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Wednesday,
10th December, 1952

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

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NEW DELHI

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

1881

1882

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 10th December, 1952

*The House met at a Quarter to Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
CONVENTION

***1086. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ceylon Government has declined to ratify the International Labour Organization Convention regarding "migration for employment"?

(b) If so, how has it affected the status of Indian workers in Ceylon?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour
(Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Ceylon has not so far ratified the I.L.O. Convention No. 97, concerning "migration for employment".

(b) If the Convention had been ratified by the Ceylon Government, it would have been helpful in ensuring that no discrimination is practised between the Indian and the Ceylonese labour in regard to social security benefits, wages, holidays with pay, trade union rights etc. Non-ratification does not ensure these protections for Indian workers.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India had been informed of the reason which led Ceylon not to ratify the I.L.O. Convention?

Shri Abid Ali: It is not necessary, Sir, for the Ceylon Government to inform the Government of India. With regard to the non-ratification of the Convention the I.L.O. takes the necessary steps. There is a regular procedure for it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has any idea of the number of labourers who are likely to be affected by this non-ratification of the Convention?

Shri Abid Ali: About 750,000.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India would move in the matter and, if so, what will the Government do for this?

Shri Abid Ali: This point, Sir, comes before the I.L.O. periodically and, as I have already stated, there is a regular procedure for it. I am thankful to the hon. Member for the suggestion.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether India has ratified the Convention, and, if so, when?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir; India has not ratified the Convention.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the Government aware, Sir, that for several years, the Ceylon Government has not been sending labour delegates to the I.L.O. Conferences, because the labour in Ceylon happens to be Indian; and may I know whether the Government of India has taken any steps to see that the Indian labour in Ceylon gets proper representation at the I.L.O. Conferences?

Shri Abid Ali: Sir, labour representatives do attend I.L.O. conferences on behalf of Ceylon labourers as well. Formerly the Ceylon Workers' Congress was given representation but this time the All Ceylon Trade Union Congress was given representation. This is a matter, Sir, entirely between the Government of Ceylon and the I.L.O.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether India recognises migrant workers as indigenous workers after a lapse of time?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know whether there was any undertaking regarding the treatment of Indian labourers in Ceylon and how far it is implemented?

Shri Abid Ali: There was not any undertaking, Sir.

MEDICAL STORES (GIFTS)

*1087. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that free gifts of certain non-consumable medical stores like ambulances, X-ray equipments etc. have been offered to India by certain philanthropic persons abroad; and

(b) if so, whether such free gifts stores are given any customs concessions?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Such gifts are often received by Missions and other Hospitals doing charitable work.

(b) Applications for re-imbursement of expenditure incurred on account of customs duty on such non-consumable medical stores are considered on merits by the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether requests have been made to the Government by those who have sent such non-consumable medical stores to India for the reimbursement of customs duties charged from them?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Hospitals and other institutions who are catering to the needs of the poor, irrespective of caste or creed, apply for it, and they are looked into and on merits they are given.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know, Sir, how these gifts are distributed and which States have been benefited by these gifts?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The gifts are not given through the States; but the gifts are sent directly to the charitable institutions from the donors overseas.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the department concerned of the State is consulted and its advice taken before any private institution is given these gifts?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is no information, Sir.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*1088. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary question to starred question No. 1102 asked on the 23rd June, 1952 regarding International Wheat Agreement and state the difference between the price of wheat purchased under the International Wheat Agreement and that purchased in the open market in the United States, Canada and Australia?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The prices paid in the open market purchases of wheat from Canada and U.S.A. were always higher than those paid under the International Wheat Agreement. They varied from time to time. In the case of Canada they were about \$17 per ton higher, while in the case of U.S.A. they were about \$28 per ton higher than the International Wheat Agreement prices. In Australia we could not make any purchases in the open market as that country had no wheat to sell except under the International Wheat Agreement.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the price per ton of wheat according to this International Wheat Agreement?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I cannot give the exact price of the wheat in the public interest but it varies from 1.2 to 1.8 dollars per bushel.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the difference between our internal price and the International Wheat Agreement price?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We cannot compare our grain with that of foreign countries.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, how much wheat is going to be bought from the open market?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Last year we have purchased about 21,74,000 tons.

Shri Dabhi: Next year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Under this International Wheat Agreement, the crop year is taken as the year for all practical purposes. It begins from the first of August and ends with the 31st of July. Last year, that is the year beginning with August 1, 1951 and ending with July 31, 1952, we have purchased 21,74,000 tons outside the Wheat Agreement. Next year, that means from July onwards, i.e., from August this year till July next, we are not purchasing outside this International Wheat Agreement.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what is there in the International Wheat Agreement that prevents the hon. Minister from disclosing the prices in that agreement? Is it in the interests of the international World that he does not want to disclose the information, or is it in the public interest of India?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I cannot disclose them. That is one reason. The other is that I have not got the figures also.

Shri B. S. Murthy: How does the price of wheat purchased in the international wheat market compare with the prices in the agreement?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I have already stated in the course of my reply that the price of wheat purchased outside the International Wheat Agreement is always higher than the price of the wheat purchased under the International Wheat Agreement. In the case of Canada they were 17 dollars higher and in the case of the U.S.A., 28 dollars higher.

Shri B. S. Murthy: In that case, why did we not go in for wheat outside the international wheat market?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Where can we go outside the international market?

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In the course of his reply to a supplementary, the hon. Minister stated that the prices in India could not be compared with the international prices. May I know what is the reason for it?

Shri Kidwai: Because in India the prices are generally higher than the prices we have to pay if we get wheat from the international market and excepting perhaps the Punjab open market, the prices that prevailed last year in the International wheat market were always lower than the internal procurement prices in this country.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether the quality of American wheat is far below that of the wheat imported from other countries?

Shri Kidwai: We also produce good varieties and bad varieties. So, it is the fault of the purchasers if they do not get good quality.

FIVE NATION COMMITTEE

*1089. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is participating in a Five Nation Com-

mittee for preparing a scheme of setting up emergency reserve food units to offset shortages in emergencies;

(b) if so, whether that scheme has been finalised;

(c) what is the nature of the scheme; and

(d) whether Government propose to place a copy of the Scheme on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) There is no Five Nation Committee entrusted with the preparation of the scheme. But the Council of Food and Agriculture Organisation at its meeting held in November last had selected seven countries of which India is one, to nominate experts, eminent for their personal qualifications to constitute a study group who would study the question of the establishment of an emergency food reserve and submit their report by March 1953 for the consideration of the Council.

As there is no scheme, the rest of the question namely, parts (b), (c) and (d), does not arise.

HEADWATER SUPPLY OF RIVER HOOGHLY

*1090. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Expert Committee appointed to examine the question of improving the headwater supply of the river Hooghly has submitted its report?

(b) If so, what are the important recommendations of the Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The Report is now under the consideration of Government.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know by what time the Government would come to a decision on the point?

Shri Alagesan: Very shortly.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the Planning Commission has considered this report?

Shri Alagesan: The recommendations came rather late. The report was in our hands on the 10th November. I do not think the Planning Commission would have had time to consider the report.

Shri B. K. Das: Is it under the consideration of the Planning Commission or the Transport Ministry?

Shri Alagesan: It is under the consideration of the Transport Ministry.

Shri Barman: Is the report connected with the Ganga Barrage Scheme and if so, when will the consideration come to a final conclusion?

Shri Alagesan: Of course, the Ganga Barrage Scheme figures in this report.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is there any chance of this scheme being considered and fitted into the Planning Commission's Report?

Shri Alagesan: I do not think I can answer that question.

THEFT IN TRAINS

*1091. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thefts committed in passenger trains as well as in goods trains on each Railway during the year 1951-52;

(b) the value of the properties stolen as well as recovered; and

(c) the number of persons prosecuted as well as convicted for these thefts?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The number of thefts committed in passenger and goods trains during 1951-52 was 1780 on the Central Railway, 4598 on the Eastern Railway, 1107 on the Northern Railway, 671 on the North Eastern Railway, 1701 on the Southern Railway and 561 on the Western Railway.

(b) The estimated value of property stolen on all these Railways during the same period was Rs. 58,90,305 and of that recovered Rs. 7,29,956.

(c) The number of persons prosecuted for these thefts was 2292, and of those convicted 1095.

Shri Dabhi: May I know what actual steps have Government taken to see that the number of thefts is reduced as far as possible?

Shri Alagesan: This question has been answered on previous occasions also. We have taken various steps like strengthening the Watch and Ward Department and taking the protection on the police. This is more a question of law and order and the State Governments concerned have to deal with it more than the railways. But the railways have even consulted the Home Ministry on this point and are taking concerted measures.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is possible to give the number of thefts committed in each class of compartments in the passenger trains?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the information at present.

Shrimati A. Kale: Are Government aware that a regular school is being maintained for training people in the art of thieving?

Shri Alagesan: I am afraid, not.

Shrimati A. Kale: Will Government find out where that school is located, so that it can be removed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister said that they are not aware of it.

Shrimati A. Kale: But they can try and find it out. They have got the machinery, e.g. the C.I.D.

Shri Alagesan: The clue will be taken by the concerned Ministry.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether any compensation has been paid for these thefts on the Central Railway?

Shri Alagesan: This question refers to thefts, and not to compensation. I have given the cost of the stolen property. If you want that information for a particular railway, I can give it. On the Central railway, the value of property stolen is Rs. 18,37,040.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know how many of the persons prosecuted were railway employees?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the information separately.

संठ अचल सिंह: क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि इन चोरियों में बाच एन्ड वार्ड और पुलिस कर्मचारियों का हाथ होता है ?

Shri Alagesan: I think he refers to the collaboration of the railway staff. There have been some such cases.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know how many thefts were committed in first class compartments?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already stated that he has not got the break-up.

Shri Barman: Is it a fact that in that part of the railway which is now known as the North Eastern Railway, the number of thefts has increased from what it was in the past, and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri Alagesan: I have given the number of thefts on the North Eastern Railway. It is 1701. I do not have the comparative figures for the earlier years.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Apart from the steps taken by the Railway Ministry may I know what steps have been taken by the Home Ministry to avert these thefts?

Shri Alagesan: The Home Ministry convened a meeting at which various State Governments like West Bengal, Bihar etc. were represented and they decided upon certain measures. Those are being pursued with vigour.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that a large number of children are allowed to travel on the foot-boards of the trains, and later on these urchins steal away property belonging to the passengers, and if so, what steps do Government propose to take to stop this practice?

Shri Alagesan: It has been answered previously in this House. They are dealt with under the law.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In which State is there the biggest thieving?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary that we should say that the State is responsible for the thieving?

Shri Jaipal Singh: I want to know which area—it may be one State or two States where the largest number of thefts may have been reported.

Shri Alagesan: I have given the figures railway-wise. These railways pass through different States, so that it is not possible to give the figures States-wise.

Lala Achint Ram: Was any injury caused to the person of any passengers in the course of these thefts?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If injury is caused it becomes robbery, not mere theft.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know, Sir, if these thefts take place more in ladies compartments than in other compartments? May I also know what steps are Government taking to ensure the safety of ladies travelling?

Shri Alagesan: The safety devices provided are more in the ladies' compartments and better care is taken of these compartments.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the properties recovered are restored to the parties, or taken by the Government?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member, I know, is a lawyer. It is never the property of Government. It is returned to the party unless the party himself is a thief.

Shri B. S. Murthy: According to the figures given by the hon. Minister about 4,595 thefts were reported from the Eastern Railways—which is more than half the total number of thefts. May I know whether there is any special reason for the increase in the number of thefts in that area—may I know whether it is due to railway employees being involved in the cases?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot cite any special reason, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know whether the incidence of these thefts has increased after the regrouping of the railways?

Shri Alagesan: There is no warrant for such presumption.

Shri Boovaraghavan: May I know whether the number of thefts increased or decreased when it is compared to the previous year?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He said he has not got that information.

Shri Kelappan: Is the majority of these thefts committed by ostensible beggars?

Shri Alagesan: We have no such information.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the person or persons who are helpful in the detection of these cases rewarded?

Shri Alagesan: Unless the reward was a prior condition I don't think they are rewarded.

RAILWAY AUDIT REPORT, 1951

*1083. **Shri Dabhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway Audit Report, 1951, gives several instances of losses, nugatory expenditure, financial irregularities, etc.?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how much total monetary loss has thereby been incurred by Government?

(c) What steps have Government taken against those who are responsible for these losses etc.?

(d) What steps have Government taken to see that such losses etc. do not occur in future?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) 46.61 lakhs as reported by Audit; out of this 34 lakhs are accounted for by the sudden abandonment of the Kanchrapara Project as a result of partition.

(c) Disciplinary action has been taken wherever possible against the officials responsible for the loss, depending upon the degree of responsibility attaching to the individual. Following are the instances of punishment meted out to the various individuals responsible for the cases reported in the Audit Report, 1951.

(1) Expression of displeasure and warnings to individuals against repetition of such failures.

(2) Stoppage of increments and forfeiture of Government contributions to State Railway Provident Fund.

(3) Reversion to a lower post and transfer to other stations, and placing of a bar on promotion.

(4) Dismissal from service.

Apart from the actions listed above, as a result of legal action some persons were also convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonments in addition to payments of fines.

(d) All important cases of losses of over 1,000 in monetary value or cases revealing serious defects in procedure or unusual features are reported to the Board who examine them from all points of view, to see whether any lacuna exists in the existing procedure, and immediate steps are taken to rectify the same.

Shri Dabhi: May we know the names and/or designations of the persons against whom this action has been taken?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the names of persons.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether the punishment meted out in such cases is inversely proportional to the rank of the officer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He need not answer that question, I won't allow sarcasm to be indulged in in this House.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is not indulging in sarcasm, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should it be inversely proportionate? If any particular cases are referred to, it is all right. The hon. Member speaks as

though some general instructions are issued.....

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is what I wanted to know. Unfortunately, Sir, I cannot refer to the cases, because I came to know of them in the Committees.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not bothered about it; such sarcasm should not be indulged in.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It was not sarcasm at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It comes to this—the richer the man the lower the punishment. I am really surprised.

छत्तीसगढ़ में घान की फसल (कीड़ा)

*१०९४. श्री जांगड़े: क्या लाल तथा लुटी मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को विद्युत है कि एक प्रकार का कीड़ा छत्तीसगढ़ में घान की बालों को भारी हानि पहुँचा रहा है;

(ख) क्या केन्द्र सरकार के मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से इस विषय में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है; तथा

(ग) क्या इस कीड़ा को भारते के लिये सरकार ने कीटनाशक द्रव्यों के संभरण और वितरण के लिये कुछ प्रयत्न किया है?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes; the worm involved is the paddy bug, popularly known as the gundhi.

(b) Information about the infestation was received from the Madhya Pradesh Government during the last week of September.

(c) On receipt of information the Government of India supplied two power dusters, 60 hand dusters and ten cwt. of insecticides to Madhya

Pradesh Government. A Senior Entomologist, two Technical Officers and one Mechanic of the Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage Directorate were at once deputed to Madhya Pradesh to help organise campaign against the bug.

The State Government distributed 150 tons of insecticides and 400 dusters to cultivators at concessional rates.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या में जान सकता हूँ कि राइस पैस्ट बग्स की बजह से छत्तीसगढ़ में कितनी फसल का नुकसान हुआ ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : यह अभी मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नरेंट ने बताया नहीं है। एक बक्त उन का कहना था कि पांच लाख एकड़ तक का उस से नुकसान हुआ है।

श्री जांगड़े : क्या में जान सकता हूँ कि इस राइस बग्स के कारण चावल की फसल में कमी होने की बजह से मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने गत बर्ष जितना चावल दूसरे प्रान्तों को देने के लिये कबूल किया था, उस से कम चावल वह इस बक्त देने जा रही है ?

लाला तथा हृषी मंत्री (श्री किलबई) : मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नरेंट ने कहा है कि चावल इस बीमारी के इस साल चावल गुजिश्ता साल से ज्यादा पैदा हुआ है और वह हम को पार साल से दुगुना चावल देगी।

Shri Jasani: Was any other part other than Chhattisgarh in Madhya Pradesh affected by this pest?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In Madhya Pradesh, essentially that was the part affected.

Shri Jasani: Was any other part besides Chhattisgarh Division affected?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Probably there were some other parts.

श्री एम० एल० दिवेशी : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की हुपा करेंगे कि मध्य प्रदेश राज्य के अतिरिक्त पिल्ही और राज्यों में भी इस कीड़े के द्वारा नाश की खबरें आई हैं ?

यदि आई हैं, तो क्या उपाय किए गये हैं ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : जी हां, जहां जहां से ऐसी लखरें आई हैं, वहां भी ऐसे ही उपाय किये गये हैं।

श्री एम० एल० दिवेशी : किन राज्यों में ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : उड़ीसा में और बिहार में।

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know, Sir, whether Government has received any report from the experts that this pest has been fully destroyed and next year it will not appear again?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have no guarantee of this nature.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : इस कीड़े के मारने में कुल कितना खर्च हुआ ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : वह तो अन्दराजा हमारे पास नहीं है। मगर सेंट्रल गवर्नरेंट में जो कुछ पैसा अब तक इस प्लाट प्रोटैक्शन के लिये मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नरेंट को दिया है, वह में बतला सकता हूँ।

श्री जांगड़े : क्या में जान सकता हूँ कि दीवैदीन पाउडर किसानों को तकाबी पर दिया गया है या लूद लरीव पर दिया गया है ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : पाउडर तो नहीं मगर जो बीबार दिये गये हैं वे तकाबी पर दिये गये हैं। जिन्होंने तकाबी पर लिये हैं उन को $4/5$ कीमत पर दिये गये हैं। और जिन्होंने कैश प्राइस पर लिये हैं उन को $2/3$ कीमत पर दिये हैं।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : क्या इस तरह की रिपोर्ट कोई बिहार से आई थी और यदि आई थी तो उस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कौन सा कार्य किया था ?

श्री शौ. शौ. देशमुख : जी, हाँ। वहाँ तो हक्काई जहाँ भेजे गये और वहाँ जल्दी उसका सफाया कर दिया गया।

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if such complaints about insect pests on paddy have come from Orissa?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. I have said so already.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस राइस बग्स की पैदायश के क्या कारण हैं और क्या यह सच है कि यह राइस बग्स मद्रास से फैले हैं?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Pests are not peculiar to any particular State.

Shri Thanthu Pillai: May I have a translation of the question? We could not understand.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should he have a translation of pests?

Shri Nambari: May I know whether any bug is going from Delhi or from Rajasthan or anywhere?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members will notice how one such question has led to another question. Therefore I will neither allow a pest nor a bug to take possession of us or this House. Next question,

ROADS

*1095. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how many miles of new roads for which the Central Government is responsible have been constructed and where up to October, 1952; and

(b) what amount of money has been spent on this?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information in respect of National Highways in all States and roads other than National Highways in Parts C and D States etc., for which the Central Government is responsible, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 35]

श्री बाल्मीकी : किस राज्य का प्रति मील लंबे सब से अधिक हैं, और क्यों?

Shri Alagesan: The cost of construction varies from place to place owing

to various factors. It ranges ordinarily between Rs. 1 lakh per mile of construction to Rs. 1.6 lakhs.

An Hon. Member: He wants to know in which State the expenditure is the highest.

Shri Alagesan: It is not possible to say. In the same State it may vary from place to place.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know the total number of miles of National Highways constructed in India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is a special report on this in the Library.

Shri Alagesan: About 13,400 miles.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the hon. Minister aware that the Central Government have taken a few miles of road in West Godavari to be constructed with the Central Government fund and for the last two or three years, though the people concerned in the locality have contributed their labour, that road has not been taken up still? May I know the reason for this?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have any information about that particular link.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: "How many miles of road have been constructed in October 1952?"—that is the question. How is the hon. Minister expected to know why such and such a road has not been taken up?

