard to sub-clause (3)"—under which this Bill is sought to be introduced—"it has also been agreed that there are certain commodities which are so essential for the life of the community throughout India that they should not be subject to sales tax by the Province in which they are to be found."

Why this article was included in the Constitution was, it was felt that sales tax on certain essential things should not continue to be levied. And this is bound to cause hardship in many places. Now I find that in consultation with the Provincial Governments, the Bill that has been introduced says that "No law made after the commencement of this Act by the legislature of a State imposing, or authorising the imposition of, a tax on the sale or purchase of any goods...etc." That is to say, the existing sales tax will be allowed to remain in all the Provinces as it is. Only, in future, for any increases sought to be made in the sales tax in respect of any of the articles mentioned in the Schedule

they have to get the approval of the President. This allays the fear entertained by the Provinces.

Coming to the Schedule itself, which is the most important part of this Bill, I would like to submit that there are things which are not costly. Salt, for example, is a very essential commodity. The original tax on salt has also been removed. The amount of salt that is consumed individually by people and the cost that is incurred on it are so small that, though it is an essential article, it may not be included under this. On the other hand there are things like books, things which are necessary for education. Education is getting very costly all over the country, and we want to have compulsory elementary education for all and to provide for education at least up to the secondary course for a large number. One way of encouraging education is not to levy any tax on the equipments that are necessary for education. I therefore suggest that things like books may be included under this category.

Coming to certain other things, coarse and medium handloom and mill-made cotton cloth and handloom woollen cloth. I would suggest that the same rule should not be applied to all the categories. Some may be very essential; some may not be so very essential. I would suggest that this principle may be considered by the Select Committee which goes into this Bill.

Then, I would like to refer to item 8 in the Schedule: coal including coke and other derivatives, petroleum and petroleum products, including motor spirit and electrical energy, except energy intended for domestic use. Does that mean that energy intended for domestic use, when it is coal, when it is coke, when it is electricity, can be taxed by the Provincial Governments without reference to this Bill? In the matter of charging electrical energy, in many places, it is domestic consumption that is charged less. That must be for very good reasons. Specifically taxation on energy for domestic use has been excluded from this. I am afraid I am unable to understand the reason why that has been done. I would respectfully suggest to the Select Committee to go through the Schedule more than the Bill itself because the Schedule is the very essence of the Bill. In going through the Schedule, the Select Committee should see that it does not make the Schedule too long, because, every item included in the Schedule affects the taxing capacity of the Provinces. The more they are included, the more the sales tax that may

be levied by Provincial Governments is limited. I would suggest that they should take as few essential products as possible and leave the rest to the Provinces so that the Provinces may have some flexibility in their taxation.

While on this matter, I would like to refer to another implication as regards sales tax. I do not know whether many of my hon. friends in this House are aware that in Madras, and perhaps in one or two other Provinces, not only are the sale of commodities taxed, but contracts are also taxed. Suppose a man works contract for a lakh of rupees or 50,000. Anything about 10,000 or one-third of the amount is taken for cost of the material and two-thirds are taken as the cost of labour. Contract for labour is also taxed. The result of this has been very peculiar. Let me take the dyeing industry—not that the industry is dying, I mean the dyeing of cloth. In this industry, people have a capital of Rs. 1,000. With that sum, they buy colours, dyes, and they execute orders for dyeing yarn, cloth, etc. If they get sufficient orders, it is possible that they may have a turn-over of Rs. 10,000. In that turn-over, there may be a profit or there may be a loss. The sales tax does not take into account the loss or profit; it is levied on the orders executed. The amount invested is Rs. 1,000; sales tax is levied on the amount of work that he has done, with the result that in many places, these people who are making a hand-to-mouth living are affected considerably. These people with low incomes and low turn-over, many of them, have broken down. After all, we must encourage in this country labour because labour is wealth. I would request the Select Committee to consider this matter and I suggest that labour should not be taxed.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I wish to contribute a few points on this occasion when this Essential Goods Bill is being referred to the Select Committee.