Shri B. S. Murthy: For the last three years the officers from the Centre have been going and making the labourers of that place construct the road, but they have not been supplying any materials.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: True. But that is a larger question why such and such a road has not been taken up. I do not know what the object of the hon. Member is. He wants to know the number of miles constructed in a particular month. How it is auspicious I do not know!

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether any portion of the highway that will connect Calcutta to Madras has been constructed in this month of October?

Shri Alagesan: In fact the information is given from the date we took over up to the present.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know whether there is any proposal with the Government of India to construct roads near Ellora and Ajanta Caves, from the Central Reserve Fund?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As I pointed out, "how many miles of road have been constructed upto October"—that is the question. It does not involve the question whether there is a proposal to construct a new road.

Shri Jasani: Can we have the State-wise mileage of roads?

Shri Alagesan: All that is supplied in the statement.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Once these roads are constructed, who bears the cost of maintenance—is it the State Government or the Central Government?

Shri Alagesan: The scheme is this. As far as National Highways in Part A and Part B States are concerned we are fully maintaining them and we are bearing the capital cost also. All roads in Part C and Part D States we are maintaining.

ESPLANADE MANSIONS AT CALCUTTA

*1096. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of over one lakh of rupees was spent by the Railway Administration on rent and maintenance of Watch and Ward staff on a portion of the Esplanade Mansions at Calcutta hired for Public Relations and Publicity Offices during the year 1948-49;

(b) whether it is a fact that the building remained vacant for three years and the expenditure on rent and Watch and Ward staff continued to be incurred all along; and

(c) who has been responsible for this loss?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No. The sum spent as rental and for the maintenance of the Watch and Ward staff during 1948-49 was Rs. 24,900.

(b) Yes. It remained vacant for nearly three years.

(c) The premises required extensive structural alterations and repairs before it could be made suitable for use for the office of Public Relations and Publicity work. The finalisation of estimates for the work and tenders took some time. Thereafter, progress of construction was slow due to scarcity of skilled labour on account of the Great Calcutta Killing of 1946 and the series of subsequent disturbances in Calcutta. The partition of the Bengal-Assam Railway then headquartered at Calcutta was another factor

which delayed the matter. The question of individual responsibility does not, therefore, arise.

Shri Krishna Chandra: May I know whether the Public Accounts Committee have made any observation on this matter?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to say at present, Sir.

Shri Krishna Chandra: Is it a fact that the Public Accounts Committee have expressed their strong disapprobation on this affair and have advised the Railway Administration that they should adopt some procedure by which this carelessness may be avoided?

Shri Alagesan: May be so.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether there is not enough accommodation in the Railway buildings themselves to accommodate this office?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are on a particular building why it is vacant? It may be used for that or another office. Why has it been vacant so long—that is the question.

Shri K. K. Basu: This Esplanade Mansions is a rented house. I want to know whether Government can shift to its own railway buildings. There were two head offices in Calcutta formerly.

Shri Alagesan: In fact the Railways then headquartered at Calcutta wanted to have a joint office for their Public Relations and Publicity work and hence this building was taken over.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know if there is no alternative accommodation available and if it is necessary to pay so much rent?

Shri Alagesan: I am unable to answer the question, Sir.

Shri Krishna Chandra: Have the observations made by the Public Accounts Committee not been brought to the notice of the Department concerned?

Shri Alagesan: I did not say it was not brought to the notice of the Government. I said at present I have not got the information in my possession.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

*1097. **Shri Mohana Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether a meeting was recently held of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

(b) If so, is it a fact that they reviewed the existing schemes and also laid down further extension schemes?

(c) How far the work on hand has progressed?

(d) What are the details of the Schemes drawn up for the future?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. The Member is presumably referring to a Joint Meeting of the Boards of Research and Extension of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research held on the 30th and 31st October, 1952.

(b) The meeting was held to consider research schemes to be financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1953-54. The Boards considered a number of such schemes and referred the approved schemes to Scientific Committees for technical scrutiny. There was no question of revision of any particular scheme by the Boards.

(c) The progress of current schemes is generally satisfactory. An account of such schemes is usually given in the Annual Reports of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Copies of which are supplied to the Library of the House.

(d) A list of schemes considered at the meeting including new schemes is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 36].

Shri Mohana Rao: May I know what are the latest improved seed varieties of rice that have been evolved under this Council's guidance, and what steps are being taken to make these seed varieties cheaply and widely available to the peasants?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Recently we held a very big conference in Lucknow, and every effort is going to be made and previous efforts intensified so as to make the results of researches available to the peasants.

Shri Mohana Rao: What are the new improved fertilizers for wet-land crops that have been found under the guidance of this Council, and what steps are going to be taken to make these fertilizers cheaply and widely available to the cultivators?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: All fertilizers which it is desirable to use are being tried and recommended wherever necessary.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether steps have been taken to ensure accuracy in the matter of statistics issued by the Department?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any scheme has been evolved to make the Indian leather compare with the foreign.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought it is agriculture. Leather also...?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I know it, Sir. hides and skins come under this.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I could not have information about leather in this connection.

Shri B. S. Murthy rose—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It does not arise out of this question. The hon. Minister has said that he is not in a position to answer now.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I want to know whether it is entrusted with the research work in leather. There is also mention of hides and skins.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This last question "What are the details of the Schemes drawn up for the future?" There may be 50, 60. Is the hon. Minister expected to give the details of each one of them? There are other experts. If hon. Members are interested in a particular scheme, they will kindly put down another question. I am sure the hon. Minister will give all the necessary information.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The total number of the schemes is 151.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No expert in the world except God himself can do that.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The other day the hon. Minister said in answer to a question that over 25 per cent. of all cattle have tuberculosis. From the statement I see there are many schemes for fighting various cattle diseases. May I know, Sir, why, in view of the fact admitted by Government that 25 per cent. of cattle suffer from tuberculosis, no scheme has been included for fighting tuberculosis of cattle?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The schemes are proposed by the State Governments and research workers in all these fields. I am sure these are not the only schemes which are in operation. These 151 schemes are new schemes going to be considered for the year 1953-54. They do not include all the schemes that are already under trial.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There may be an existing scheme already for tuberculosis.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether this Research Institute considered other research schemes or works organised by private institutions like the Bose Institute in Bengal?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research considers all these schemes even from private persons and from private Institutions.

Shri Raghavaiah: In drawing up these schemes, may I know the number of experts that were invited from U.S.A?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are no experts so far as these schemes are concerned

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Member must have some information, this is merely something like fishing in the same water.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the Minister aware that a new type of jute and cotton seeds have been successfully experimented in the Research Station of the Bose Institute in Calcutta?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the scheme of the Madras Government has been referred back?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the scheme? Hon. Members ought not to be vague in these matters. They must have some reliable data, they must have some further questions or some representations. They should not just throw a question and wait for an answer and then start supplementaries on that answer. I am afraid I won't allow that question. The hon. Member did not have the courage to say he is not acquainted.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In the list which was laid on the Table of the House there is a scheme known as Delhi Milk Supply Scheme. May I know, Sir, what is the quantity of milk handled daily by this scheme and what percentage of the city's demand for milk is met by the Scheme?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The number of schemes is 151. What exactly is each scheme, what is the proportion, what is expected, these are all matters for detailed enquiry. The hon. Member may put down a question and draw the attention of the hon. Minister. Certainly, he will reply.

Shri V. P. Nayar: How far has the work in hand progressed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have already replied.

Shri V. P. Nayar: There is nothing in the statement.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have already said that the schemes which are already in hand are progressing satisfactorily.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does he want an administration report here in the form of the 151 schemes, at what stage it was last year, at what stage it is this year. Such questions will not be allowed on the floor of the House. Hon. Members must also expect reasonable things. If hon. Members want further details they may kindly put down another question.

EXPERT ON VENEREAL DISEASES (VISIT)

*1998. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether an expert on venereal diseases has come to India from United States of America?

(b) If so, who is the person, what are his qualifications and previous experiences?

(c) What are the financial commitments of the Government of India towards the maintenance of this expert?

(d) Where will the expert work, for what period and what will be the nature of the work to be done?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) Dr. W. H. Gaub. He possesses B.S. and M.S. degrees of the Rutgers University, New Brunswick and has the following experience:—

(i) Inspector of Preventive Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical School, from September, 1934 to July, 1940—(Honorary).

(ii) Director, Division of Laboratories, Tennessee, U.S.A.—from July, 1934 to July, 1940.

(iii) Senior Bacteriologist, U.S. Public Health Service—from May, 1942 to March, 1947.

(iv) Head of Laboratories, Washington State Health Department—from March, 1947 to July, 1949.

(v) Chief, Bacteriology and Parasitology, U.S. Public Health Service—since July, 1949.

(c) The expert has been sent by the W.H.O. and is paid by them. The Government of India have no direct financial commitment towards the

maintenance of this expert but the Government of Madras have to provide for the following amenities for this expert:—

(i) free lodging.

(ii) the cost of travel including a per diem allowance while travelling on official business within the country away from his duty station; and

(iii) the cost of official telephone, telegraph, postal and other means of communication.

(d) The expert will work as Specialist Bacteriologist/Serologist in the Venereal Diseases Department of the Government General Hospital, Madras, for a period of one year.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know whether one Miss Mabelle Price is coming to India as a venereal disease specialist?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does this arise out of the question? The hon. Member asked about an existing expert and his qualifications. They have been given. Now, he mentions another person and wants the qualifications, etc.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know whether one Miss Mabelle Price, who was not a medical graduate, has come to India as a specialist for venereal diseases?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: May I answer the question, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The Upgrading committee of the medical institutions have recommended the upgrading of the venereal diseases department also. That was done in Madras General hospital. The W.H.O. who are interested in this particular aspect, have offered assistance to the Up-grading committee and an agreement has been entered into by the Government of India with them. Under the terms of this agreement, the W.H.O. has agreed to provide certain equipments and supplies, one fellowship for senior personnel and the following personnel; one medical consultant for a period of one year, one public health nurse, one medical social worker with experience in V. D. control. One medical social worker with experience in V.D. control has been specially sent by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration. That is Miss Mabelle Price who was expected in Madras in November.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know if this non-medical venereal diseases expert has an experience in Indian conditions or eastern conditions?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: It says, social medical worker. She has experience in V.D. control. It does not mean that she should be an Indian specialist.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Arising out of part (b) of the question, may I ask whether the Government knows how far this American "doctor specialist" has succeeded in eradicating venereal diseases in his own State, U.S.A?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I am really surprised at this. Government to the best of their ability furnish information. Questions are put why particular diseases are not controlled or cured and so on. When particular persons are brought as experts on such meagre salary or when no salary is given, question is asked how far he has succeeded in his own country. No expert will come here. It is not in this way that questions ought to be put. Hon. Members must feel a responsibility in putting questions, even by way of innuendo. If possible such innuendos may be avoided. That is unfortunate here.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Qualifications had been asked for. I wanted to know the success of this so called specialist.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Success or failure may be due to various causes. These are the qualifications. What is the use of further probing into this matter. I am really surprised.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know if Dr. Rajam of the Madras General Hospital has been selected as V.D. specialist by the World Health Organisation?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: It is not the World Health Organisation; it is the Up-grading committee that has recommended him as Director of the Venereal diseases department.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Is there any other State Government that has invited this expert to come and give advice, and may I know if Bihar is among them? (Interruption) I want to explain, Sir. It is no question for laughter. I do not know why hon. Members should laugh over it. I know definitely that a new institution for venereal diseases has been started in Patna. I do not know whether that institution is in the list of the W.H.O. There is not one good institution there except that which has been opened recently. I wanted to know whether that expert has been invited to Bihar. I do not know why hon. Members should take it so lightly. This is no question for laughter. I feel very sorry and I think the House must apologise for that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sometimes, some hon. Members unreasonably laugh. Therefore, hon. Member need not take notice of it. There is nothing in derision. Sometimes they laugh.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The Upgrading Committee recommended certain hospitals all over India for certain departments to be upgraded. I have no information about upgrading hospitals in Bihar. If the hon. Member wants information I shall give later. As regards the Venereal diseases department in Madras, it has done a lot of work and that has been recommended by the Committee. That is why the specialist comes to that institution: not for any other reason.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know how many rural hospitals have been recommended for upgrading by the Upgrading Committee?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No rural hospitals; I have no information in detail; if the hon. Member gives notice, I shall furnish particulars.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will proceed to the next question.

**RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CUTTACK
(STUDENTS)**

*1099. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign and Indian students (separately) who are receiving training at the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack (Orissa);

(b) the names of countries from which the foreign students have come;

(c) what is the duration of the term of training; and

(d) who will bear the expenses of the training of these students?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Fifteen Foreign and eight Indian students.

(b) Ceylon, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and India.

(c) Three months from 15th September, 1952.

(d) A statement showing how the cost will be shared between us and the Food and Agriculture Organisation is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 37]

Shri Sanganna: May I know the different sections of research in this Institute?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Breeding and hybridisation.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether research in shifting cultivation, which is a problem in the Grow More Food scheme is carried on there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I thought the question was essentially about training, and not so far as the Research institution is concerned.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether our Government have any voice in the selection of these candidates?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is an international centre. So far as our representatives are concerned, they have been selected by us. We are having this centre on behalf of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. It is an international affair and students are sent by various Governments. So far as the Indian students are concerned, they are chosen by our Government.

Shri Boovaraghhasamy: What are the qualifications required to undergo such training and what are the concessions given for backward class students?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid this does not refer to any particular caste or religion. The trainees are selected by the Governments concerned. They choose such persons as would benefit out of the training. No specific qualifications are laid down. It has been left to the individual Governments.

Shri M. D. Joshi: After the training is completed, will they be given any work to carry on research in rice growing areas in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is expected; but we cannot force any Government to do what we want.

TEA GARDENS IN ASSAM

*1100. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of labourers affected as a result of the closure or intending closure of Tea gardens in Assam;

(b) the steps so far taken to provide them with alternative employment; and

(c) the facilities, if any, provided by the employers and Government for the unemployed plantation labour in Assam?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No accurate information is available regarding the number of labourers affected as a result of the closure of tea gardens in Assam but the number is understood to be about 10,000. Information regarding the number of such workers in gardens that have given notice of closure is being collected.

(b) and (c). The Government of Assam have issued a directive that workers affected by the closure should be employed to the maximum extent possible on P.W.D. projects and they are also persuading local bodies, contractors and other concerns to give work to as many of them as possible.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how many of these 10,000 have been provided with alternative employment?

Shri Abid Ali: We are collecting the information.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know how far this persuasion has taken effective shape?

Shri Abid Ali: Efforts are being made; some of the workers have already been employed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question-hour is over.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Only one question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I cannot allow after the Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ELECTRIFICATION OF ALIBAGH

*1101. **Shri Kajrolkar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India object to the electrification of Alibagh, Bombay State owing to the situation of observatory there; and

(b) if so, how long the people of Alibagh will remain deprived of electricity?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, but certain restrictions have been imposed to safeguard against interference to the magnetic observations at Alibagh Observatory.

(b) Does not arise.

रेलवे-वर्कशाप

४७६. **श्री बाबपाल :** क्या रेल बंद्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेगे :

(क) बीकानेर राज्य रेलवे और जोधपुर राज्य रेलवे के उत्तर रेलवे में विलय के बाद उत्तर रेलवे की छोटी लाइनों के वर्कशापों की संख्या;

(ल) इन में से कौन सा वर्कशाप केन्द्रीय वर्कशाप है; तथा

(ग) क्या इन वर्कशापों के बढ़ाने की कोई योजना है और यदि है तो वह कब कार्यान्वयित की जायेगी ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Two. The Bikaner and Jodhpur workshops.

(b) Each of these workshops is centrally located for the metre gauge sections that it serves, but of the two, the Jodhpur Workshop is better equipped.

(c) The rationalisation of capacity of these two workshops to obtain optimum efficiency is being examined. No schemes have yet been formulated for the extension of either of these workshops.

RAILWAY STAFF COLLEGE

477. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state when and where has the Railway Staff College been re-opened?

(b) What were the main causes for closing down the Railway Staff College at Dehra Dun?

(c) How many area schools are there to train class III Railway staff and how many are going to be opened in the near future?

(d) Who are the administrative authorities of the staff college?

(e) How many officers can be trained in the college each year?

(f) Are any arrangements going to be made to accommodate more officers to be trained from the same college?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a), and (d) to (f). The Railway Staff College has been established at Baroda with effect from 31st January 1952. The administrative head of the College is the Principal who is directly responsible to the Railway Board. The College can train at present about 20 railway officers per session of about eight weeks, that is, about 120 officers in a year. The extension of the accommodation and facilities at this College so as to take in about 60 trainees in each session is under consideration.

(b) The Staff College which was opened in Dehra Dun in 1930 for training railway officers had to be closed down early in 1932 as an economy measure in the post-1930 depression period.

(c) There are at present 14 Area Schools for training Class III staff on Railways. No additional schools are at present contemplated.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS (TARGET)

478. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the target of additional production of foodgrains fixed for 1951-52 and what is the additional production fixed for the year 1952-53?

(b) How far was the target for 1951-52 realised in actual produce, and what were the reasons for not achieving the objective?

(c) What are the schemes that are being sponsored and at what cost to obtain the additional production of foodgrains fixed for the year 1952-53?

(d) What were the schemes worked out and at what costs to achieve the 1951-52 figures?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The target of additional production for 1951-52 was 14.21 lakh tons over 1950-51 and that for 1952-53 has been tentatively fixed at 12.30 lakh tons over the previous year.

(b) Complete information regarding additional production actually achieved during 1951-52 is not yet available as reports from certain States are still awaited.

(c) and (d). A statement showing the total cost of the various categories of schemes sanctioned during 1951-52 and 1952-53, upto 1st December 1952, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 38.]

KEY VILLAGE SCHEME

479. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the model structure of "Key Village Scheme" introduced in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign?

(b) How many Centres of this scheme were opened and in what States and districts in the year 1951-52 and what were the funds set apart for them?

(c) How many Centres in what districts are working successfully and what portion of the sanctioned amount has been spent on them?

(d) Is the 'Key Village Scheme' to be extended to any more Centres this year and if so, where?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A copy of the Scheme is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 39.]

(b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 39.]

94 Centres were sanctioned during the year 1951-52 and two more have recently been ordered to be opened in Saurashtra and Manipur. Out of these, 71 have already started functioning, as detailed in the statement. The results achieved at the centres are encouraging.

A sum of Rs. 20 lacs was set apart for financing these schemes during the year 1951-52, but Rs. 8.82 lacs only was actually sanctioned for expenditure.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

IMPORT OF AIRCRAFT

480. Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the value of the aircraft and parts imported into India, and on Government and private accounts, during each of the five years ending 31st March, 1952, and the countries from which these were imported?

(b) Is there any agreement with any of the countries from which aircraft and parts have been imported, in any of the last five years, for training up Indian technicians to produce our own aircraft supplies in India?

(c) If so, what are the terms of such agreements, and how far has advantage been taken of the same?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Statement showing the value of the aircraft and parts imported into India during the last five years from various countries is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 40.]

(b) and (c). Government have entered into no such agreement with any country, but M/s. Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., have concluded certain contracts with Percival Aircraft Ltd., and De Havilland Aircraft Company Ltd., in U.K. with regard to the provision of training of Indian personnel at their workshops. Under these arrangements, 6 Indian personnel of the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. received training with Percival Aircraft Ltd. in 1947, and 18 with De Havilland Aircraft Company Ltd. in 1949, 1950 and 1951.

RURAL POST OFFICES

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

(a) in how many villages having two thousand or more population, rural Post Offices could not be opened because of the written protests from prominent villagers;

(b) in which States they are situated; and

(c) in how many villages the scheme was abandoned because

(i) the safety of the mail line was not assured;

(ii) suitable persons were not available to work as E.D. staff; and

(iii) the cost exceeded the permissible limit of loss of Rs. 750 per annum?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 105.