The Bill before the House has included in the list of essential articles, in my opinion, certain categories of goods which should have benefited the included. At the same time, it has also omitted many items of consumer goods which should have benefitted the community as a whole. Take for example the item in this Schedule: raw cotton, including ginned and unginned cotton or *kapas* or cotton thread, coal, and iron and steel. All these materials are included as essential goods so that Provinces may not tax

them. From the experience in the South, especially in Madras, Travancore-Cochin and Mysore, we find that the States derive a lot of revenue from these items on account of sales tax. If this Bill is passed, the result will be that the finances of the Provinces, which are very meagre even at this stage, will be jeopardised and they will be forced to tax consumer goods. I am afraid that would be the net result of the passing of this Bill. I know the Central Government have had correspondence regarding this question with the State Governments. But, I do not know what were the replies received from the State Governments on this question. From sales tax in Madras, I find that Rs. 64 lakhs have been received last year.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Sixty-four lakhs from sales tax in Madras?

Shri Velayudhan: Yes.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Very much more; a few crores.

Shri Velayudhan: I am subject to correction.

Therefore, my humble opinion is that the Government should include in this Schedule many items of consumer goods like oils, soap, text-books, as my hon. friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar has said, pencils and so many items which are necessary for the community, for the family as such. Otherwise, I think this Bill will not confer any benefit on the community as a whole. There is no difficulty in taxing the capitalists and the big industrialists in the States, because they have enough finances. Because of this kind of change in the tax structure, it has now become a burden on the poor masses and Government is going to get more and more money only from the masses, about whom the Finance Minister spoke yesterday. My only request to the Finance Minister and to the Select Committee is that they should include so many items of consumer goods like soap, oils, toilets of many varieties which are essential to the middle classes. Take for example silk. It is locally made in Assam, Bengal and Mysore also. If the Government excludes sales tax on that also, I think the community is going to benefit a lot. Otherwise, by this measure, only big businessmen are being benefited and not the community.

These are my points and I hope the Select Committee will take these things into consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): I whole-heartedly support the reference

of the Bill to the Select Committee. At the same time, I would like to put some suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill and the members of the Select Committee.

In the Schedule, in item No. 1, it is mentioned "Cereals and pulses in all forms, including bread and flour, including *atta*, *maida*, *suji* and bran." It is all right, but I find that while derivatives of wheat have been mentioned, derivatives from rice have not been mentioned. So, I would suggest that flattened rice (*chura*) and fried rice (*muri*) should also be added. In this connection, I may mention that in recent months, perhaps two months back, the Bengal Government imposed control over the transportation of flattened rice. So, I would like to make this suggestion.

Then, after "Fresh milk, whole or separate, and milk products", I would like that the Committee should consider adding fish, meat and eggs, and also, as my friend who spoke last mentioned, I would like that edible oils should also be added.

Then, "Coarse and medium handloom and mill-made cotton cloth and handloom woollen cloth" have been mentioned. In this connection, I think it will be better if cotton and woollen piecegoods are also included.

And lastly, I hope that the Committee will consider also about textbooks and teaching materials.

Shri K. C. Sodhia (Sagar): In the Schedule there are included dried fruits. Thus we can have *Kishmish* and other types of dried fruits which are not used by the country people, and the common people without sales-tax. They are used only by monied men, and while provision has been made for these dried fruits, nothing has been done about the ordinary things which all people of this country use—say, *gur*. *Gur* is an article which is used practically by all the people, down from a labourer up to the middle class people. Now, *gur* has been left out. There is no Indian who does not use *ghani* oil at some time or other. That is used by all people—our villagers and labourers and all the poor people. That *ghani* oil has been left out altogether. It is a very necessary article of our diet, and I would request the Finance Minister and the Select Committee to include articles such as *ghani* oil and sugar in it. Sugar also is an article which is now commonly used by our poor people, and I do not see why there should be any additional tax on them, when the Govern-

ment of India realise such a large quantity of money in the shape of excise duties. If these articles are not included in this Bill, well, I am afraid that there will come a time when the Provincial Governments, because they want to amass as much money out of sales tax as possible, will not leave these things without taxes and the poor people whose livelihood is already very troublesome, will become more troublesome. Therefore, I request the Finance Minister and the Select Committee kindly to take these things into their consideration and to include *gur*, sugar, writing paper, oil, ghee and milk products into the list of the Schedule and to exclude these dried fruits from it.

Shri Namblar (Mayuram): I am one who believes that the sales tax as such should be abolished, and I have been agitating and working for it because the sales tax directly hits the ordinary poor sections of the people. Unfortunately, I am not going to demand that out of this Bill, because it may not be possible, because it is beyond the scope of the Bill, but I would suggest that once the attempt is being made to avoid taxing certain essential goods, let us see whether we are adopting a fair approach to all the essential goods that are there. Here for instance, now in this Bill it is stated, of course to save the handloom products, coarse and medium handloom and mill-made cotton cloth and handloom woollen cloth are included, and in the next item, cotton of several varieties, *kapas* etc., are included, but why is yarn excluded? We are excluding cotton from the operations of the sales tax, and also other handloom-products. Without yarn, there cannot be any handloom products at all. And today the lot of the handloom weavers in the South is such that they are the worse affected. Out of the five lakhs of handloom weavers in Madras State, I can say without any fear of contradiction, more than 2½ lakhs are unemployed today, and they are on the verge of beggary. The handloom weavers do not get yarn today, it has become a problem. I would therefore suggest that yarn is rightly to be included in the Schedule, and I hope that the hon. Minister will look into the matter.

Some hon. Members have suggested that oil and soap products must be included. I also support that demand because oil and soap products are the needs of the ordinary man today, and in the South I can say oil is a part of food today. It may not be all oils, but anyhow, cocoanut oil, gingelly oil and such other oils are used for cooking and it is part of the food.

[Shri Nambiar]

So also the question of sugar. In the case of sugar, an hon. Member suggested that it must be added, and I say that this must be added. I am making these points because when once we approach the issue that food should not be touched, then let us take the average man's food. I do not say the food of a luxurious type. Sugar or oil are not luxurious foods. They are part of an ordinary man's food.

In item No. 8 it is stated coal and other petroleum products are excluded. When it comes to electrical energy, it is stated electrical energy used for domestic purposes can be excluded from tax, whereas electrical energy used for certain industries is to be taxed. I do not know why there is this distinction. For instance, coal itself produces electrical energy and coal is excluded, whereas electrical energy which may come from the Pykara project or which may come from any other source, if it is used in an industry, a cottage industry or a flour mill or some such other thing, but not for domestic purposes, why should it be excluded? Therefore, it must get a tax-free chance like many other items. Therefore when once we approach the whole issue on the basis that the measure has to be beneficial to the ordinary man who cannot pay more, then we must take the whole point into consideration, and not haphazardly deal with some aspects here and there saying that we are considering only certain goods as essential and taking them out of the orbit of the sales tax. Therefore reserving my opinion that the sales tax as such should go, and without approaching that subject here and now, I say that these items also should be included in the Bill, so that the ordinary man in the street may be benefited straightway.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): I should like to know whether the intention of the Bill is to exempt certain articles from sales tax. I understood it to be different. I should like the hon. Finance Minister to explain that point.

Mr. Chairman: I think the hon. Member should wait for the reply of the hon. Minister at the end.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury (Gauhati): I admit that I did not quite follow the principle of this Bill. When a big boy does not understand things, he becomes a big dunce. When Assam is pronounced as Ass-am, then one begins to realise that he has been a great ass indeed. But for any reasons other than

this, he had put his faith in the Finance Ministers. They have always been elusive. They are sweet when they speak in the House, but they are not as sweet when they pass their orders.