(b) Assam 109

Bihar 5

Orissa 1

Uttar Pradesh 5

West Bengal 45

(c) (i) 43

(ii) 50

(iii) 71

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

482. Shri B. K. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains procured State-wise, during the year 1952 up to date;

(b) the system of procurement in different States; and

(c) the quantities of foodgrains obtained from different States during the same period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) A note detailing the existing systems of procurement in different States is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 41.]

STATEMENT

The total procurement of foodgrains in different States upto about 15-11-1952 since 1-1-1952 and surpluses of foodgrains made available to the Centre by different States during 1952.

(In '000 tons)

States	Procure- ment	Surplus
Assam . . .	54.1	0.5
Bihar . . .	21.0	...
Bombay . . .	289.8	...
Madhya Pradesh . . .	309.0	169.7
Madras . . .	651.6	...
Orissa . . .	142.5	121.9
Punjab . . .	360.1	94.2
Uttar Pradesh . . .	481.6	27.3
West Bengal . . .	274.9	...
Hyderabad . . .	164.9	36.0
Jammu & Kashmir . . .	3.2	0.5
Madhya Bharat . . .	74.3	...
Mysore . . .	82.9	...
Pepsu . . .	118.8	92.3
Rajasthan . . .	29.6	...
Saurashtra . . .	23.2	1.1
Travancore-Cochin . . .	52.1	...
Coorg . . .	12.0	8.5
Himachal Pradesh . . .	1.0	0.2
Kutch . . .	2.2	...
Manipur . . .	1.6	...
Tripraya . . .	2.7	...
Vindhya Pradesh . . .	19.8	1.5
Andamans . . .	0.1	...
TOTAL . . .	3,173.0	553.7

STUDIES IN NEEM PRODUCTS

483. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) which institution in India first took up studies in Neem products and extracted the bitter constituents;
- (b) how far the products have been utilised for industrial purposes;
- (c) whether the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona has carried on further research on the subject; and
- (d) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kildwal): (a) The Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur—an institution of the Uttar Pradesh Government—first took up the studies on the odorous and bitter constituents of Neem Oil.

(b) The fatty oil from neem seeds has been the only neem product utilised for industrial purposes, namely in the preparation of the medicated soap, known as Margosa or Margo soap and neem tooth paste.

(c) The work on utilisation of neem oil was initiated in the Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at Delhi and has been continued at Poona.

(d) Methods for the extraction of the bitter constituents from neem oil were worked at the laboratories of the C.S.I.R. at Delhi and work on the refining of the residual oil after extraction has been completed at the National Chemical Laboratory.

QUARTERS FOR CLASS IV RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

484. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Class IV Staff in Railways who have been supplied with quarters up to October, 1952;
- (b) the number of those who remain without quarters; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to meet this demand?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 2,06,541.

(b) 3,67,208.

(c) The policy in regard to housing of railway staff is to give preference to essential staff, i.e. those who are required to reside close to their place of work, who constitute about 60 per

cent. of the total number. A sum of approximately Rs. 4 crores is spent annually on building some 10,000 new quarters for such staff and it is hoped to be able to continue this rate of provision for some years.

RAILWAY LINES (DAMAGE)

485. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the railway lines which have so far been affected by recent floods and rains and where during the year 1952, and

(b) the estimated amount of money required for their repairs?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) *Easterly Railway*—

Between Dhulianganges and Tildanga on Bandel-Barharwa Loop of Howrah Division.

Between Bazar Sohu and Chowrigacha on Bandel-Barharwa Loop on Howrah Division.

Embankment at mile 185/0-10 on both Up and Down Lines on Asansol Division.

Between Pindari-Ghunsore.

Between Ghunsore-Binaiki.

Between Nainpur-Binaiki.

Between Bargi-Gowarighat.

At mile 33/8-10 between Parlakimedi-Varanasi on Parlakimedi Light Railway.

Bridge No. 80 between Garpos and Sonakan.

Between New Katni Jn. and Marwara.

Between Goilkhera and Posoita.

Between Gomharria and Tata.

Rourkela and Birmatrapur due to rising of water in Koll River.

Between Manali Marup-Raj Kharwan.

Between Sonua-Goilkera.

At mile 219/17 between Goilkera and Posoita and Up line at mile 218/9-19.

Southern Railway—

Bridge No. 148 at mile 44/8-9 between Sullurpetta and Tada North East Line.

Bridge No. 264 at mile 101/8-9 between Yeswantpur and Bangalore City.

Mile 322/6-7 and 322/11-16 between Panyam and Nandyal.

North Eastern Railway—

Main line: Mal Jn. to Amingaon.

Branch Lines:—

Silguri-Haldibari.

Mal Jn. Patgram.

Rajabhat Khawa-Janiti.

Alipurduar-Gitaldah.

Fakiragram-Golakganj.

Rangiya-Rangapara North.

Danjari-Saikhoaghat.

Dauram-Madhepura Branch.

Western Railway—

Bombay-Baroda Section, between Virar and Saphala, between Gholvad and Umbargaon Road and between Pardi and Bulsar.

Baroda-Ratlam Section—

Between Sant Road and Limkheda.

Between Mangal Maudi and Jekot.

Between Bilde and Morwani.

Between Ratlam 'A' Cabin and 'B' Cabin.

Kotah Bayana Section—

Between Hindaun City and Fateh Singh Pura.

Baroda-Ahmedabad Section—

Between Mehmedabad and Nenpur.

Nagda-Ujjain Branch—

Between Nagda and Piploda Bagla.

Between Aslaod and Ujjain.

Piplod-Devgad Baria Section—

Between Piplod and Moti Zavi.

Sojat Road-Abu Road Section—

Between Somesar and Rani.

Ajmer-Nasirabad-Bijainagar Branch between Makhu Pura and Hatundi.

Mavli Junction-Barisadri Branch between Bansi Boheda and Barisadri.

Wankaner-Navalkhi Section between Makansar and Dhura.

Kanalus-Gop Branch between Dabasang and Lalpur.

Northern Railway—

Juni Mundba Section between Parlus and Gole Stations.

Samdari-Raniwara Branch Line.

Rajpura-Bhatinda section between Dhuri and Alal.

Jind-Panipat section between Mandala and Asan.

Sutlej Bridge near Gidderpindi on Jullundur-Ferozepur section. During the floods this year Sutlej river changed its course and threatened the approach bank.

Dehra Dun Branch at mile 29/16-17.

Dehra Dun Branch at mile 30/9-10.

Central Railway—

Secunderabad-Dronachalam section—between Kurumuti and Wanaparti Rd.

Gwalior-Bhind Section—between Gwalior to Gohad Road.

Bombay-Kalyan Masjid and Sandhurst Road, between the Main line and Harbour Branch.

Itarsi-Jubbulpore section.

(b) About 93 lakhs in all.

ANTI-T.B. DRUG

486. Dr. Rama Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have been presented by a firm with large quantities of an anti-T.B. Drug?

(b) Which is the firm, what drug have they given and in what quantities?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). Government have received supplies of the new anti-T.B. drug (Isonicotinic Acid Hydrazide) under different trade names from a number of firms. A statement containing the required details is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 42.]

IMPORT OF MEDICINES

487. Shri Sivamurthi Swami: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the quantities of medicines and surgical instruments imported into India and the quantities that have been received as gifts by the Central Government during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952 upto-date?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): Two statements showing (i) quantities of medicines and surgical instruments imported into India and (ii) quantities received as gifts by the Central Government during 1950, 1951 and 1952 upto-

date are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 43.]

POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS OF TRIPURA

488. Shri Dasaratha Deb: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many post offices are there in the rural areas of Tripura?

(b) How much time does it take for postal articles to reach Dharmanagar and Sabsoom from Agartala?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) .8.

(b) Mails leaving Agartala at 7 A.M.

reach Dharmanagar at 12 noon on the 3rd day	Total time
and those for Sabsoom leaving at 12 noon reach there at 5 P.M. on the 3rd day.	

AGARTALA-UDAIPUR AND AGARTALA-SIDHAI ROADS

489. Shri Dasaratha Deb: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how many accidents have taken place on the Agartala-Udaipur and Agartala-Sidhai Roads in Tripura in August and September, 1952?

(b) Are the above roads certified for heavy vehicular traffic?

(c) If not, how are vehicles allowed to pass on them?

(d) Are the roads under process of construction and if so, when did the construction begin?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) One on each road.

(b) No. The roads are classed as fair weather roads suitable for Class 9 traffic which includes the ordinary 5 ton lorry.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No. These are existing roads.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS

490. Shri Telkkikar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the passenger miles per route mile per day for broad gauge in the year 1951-52 (in class I Railways) in India;

(b) what is the proportion of the density of passengers in 1951-52 to that of 1940-41; and

(c) the proportion of the number of railway carriages used in 1951-52 to that used in 1940-41?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 4,524.

(b) 280:100.

(c) 104:100.

LIGHTSHIPS

491. Shri Telkkikar: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any lightships owned by the Government of India; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, where are those used?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Government of India own two lightships. These are used in the Saurashtra-Kutch Lighthouse District. One is located at latitude 21 degrees 43'N longitude 72 degrees 18'E and the other at latitude 21 degrees 46'N longitude 72 degrees 15'E.

SINKING OF TUBE-WELLS IN RAJASTHAN

492. Dr. Jatav-vir: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan have launched a programme of sinking tube-wells;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have sanctioned any amount to the Rajasthan Government either by way of grant or loan;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what amount has so far been sanctioned;

(d) how much progress has been made in the direction of sinking of tube-wells; and

(e) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether the Central Government propose to sanction grant or loan to the Rajasthan Government in the near future for the sinking of tube-wells?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) A loan of Rs. 2,25,000 has been sanctioned during 1952-53.

(d) Work has commenced only recently and no progress has been reported so far.

(e) Does not arise.

MINIMUM WAGES ACT

493. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Wages Act has been brought into force in Madras State; and

(b) if not, whether the Madras Government have given any reasons for the non-enforcement?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Minimum rates of wages have been fixed in the Madras State in respect of all employments included in Part I of the Schedule appended to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As regards employment in agriculture which is included in Part II of the Schedule minimum rates have not yet been fixed and the matter is under the consideration of the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

डाकघर

४९४. श्री विभूति मिश्र : संचरण मंत्री

यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार २००० और उस से अधिक संयुक्त जनसंख्या वाले गांवों के सूची की सेवा के लिये डॉकवर लोलने का विचार कर रही है, और यदि हां तो किस तिथि से ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes, subject to availability of Funds, but villages with population of 2,000 and over are given first priority. As various combinations of villages are possible and as funds are limited, no such date can, for obvious reasons, be fixed.

METRE GAUGE SYSTEMS

495. **Shri P. Subba Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to connect the Metre gauge systems of North and South India between Khandwa and Hingoli to facilitate movement of wagons from North to South and vice versa?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The reply is in affirmative.

TRAIN BETWEEN CALCUTTA AND MADRAS

496. **Shri P. Subba Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to run through trains between Calcutta or Puri and Madras via Simbachelom North and Anakapalli avoiding Waltair?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): There is no such proposal.

LITAN-UKHRUL ROAD

497. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the construction of the road between Litan and Ukhrul prior to the integration of the State to the Central Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have abandoned the idea of completing the said road; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 70,500.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) Does not arise.

MICA MINES

498. **Shri K. C. Sodha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether there are any mica mines in Madhya Pradesh and if so, what is their total number and what was their total output during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) What is the total approximate number of labourers employed in mica mines in Madhya Pradesh?

(c) What was the total amount of money provided for welfare work in these mines by the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(d) What is the composition of the Advisory Committee of the Fund for Madhya Pradesh?

(e) When was this Committee constituted last time?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) There is only one mica mine working in Madhya Pradesh. About 12 cwt. of dressed mica was produced from this mine during the year 1950. There was no production during the year 1951.

(b) During the Calendar years 1950 and 1951, five men and one man respectively, were employed on an average daily in the mine.

(c) A sum of Rs. 14,000 was set apart during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 for welfare work for mica miners in this State.

(d) and (e). No Advisory Committee has so far been constituted.

SINGARENI COLLIERIES (WAGONS)

499. Shri Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wagons supplied to Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudium at Bhadrachallam daily;

(b) whether the demand of the Company is fully met; and

(c) if not, what arrangements are being made to supply adequate number of wagons?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The daily average number of wagons supplied to Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudium at Bhadrachallam Road is given below:—

Supply of wagons (Daily average)	
April, 1952	123
May, 1952	130
June, 1952	116
July, 1952	120
August, 1952	123
September, 1952	114
October, 1952	107
November, 1952	109
(upto 25th)	

(b) Yes. Indents from the collieries were met in full and there have been no complaints of short supply of wagons.

(c) Does not arise.

SELECTION FOR SUBORDINATE SERVICES

500. Shri P. Subba Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many centres have been fixed for the Services Commission for selecting candidates for subordinate services in Railways?

(b) Is there any proposal to have a separate Selection Committee for each Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There are no fixed centres for interviews held by the Railway Service Commissions. The centres are determined by the Service Commission concerned with reference to the number of candidates from the adjoining areas applying for a particular post or category of post. Normally interviews are held at the Headquarters of the various Railways and other important centres like Gauhati, Lucknow, Agra, Nagpur, Trichinopoly, etc.

(b) No.

EASTERN RAILWAY

501. Shri P. Subba Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total mileage of the Eastern Railway lying within the borders of Orissa?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The hon. Member is referred to part (a) (ii) of the answer given to Shri U. C. Patnaik's question No. 58 on the 20th May, 1952.

RECRUITMENT IN INDIAN RAILWAYS

502. Shri P. Subba Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many applicants for service in Indian Railways were there in 1951 and how many were called for interview and how many were finally selected?

(b) What amount was received as fee for applications for appointments and how much expense was incurred by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

AGRICULTURAL PUBLICITY

503. Shri Madiah Gowda: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the main decisions arrived at the Lucknow Conference, recently held for the spread of agricultural information?

(b) What will be the annual expenditure for the scheme approved by the Conference?

(c) When the scheme will be given effect to?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A report containing the important recommendations adopted at the Lucknow Conference is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 44.]

(b) The estimates have yet to be worked out in consultation with the State Governments.

(c) As soon as the various recommendations are examined and the State Governments agree to the salient features of the scheme.

BOMBAY-CALCUTTA MAIL TRAIN

504. Shri K. G. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that arrangement is being made to pass a Bombay-Calcutta (via Nagpur) mail train to Amravati railway station on the Central Railway?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how much time will it take to run the said train?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

TRACTORS

505. Shri Madiah Gowda: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors possessed by the Central Government;

(b) the number of acres ploughed by these tractors for the year 1951-52;

(c) the average expenditure incurred for ploughing an acre of land; and

(d) the total amount of recurring expenditure for tractor service for the year 1951-52?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Central Tractor Organisation has 548 tractors at present. However, only 240 heavy tractors and a few medium tractors are being retained in the Organisation for actual work in connection with the land reclamation scheme, and the rest of the tractors are being disposed of.

(b) In the 1951-52 reclamation year the Organisation ploughed 2,55,534 acres.

(c) Rs. 52 per acre is the average expenditure in the case of work done by the new tractors of the Organisation. For work done by the old machines, the average rate is Rs. 17.80 per hour exclusive of fuel lubricants and transport charges.

(d) Rs. 91,12,208.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

506. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the existing Government hospitals and dispensaries in the whole of Manipur and medical staff employed in each of them;

(b) the total amount of money set apart for the improvement of the existing hospitals and dispensaries during the current financial year; and

(c) the number of new hospitals and dispensaries to be opened in both of the hills and plains of Manipur during the next financial year?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) There are twenty-three hospitals and dispensaries in Manipur. A statement containing information regarding the medical staff employed in each of these institutions is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 45.]

(b) Rs. 18,000.

(c) Ten new dispensaries will be opened during the next financial year, in addition to ten dispensaries to be opened in the Hill areas during the current financial year.

CIVIL HOSPITAL, IMPHAL

507. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength of medical staff in the Civil Hospital of Imphal;

(b) whether it is a fact that classes for training compounders have been opened in Imphal Civil Hospital and if so, whether it has been done so with the necessary sanction of any medical college; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a separate ward and kitchen exclusively for tribal people are being maintained in the said Hospital?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The medical staff in the Civil Hospital, Imphal, at present consists of—

Chief Medical Officer	1
Assistant Surgeons, Grade II	8
Nursing Sister	1
Compounders	6
Nurses	4
Midwives	3
Ward Attendants	4
Laboratory Assistant	1
TOTAL	28

(b) Yes. The training classes are affiliated to the Berrywhite Medical School, Dibrugarh.

(c) Yes.

RAILWAY LINES

508. Shri R. N. S. Deo: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of Railway lines in each State, State-wise; and

(b) the proportion of Railway mileage to area and to population, State-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when ready.

NEW RAILWAY LINES FOR ORISSA

509. Shri R. N. S. Deo: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether (i) Sambalpur-Titilagarh, (ii) Rourkella-Talcher and (iii) Naomundi-Joda proposed Railway lines out of the ten new Railway lines recommended by the Orissa Government are under consideration of Government;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when a decision is likely to be arrived at; and

(c) when the construction will start?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) It is hoped to reach a decision at a meeting of the Central Board of Transport in the New Year.

(c) This will depend on the decision reached and the funds available to implement it.

SHIFTING OF RAILWAY OFFICES FROM TITILAGARH

510. Shri R. N. S. Deo: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to remove the District Engineer's Office and the Assistant Commercial Officer's Office from Titilagarh on the Raipur-Vizianagaram Section of the Eastern Railway and if so, to what place or places and when;

(b) whether the Central Government have received any representation from

the Government of Orissa or the public against such proposal; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Office of the Superintendent Way and Works Titilagarh is proposed to be shifted to Waltair in about 6 months' time but there is no proposal to shift the Office of the Assistant Commercial Officer.

(b) No.

(c) Question does not arise.

MILK

511. Shri Mohanlal Saksena: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the measures which have been taken by the Central Government for improving milk supply in the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The measures taken by the Government of India to improve the milk supply in the country are as follows:—

(1) Helping State Governments to start Key Village Centres with a view to increasing milk production by providing to breed through measures like artificial insemination. Key Village Centres are also meant to protect cattle against diseases and effectively conserve and use feeds and fodder.

(2) Research investigation on different aspects of breeding, feeding and general management to improve the milk capacity of cattle and evolving profitable methods of producing, handling, storage and marketing of milk and milk products.

(3) Production and distribution of vaccines to protect cattle against diseases and improve their health and production capacity.

(4) Training of dairy technicians and field and research workers.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO HYDERABAD

512. Shri H. G. Vaishnav: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the total quantity of foodgrains of each kind imported to Hyderabad State in the years 1951 and 1952 and the total value thereof?

(b) What was the total quantity of foodgrains of each kind exported from Hyderabad State during the same period and their total value?

(c) What was the total quantity of oilseeds and the number of cotton bales exported from Hyderabad State in the years 1951 and 1952?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Imports into and exports from Hyderabad State during 1951 and 1952 of foodgrains, oilseeds and Cotton bales and the value thereof.

	1951	1952 (January-November)
<i>(a) Quantities of foodgrains imported into Hyderabad State.—</i>		
	(Tons)	(Value in Rs.)
Wheat	96,445	4,63,51,819
Rice	15,298	88,80,170
Milo	10,925	35,68,769
Jowar
Wheat flour
<i>(b) Quantities of foodgrains exported from Hyderabad State.—</i>		
Maize	200	55,806
Long wheat	330	2,02,039
White Jowar Seed
<i>(c) Quantities of oilseeds and cotton bales exported from Hyderabad State.—</i>		
	(Year)	(Tons) (Value in Rs.)
<i>Oilseeds</i>	1951	1,71,910 Not available.
	1952	1,52,393 do.
	(January—September)	
	(Year)	(No. of Bales) (Value in Rs.)
<i>Cotton Bales</i>	1951	2,56,765 11,84,29,714
	1952	3,67,688 14,89,94,697
	(January—October)	

BIDI LEAF CULTIVATION

513. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of Bidi leaf cultivation in each State of the country; and

(b) whether the entire stock of Bidi leaves is consumed in India or exported outside?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Information is not available.