Recently I have come across a few lines of poetry about the hon. Finance Minister, which I may be allowed to recite:

देश की भलाई रहा उस का लक्ष्य
देश की उन्नति रहा उस का उद्देश्य
दुनिया के आदमी के दिल में हुआ सूख
नाम दिया उनको देश मुख ।
लेकिन देखो अभी क्या हो रहा
दुनिया में आ गया बहुत दुःख,
अपने देश को भूल गया देशमुख ।

[His aim has been the good of the country, his object prosperity of the nation. The people were pleased with him and gave him the name of Deshmukh.]

But see what is happening around us today? The world is very unhappy. Deshmukh has forgotten his country.]

I understand that my hon. friend the Finance Minister showed signs of patriotism in his early childhood, when God had blessed him with that, but (unfortunately the crossing of the seas and the fact that he at one time belonged to the heaven-born service led to certain changes in him by degrees so that he has now become the Finance Minister of a somewhat stone-hearted species) I would say this again in the interests of Assam.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Is the Finance Minister under discussion or the Bill?

Mr. Chairman: I have allowed the hon. Member a certain amount of latitude. May I suggest to the hon. Member now to go on with the consideration of the Bill before the House?

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: I find in the Bill that the articles *andi* and *moonga* have not been included, with the result that it will be open to any Provincial Government to subject them to sales tax. I do not know whether the hon. Finance Minister has come across any *andi* or *moonga* cloth. I know that the hon. Minister of State for Finance greatly encourages this industry and

be occasionally flatters that Province by using *andi sonvetimes*. That is a very important industry. I think it is quite unjust that it should be subjected to sales tax.

Another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister is this. Although other edible oils have been included in the Bill, and have been excluded from the operation of the sales tax, fish which is the common food of people living in the eastern zone of India has not been included in this Bill; it affects the interests of the poorer section of the people. I am submitting in the interests of those who are not vegetarians that fish also should be included in the Bill. I know that the majority of this House may be vegetarians, and therefore they may not care to think of fish as being an important item of food. If they had only tasted and seen how fish and rice go together, they would. I am sure, be converts to this kind of food, and would have realized the importance of excluding fish and meat also from the purview of sales tax.

What about eggs? In these days, it may be difficult to grow more food consistently with the growing population. While such is the case with cereals, there is no limit to the growing of food like fish. If fish-culture is attended to more seriously, I submit that a substantial portion of the food problem would be solved. I think the vegetarians also will agree to take eggs as an item in their daily food. In Western countries, egg is considered to be an item in the vegetarian food. I think it is important that we should seriously take this aspect of the matter into consideration when we are out to solve the food problem.

In the interests of the womenfolk of India, I would like to make a few suggestions, if the House does not mind it. It has been stated that I am a woman-hater. I have approached in this House one or two ladies, they have been kind enough to disagree, and the House may be delighted to know that they are not all old ladies.]...

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Is this the subject under discussion, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may proceed with his suggestions.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: I wanted to say that every Hindu woman, according to religious usage, is bound to put some vermilion on the forehead. Every married woman must have the vermilion on her forehead. [So this item which must be used by all women in 80 P.S.D.]

India, particularly married women, should never be subjected to any kind of tax. This is a matter of religion, this is not merely a matter of decoration. This is not like lipstick. Of course, lipsticks may be used now-a-days on a larger scale than before. I am not suggesting that lipsticks should be entirely exempted because those who use lipsticks are financially in a position to do so; it is only the fashionable kind of ladies who use them. But I submit, Sir,—and I should be taken seriously in this matter—putting vermilion on the head and forehead is a religious act and also it is a protective act, in the sense, we have found in law courts, that if a man is found to entice a woman who had vermilion marks on her forehead, the presumption is that the accused knew that she was a married woman.]

If one reads section 497, item (c), it can be seen (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Chairman: Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury rose—

Mr. Chairman: I have called upon Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. The hon. Member has exhausted his points.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The objects of the Bill have been given shortly in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. They seem to be two. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Chairman: Silence, please.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The first is uniformity of law and secondly, that certain essential goods be not taxed. These seem to be the two principles of this legislation. When I come to this Bill I find that there is a clause—No. 3—in this Bill which is exactly in the same words as article 286(3) of the Constitution, with a very small difference. Article 286(3) of the Constitution and clause 3 of the Bill have only one difference. In this clause, the words used are: "No law made after the commencement of this Act...". These are the only words—"after the commencement of this Act"—which differentiate this clause 3 from the provisions of article 286(3) and they constitute a very big difference. In fact, if we did not have this clause 3 in this Bill, nothing would be lost because when we have got article 286(3) of the Constitution we need not repeat this clause 3, except for this that perhaps the Government wants that the Acts hereinbefore passed by any Legislature may not come within the mischief of this Bill. I understand that the Constitution wanted that in respect of three matters restrictions be placed on the right of the Legislature of a State. The heading of article 286 is "Restrictions as to

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imposition of tax on the sale or purchase of goods". Now the first clause of this article 286 reads thus:

"No law of a State shall impose, or authorise the imposition of, a tax on the sale or purchase of goods where such sale or purchase takes place—

(a) outside the State; or

in the course of the import of the goods into or

export of the goods out of, the territory of India."

May I humbly enquire from the hon. Finance Minister if this article 286(1) is capable of this interpretation, that if there is any law in existence which seeks to tax things which are prohibited by article 286(1), whether that will be good law? In my humble opinion, that law will not be good, and there is a prohibition against the validity of such laws. Similarly, when we proceed to article 286(2), we find that so far as inter-State trade etc. is concerned, again there is a prohibition, and an absolute prohibition; but to take away the effect of that absolute prohibition, a proviso has been added so that certain Acts were saved up to a certain date.

Again in regard to clause (3), the question arises whether this can be interpreted as having retrospective effect or not. My humble submission is that the point is not free from difficulty. Perhaps the better opinion may be what the Government have obtained—I am not dogmatic about it—but I propose to lay some points for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister for what they are worth. My humble submission is that, taking the whole article—article 286—and the 'general spirit' of the Constitution, in the words of Dr. Ambedkar used in another context, it appears that the intention was to put restrictions on the powers of the Legislatures in regard to levying certain taxes on the sale or purchase of goods. In regard to things which were declared to be essential for the life of the community, the presumption is that the Constitution wanted that those articles should not be taxed. Even now this is the principle of this Bill also, and I would submit that unless and until the words of the legislation are absolutely clear, indisputably clear or almost conclusive, the interpretation should be what the real intention of the framers of the Constitution was. I know certain objections have been raised to this interpretation and I will come to that

subsequently. But my submission is that if you kindly read just these four lines, the effect is the one which I am submitting should be the right interpretation of this clause. It runs thus:

"No law made by the Legislature of a State imposing, or authorising the imposition of, a tax on the sale or purchase of any such goods as have been declared by Parliament by law to be essential for the life of the community shall have effect..."

Which in clear language means that no law which exists at this date which imposes a tax on any article which has been declared by Parliament by law to be essential is good—whether that law is there existing or has been subsequently made—unless it has been reserved for the consideration of the President and received his assent. Now, when a Bill is put in my hand, I will ask the simple question, whether this Bill was reserved for the consideration of the President and assent had been obtained. If it did not receive his assent, then the Bill is of no effect. I know that an argument was put forward that the President did not come into existence at the time when the offending Bill was passed; it will be said the Legislature of the State did not come into existence before the Constitution was made. This is an argument but I know at the same time that so far as the words go, the question of absurdity—*argumentum ab inconvenienti*, as it is called—has no force. Supposing there is a law that people having blue eyes should be killed, it may be wrong but it has to be obeyed. I am not at all influenced by the consideration that, as a matter of fact, the President did not come into existence before these laws putting taxes on essential articles were passed. The only question for me will be whether a particular Bill which levies such taxes was reserved for the consent of the President and that consent has been received. The fact that the President did not come into existence makes the argument still stronger, which means it could not have been possibly reserved for the consideration of the President and possibly no consent could be given. So, my submission, on an *a priori* reading of this article is that it has got no retrospective effect. The words "legislation of a State" have a general connotation and they were used in no technical sense. I am not putting a dogmatic interpretation on it. I am not saying that the other side have got no argument. But the possible effect of the legislation should be considered. I therefore think that we would be well advised to have