(b) It is also exported.

MADRAS-CHINGLEPUT RAILWAY LINE

514. Shri Elayaperumal: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to construct a double railway line from Madras to Chingleput?

(b) If so, do Government propose to construct a new railway line from Chingleput to Chinnasalem via Thirukoilur and Kallakurichi which was surveyed by railway authorities and recommended by the Madras State Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Reply is in negative.

(b) Does not arise.

FOOD SCARCITY IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

515. Shri Veeraswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is food scarcity in Coimbatore District in Madras State;

(b) whether foodgrains are distributed through fair price shops; and

(c) if so, what is the number of such shops in Coimbatore District?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Scarcity conditions exist in parts of Coimbatore District owing to successive failure of monsoons for the last five years.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir; 852 fair price shops were functioning in the district on 1-11-52, the latest date for which information is available.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICES (SCHEDULED AREAS)

516. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to establish posts and telegraphs offices or wireless stations in the scheduled areas of Lahaul and Spiti in the Punjab State; and

(b) the number of posts and telegraphs offices in existence in that area and those proposed to be established in the next five years?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No; the population per square mile is only 5 in Lahaul and 1 in Spiti. The areas are snow bound for more than six months in the year. Post Offices cannot be justified either on the basis of local need which is practically non-existent or on the basis of permissible limit of loss which is Rs. 500 per year when the population served by a post office is less than 2,000. A Wireless Station, however, will start functioning shortly at Keylong.

(b)—

	Existing	Proposed to be opened
Post Office	3	Nil.
Telegraph Office	Nil.	One Wireless Station.

AJMER RAILWAY WORKSHOP

517. Shri U. M. Trivedi: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the value of material pilfered from the Railway workshop at Ajmer during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

(b) What was the value of such pilferages in the years 1940, 1941 and 1942?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to prevent such pilferages?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 1950 readily Rs. 210-4-0

1951 Rs. 291-14-0

1952 Rs. 689-4-0

(b) 1940 Rs. 55-0-0.

1941 Rs. Nil.

1942 Rs. 93-4-0

(c) Proposals are already under consideration for increasing security measures to prevent pilferage by posting higher grade Class III Supervisory Watch and Ward staff at Ajmer Workshop and also by appointing additional Watch and Ward staff to intensify the patrolling of perimeter walls, particularly at night, as well as to ensure patrolling within the shops.

FLAG STATION BETWEEN UNCHAHAR AND LACHHMANPUR

518. Shri B. N. Kureel: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from public bodies requesting the opening of a Railway Station between Unchahar and Lachhmanpur Railway Stations in the district Rai Bareli (Uttar Pradesh)?

(b) Is it a fact that an enquiry was made for opening a flag station between Unchahar and Lachhmanpur Railway Stations?

(c) If so, what was the result of the enquiry?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. A representation was received from the District Board in November 1950.

(b) Yes. The proposal was thoroughly examined by the Railway.

(c) The examination revealed that the proposal was not financially justified and it was, therefore, dropped.

TRAIN RUNNING BETWEEN GWALIOR AND SHEOPUR

519. Shri R. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what improvements, if any, have been made in the train running from Gwalior to Sheopur for the accommodation of passengers after the taking over the administration of State Railways from Madhya Bharat Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The arrangements for accommodation of passengers were satisfactory and no change has therefore been made except that from 1-10-1952, 8 inter class seats have been up-graded to second class consequent on the abolition of inter class on this train.

NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF MADHYA BHARAT (RAILWAY LINE)

520. Shri R. C. Sharma: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have any plan at present to extend the Railway line in Northern districts of Madhya Bharat and if so, what is that plan?

(b) Do Government propose to execute the old State Railway extension plan joining Ambah with Gwalior-Bhind Railway line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There is no approved plan but Government are examining a proposal to connect Sheopur, the terminus of the Gwalior-Sheopur Narrow Gauge Railway by a Metre Gauge line to Sawai-Madhopur, and to convert the existing Gwalior-Sheopur-Bhind Narrow Gauge lines into Metre Gauge.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

BOMBAY TELEPHONE WORKSHOP

521. Shri Kajrolkar: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Bombay Telephone Workshop to Bangalore or anywhere else; and

(b) if not, whether it is proposed to construct another building to house the workshop in Bombay itself?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to shift the workshop to Bangalore. The selection of a suitable site in Bombay City or its suburbs is receiving attention. As soon as the site has been selected the question of constructing a building would be taken up.

QUARTERS FOR POST MASTERS

522. Shri Bogawat: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the revised austerity standard of accommodation for quarters of different grades of Post Masters; and

(b) whether it is a fact the Departmental rules require that the Postmaster must stay and sleep in the premises even if he has his own house in the town?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The austerity standard of accommodation applies to all category of staff according to their pay scales. Accordingly the revised types of austerity standard accommodation of quarters applicable to Postmaster of different grades would be:—

Pay Rs.	Type of accommoda- tion.	Plinth area (sq. ft.)	
		Single storey	Double storey
600 to 1750	B	1920	2280
250 to 599	C	930	1110
55 to 249	H	600	735

(b) Yes.

BRANCH POST OFFICES

523. Shri Bogawat: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices opened in 1950-51 and 1951-52 and the total number made permanent in Bombay circle;

(b) the total number of Branch Post Offices that are self-supporting in Bombay circle; and

(c) what is the permissible loss on each Branch Post Office and the total loss suffered by the Department in 1950-51 and 1951-52 in Bombay circle for maintaining these post offices?

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

Year.	Number of Branch P.Os.	Total number of Post offices made permanent in Bombay Circle.	Bombay Circle
1950-51	156	336	(includes those that were open- ed in previous years).
1951-52	336	269	

(b) 3450 as on 31st March 1952.

(c) In the case of newly-opened Branch Post offices the limit is (i) Rs. 750 per annum provided the office serves a well demarcated village unit having a population of 2,000 or over, or a compact group of villages with similar population, no two villages within the group being separated by a distance exceeding 4 miles. (ii) Rs. 500 per annum when the above conditions are not satisfied.

The total loss suffered by the Department in Bombay circle on rural Post offices:—

1950-51	Rs. 1,12,833-2-10
1951-52	Rs. 1,48,490-0-4

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

524. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government charge any fee for registration with the employment exchanges from the would-be employees?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): No.

FORESTS

525. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of reserved forests, protected and unclassed forests in India;

(b) the percentages of increase or decrease after 1941; and

(c) the valuable products of reserved forests and their approximate annual demand for home consumption and the total quantity annually exported to foreign markets?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). Three statements giving the available information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 46.]

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Dated.....20.11.201

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

1973

1974

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 10th December, 1952

The House met at a Quarter to
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-45 A.M.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

PREMATURE PUBLICATION OF ADJOURNMENT
MOTION

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): Sir, I would like to raise a question of privilege. Yesterday, I and certain other Members gave notice of a motion of adjournment and before the motion was admitted, I find there was a very flamboyant report of that adjournment motion here. It says in the *Delhi Express*:

"Will Nehru swear allegiance to Queen?"

Opposition M.P.s Protest Against
Reported Move.

Adjournment Motion likely today.

U. K. High Commission denies
knowledge of Plan".

"All Opposition groups in the House of the People have combined to protest against Mr. Nehru's reported plan to swear allegiance on behalf of India at the forthcoming Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in London.

They have given notice of an adjournment motion on the subject, to be moved in the House on Wednesday."

It is a three-fourth column report here. This is a matter of very serious

importance to the country and of very great significance. How is it that before the House is seized of the matter, it is reported here?

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that there is a very well established convention with regard to this. In 1948, to a short notice question given on 6th February, the Speaker gave this ruling. The Speaker referred to the short notice question due to be answered on that day having found publicity in the Press on the previous day. He said it was a breach of the convention of the House, and added:

"This is a breach of the convention of the House. I might invite the attention of hon. Members to the desirability of no question or motion finding publicity in the press before not only these are admitted but, so far as questions are concerned, before they are answered in the House. It is fair both to the House and also to the Government that the question and answer should go to the public together."

We have not had a chance to discuss this very serious matter which goes to the very foundation of our Constitutional position and neither has the Government had a chance to give a reply, and before we have a chance to discuss it, this kind of cheap report is made about it in this paper. I would therefore request you to refer this matter to the Committee of Privileges.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a breach of convention. The Speaker is quite competent to take action on this matter. I do not know how in the face of repeated warnings, this has happened, before a matter is taken up by Parliament and before even it is admitted by the Speaker. So far as the adjournment motion is concerned, the mischief is done by publishing it before the consent of the Speaker is given, when even hon. Members are

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

not taken into confidence. When the consent of the Speaker is withheld, and the motions are not even read out in the House because by merely reading them even they might get publicity while otherwise they might be inadmissible. It is improper to be published as it would be read and the mischief might be done. In those circumstances, when this matter is withheld even from the Members of the House, for the Press to publish it cannot be condemned in too strong words. I will certainly take action against this paper and call for an explanation and deal with it in the right manner.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I say a word? I am glad that your attention was drawn to this matter because I myself intended doing so, and I had a sense of grievance, if I may say so with all respect, against the Members who have sent that notice—there are a large number of them—and I wish to ask them if they had given it to the paper or allowed it to be sent to the newspaper. It is one thing for publication in a newspaper, but it is not right that such a thing should be bandied about so as to reach a newspaper. Both parts of this should be enquired into, if I may submit, fully.

As this matter has come up before this House, may I say something with your permission? Last evening, I was shown, I received a copy of this motion for adjournment. I was rather surprised because, knowing as I do, that hon. Members of the Opposition have tremendous faith which often runs to credulity in regard to everything, and seldom exercise any discretion about anything, that a motion of this kind should be sent to this House without consultation with or reference to me who was concerned—this struck me as most amazingly irresponsible behaviour.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I will not give in. I am not giving into anybody.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: It was published on the 6th.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It does not matter.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: It was allowed to be bandied about in the country. The country knew of it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When I am speaking and I do not give in, is it right for Members of the Opposition to get up? I wish, Sir, they would behave more responsibly in this House.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Members of the Opposition neither have discretion nor strength.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): We protest against this kind of unfair attack.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. When a statement is being made, and he does not give in...

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: The Prime Minister is abusing his position as Leader of the House. We will not allow that to go on.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government has discretion and strength too. It can keep its temper too. I do say, Sir.....

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): It is temper incarnate.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:.....they showed extreme irresponsibility. I am the Leader of the House and I am available to them at every moment by telephone, by call or letter or by personal interview. No reference was made by any of these gentlemen or ladies to me. It is such a simple thing. Can they believe a story which appeared in an unknown German newspaper and was reproduced here which contains something which is fantastic nonsense, which any man with the least knowledge of our Constitution or our Government or of the State should have known is nonsense? And if that comes up before the House as a motion, I call that extreme irresponsibility.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: We ought to be given a chance.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. When I am speaking, hon. Members will kindly resume their seats. As soon as I received the adjournment motion, I felt strongly that they should not have sent it without ascertaining the position from the Leader of the House. Many things are imaginary and appear in the papers. All that appears in the papers need not be given credence to, particularly in a matter of this kind. When we are working under a particular Constitution, it is impossible to believe that such a statement or such a course is going to be adopted by the Leader of the House. Hon. Members could have easily approached the Leader of the House and learnt firsthand from him. When all the Members are sitting here, and the Leader of the House is accessible, they could have

written to him or ascertained on the telephone. It is rather strange that a number of Members should have given credence to it and tabled a motion of adjournment.

A motion of adjournment is a very serious matter. If it is carried, the Government will have to get out of office. It is a serious censure motion. It is not as if the Opposition every day comes here to shoot the Government. The Opposition must be in a position to take the responsibility, both of office and of the statements that they are making. It ought not to be merely a crusade here. They must be able to take up responsibility for such matters of policy etc., and if they succeed, they must be able to shoulder responsibility and come this side, and much more so with respect to the statements. I was not a little surprised at this. That is why I immediately refused to give my consent. Nobody can give credence to the statement attributed to the Prime Minister. It is easy to ascertain the views of the hon. Prime Minister so far as this matter is concerned. On such matters as this, I would suggest to hon. Members here not to be hasty in giving motions of adjournment. The matter did not stop there, it has gone to the Press. To the best of my knowledge, I wanted to bury it deep, and did not allow it to go out. I do not know how it escaped. I am not going to attribute any motives or any such thing as that on the part of the hon. Members. Whoever might have caught hold of it must have got it from somebody, and thereafter this must have been published in the Press. It is rather a strange thing if we as responsible men are not able to keep this as secret. This is not an ordinary thing, and the hon. Leader of the House has not spoken in too harsh terms in referring to this matter. (Interruption) No hon. Member is irresponsible. But unfortunately sufficient care and attention has not been paid or bestowed on this matter.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): As far as the publication in the Press is concerned it was one of our Members Mrs. Kripalani who brought up the matter as a question of privilege, and we repudiate entirely any responsibility for the leakage. But when an item of news appears in the Press and in a newspaper which is considered to be responsible in regard to a matter which agitates very fundamentally the principles of our patriotism, then surely the only way in which we can bring an unequivocal answer from the Government is by way of bringing it up before the House—the only way which we

thought was possible and plausible for us. (Interruptions) We have acted with a due sense of responsibility, and we are very sorry that the hon. Prime Minister has gone out of his way to attribute to us motives of irresponsibility and all sorts of other things. (Interruptions)

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: May we have a chance to explain? We did not act and do not act in an irresponsible manner. The hon. Prime Minister unfortunately lost his temper but we do maintain that we have acted in a responsible manner, with full consciousness of our position, our privilege and our duty. In the *Hindustan Times*, a paper which has some reputation, is of some standing and has been maintaining some standards, the news appeared on the 6th December—and it was circulated by the PTI and was published in the *Hindustan Times* and other papers all over the country. The relevant portion I shall read:

"Not six years have passed since India achieved her independence, and the man who is to swear allegiance at the Coronation as India's representative is the man who has spent as many years in a British prison for his leading part in the struggle for that independence."

We have not had any contradiction of this so far from the 6th December up till now. Five days ago a short notice question was sent but it was not answered, and nothing has been done so far. Therefore, we thought it our duty to let the hon. Prime Minister have a chance of repudiating it. I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister what action he is going to take against the paper which published this kind of "fantastic nonsense", and what action he has taken or is going to take against the PTI for circulating this kind of news.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say a word, Sir? The hon. Member opposite has said something which seems to be very extraordinary. He said that this thing appeared in the newspaper. I was not aware of it. I regret to say that I do not perhaps read all the papers very carefully. But when I saw it, I found that it is just an extract from an unknown newspaper, which has been given by the *Hindustan Times* or the PTI—an unknown German newspaper of the U. S. High Commission at Frankfurt has said something which apparently has moved my hon. friend Mr. Chatterjee and others to raise this adjournment motion. And even if I had known it, that I should get excited over what an unknown German paper says, is a thing which is patently absurd and false.

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

Secondly, the hon. Member said that this is the right and obvious course for him and his colleagues to adopt, namely bringing in an adjournment motion. I wish to submit that this is not the right course. It is a very very extraordinary and unusual course. A motion for adjournment is a very rare procedure to be adopted, wherever it is allowed in Parliaments, and it is allowed both on rare and important occasions, not to elicit information or to ask for a denial or affirmation. These are done by means of either questions or personal approach immediately. But to adopt a method of an adjournment motion in order to get a denial of some statement in some Press is not a right course at all. There are ever so many other courses open. I think motions for adjournment should be treated, as you, Sir, have said, with far greater respect.

12 Noon

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: This is not an unknown German newspaper which has published this. It is a German language newspaper...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Whatever it might be, in the opinion of the hon. Prime Minister, so far as this matter is concerned, he must be in the know of many papers which are responsible and very important in various places. It is his business to get informed. But so far as this matter is concerned, it has escaped not only his attention, but also the attention of all of us, then it must certainly be a very insignificant paper.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No hon. Member has even heard of that paper. (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. This is a matter which need not be debated. It is clear that this matter has appeared, for which there is absolutely no foundation. So far as the hon. Prime Minister is concerned, he had absolutely no knowledge of it; if he had only known it, he would have repudiated it as strongly as he has done now. This matter need not be pursued here any longer.

So far as the procedure for an adjournment motion is concerned, I would like to repeat to hon. Members that an adjournment motion is a serious motion, a motion of censure against the Government. For eliciting information, there are other methods, like short notice questions etc. If no short notice questions are possible long notice questions etc. are there, even without such formalities. And this matter can be ascertained by various other methods also.

In these circumstances, it is not necessary to pursue this matter any further. I have taken due notice of the matter that has appeared in the Press, in the *Delhi Express* today, and I will take such action as is necessary to find out how exactly it has leaked out, and what steps ought to be taken in that regard.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): On a point of procedure, Sir. The hon. Leader of the House said certain things about short notice questions etc., at the beginning. I gave notice of a short notice question yesterday morning on this identical subject. We are at a very great disadvantage, and we do not know when and how and where the short notice question will be admitted. What is the remedy for us? (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Something comes to the notice of the hon. Member. He thinks that it is so urgent and that ten days' notice is not necessary. It was given only yesterday, the office has to look into it and see whether it is in proper form etc., and then send it to the Minister and find out whether he will accept short notice or not. So even within 24 hours after giving notice of the short notice question, is it necessary for the hon. Member to rush in with an adjournment motion? The notice of adjournment motion was not given today. (Interruption) Hon. Member cannot say that. The short notice question was given, it was not answered, there was delay, and so he says he was forced to come here by way of an adjournment motion. That is the impression he has sought to create. The facts are different. On the other hand before the short notice question was given, the adjournment motion came to my hands. Without thinking of the normal procedure for an adjournment motion, without ascertaining even whether it can be ascertained at close quarters as to find out whether the information is right or not, the hon. Member has jumped into an adjournment motion. I would say generally—and particularly so far as this matter is concerned—that this is a little hasty step that was taken by the hon. Members. That is why I refused to give my consent, and I do not think it is necessary to go further into this matter.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I gave notice of my short notice question before noon yesterday, and no adjournment motion.

Dr. N. B. Khare: I gave notice of a short notice question about this matter about six days ago. (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): Six days before notice was given about this question.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Sir, I would request you to permit me a few minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What for?

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Because so much aspersion is being flung at us. We are perfectly within our constitutional right if we bring in this motion. Nobody can compel us to go and seek clarification from a Minister beforehand. If we do so it may be because of our personal relation with him. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that this has not been published in an unnamed and unknown paper. It has been published in *News Zeitung*, which is a German language newspaper of the United States High Commission at Frankfurt. We have our diplomatic relations with the United States. I want to know whether the Government have taken any steps. (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: ...to obtain an explanation from the U. S. Government for the publication of such a false report. With whatever little political experience I have got, I know that when a false or a wrong report is made regarding any matter of such importance, an immediate contradiction is issued. This report appeared in the *Hindustan Times* and some other important newspapers in the country on the 6th. Till today no contradiction has come forth from the Government. I am surprised and greatly pained that the Prime Minister has not thought it fit to issue a contradiction in order to clarify the situation but flings at us invectives and insults. (Interruptions)

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. lady Member is overcome by emotion and cannot see light. (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I take a lesson from the Prime Minister. (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with other business

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon-cum-Mavelikkara): On a point of information, Sir.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No information.

ceived the following letter from Shri Chimanlal Chakubhai Shah:

"I am sorry that I am unable to attend the session of the House on account of my illness. I request that I may be granted leave of absence during this session".

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri Chimanlal Chakubhai Shah to be absent from all the meetings of the House during this session?

Leave was granted.

CONSTITUTION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

Shri Altekar (North Satara): Yesterday I was dealing with the point that the representatives who are sent to this House must be equipped with qualifications, ability and also a wider vision. Here we have to discuss questions of all-India importance, questions like Planning which we have before us, from the aspect of the whole country and not merely of here and there—of local importance. We have to discuss here questions of foreign policy, defence and other matters of country-wide importance and for this purpose, the Members who are returned to this House must be equipped with qualifications that are necessary for discharging their duties in these matters. From that point of view the constituency that is desired is one which can look to these matters from a broad perspective. If we have small constituencies, the result naturally is that the persons who, in those small localities, are of great importance—from the local point of view—will be elected and these lesser dignitaries are not endowed with the qualities of looking at larger questions from a broader point of view. If we restrict these constituencies for representation to the House of the People, then there is the possibility that these persons of narrower vision who look to local matters will be returned to the House and not those who, it is desirable, should come here in this House. The smaller the constituency then persons of local importance and narrower vision are more apt to carry the voters along with them. If we have a small constituency, say, if there is a constituency of a taluka, then the person who is known in that small area, who has considerable influence on account of his handling questions of local importance, is likely to carry the electors, but if we have a wider constituency, say, of the size of a district in these seven or eight

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform hon. Members that I have re-

[**Shri Altekar**]

talukas, he is not likely to be known to that extent. He will be known only in his taluka or small area and if he goes beyond that area, his personality will not be so much known. But if there is a person who is endowed with greater intellectual qualifications, one who has got a wider vision and has worked in the field of social matters and also in other services for the country, then he is a person who is known in that wider area and more likely to be returned than the person who has got purely local importance. From that point of view the larger the constituency—of course contact can be had, but not of a restricted type—the greater the chance of persons of higher qualifications and wider vision being returned to this House. If there is a small constituency, the lesser dignitaries, as I have already said, will be more likely to be returned to this House. Therefore, I say that the constituency must be of a size where such lesser dignitaries, lesser personalities, will be eliminated. Having such a larger constituency as we have got—that of a district—we practically arrive at the desired effect that we have at heart.

Then again there is another aspect and it is this. The larger the constituency, the less the chance for corrupt practice. From that point of view also, such a large constituency as that of a district is more suited for representation to the House of the People.

We are living in an age where the theory of relativity has been propounded. We are all conversant with it. The idea of small or big is after all, a relative thing. A rabbit may appear small to an elephant but big to a mouse. So what may be big to countries like England or Switzerland may be small to a country like India. Ours is a bigger country with a bigger population. Our constituencies also must be proportionate to the size of the country and its population. From this point of view also, I submit that the constituencies that we have arrived at—the size of nearly a district—is the suitable one for representation in the House of the People.

Then it is said that it is more expensive in such big constituencies to fight elections to the House of the People. I submit that in a democratic country and in a democratic set-up of State, it is not the individual who fights the election, but democracy is based on party organisations

and parties are formed and they fight the elections. From that point of view, the fighting of elections in a district is not a difficult thing in a country like India. As a matter of fact, we have got our own experience in the last General Elections and we should not feel any difficulty in conducting propaganda and having contact with the people in our constituencies. So far as individuals are concerned, of course, there will be difficulty for small individuals to fight the elections in these constituencies. But those who are endowed with high qualifications, persons of great service and great abilities find a place, and a place of honour, on the opposite benches. Such people will always find their place here in this House and there are no two opinions with respect to that. But if there are smaller individuals and smaller parties, then certainly, of course, they may not find a place in the set-up of a democratic constitution. Of course, the country would not in any way be the poorer for it. I do not mean any sort of criticism as against such individuals. Nothing is farther from my mind than to make any comment of that type. But what is necessary in a democratic constitution, is that elections will have to be fought on party lines and for that purpose district-wide constituency will not be in any way a greater handicap for being in contact with the masses.

Then, another point that I would like to advance in this respect is that formerly, before we adopted this Constitution of ours, under the Constitution that was working at that time, there were only 144 Members in the lower House of the Central Legislature. We have increased that number by more than three times; and so far as the constituency is concerned, that constituency was seven to ten times larger than the constituency under the new Constitution. We have reduced it to one-seventh or one-tenth of its former size. That is the size which is easily accessible to the Member who wants to go and have contact with the constituency and there should be no difficulty in going there and learning first-hand the desires of the people, making them acquainted with what is happening in this House and being in constant touch with the constituency. That being so, I do not in any way feel that there is any sort of necessity for changing the constituency that we have framed in this respect only two years ago. At the time of the election, we did not feel any difficulty; and merely knowing

what was the result of the census of 1951 or mere knowledge of the exact figures of that time, should not in any way mean that we should further alter them. Therefore, I submit that the constituencies that we have devised need not in any way be materially changed than what they are at present.

Then, what I have to state is that something was said with respect to the number of 500, whether there was anything sacrosanct with that particular number. I would like to say that there is nothing sacrosanct about the figure of 500. No arithmetical number need in any way be sacred. There is no sanctity to any number in mathematics. What is of greater importance is not the figure itself but the idea underlying it, the scheme that is behind it and what placed the number at 500. That 500 was arrived at on the ground that there should be a sufficiently large House for the purposes of such a big country but at the same time the constituency that would be returning its Member to the House should also be of a type and of a size that can easily send the Member to represent it. Taking all these facts into consideration, that number of 500 was arrived at. As against that, if it is suggested that there should be a smaller constituency, one-third or one-half of the size as it is now, then the House will be far bigger. It will be unmanageable and unwieldy, as like a person suffering from elephantiasis or so. So, in order to avoid that, I am holding both these things together for consideration. We know that after properly looking to the advantages and disadvantages, this number of 500 was arrived at. When we are discussing that question here, we have to see the ideology behind it and the scheme behind it. It is from that point of view that it has been arrived at after great deliberation and that need not be touched. If after some ten years it is found that it is in some way rather difficult to have contact with the people, then the Members who may be fighting the elections at that particular time, should there be some Members on the opposite benches who are able to get themselves elected to this House and also in such big numbers of their party as to occupy the benches on this side, then they will at that particular time realise that the scheme that was devised for this Constitution and the figure of 500 that was arrived at was really a better and suitable one for the purpose of conducting the business of this House as also for representing the people of this country. From

that point of view I submit that there should be no necessity of changing this particular figure and that the amendment that is suggested, namely of removing the upper limit should be accepted because in article 170(2) there is also no higher limit to the population that is laid down there for the purposes of representation in the Legislative Assemblies of the States. So, by making this amendment, we will be coming in a line with the provision that is made in article 170(2). Of course, so far as the representation in the House of the People is concerned, that will be in line with the principle that is laid down there. Under these circumstances, I submit that the motion that is being placed before the House should be supported and we need not in any way tamper with lightly and in a haphazard and superficial manner, the principle that was laid down after great deliberations in the Constituent Assembly.

With these few words, I support the amendment that has been laid before the House.

Shri P. Subba Rao (Nowrangpur): This amendment is not really necessary and, at the same time, I am feeling that the number of 500 need not be enlarged. Part C States were given over-weightage and by certain adjustments, notwithstanding this amendment, that state of things may be allowed to continue. It is suggested that so far as the territorial constituencies are concerned, there will be no change practically and that where the population is increased, the Member will have to address larger audiences and that will not entail any inconvenience. But, I have to make one submission. The constituencies are based upon population and not upon territory. There are constituencies with an area of one thousand to one thousand five hundred square miles and there are very big constituencies. My constituency is 6500 sq. miles in extent with a population of 7½ lakhs. So, by not introducing this amendment—for the population has really increased—there is a possibility of the area being diminished. It is already too inconvenient to tour a constituency so very large and I am afraid that in Rajasthan also there may be bigger constituencies, I mean so far as the territory is concerned, and so it will entail hardship upon the candidates to tour very large areas. I have already submitted that the number 500 need not be in any way increased by not effecting this amendment at all.

Shri N. Somana (Coorg): I honestly feel that most of the points that were said against the amending Bill were out of place because I thought it was settled, as a matter of fact, before the matter was sent to the Select Committee that the question of amending part (a) of article 81 was not under consideration at all. So, it was agreed that so far as the number of 500 is concerned, it need not be touched. Then the only question is how this number 500 should be adjusted with the increased population. The Government had brought in a Bill with an upper limit and a lower limit and the Select Committee, after careful scrutiny, going through the whole of the matter, to avoid a repetition of these amendments in future, have very carefully worded the amendment and stated that the upper limit should be removed and the remaining part must be there. They have suggested the removal of the words, "not less than one member for every 750,000 of the population".

As my hon. friend, Mr. Altekar said, if in the future it is found at any time that it is absolutely necessary that the number 500 should be increased or altered, a separate Bill may be brought for that purpose and I think that for the present this is outside the scope of this Bill now to discuss the question whether it should be 500 or more or less. So, I submit that so far as the present Bill is concerned, the amendment that has been made by the Select Committee is quite proper and I think that it should be accepted by all sections of the House without any reference to the number of the House in the future. This amendment, I submit, should be accepted without any opposition as I feel that it is the best under the circumstances.

Shri Raghubir Sahai (Etah Distt.—North East cum Budaun Distt.—East): I rise to support the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee. I remember that when this Bill was introduced during the last session by the hon. the Law Minister, Shri H. N. Mukerjee, the Deputy Leader of the Communist Party, made a powerful plea advocating that the Bill should be sent to the country for eliciting public opinion. That plea was accepted by the Government and the Bill was sent for circulation in the country. The opinions have now been received and they are in the possession of every hon. Member of the House. From the trend of those opinions it appears that almost the entire country is of opinion that the number of 500 should not be raised

and the amendment, as has been proposed by the Government, should be accepted. Both Shri H. N. Mukerjee and the other Opposition Members who spoke on this subject on the previous occasion had advanced the argument that instead of article 81(1)(b), article 81(1)(a) should be changed. They said that that would be in the fitness of things, and their suggestion was that the figure of 500 should be raised, as according to the 1951 census the population had increased. They also urged that the Constitution should not be changed from time to time. I admit that there is a lot of force in both the arguments. Nobody in this House, and much less the Government, is desirous of changing the Constitution from time to time. We quite realise and admit that the Constitution should not be changed very easily and at very frequent intervals, but if we look at article 81(3), we would find that some change is inherent in the Constitution itself, for that provision runs thus:

"Upon the completion of each census, the representation of the several territorial constituencies in the House of the People shall be readjusted by such authority, in such manner and with effect from such date as Parliament may by law determine."

It is within the knowledge perhaps of every hon. Member of this House that the last General Elections were fought when the census figures were not available, and the President had to issue an Ordinance giving certain figures of population according to which the elections had to be conducted. That order of the President is only applicable for three years after the commencement of the Constitution. So, it is very necessary that according to the Constitution itself this amendment should be brought before the House. I quite realise the force of the argument that changes in the area and size of the constituencies should not be made from time to time, but when according to the census figures we find that the population has increased to a very large extent—and every hon. Member would realise that the growth of the population is not in the hands of the Government or even expert planners—the amendment which has been introduced is quite logical and necessary.

With regard to the number also, I feel that the argument that instead of amending article 81(1)(b), article 81(1)(a) may be amended has some force. In connection with that argument the Opposition Members refer

to the analogy of the House of Commons. They say that in England the House of Commons with a lesser population has got 640 Members. Well, so far as the argument is concerned, it is all right. But always to advance the analogy of the House of Commons in regard to our Parliament is not a very sensible proposition. I remember that after the second world war was over and there arose the question of the rebuilding of the House of Commons which had been badly damaged during the war, there was some talk in high circles there that the new building should be so built as to accommodate all the 640 Members of the House of Commons, and I also remember that it was finally decided that the new Chamber for the House of Commons should be built of the same size as the previous Chamber. Why? The argument advanced was somewhat like this—that if they built a bigger House to accommodate all the 640 Members, the Speaker there would not be able to exercise that amount of control which is necessary and requisite for managing a House of that type. The idea there was that the Speaker should be able to see each and every Member of the House and should be able to know where he is speaking from in the House, what his name is and where he comes from. If the size of the House was enlarged, then it was feared that the House might be reduced to a public meeting. So, the new building of the House of Commons accommodated the same number as the previous building did, and if there used to be an overflow of Members, they found accommodation either in the Lobbies or somewhere else. So, I submit that that argument is not a very relevant or pertinent one. The number that has been decided upon in our case, viz. 500, is really the proper number for a sober and responsible body like the Parliament of this country.

Having regard to all these considerations and having regard to the fact that the census figures have disclosed a growth of the population in the country and also bearing in mind the provisions in the Constitution, it is quite necessary that this amendment should have been brought before the House. By bringing in this amendment, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, the danger of amending the Constitution from time to time has been obviated for the time being, because the upper limit of seven lakhs 50 thousand has been done away with. I submit by doing away with the upper limit, a greater amount of elasticity and latitude has been given in determining the number of the population for the particular constituency.

I support this Bill.

Shri Siddanjanappa (Hassan-Chikmagalur): The two important principles which the House has agreed to are provided for in article 81 (1) (a) and (c) of the Constitution of India. Sub-clause (b) coming between these two, in my humble opinion, is neither important nor necessary. At first sight it might appear to be a little funny, but, I submit it is a matter on which we must bestow serious thought.

I submit that what is provided for in sub-clause (b), particularly the fixing up of the upper and lower limits, gives us in the first place a ready-made workable formula which satisfies the two principles contained in sub-clauses (a) and (c). Further it limits the scope of discretion of the Delimitation Commission. Beyond that it does not serve any other purpose. Now, if this sub-clause (b) is regarded as important then that importance applies equally to both the limits, the upper and the lower. If it is regarded as unimportant then also it equally applies to both of them.

Now, in the amending Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, it is sought to retain only the lower limit without any change, and the upper limit is removed. I submit it does not serve any useful purpose at all. If at all it is thought fit to allow any discretion to the Delimitation Commission, then it is better to remove both the limits, or otherwise to fix up both the limits. If we are going to fix both the limits, then these two limits provided for in sub-clause (b), which were all right in the context of things prevailing at that time, no longer hold good now. I submit that the ratio between the number of Members allotted to each territorial constituency and the population of that constituency as ascertained at the preceding census shall be the same throughout the territory of India is the guiding factor; the other guiding factor is the number of seats to be provided for in the House of the People which shall not exceed 500. If these two factors are taken into consideration, then the average number of population which a single territorial constituency should contain can be arrived at by dividing the population by the number of seats to be provided for. Having the average number of population for a single territorial constituency as the guiding factor, and as the central figure, the Delimitation Commission will have to make slight adjustments either downwards or upwards, depending upon the peculiar geographical conditions of a particular constituency and

[Shri Siddanjanappa.]

the administrative divisions. But, what is sought in this Bill is to limit only the lower limit and to leave the upper limit to the discretion of the Delimitation Commission.

Further, the population has now increased. If the lower limit is retained at what it is proposed to be now, then it will work as a disadvantage in delimiting the constituencies, because it is far remote from the central figure, that is, the average number of population per territorial constituency which will have to be taken into consideration in the present state of things. Therefore, I submit that either we have to remove sub-clause (b) of article 81 (1) altogether, or if we want to retain it, we must retain it completely, providing for both the limits; and if we are going to retain both the limits, then we must raise the figures higher than what they are now, as was proposed in the Bill originally introduced.

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City.—North): Sir, you have done well yesterday at the outset when this debate started by making it clear to the House that the whole of the article 81 is not for discussion and also that article 81, clause (1) (a) was not referred to the Select Committee for its consideration, the consequence being that this House accepts the provision that lays down five hundred as the number of representatives in this House.

Now having granted this maximum number of representatives in the House at 500, the whole business really reduces itself to simple arithmetic. And yet this simple amendment that has been reported upon by the Select Committee has occasioned this very prolonged debate. So far as this side of the House is concerned, it will be apparent from the many speeches since yesterday that this House accepts the recommendation of the Select Committee. The public opinion which was elicited at the instance of the Opposition last session when the original Bill was moved, that public opinion also is overwhelmingly in favour of retaining this maximum number at five hundred and not changing the Constitution in that respect. If that is so, then our task today in this House is simpler. And that is simply to try and answer if we can, as we certainly do want to, the objections raised from the other side.

During the course of the debate since yesterday frequent references have been made to the American Con-

stitution and to the many amendments that have been made to that Constitution. It cannot be claimed that any Constitution can be immutable, and certainly we do not want to make our Constitution immutable. Still, let us remember what has happened to the American Constitution and how often it has been amended. The American Constitution is now almost, or in fact a little over, 175 years old. There were about eleven or twelve amendments, minor ones, in the very first two years of the passing of that Constitution. And then, for the remaining 175 years of the history of that Constitution the number of amendments is less than fifteen. Less than 15 amendments in 175 years. And that too in the case of a people like the American people who have a reputation of being a people always ready to discard old things and to adopt new things.

Now, what are the objections? The objections are really exemplified, or rather I should say the two objections raised by the hon. Member Mrs. Renu Chakravarty really typify the generality of the objections so far raised. What are her objections? They are two. Mrs. Renu Chakravarty entertains an apprehension that with the removal of the upper limit we would be giving a blank cheque to Government to increase the constituencies. It is very clear that having accepted five hundred as the maximum number of representatives in this House, that sets the limit to the size of the constituency by a simple arithmetical operation. Therefore, there is not much substance in this apprehension.

Then her second fear is that if these constituencies are made more numerous than what they are now, then it will make it difficult to keep, what she calls, the "living links" with the people that we represent. Let us remember, for one thing, that even though the population may increase and the number of people in each constituency may increase, the area will remain the same. That is one thing. Also, it is only natural to expect that, in course of time our means of communication with our constituencies are bound to increase. There will be greater literacy, there will be more reading of newspapers, there will be more telephones, more radios, even perhaps television. So, with all these means of communication, which are bound to increase in course of time, the areas remaining the same, a slight increase in the number of people should not make it any more difficult

to keep, what she calls, the living links with our constituents.

Then there is another aspect of this question, and that is we must not forget that every citizen in this country is being taken care of by three different levels of Government. First he is being taken care of by the Municipal Government; then he is under the State Government; and finally he has to look to the Federal Government. Therefore, it is not as if that in every case of his trouble or his every need, or in every question concerned with his welfare, or in his every complaint he has necessarily got to take it up to his Member of Parliament. At these various levels of Government various needs of each citizen will be looked after.

Therefore, in view of all these considerations I do not think there is much foundation for he fears expressed by Mrs. Renu Chakravarty and generally by the Opposition. I, therefore, support the Bill as it has been reported by the Select Committee.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): I suggest that the other Bill, namely the Delimitation Commission Bill, may also be taken up. If that is also taken up, we will be able to cover the ground simultaneously.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): How can we take two Bills simultaneously?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: They are allied.

Shri S. S. More: Unless he can quote some authority from Parliament

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): I suggest that his speech may be recorded in the other Bill also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot dovetail one Bill into another, nor can both the Bills be taken up simultaneously. Evidently what he feels is that this Bill is not full of life, flesh or blood. It has only a single clause, and the main point is how far it is going to affect the delimitation of constituencies. Therefore, if we pass this Bill and then take up the Delimitation Commission Bill and then we find certain difficulties, coming back to this Bill may not be easy. In these circumstances, if the rules permit, they may run together until the stage when we put to vote, so that hon. Members may make up their minds as to what they should do in relation to the one or the other, and so that they can get them together for uniformity and avoid any hardship in work. That is what he evidently means.

Shri S. S. More: That aspect has already been taken into account. One Select Committee has gone into both the Bills.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Emphasizing that aspect, the suggestion that both should be considered together in the House also seems to be reasonable. For my part I have no objection. I find hon. Members are getting on leisurely, there seems to have been sufficient discussion on this, and there is nothing more to say on this Bill—except what is going to happen in respect of delimitation. Therefore, if hon. Members have spoken sufficiently, I will allow this to stand over and start with the other Bill. And whatever difficulties arise may be adjusted between the two. Particularly as it was thought necessary at an earlier stage that the same Select Committee should consider both the Bills, unless both are placed before the House and considered before a final decision is arrived at, the House will not have the advantage of having referred them to the same Select Committee. I have no objection to this procedure, the procedure being not that they are running together, but we can stop at this stage and discuss the other Bill. When the consideration stage of both is voted upon, then the House can consider the respective clauses separately.