only clause 2 and leave it to the Supreme Court or some other court to interpret the law as they find it. If clause 3 is not there, nothing will be lost. Only the courts will interpret the Constitution and not the Legislature. It is not the business of the Legislature to interpret the Constitution; it is the business of the courts. Now, if you refer to article 288 of the Constitution as well as the proviso which I referred to just now, it will appear that the contention which I am putting forward for the consideration is not so absurd as perhaps the proponents of the other view might think. If you refer to article 288, you will be pleased to see that the words are more specific. Clause (1) says:

"Save in so far as the President may by order otherwise provide, no law of a State in force immediately before the commencement of this Constitution shall impose, or authorise the imposition....."

and so on, and, further, in clause (2) we find similar words. My submission is that if it had been the intention of the law that all the previous laws were to be saved, the law would have declared like this: "No law hereinafter made by a State....." and so on, or the phraseology of article 288 could have been adapted very easily. The phraseology is not there, and when I read the whole Chapter at one time, I come to the conclusion that the intention of the Legislature was to impose restrictions on the powers of the States in respect of taxation of certain articles which are essential for the life of the community. My submission is that even if my contention is not accepted, nothing will be lost if clause 3 is not enacted, because it is unnecessary to enact it, because it is in the Constitution—article 286(3). We have got that provision and we need not re-enact it in clause 3. It is not necessary to do so unless you want to give a handle to those Legislatures which have already passed laws to stick to those laws. On the contrary, I very respectfully submit to the hon. Finance Minister that the interests of the country require that he should use his influence with all such States to get such laws, if they are valid, abolished. After all, the mere accident that one State had passed a law before should not give any sort of preference or advantage to it which is not open to the other States. In the interests of uniformity, which has been accepted as the guiding principle of our legislation, we should see that in all the States there is a uniform law so far as this question of taxation on goods essential for the life of the com-

munity is concerned. I would not be satisfied if those States only are allowed to tax those essentials while other States are not allowed to do so. This is all that I have to submit with regard to the subject matter of this Bill.

Now, coming to the Schedule, I respectfully submit one or two points for the consideration of the Finance Minister. In the first place, I would call attention to article 369 of the Constitution. Article 369, as a matter of fact, relates to articles which are essential for the life of the community. In clause (1)(a) we find:

"Trade and commerce within a State in, and the production, supply and distribution of, cotton and woollen textiles, raw cotton (including ginned cotton and unginned cotton or kapas), cotton seed, paper (including newsprint), foodstuffs (including edible oilseeds and oil), cattle fodder (including oil-cakes and other concentrates), coal (including coke and derivatives of coal), iron, steel and mica;"

My submission is that we have heard so many speeches in this House urging the inclusion of various items of foodstuffs in this Schedule. Some wanted to include fish; others wanted certain other items. I do not know whether those who come from other States would like to see included in this Schedule such foodstuffs as do not come within the definition of cereals and are very generally used by the inhabitants of those States. I respectfully ask the hon. Finance Minister to use the phraseology "foodstuffs". "Foodstuffs" will include everything. And there is a good reason why foodstuffs should be included so far as this Schedule is concerned. Moreover, the House will be pleased to see.....

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member want to make a new point?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: There is no question of new points. So long as the Bill is there and there is no repetition of arguments I am entitled to continue my speech.