It is now five minutes to one. After allowing one speech I will keep this Bill to stand over and the other Bill, namely the Delimitation Commission Bill, may be taken up.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): This Bill is to amend the Constitution. There will have to be the two-thirds majority. The other one is an ordinary Bill. Why combine the two?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a question of majority or minority. Hon. Members must make up their mind as to the implications, how it will be useful in fixing the number. That is why there was one Select Committee for both the Bills.

Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik—Central): I rise to support the proposals placed before this House by the hon. Law Minister. Yesterday in the evening one hon. Member from the Opposition Benches in a very vehement speech tried to oppose the measure that has been discussed. He suspected that there is an American hand behind it. Some hon. Members in this House recently have started suspecting American hand everywhere. I think it is due to the inferiority complex of some people in this country. This country, five years before, bravely fought the freedom's

[Shri G. H. Deshpande]

battle and won it against heavy odds. It cannot be cowed down by any foreign power on earth. Let that fear be not there. Neither Americans nor Russians can afford to play with us. The freedom has been won. It has been won on democratic lines and it is going to be protected on democratic lines.

In the present democratic set-up of ours in this country, this House is not the only House which functions as the representative of the people. Ours is a federal Constitution. We have *gram panchayats*, we have municipalities, we have State Assemblies and we have this House which functions for the entire country as a whole. Naturally, there are questions of a broader point of view that are being discussed here which are only of all-India importance. So, it is but in the fitness of things that we should have bigger constituencies than the constituencies of the *gram panchayats* or of the municipalities or of the local boards or of the State Legislatures and if we have some big constituencies it will not be very difficult for us to maintain contacts if we try to do so sincerely and effectively. For the present no doubt there are some constituencies which are somewhat enormously big but that is simply due to the fact that we have got certain reservations and reservations are to last for a definite period. After that we will have almost single-member constituencies and we will not have the bigger size constituencies which we have for the present in certain circumstances. So, that difficulty will also be solved and there will not be too many districts administratively disturbed on account of the constituencies. It is due to the present provision for the reservation. Let us hope that there will be no need for reservations if we work hard for the backward classes and if the reservations will go according to the Constitution as they are likely to go, then there will not be bigger constituencies and it will be easy for us all to maintain contacts with our people. No doubt, we can learn much from the constitutions of other countries but let us evolve our own Constitution in our own way. Let us develop on our own lines. Let us try to follow that which will be good for us. Let us be rich with experience of others but do not be led away with that and that is why, taking into consideration every practical aspect of the question, I do think that the proposals that are before the House deserve the support not only of this entire House but of the entire country.

Shri Lokanath Mishra (Puri): I agree that the numerical strength of the House of the People should not be increased and the reason why it should not be increased has been well propounded by many hon. Members. Those people who want that the numerical strength of the House should be increased, want it for the reason that this House should be more representative of the people. If that is the whole consideration, I see no reason why this should be increased because India is a big country and an increase of some more Members could not make the representation as perfect as they would like it to be.

But I am in disagreement with the report of the Select Committee. They have maintained the original figure of 500 as the strength of the House. They have deleted the maximum in article 81 (1) (b). They have not thought it proper to increase the minimum. This amending Bill is before the House for the fact that India's population is growing and since population is growing, those two limits, lower and upper, should be changed and adapted but unfortunately they have done away with the upper limit. They have not thought it proper to increase the lower limit. In my opinion the lower limit should be increased because when you assume that the population of India is increasing, the minimum number for one representation should also increase. Otherwise, it may be possible that somewhere only five lakhs of people may have one representative and this will give a free scope to the Delimitation Commission to delimit the constituencies with certain amount of injustice because there may be a constituency which will have only five lakhs of people and there may be constituencies which may have over ten lakhs of people or more. To avoid this contingency, the lower limit should be increased. I, therefore, submit that the report of the Select Committee as only deleting the upper limit and keeping the lower limit intact should be changed.

1 P.M.

I have tabled an amendment. I hope I will have time to speak on that score and for the present I should say that fixing 500 as the numerical strength of the House of People and at the same time not increasing the lower limit would do injustice.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This Bill will stand over. The other Bill will be taken up after Lunch.

The House then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The House re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** in the Chair]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): With your permission, Sir. I wish to inform the House that quite a large number of enquiries are being made from me with regard to additional information on the supplementary demands. That day it was decided that I should collect all the information required by the hon. Members and supply them. I circulated their questionnaire, so to say, to all the Ministries concerned and in response from them I have got a good bulk of information. It will not be possible for me, Sir, to go to the Press and get it printed. May I have your permission, Sir, to pass on to the Member concerned full details of whatever information was required by him. If you permit me, Sir, I can pass it on. For the benefit of the other Members, I may place a copy on the Table of the House.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Why not circulate it? It will be the collective knowledge of the House.

Shri Tyagi: It will not be possible; it will be difficult for me to circulate. If the same analogy were applied in the case of the annual Budget, the information will become too bulky. I do not think it will be of much use to the Members. I would, therefore, request your permission to pass on to the hon. Member the information on the points on which he had made enquiry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I suggest that instead of placing on the Table here, the other copy may be placed in the Library?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Instead of one copy, it is better if the hon. Minister could place half a dozen copies in the Library.

Shri K. K. Basu: Quite a number.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Members have concentrated their attention on a particular subject, information on that point will be given to them. For the benefit of other Members, another copy will be there. We ought not to go on making demands. As far as possible, we must meet the Government as they have met the

wishes of this House. We must not make it impossible for anybody to comply with the demands.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): May I make one suggestion, Sir? Previously, when cut motions were discussed in relation to Demands, the practice was that the Parties indicated to the Ministry and to the House the various cut motions on which they wanted to concentrate their attention. Certain Demands were selected so that the House could concentrate its attention upon them. I would like the same convention to be established now so that if hon. Members who have tabled hundreds—if not hundreds, more than 30 or 40—cut motions, were to select a few of them, the whole House would concentrate its attention upon them and study those subjects only. It would be better for discussion also and a lot of labour of the Members will be saved. Otherwise, if all the 50 or 60 cut motions are moved and a desultory discussion takes place without any other person replying to them or concentrating his attention on any one of them, my fear is that we may not have a good debate. I would, therefore, request you, Sir, to ask the gentlemen or Parties concerned to select certain Demands and cut motions. Previously, we used to apportion time. That may not be necessary now. The cut motions may be selected.

Shri Tyagi: Government would welcome this suggestion.

Shri K. K. Basu: Naturally.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If it is not natural, the other inconvenience will be this. We will assume that there are 50 or 60 cut motions. If all attention is paid to one or two cut motions, the rest will be guillotined. There is a time limit. In these circumstances, the practice has been as was stated by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. The Whip of the Congress Party and the Whips of other Parties or Groups or Leaders of Groups may sit together and find out what exactly are the items on which they would like to concentrate their discussion within that period, and leave others to be guillotined. Otherwise, some matter which may not be of the same importance in relation to other cut motions may take up the whole time of the House and other cut motions may be guillotined. Hitherto, Leaders of the Groups and Whip of the Government, used to sit together and choose the particular cut motions so that the Ministers may also be enabled to answer in detail, and the time of the House may not be wasted. So far as unattached Members are concerned, they may also sit together and propose cut motions equal to their

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

number, if they could come to an agreement. If nothing is possible, we will go on one after another and the law will take care of itself at five o'clock on the 12th. That has been the practice that has been adopted. I would make that suggestion. I leave it to the Members to do as they like.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION BILL

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the readjustment of the representation of territorial constituencies in the House of the People and in the State Legislative Assemblies and for matters connected therewith, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, if I may say so with respect, it is just as well that you adjourned further consideration of the other Bill and ordered this Bill to be taken up. The two are, as you said, interlinked and possibly, after hon. Members have got the full picture before them, they will be in a better position to exercise their votes as regards the other.

The Delimitation Commission Bill is intended to set up a machinery which the Constitution contemplates for forming the various constituencies. If you turn to article 81 of the Constitution, you will find, first of all, it lays down the total number of Members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In the report of the Select Committee, the first page comes after the second page. It is stitched wrongly.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): It is all right in my copy, Sir.

Shri Biswas: I was referring to article 81 of the Constitution. In sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the total membership of the House is laid down. The House of the People is to consist of not more than 500 Members duly elected by the voters in the States. That is to say, this number excludes the Members who are nominated by the President under the provisions of the Constitution. In sub-clause (b) it is stated that for the purpose of sub-clause (a) the States ought to be divided into a number of territorial constituencies and then the limits within which the number of Members to be allotted to each such constituency is to be fixed are laid down. Then you come to sub-clause (c) which provides that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each constituency and the popula-

tion ascertained at the last census shall be, as far as possible the same throughout the Union. And then clause (3) provides that:

"Upon the completion of each census, the representation of the several territorial constituencies in the House of the People shall be readjusted by such authority, in such manner and with effect from such date as Parliament may by law determine."

It is this law which it is the object of this present Bill to provide. In other words, the Delimitation Commission Bill is intended to set up a machinery which will readjust this representation which has been necessitated by a change in the population figure of the entire country.

On the occasion of the last General Election, the procedure was laid down in the Representation of the People Act 1950. The procedure was laid down in section 13 of that Act, and it was this. There was an Advisory Committee set up in respect of each of the Part A States and Part B States other than Jammu and Kashmir. That Advisory Committee consisted of not less than two and not more than seven Members of Parliament representing the State. In respect of Part C States other than Bilaspur, Coorg and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an Advisory Committee was set up consisting of the Members of Parliament representing that State. After the Advisory Committees were set up, the Election Commission, in consultation with these Advisory Committees, was required to formulate proposals as to delimitation of constituencies in respect of each of these States. And then, these proposals were to be submitted to the President for making orders. And these orders were laid before Parliament after they were made, and Parliament was given the right to modify these proposals. After such modifications, these proposals became final. That was the procedure.

This time a somewhat different procedure is proposed to be set up. In the light of the experience gained during the last elections, these modifications have been suggested. If you have gone through the text of the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee, you will find...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The principle of the Bill has been accepted. Therefore, whatever changes of importance have taken place in the Select Committee.....

Shri Biswas:...relate to the details.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These changes in main may be referred to. The original principle of the Bill need not be referred to.

Shri Biswas: I am coming to that I was only saying a few words by way of...

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur):...preliminary remarks.

Shri Biswas:...preliminary remarks to give the background—not that I am going to discuss them at all.

I am now drawing attention to the detailed provisions which have been made in the Bill as amended by the Select Committee. And you will find that, first of all, it sets up a Delimitation Commission. There was no Delimitation Commission on the last occasion. Here the proposal is that there should be a Delimitation Commission consisting of three members, all independent, who have nothing to do with the Government. The Election Commissioner himself would be one of the three members. The other two will be persons of judicial status and rank, either Judges of the Supreme Court or Judges of a High Court. As the Bill stands, the Judges may be either serving Judges or retired Judges. Some objection was taken to the inclusion of retired Judges, but then, the Select Committee has allowed the Bill to stand as it was introduced. Clause 3(1) (a) and (b) reads:

"(a) two members, each of whom shall be a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court, to be appointed by the Central Government, and

(b) the Chief Election Commissioner, *ex-officio*."

It will be for the Central Government to nominate one of the Judges to be Chairman of the Commission. I hope the constitution of this Commission as approved by the Select Committee will commend itself to the House because here we have got a body absolutely independent which will inspire public confidence and which may be trusted to act with the utmost impartiality in the discharge of the responsible duties which will be committed to it.

The question next arises as to what will be the functions of this Commission. The Bill as originally drafted simply reproduced the language of the Constitution, *viz.*, article 81 (3). That is, the function was readjustment of

the representation of the several territorial constituencies. Nothing was expressly stated there regarding the delimitation of constituencies although that was the most important part of the work which the Commission was expected to perform. Therefore, what the Select Committee did was to make that point clear, that it will be the duty of the Commission not merely to readjust the representation, but also to delimit the said constituencies. You will find that in clause 4 of the Bill. The words: "and to delimit the said constituencies" have been added at the end of the clause.

Then we come to the question of "associate members." On the last occasion we saw there were Advisory Committees. Those Committees were to consist of Members representing the different States in Parliament. The object was to secure local knowledge, to associate those who possessed local knowledge, for the purpose of this work. Under this Bill, it is proposed to secure that element by the process of co-opting associate members in each State. These associate members would assist the Commission in the discharge of its responsibilities. These associate members are to be drawn not merely from the House of the People, but also from the local State Assemblies

And then, as regards the number, the original number proposed was not less than two, and not more than four. The Select Committee considered that the number was very inadequate, and that it should be increased. The increased numbers are now to be found in the various sub-clauses of clause 5. If it is a Part A State the number is to be seven. Three of them are to be Members of the House of the People representing that State, and four shall be members of the local Legislative Assemblies. If it is a Part B State, then the total number shall be five, of whom two will be Members of the House of the People representing that State, and three shall be members of the Legislative Assembly of that State. If it is a Part C State having a Legislative Assembly, then there will be three persons, one of whom shall be a Member of the House of the People representing that State, and two shall be members of the Legislative Assembly of that State. If it is a Part C State having no Legislative Assembly, then there will be two persons who will be Members of the House of the People representing that State.

Then the question arises as to who should appoint these associate members. In so far as the members of this House are concerned, the nomina-

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tion should be in the hands of the Speaker of the House of the People. In so far as the members who belong to the local Legislative Assemblies are concerned, their nomination should be in the hands of the Speaker of the respective Assemblies.

A provision has been added as regards the time within which these nominations should be made. The Commission has got to start work as early as possible, and therefore it is provided that within one month from the date of coming into force of this legislation, the Speakers of the various Legislative Assemblies should make the nominations from among the members of the respective Legislative Assemblies, and then within a month thereafter, the Speaker of this House will nominate the members of this House, who shall be associate members.

In sub-clause (4) of clause 5 it is laid down that none of the associate members shall have a right to vote or to sign any decision of the Commission. That does not mean that the Associate members shall have no right to submit any notes they may choose to submit stating their points of view, especially where they happen to differ from the members of the Commission. That right will be there, but they shall not have the right to vote or to sign the final orders. The final orders will be issued by and in the name of the Commission, and the responsibility for the same will lie on the members of the Commission alone.

Clause 7 lays down the procedure and powers of the Commission, and remains practically as it was in the original Bill. But two sub-clauses (4) and (5) have been added, to provide for cases of differences of opinion among the members. It is laid down that in such a case, the opinion of the majority shall prevail, and acts and orders of the Commission shall be expressed in terms of the views of the majority.

Then a simple provision is made in sub-clause (5), to the effect, that in case of a temporary vacancy or the absence of any member, either a member of the Commission or an associate member, that will not affect the proceedings of the rest of the Commission, or the rest of the group of associate members. And no act or proceeding of the Commission or of any group of associate members shall be invalid or called in question on the ground merely of such temporary

absence or of the existence of such vacancy.

Now we come to the most important clause of the Bill, which deals with the manner of making readjustment and delimitation. On the last occasion certain directions were given by the Election Commission to the advisory Committees. But that was not done under any statutory authority. Now for the first time in this Bill, it is expressly laid down that the Commission, sitting along with the associate members, shall proceed in a particular way, and detailed provisions are made in that behalf. I should like to invite the particular attention of hon. Members to this clause, because this is the keystone of the whole structure. It is provided that the Commission, shall, in the first place, proceeding, no doubt, on the basis of the census figures as required by the Constitution, determine the number of seats to be allotted to each of the States in the House of the People, and the number of seats, if any, to be reserved for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. Of course, that is all laid down in the Constitution. Article 81(1), sub-clauses (b) and (c), deal with the allotment of seats to the various constituencies. And article 330(1) provides for reservation:

"Seats shall be reserved in the House of the People for

(a) the Scheduled Castes;

(b) the Scheduled Tribes except the Scheduled Tribes in the tribal areas of Assam; and

(c) the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam."

Article 330(2) then provides that:

"The number of seats reserved in any state for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes under clause (1) shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats allotted to that State in the House of the People as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State or part of the State, as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State."

It is accordingly said that regard must be had to the provisions of articles 81 and 330 in assigning the number of seats to be allotted to the various constituencies.

Then a similar provision is made as regards the Legislative Assemblies, and there the Commission has to follow corresponding provisions in the Constitution relating to the Legislative Assemblies namely articles 170 and 332

There is one other important provision, namely that the total number of seats assigned to the Legislative Assembly of a State should form an integral multiple of the total number of seats allotted to that State in the House of the People.

As regards Part C States, an express provision has been made regarding three of the States, Manipur, Tripura, and Cutch, which have no Legislative Assemblies. It is laid down that no reduction shall be made in the number of seats in the House of the People at present allotted to any Part C State which has no Legislative Assembly.

Then comes the question of distributing these seats to the various constituencies. That is provided for in sub-clause (2) of clause 8. Leaving aside Jammu and Kashmir, it is provided, that the Commission shall distribute the seats assigned to the Legislative Assembly of each Part A State, and of each Part B State, and the seats allotted to the Legislative Assemblies of certain Part C States under section 3 of the Government of Part C States Act, 1951, to territorial constituencies and then delimit them in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. And certain directions are given to the Commission as to how they should proceed in making these delimitations. Some general rules are laid down, rules very similar to the directions which were actually given by the Election Commissioner at the time of the last General Elections. It is intended that as a rule the constituencies shall be single-member constituencies, but where seats ought to be reserved for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, two-member constituencies will have to be provided because one seat will be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, and the other one will be a general seat. In the State of West Bengal, there is one constituency—North Bengal—where there are three Members, viz., Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Dinajpur.

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Shri Barman (North Bengal—Reserved—Sch. Castes): And Cooch-Behar.

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Shri Biswas: Yes, Cooch Behar, and not Dinajpur. It was not possible to separate this area and to form more than one constituency. Jalpaiguri, for instance, was a district where the majority of the population belongs to the Scheduled Castes.

Shri Barman: And Scheduled Tribes also.

Shri Biswas: And Scheduled Tribes as well. That is the only three member constituency, I suppose, in the whole of India.

Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik-Central): No, Sir. There is another constituency having three members, in Nasik—Nasik-Igatpuri constituency, as it is called, in Bombay State...

Shri Biswas: Was it due to the preponderance of the Scheduled.....

Shri G. H. Deshpande: The peculiarity is that Nasik taluka has a very large number of Harijan population and the Igatpuri taluka has enough number of backward class people, that means, backward tribes, but not enough for having a constituency by itself. That was the difficulty. So the Nasik-Igatpuri constituency has three seats—one general one Scheduled Castes and one Scheduled Tribes. That is also another three-member constituency, in Bombay State. I also represent that constituency.

Shri Biswas: I was mistaken then. My idea was that there was only one three-member constituency and that was in West Bengal. The Select Committee has made no provision for a three-membered constituency.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): The injustice in that case is that if there is one single-member constituency entitled to elect a Scheduled tribe or a Scheduled Caste member, then the non-Scheduled Caste and non-Scheduled Tribe voters go absolutely unrepresented. Therefore, what the Constitution has laid down is that in such a case there must be two-member constituency.

Shri Biswas: What is contemplated in the Select Committee's recommendations is that there might be a single-member constituency in which that single-member would be a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Gadgil: In that case, the other people will go unrepresented.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: "If there is a majority of Scheduled Castes"—that is the proviso—then it may be a single-member constituency. In any case they will succeed.

Shri Gadgil: If there is a majority of 51 per cent. belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, then the 49 per cent. of voters belonging to the non-Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Tribes will go unrepresented. When you combine the two, there is a chance for everybody getting some representation. This was really discussed at that time and it was agreed that in such cases there should be two-member constituencies.

Shri S. S. More: Does my hon. friend mean to suggest that the Scheduled Caste man cannot represent the interests of the non-Scheduled Caste communities?

Shri Biswas: I was going to point out that in such a case it would be really a joint-electorate, so to say, and the Scheduled Caste member or the Scheduled Tribe member and the non-Scheduled Caste or non-Scheduled Tribe members will have equal chance. It all depends upon how many votes he can collect. No doubt, where there is a preponderance of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, the chances are that a member of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes will get in (Interruption).

The provisions which the Select Committee have made in this Bill are these: First of all, (a) they say that all constituencies shall be either single-member constituencies or two-member constituencies, thereby excluding three-member constituencies by implication, though not in so many words. (b) wherever practicable, seats may be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes in single-member constituencies. The words 'wherever practicable' were added on purpose. Then (c) in every two-member constituency, one seat shall be reserved either for the Scheduled castes or for the Scheduled Tribes and the other seat shall not be so reserved. Then (d) they say that the principle of concentration should be followed as far as practicable: "Constituencies in which a seat is reserved either for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes shall, as far as practicable, be located in areas in which the population of the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, of the Scheduled Tribes is most concentrated." Then, (e) there is a general rule applicable to all constituencies, that in forming these constituencies regard

shall be had to administrative convenience, to physical features, to convenience of communications and so on, and we must try to have compact areas as much as possible. That is in sub-clause (e): "All constituencies shall, as far as practicable, consist of geographically compact areas, and in delimiting them, regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience." These are general directions.

Then the question is about publication of the proposals of the Commission.

Shri Barman: May I just ask about one point? Does this word 'practicable' also mean that even in a constituency where there are less than 50 per cent. or even less than 40 per cent. of any of these people, Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, then in that case also the Commission will be entitled to make it a single-member reserved constituency? If not, the same difficulty will arise in a marginal constituency as the hon. Minister pointed out. The word 'practicable' is rather vague.

Shri Biswas: What I said was that there might be a single-member constituency...

Shri Barman: What is meant by it? Does it mean that in a constituency where the number of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes is less than 50 per cent. or only 40 per cent., this will authorise the Commission in such a case to reserve that constituency as a single-member constituency?

Shri Biswas: First of all, the Commission will determine what and where special representation will have to be provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and they will allot the number of seats. After that is done, the question will be how the seats are to be actually distributed among the various constituencies. Now, it is suggested that reservation should be made in a constituency where there is a concentration of Scheduled Castes people or Scheduled Tribes people. At the same time it will not be fair to concentrate reservation for Scheduled Castes in one particular area, but it should be distributed in different areas of the State. In other words, constituencies in which provision is made for these reserved seats should be located not at one place, but in scattered areas.

Shri Barman: I want to elicit what is meant by the word 'practicable' in sub-clause (e).

Shri Biswas: Ordinarily that will not be so. A single-member constituency will be a general constituency, and there will be no reservation there. Where you have got to make reservation, it will be a double member constituency. But there may be one or two cases in which even a single-member constituency will be earmarked for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Barman: Is it contemplated that a particular constituency which has a single member reserved seat will have to have at least more than 50 per cent. of that community? That is the problem.

Shri Biswas: That is a matter which will have to be decided by the Commission, and no direction is given as to where it should be more than 50 per cent. or 50 per cent. or less than that. The point is, where these classes are required to be represented, well, such representation may be provided even if it means that the constituency will not have a general seat but only one reserved seat. That is all that is meant. The rest of it is actual implementation, and that is left to the Delimitation Commission itself, having regard to all the facts. Ordinarily, where the Constitution requires such representation, the constituency will be a two-member constituency.

Shri Barman: Sir. I will take a few minutes. I want to put a question directly so far as the North Bengal constituency is concerned. I was an associate member last time along with the Election Commissioner. What we found is this. In North Bengal, there are three districts and the three districts are partly forest and communication is very difficult and they are absolutely cut off from the rest of West Bengal. There are hundreds of miles of Pakistan territory in between the main body of West Bengal and that part. It is mainly in the district of Jalpaiguri that there is concentration both of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Two seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribes; one was given to Midnapore. And there was no other area in West Bengal and it should be given to Jalpaiguri. Similarly, there was the biggest concentration of Scheduled Castes in North Bengal. In all fairness it should not have been avoided and it should be given to the same district of Jalpaiguri for Scheduled Castes also. There can be only three constituencies and no more and Jalpaiguri was in the middle part, Darjeeling at the top and Cooch-Behar at the bottom. And the general instruction was that whenever there is

a reserved seat, another general seat should be tacked on to it so that both the Scheduled Caste people or the Scheduled Tribes people and the people belonging to the general community should get a chance. But, it was not possible to do it here. Some parts could have been carved out where there was concentration of Scheduled Tribes or a concentration of Scheduled Castes but in no case could it be found that any such area could be carved out which contained more than one-third of any of these reserved communities.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Cannot the hon. Member reserve all these to his speech? As the hon. Member knows, the hon. Minister has got the right of reply and if there is to be interruption no speech could be complete.

Shri Barman: Therefore, I asked your permission, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I did not think that the hon. Member would take, contrary to all rules and regulations, so much time to start a speech straight-way. All that the hon. Member is meaning, as was said by Mr. Gadgil, is that there must be provision for a three-member constituency also where it may be necessary to have reservation for a Scheduled Caste as well as a Scheduled Tribe seat. That may be added if it is found convenient or necessary, providing, as in the case of a two-member constituency, one shall be reserved for a Scheduled Caste, and one for a Scheduled Tribe, if it is found necessary—of course, subject to what the hon. Minister is going to say having regard to the previous experience and all that.

Shri Biswas: We had in view the special case of the North Bengal districts so far as representation in this House is concerned. There are difficulties no doubt and we have got to do something for that. And as I was now explaining to the House.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: And the Nasik constituency also.

Shri Biswas: I shall find out the exact position with regard to the Nasik constituency because I was not aware that that was a three-member constituency.

Then coming to other questions; about the publication of the decisions or proposals of the Delimitation Commission, there shall be publication at two stages. First of all, the commission will come to certain tentative conclusions and these will be given publicity. Then they will be examined by

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the public, and objections and suggestions will in fact be invited from them by a specific date. After that there will be a public hearing or hearings of these objections and suggestions. Any one can then appear there and support the views which he has already presented to the Commission. The Commission shall thereafter pass their final orders. Now the Bill provides that the Commission shall publish, first, their proposals in respect of the determination of numbers under sub-clause (1), and then again their proposals in respect of the distribution of seats and delimitation under sub-clause (2) of clause 8. If there is any dissenting proposal by any associate member, this will also be published if that member so desires and these will be before the public. Of course, the final decision will rest with the members of the Commission alone. So, these are the main provisions of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee.

I do not think, I need take up the time of the House now at this stage with any further elucidation of these proposals. After the final orders have been made by the Commission, suppose any obvious errors come to light, well, how are they to be rectified? It is provided that within six months, if any such accidental slips are found, they can be revised by the Election Commissioner, who shall also take the opinion of any members of the Commission who may be available at the time. That is all that I need say at this stage.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the readjustment of the representation of territorial constituencies in the House of the People and in the State Legislative Assemblies and for matters connected therewith, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Dabhi (Kaira North): I rise to make a few observations with regard to certain amendments which are made by the Select Committee. I would, first of all, refer to new sub-clauses 2(b) and (d) of clause 8. These two sub-clauses read as under:

"(b) wherever practicable, seats may be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes in single-member constituencies;"

"(d) constituencies in which a seat is reserved either for the

Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes shall, as far as practicable, be located in areas in which the population of the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, of the Scheduled Tribes is most concentrated;"

My suggestion is that no single-member constituency in which a seat is reserved either for a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe be made unless the population in that area either of the Scheduled Castes or of the Scheduled Tribes is a substantial majority. In the first place the fact that the population of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in a particular area is most concentrated in a particular area, does not mean that the population forms a majority in that area. I shall illustrate my point by giving a concrete example. In my Kaira district in Bombay State, one seat is reserved for the Scheduled Caste people. The population of Scheduled Castes in my district is only about 6.7 per cent. of the total population. There is no taluka wherein you have a majority, not to say a substantial majority, of Scheduled Castes. There is only one taluka where you have a large number of Scheduled Castes, and mind you, this is one taluka out of ten talukas. Its name is Cambay taluka and there the total population is one lakh and 35 thousand, out of which the population of the Scheduled Castes is about 13,000. So, even here the Scheduled Castes do not form a majority. Yet, for the purpose of the one reserved seat, it can be said that in this Cambay taluka the population of the Scheduled Castes is most concentrated. According to the present proposals, if we read sub-clauses 2(b) and (d) together the position would be that in this Cambay taluka, only one single-member constituency may be formed and the seat for the Scheduled Castes may be reserved here. But this would be denying justice to the non-Scheduled Caste people. So, whatever may be the intention of the Select Committee when they say that single-member constituencies may be formed in areas where the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes are most concentrated, the position is not clear and my suggestion is that it should be clearly stated that wherever it is necessary to do so, single-member constituencies may be formed for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes only where these people form a very substantial majority.

I would give you another instance where a single-member constituency

has been constituted for the purpose of reserving a seat for the Scheduled Tribes. I refer to the single-member constituency in Panchmal district by name Neswadi. In the present Neswadi constituency for the Bombay Legislative Assembly the position is that there are 44,000 Scheduled Tribes while the population of the non-Scheduled Tribe people is 72,000. Still, the single-member constituency for the reservation of a seat for the Scheduled Tribes has been formed here and there is great dissatisfaction among the non-Scheduled Tribe people who are more educated and more advanced and who are in the majority and have actually no representation whatsoever. Therefore, my suggestion is, as I have already pointed out, that if single-member constituencies are to be formed for the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes or the Scheduled Castes, they should be formed only in areas where these people form a very substantial majority.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not one of the recommendations of the Select Committee?

Shri Dabhi: No. Sir. The Select Committee use the words "most concentrated" and I want them to be substituted by "a substantial majority". That is why I have given you examples to show how cases may exist wherein these people may be most concentrated and yet they may not form a substantial majority.

An Hon. Member: That would not do justice to the Scheduled Castes.

Shri Dabhi: If my suggestion is accepted, it would do no injustice to the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes. Even if a double-member constituency is formed, they would get their seat there but then it would give representation to the other people also. I, therefore, repeat that unless the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes form a vast majority in a particular area, no single-member constituency should be formed there.

Then I would refer to sub-clause (2)(e) of clause 8. This provision says that in delimiting constituencies regard shall be had among other things to existing boundaries of administrative units. That means that if any change in the existing boundaries of administrative units is made, it shall not be taken into account in delimiting the constituencies. In my opinion, there is an absolute necessity for immediate reconstruction of several of the present administrative units, especially the talukas, for a just and proper delimi-

tation of several Assembly constituencies. Let me illustrate my point. In forming Assembly constituencies, a few villages from one taluka are taken out and added to another taluka for the purpose of forming a constituency. My suggestion is that this should not be done. I would give you one example. In my district, there is one Balasinor-cum-Part-Kapadvanj constituency. This constituency has been formed by taking all the villages of Balasinor and a few villages of the Kapadvanj taluka. The result is that people of the few villages which have been added on to this constituency from the Kapadvanj taluka have no chance of being properly represented, because always the voters in the other constituency are far greater than the voters in those few villages. Here again there is great discontent among the people. You may ask what is the remedy? My suggestion is that all geographically contiguous talukas should be reconstituted in each district in such a way that either there should be a single-member constituency formed, or if the taluka is a big one, then one double-member or two single-member constituencies should be formed. If this is done, it would give satisfaction to the people. Otherwise, it is not advisable or proper to take only a few villages and add them on to the other taluka for the purpose of forming a constituency. I suggest that the Central Government should advise the State Governments to reconstruct all the talukas on the lines suggested by me. There would be no practical difficulty in effecting this readjustment of the talukas. If this is done, there would be no dissatisfaction as there would be no necessity to tack one some villages from one taluka to another for the purpose of forming a constituency.

I hope Government will take my suggestion into consideration and also accept the amendments I have given notice of to give effect to these suggestions.

Shri Barman: I was just going to cite a case so that hon. Members of this House.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I make a suggestion. I leave it to each hon. Member to present his point of view in the manner he chooses best. But it would be useful if the hon. Members first say what their point is and then elaborate it. What is it that the hon. Member wants.

Shri Barman: I have on that clause given notice of a small amendment authorising the Commission in

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exceptional cases to make a special provision, that is to say if the Commission while doing their duty according to the provisions laid down in clause 8(2)(b) finds any insuperable difficulties, in that case they may in their discretion be able to suggest the creation of a three-member constituency.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When it is laid down by the law that there can be single-member or double-member, it is not possible that they will go to four or five-member constituencies.

Shri Barman: They may lay it down that in special circumstances, they may go up to three-member constituencies.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it inevitable?

Shri Barman: If in the process of delimitation by the Commission, with the advice of the associate members of that State, the Commission consisting of high-powered people drawn from the Bench of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, in their discretion recommend that this is unavoidable, in that case three-member constituencies may be created. I have given notice of an amendment to this effect.

I may say a few words to illustrate my point. In the actual operation of delimitation we experience insuperable difficulties in the case of North Bengal Parliamentary Constituency.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it still exist?

Shri Barman: It still exists. North Bengal is cut off from West Bengal. It is bounded on the north by Nepal and Bhutan and on the southern side by the Pakistan territory. It has absolutely no connection with West Bengal.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahabad South): Merge it with Bihar.

Shri Barman: There are only small links on the western side with Bihar and on the eastern side with Assam. Otherwise, it has absolutely no touch with India at all. That is the special circumstance. According to the population they are entitled to three members. Just in the middle part of this area both the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concentrated. While considering the reservation of seats both for the Scheduled Tribes and for the Scheduled Castes throughout the whole district of Bengal, it was found that this area was entitled to one re-

served seat for the Scheduled Castes and one for the tribes. Now it was not possible to make a double-member constituency in each of these two cases. Such was the position that arose in that area. I was not aware of the case my hon. friend mentioned. I was under the impression that that was the only case where the Election Commission had to make this deviation from the general rule and the reasons also were stated when it was made.

The other points I shall mention when I move my amendment. Meanwhile, I hope the House will consider this point and give power to the Commission with the duty of recommending that if they, in their judgment, think that three-member constituencies are necessary then they may recommend their formation.

Shri Gadgil: I support the motion for taking this Bill into consideration. The only point I wish to make is about what is contained in clause 8, sub-clause (2)(b) which says that wherever practicable seats may be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes in a single member constituency. I think this arrangement is unfair to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes people and it can be illustrated thus. If in any particular constituency the number of Scheduled Caste voters or Scheduled Tribe voters is substantial, then they will elect a man, not because they are in a majority, but because the seat is reserved. If on the other hand there are two constituencies, one where the Scheduled Tribes or the Scheduled Castes people are about 40 or 45 per cent. and the other where they are only 25 per cent. I would urge upon the Commission to give the reserved seat to a constituency in which they are 25 per cent. so that they may get a reserved seat, not by virtue of their being in a majority, but because of the fact that the particular seat is reserved in that constituency. In this way they will get a few more additional seats. But if we accept the provision as contained in clause 8, sub-clause (2)(b), then we are depriving them of some chance of getting some additional seats.

Similarly, this works out to the injustice of the non-Scheduled Tribes or non-Scheduled Caste voters also. Suppose for example in the district of Thana, Moorabad constituency, there are 35 per cent. Scheduled Tribe voters and the remaining are non-Scheduled Tribe voters. If it is a single-member

constituency reserved for the Schedule Tribe people, then the rest of the voters have no chance completely. But if that is tacked on and made into a two-member constituency, then both the sections or segments of the electorate have a fair chance. So, I should submit this matter for the consideration of the House both from the point of view of giving a few more additional seats to the Scheduled Tribe people as well as Scheduled Caste people and also at the same time being fair and equitable to those who are not entitled to any reserved representation.

This question was thoroughly gone into at the time his subject was before the House and after a good deal of deliberation we came to the conclusion that wherever a seat has to be reserved it must be reserved in a two-member constituency. I think nothing has transpired so far to justify a departure from that. I do not know what weighed with the members of the Select Committee, but I do hope that this point of view which I have urged will be taken into consideration by the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In the previous delimitation also there were cases which were brought to the notice of the Select Committee.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): I had the good fortune to serve on the Select Committee on the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill as well as on the Select Committee on this Delimitation Commission Bill. I may frankly admit that during the deliberations on this Delimitation Commission Bill—I am not divulging any secrets of the Delimitation Commission Bill Select Committee—all the Members were allowed to take a view of the matter which was above party considerations, which was in the genuine interests of the country and the particular sections which were to be served by granting reservations. There were a lot of deliberations and there was mutual adjustment. As a Member of the Select Committee I am very happy to accord my support to the two measures.

You will excuse me, Sir, if I refer at this juncture to the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill. You were kind enough to mention that the subjects of the two Bills overlap or are correlated and therefore when we are discussing one measure, naturally the comments will overflow on the territory of the other measure. As far as the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill is concerned, I believe that even

the present strength of the House of the People, which is five hundred is large, by far larger than we should have. Parliamentary democracy, as I understand, is supposed to be a democracy by discussion, by deliberation. As few heads as possible could indulge in better and more planned and well-thought out deliberations than a large crowd bordering on the large figure of five hundred. I have cared to read the proceedings of the previous Legislative Assembly, and I find that according to the Government order after the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme came into operation the strength of the former Assembly, which was graced by many stalwarts of our country, was fixed at 101 elected Members and 39 nominated Members of whom twenty were officials. If you care to read those proceedings—of course, you, Sir, were fortunate to be one of the Members at that time—the deliberations give more air of thinking, more facts were advanced, more study and deliberation were put to the use of this Legislative Assembly. I do not say this in a manner derogatory to the present House, but this present large number discourages discussion, discourages deep study of any particular problem, and we are more apt to yield to the present sentiment prevailing in the country or rather we are more victims of the present sentiment prevailing in the country.

I am one of those who do not believe in the efficacy of Parliamentary democracy. (*An Hon. Member: Dictatorship?*) Parliamentary democracy has been tried in England for the last five hundred years, and even the English people are expressing distrust in the form of Parliamentary democracy that is prevailing. I may quote Sir Ramsay Muire, who was one of the noted Liberals having great faith in Parliamentary democracy. He has stated that Parliamentary democracy as it is constituted at present is not functioning properly, is not giving proper representation to the genuine sentiments of the people. (*Interruption*). I do not want to be interrupted. Even Churchill, who happens to be the Prime Minister of England now and who was an advocate of Parliamentary democracy, in his Romanae lectures in 1930 or 1932, has stated that this Parliamentary democracy of the House of Commons has ceased to serve the country's cause. People do not go to the Parliament with their minds well furnished with the necessary data and facts, and therefore he has recommended that in order to take into consideration industrial problems there should be an industrial Parlia-

[Shri S. S. More]

ment. And so many other schemes and other variations have been suggested because in a large crowd it becomes practically difficult, absolutely impossible, to have close collaboration, to have frankhearted deliberation or discussion just as we can have in a Select Committee or in a smaller body.

Of course, I am conscious I am voicing a note of dissent from the views that have been expressed here by the Members belonging to the Communist Party with whom I sit on the floor of this House. I believe that we must have decentralised democracy, power should be transferred to the people, and it is no use collecting five hundred people at the central place and asking them to express their views on certain important matters which never came within the ken of their knowledge or experience or study. Therefore, I believe that we must have decentralised democracy. If we study the Constitutions of the eastern countries in Europe we find that they have decentralised the whole political power: power has gone not to the capital, but power has gone to the villages. If we take that into consideration I would rather believe that the present strength of the House is more than enough and there should be no addition to it.

But now I will say something about the Delimitation Commission Bill Select Committee's report which is under discussion at present. I can say that the Select Committee has effected a good many improvements. First, the Delimitation Commission has been raised to the status of a sort of quasi-judicial body. Persons who have a judicial mind will be there in majority and the Chief Election Commissioner will be the Government's representative. And we have made one very useful suggestion, that this Delimitation Commission assisted by the associate members will publish its preliminary findings, invite objections, hear people. One very notable and appreciable improvement that the Select Committee has made is that public sittings should be held by this Commission, hearing should be given, the pros and cons of the question should be entered into, and then this sort of a judicial body should give its final verdict. That will inspire confidence.