Mr. Chairman: I would like to know how much time the hon. Member will require.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I do not want to take very long; I will finish very soon. But at the same time I very respectfully submit that when a Member is speaking on a Bill he is entitled to go on.....

Mr. Chairman: I knew that. I merely wanted to know how long he would take.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I will finish in two or three minutes. I have come to the Schedule.

I was submitting that if the Finance Minister takes the phraseology of clause (a) of article 369 of the Constitution as the basis—he will find that that clause includes all those articles which the Constitution-makers considered essential for the life of the community and in respect of which the Central Government was authorised to make laws—if he takes that phraseology as the basis, then much of the criticism will disappear. But if he does not agree to this suggestion, he should kindly agree to include fodder, because it is an essential article; then again, oilseeds and oil are very necessary and should be included. Paper is not mentioned in the Bill. Text-books are essential for the life of the community. I would beg of the Finance Minister to include such things as are in ordinary use by the poorer sections of the people.

I am fully cognizant of the fact that if we include many things in this Schedule, that will be taking away the powers of the States, and we want that so far as the States are concerned, their powers should not be taken away arbitrarily. Thus we have to strike a balance between exemption of essential things and the power of the States to tax others, and I would respectfully ask the Finance Minister to include only those articles which are essential for the life of the community.

I do not agree with my hon. friend who spoke before me when he says that so far as the sales tax is concerned, it is obnoxious. On the contrary, it is necessary only that we should exclude essential articles from the list and no more sales taxes are levied all the world over.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

"That in the motion for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee, the name of Shri N. R. M. Swamy be added."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in the motion for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee, the name of Shri N. R. M. Swamy be added."

The motion was adopted.

Shri S. S. More: May I ask, Sir, how can this amendment be made? How can it come at this particular stage?

Mr. Chairman: The amendment can come at any stage. What is the objection?

I am under the impression that the hon. Members are not anxious to carry on the discussion. After all, my idea was that the Bill will come again from the Select Committee.

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): This verdict of the House which you have got will vitiate the further discussion. I think we have not taken any decision.

Mr. Chairman: No, that is not a decision. The amendment was only with respect to the addition of one more Member to the list of the Members of the Select Committee.

Sardar Sukam Singh: It is perfectly in order. We were discussing the motion that was moved by the hon. Minister that such and such names should be included in the Select Committee. The amendment is to the original motion that in those names one more name be added and now that would be taken as the Select Committee. So there is no harm in increasing the number by one man. The discussion should continue.

Mr. Chairman: As a matter of fact it does not affect the proceedings in any way. It only adds one more Member to the list.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, the way in which this has been done is quite perfect. This is the proper procedure. One more Member has been added to the list of the Members.

Mr. Chairman: Does any hon. Member wish to speak?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Sir, I do not like to take much time. I will touch upon only the Schedule and the goods that are declared as essential. In the Schedule I do not find any mention of handloom silk cloth. That is a very important and essential article of consumption. Silk is perhaps regarded as a luxury article. But I may submit there are various varieties of silk cloth. Some silk fabrics are quoted at very low prices and they are meant for the ordinary man. After all a man usually desires to wear cloth which is fine; and my submission is that handloom silk cloth also may be included under the Schedule.

My another submission is that the Finance Minister has not taken care to see that jaggery is also an essential article of consumption. Sugarcane is of course declared essential but the product of sugarcane, jaggery is also equally essential. Some of my friends argue that sugar is very essential and it should be declared so. But if sugar is to be declared as essential, I say that jaggery is more essential than sugar. (An Hon. Member: I also agree). Therefore, I submit that both

jaggery and sugar may be included in the Schedule.

1 P.M.

Some of my friends wanted that oils and oilseeds should be declared as essential. I agree fundamentally with their arguments. But I specially mention that groundnut is a very essential article of consumption.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Monday, the 7th July, 1952.