We are trying to improve this Parliamentary democracy, discredited as it is on the Continent of Europe. We are taking discarded things from Europe; discarded jeeps come to our lot; dis-

carded planes are purchased by India. So we are importing not only foreign experts but discarded foreign institutions too and are trying to repair them to some extent as we can.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

To repair this Parliamentary democracy to our liking we have said that this Delimitation Commission should be a sort of a quasi-judicial body. That is a great improvement. Then, associate members are to be there, because these judicial minded people may not know the local conditions. In order to make good the deficiency of local knowledge we have recommended that they should be assisted by a bunch of associate members supplying local knowledge. But there is a danger. Associate members will be coming from the House of the People or from the local Legislative Assemblies and they may have political interests in carving out suitable constituencies. At the time of the last election, gerrymandering, as it is known politically, was practised on a very large scale in many of the States in order to suit the purpose of some interested candidates. I need not give references or instances but that was the suspicion and also the bitter experience of many of the other political parties who were not sailing with the Congress.

Shri B. Das (Jaipur-Keonjhar): The other political parties did not exist then. They came afterwards.

Shri S. S. More: My hon. friend's knowledge is precise on many points, but at least in this it is not correct.

Political parties existed before the election. We did not come into existence like mushroom. On the 15th August 1947 we had every reason to disagree with the Congress. We walked out of the Congress and thereafter we did form a political party. We entered into the political arena and struggled, according to our party-policy, against the mighty machine—the Congress.

Then there is another point. My friend, Mr. Gadgil, has expressed certain feelings, certain fears and he will not be alone in having those fears. There will be many single-member constituencies. Of course, we have prescribed that the single-member constituency should be the general rule but there are the special interests of the Scheduled Castes, there are the special interests of the Scheduled

Tribes, which are to be reconciled. In the Constitution certain reservations have been given to them and how their interests are to be reconciled in the general scheme was one of the problems on which the Select Committee had to break its head.

We have said that single-member constituencies should be the general rule. We have also further stated that, as far as practicable seats may be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or for the Scheduled Tribes in single-member constituencies. I go very well with Mr. Gadgil in saying that in certain areas, giving a single-member seat to the *Adivasis* or to the Scheduled Castes may not be entirely in their interests. On the contrary it may be to their disadvantage. I personally feel that if a general seat and a special seat are tacked together, the candidate who is contesting the general seat will be interested in taking the votes of the Scheduled Castes and the man who is standing for the reserved seats will also have opportunity in mobilising the votes of the Caste Hindus in his own favour. Unfortunately it may happen that, in case in a particular taluka a single seat constituency for the Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes is carved out, the other persons, persons not belonging to the Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes, will have no interest to go to the polls. The result will be that instead of wiping out the isolation of the untouchables, we shall be giving ground for creating further isolation. We must take traditions as they are. Of course, in the Constitution we have stated that untouchability shall not exist but by merely making such provisions in the Constitution, the objective conditions do not disappear overnight. Therefore, I personally do not agree with this particular recommendation of the Select Committee and feel that if a single-seat constituency is carved out particularly for the Scheduled Castes, instead of creating a sort of interest on the part of the people other than Scheduled Castes to go and participate in the election, possibly it may create an isolated pocket, that the sections for whom the seat is reserved may run the whole show and only there will be some Scheduled Caste voters stirring and the rest of the people neutral and non-voting. Of course, that is a point to consider.

There is one more aspect which I have to emphasise. In carving out this constituency, the administrative units.....

Shri Velavudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes); what about the general constituencies where the Scheduled Castes are in a majority?

Shri S. S. More: I may concede that there may be some pockets where the Scheduled Caste people may have a majority but that pocket, may be tacked on to some other area; such pockets are very few as far as Scheduled Castes are concerned. In the case of *Adivasis*, they are residing in compact areas in larger numbers. Therefore, you can carve out a single-member constituency for Scheduled Tribes but the Scheduled Caste people are sparsely dispersed, a small percentage, all over the territory and therefore, in their case, it will be impossible to create a single seat constituency. Possibly there may be some exception but that exception will prove the general rule.

I want also to emphasise that in the carving out of these constituencies, administrative units should not be disturbed and I say this with some bitter experience. I will tell you, Sir, that in Maharashtra, in Poona district, some talukas together were given one seat but along with that some talukas from the Poona district were taken out and tacked on to some other constituencies in Ahmednagar while some other talukas from Satara district were tacked on to Poona district. In Sholapur—it was a double seat constituency—some talukas from Sholapur district proper were taken away and tacked on to a constituency in the Ahmednagar district but some other talukas from Satara district and from Poona district were tacked on to Sholapur constituency because certain interests had to be served. If we read the history of the different countries like Canada or England where this Parliamentary democracy and the concomitant delimitation has been in practice, this disruption of administrative units for creating pockets where there is a majority with a view to serve the interests of the party in power are not unknown factors. I need not give instances but the same thing was practised in this country and therefore the Select Committee was particular to emphasise that in carving out of the different constituencies, and has said that the administrative units should be as little disturbed as possible.

Last time it was my experience that this delimitation business was more or less a nook and corner affair. Some influential persons, interested in the administration of the country, used to approach officers concerned and get

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things done according to their own wishes while the general public or persons who happened to oppose the Congress had no say in the matter. This time the Select Committee has very appropriately stated that all these proposals shall be published on a different level and objections shall be invited and a sort of judicial hearing will be given to the persons who raise different objections to the preliminary proposal. That will inspire, I believe, some confidence in all those persons who were very much dissatisfied on the last occasion.

Last time the Scheduled Castes were given certain reservations and their seats were tacked on to the general seat in a double-member constituency. I propose that this time this reserved seat should be tacked on to some other seat in a different constituency. I would make myself more clear. Supposing there is a reserved seat 'B' and it was tacked on to 'A' seat which was a general seat—so that 'A' and 'B' were the two seats in a constituency. In the multi-seat constituency this time 'B'—a reserved seat—should be tacked on to another general seat in 'C' district so that the people in 'C' district should get into the habit of voting a Scheduled Caste member. If 'B' is tacked on permanently to 'A' district, persons in the 'C' district do not develop the habit of voting for a Scheduled Caste candidate. As a matter of fact, we want to induce people who are not Scheduled Castes to vote for a Scheduled Caste candidate. In the 'A' and 'B' constituencies on the last occasion, persons belonging to the non-Scheduled Caste communities have voted for 'B' candidates and persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste community have voted for 'A' constituency candidates. If 'B' is tacked on to 'C', possibly the people in 'C' constituency, the caste Hindus particularly who are moving traditionally in a particular rut, will get into the habit because the political forces will be released, the interests of the different candidates will be a motivating force. The result will be that caste Hindus in 'C' constituency will be trained to vote for 'B' candidates within a period of ten years. In one more election, the Scheduled Castes will get reservation, then, after a period of ten years from the framing of the Constitution, the reservation will go. What will happen then? Even now we must make an honest attempt to train people to take a non-political or a non-communal view of the matter and induce them to vote even for a Scheduled Caste candidate on his merits. Then only the Scheduled

Castes and Tribes will have some future. Otherwise, I do fear that even after a period of ten years, their segregation will remain, their isolation will remain, their untouchability will remain, though it may formally disappear from the Constitution. Therefore, this reservation of Scheduled Castes seats must be tacked on to different districts by rotation. That would give a sort of training to other people to vote for Scheduled Caste candidates.

4 P.M.

With these words, I again accord my support to the two measures that have been placed before the House for getting through.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): This is a measure which is connected with the conduct of elections. So, we must be sure that this does not in any way raise any suspicion, in the minds of the people that the party in power is acting in a partisan spirit or that there is any partiality or lack of fairness. Although we see that the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee shows certain real changes for the better, yet there are certain observations to be made.

We have seen that the Commission as it is constituted consists of two Judges, ex-Judges or working Judges and the Chief Election Commissioner. We know that the Chief Election Commissioner has the status of a Supreme Court Judge and is free from executive control. At the same time, the two other Judges would also have a similar status. The associate members who are to be included should not belong to any particular party. It has been mentioned in the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee that while making nominations, the Speaker of the House of the People or the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly will have regard to the composition of the House. This term 'composition of the House' should be made more clear. Because, in his report, the Chairman of the Select Committee Mr. Ananthasayanan Ayyangar has specifically stated that regard will be had to the 'political' composition of the House, but in the Bill it is simply stated that regard would be had to the composition of the House. I would like this to be made clear. If members are nominated from a particular party, the ruling party, then, the democratic procedure will not be there. At least for the sake of democracy, this principle should be followed. It has been stated by some person from Puri that:

"The Speaker's nomination may be only favourable to the party

to which he belongs. Hence that party if it nominates more members from his party can adjust by advice the places where that party has the greater influence. Hence the Commission should be authorised to nominate from the political parties for the sake of democracy. Let each party be given chance to give advice to the Commission."

I want to speak on this point with greater emphasis. We have seen during the last elections that in delimiting the constituencies, there was no Commission. It was done by an advisory committee which assisted the Chief Election Commissioner. We know that constituencies were delimited in such a way that it suited certain candidates belonging to a particular party. In order to avoid this undemocratic procedure and in order to avoid such difficulties, we urge upon the Government that while making such nominations, the Speaker should pay regard to the political composition of the Houses, whether it is the State Assembly or the House of the People.

Then, regarding the functioning of the Commission, we should see that at each stage due publicity is given regarding their decisions. It has been mentioned in the report of the Chairman of the Select Committee that at each stage due publicity would be given. But, in the Bill itself, the word 'each' is not there. It has been stated that they will be published in the official Gazette. We know that very few people in our country read regularly official Gazettes. We would like to urge upon the Government that these decisions should be published in the papers also through Press statements or published in other ways through the publicity organisations of the Government so that the people may come to know at each stage what the Commission is doing. We would like to see a provision made that these decisions should be published in papers and through the Government publicity organisations also.

These associate members would not be allowed to sign any paper. They will not be allowed to vote. That is a restriction. But, why should not they sign the decisions? That is a matter which it is not easy for us to understand. We would urge upon the Government to allow the associate members to sign the decisions.

About the way in which the Commission is to work, it has been stated that they would first allot the number of members to each State and then take up the work of making actual delimitation of particular constituencies.

We find that the knowledge of a particular area may not be had by the Judges; but it would be the associate members who would assist them with such information. It all depends to a large extent on the associate members. It is therefore necessary that these associate members should be chosen not only from the party in power, but from other political parties also. It has been stated that the dissenting notes given by the associate members would also be published. This should be published along with the other notes and decisions, and published in the newspapers also.

About the Scheduled Castes, it has been demanded by certain hon. Members that single-member constituencies would be suitable for them in areas where the Scheduled Caste population is most concentrated. A controversy has been raging here as regards what is meant by the terms "most concentrated" and "wherever practicable". These two expressions have led to certain difficulties. But, we think there is no need of anxiety about this, because we know that during the last elections, a large number of Scheduled Caste members was elected than the number which has been guaranteed by the Constitution.

Shri Velayudhan: Where?

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Suppose there is a double-member constituency where one seat is reserved and another is not. In that case both the candidates may belong to the Scheduled Castes. In that way, a large number has been elected. If we restrict this to a single-member constituency, then, certainly, there is no restriction so far as the Scheduled Caste candidate is concerned, in his contesting in other areas. We know from experience that only in areas where there had been one reservation two Scheduled Caste members had been successful in some cases. There may be exceptions; but generally it is not so.

So, we feel that although we have no objection to reservation being made for Scheduled Castes members in a single-member constituency in an area where their number is predominant, generally in areas where the concentration is only 30 per cent, 40 per cent. or so it should be a double-member constituency, so that in that case, if there are sufficient number of Scheduled Caste voters and if there are popular candidates, both the Scheduled Caste members may be returned. On the other hand, when reservation is made in a single-member constituency, then this opportunity would not be there, and so there is some point also in the arguments of Mr. Gadgil. And we urge upon the

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Government that only in a special case where the Scheduled Caste population is predominant, such reservation for a single-member constituency should be made.

Then, about the other Bill. It has been rather mysterious that abruptly and rather late the Government realised that consideration of the first Bill should be adjourned and the second Bill should be taken into consideration. We know that the two things are allied and that one cannot be considered without reference to the other. We could not really understand what happened to the Government when they, all of a sudden, stopped consideration of the previous Bill and moved for the consideration of the present Bill.

So far as the Delimitation Commission Bill is concerned, we see that in clause 10 it has been mentioned that within six months the Chief Election Commissioner would be able to effect any changes or to make any corrections which may be necessary. The clause reads:

".....any clerical or arithmetical mistake in the order and any error arising therein from an accidental slip or omission may be corrected by the Chief Election Commissioner by order made with the previous approval of the other members of the Commission or of such of them as may be then available and published in the Gazette of India."

The words used are "as may be then available". There is no provision as to whether an attempt would be made to convene a meeting of the associate members or other members of the Commission. So, some specific provision should be made as to the necessity of consulting other members, that is a notice should be given, and then at a formal meeting, such decisions should be made regarding any change or alterations.

About Mr. More's point that in Eastern democracies in Europe the conditions are different, we have to remember that we are not working under a Constitution like those that are prevailing there. We are in an altogether different set-up, and conditions are entirely different here, and so there is no use talking about these things.

If we are to make the Delimitation Commission successful and see that the Commission works to the satisfaction of the people, then the associate members should be nominated from

different political parties, and at the same time, publicity should be given to the decisions of the meetings which will be held by this Commission. Also, whenever any difficulty arises regarding a particular constituency, they should contact the local people. Power has been given to the Commission to ask persons to bear witness to facts, or to ask persons to produce records and documents. So, I think there would be no difficulty if the Committee resolves to contact persons belonging to other political parties or representative persons belonging to the particular constituency. I may mention in this connection that when suggestions are made and they are published in the official Gazette, copies of these may be made available to different political parties also. That way due publicity would be given, and only after consultation with the representative people, such decisions should be finalised. Only in this way, this Commission may work to the satisfaction of the people.

Mr. Chairman: The House knows that the half-hour debate is to begin at 4.30 p.m. There are only 15 minutes left, and I propose, with the consent of the House, that the motion for consideration may be put to the House at 4.30. So, if more than one hon. Member wishes to take part, I would request them to be rather brief.

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): There are certain points, and it is high time that we should be given some chance to make them—at least five or six minutes each.

Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla): May I endorse the remarks of my hon. friend. There are certain matters which need a careful analysis, and permission may be granted to us.

Mr. Chairman: It is not that I do not want any discussion should take place. The hon. Member is a barrister, and can put his points within five minutes if he likes.

Shri Tek Chand: I will do so.

Shri Radheshwar Vyas (Ujjain): There are certain points in regard to Part B States, and so the representatives of Part B and Part C States must be given some time. If not five minutes, we will be satisfied with three minutes.

Mr. Chairman: The point is, we have been discussing the Bill at length, and so many speeches have already been made. I would like to know how many hon. Members wish to take part in the debate.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: Then, it means we will require one more day. It cannot be finished. When the Deputy-Speaker comes, he will decide, because at 4-30 he is expected to take up the half-hour discussion.

Shri Velayudhan: I only want...

Mr. Chairman: I hope the hon. Member will be brief, because there are other hon. Members who want to speak.

Shri Velayudhan: I only wanted to bring before the hon. Law Minister one or two points which struck me during the course of the debate. Regarding this reservation for Scheduled Castes, I think, even though many suggestions were made on the floor of the House by Members, the present arrangement that double-member constituencies being given reservation for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, is the least complicated method of giving representation for the Scheduled Castes. All the other methods that were suggested by other friends, I think, if worked in detail, would be found to be more complicated than this one. Therefore, when the Commission wants to readjust the constituencies and when reservation is also given, the population of the constituencies should be borne in mind. Though six or seven associate members are also included in the Commission, I am sorry to find that no representative of the Scheduled Castes is included. When this Commission was appointed by Parliament last time, in every State it was made a rule that a Scheduled Caste member either from Parliament or from the local Legislature should also be included in the advisory committees. Now, here, seven associate members are being appointed to assist the Commission from every State. I do not know whether there are any Scheduled Caste representatives included in this Commission and I would request the hon. Law Minister to make this specifically clear. I do not say that one of the three main members of the Commission should be a Scheduled Caste representative. My suggestion is that out of the seven associate members, at least one should be from the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. I am not pleading for communal representation as such or anything of that kind. As far as the Constitution guarantees it, and as far as the Government also is having that policy in letter and spirit, I think it must find a place in this particular legislation as well.

Another point which struck my mind is this. After presentation of the report before Parliament, it gets its sanction by virtue merely of its presentation. It is not intended to be

discussed by Parliament. When this Parliament is sitting, and when this Commission is appointed by Parliament, in my opinion, this report should come before Parliament for discussion; and final ratification should come only after a discussion and decision by this Parliament. Even when the various franchise committees were appointed and when they submitted their reports, we had an occasion to discuss them in Parliament, and it was only after a discussion in Parliament that we gave a ratification. In the same way this report also should be treated, and it must not become a law merely by virtue of its being signed by seven or ten members. It should become a law only after complete discussion in Parliament.

This is the only point I have to make on this particular legislation.

Shri Tek Chand: A careful perusal of this Bill, at least as far as I have been able to subject it to a scrutiny, discloses certain lacunae which have not so far been noticed. And may I crave your indulgence in bringing them to the notice of the House?

As provided by clause 3, the Commission consists of three members, the Chief Election Commissioner, and two High Court Judges or two ex-High Court Judges. Clause 5 deals with associate members. If you will kindly look at Clause 5 sub-clause (4), you will find a provision that none of the associate members shall have a right to vote or to sign any decision of the Commission. That is to say, in matters of voting or in matters of coming to a decision, it will be within the exclusive province of the Election Commissioner and the two High Court Judges.

The matters that they propose to investigate are laid down in clause 8. They have to see to the practicability of the seats, the physical features, the geographical features, the territorial limits, the distances, etc. And my fears are that these High Court Judges, very learned in law, no doubt, but very innocent of the actual difficulties that face the electorate and the candidates, sitting in glorified solitude in High Court Chambers can certainly examine difficult and subtle points of law. Once the evidence is placed before them, they can possibly weigh it out, but when it is a question delimitation of constituencies, you have to see to the difficulties of the electorate. I have in my mind the Parliamentary constituencies in the Himachal Pradesh where distances are tremendous and in certain parts of Punjab, especially the one represented by my friend Mr. Hem Raj, which has an area of 9,000 square

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miles scattered all over with hillocks, rivulets and streams and all sorts of other difficulties. Are these High Court Judges going to decide the matter without taking into consideration their practical difficulties, by excluding their views? They may entertain their views, but no associate member has any right to decide the matter. Now, who are these associated members? You will see that they are either Members of the House of the People or Members of the respective State Legislative Assemblies. If there is anybody who is competent to express an opinion, or to contribute proper suggestions to overcome certain difficulties, then they are the members who have been candidates and who have had those difficulties in traversing the ground and going over all the area. But they are the persons whose vote shall not be counted, and whose decision is no decision. Therefore, my suggestion is that sub-clause (4) of clause 5 should be deleted altogether. That is to say, the Members of the House of the People, and the Members of the State Legislative Assemblies should have a voice in the decisions as to the formation or delimitation of these constituencies. If these are the people who are excluded, I submit with all respect for these learned Judges that they are not more competent than the candidates themselves or the members themselves to decide the practical difficulties. Therefore, I feel that so long as associate members are excluded from contributing to the decision, the decisions are apt to be very faulty and very erroneous.

So far as clause 7 is concerned, I have a bone to pick with the Government, as regards sub-clause (3), which reads:

"The Commission may authorise any of its members to exercise any of the powers conferred on it by clauses (a) to (c) of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2), and any order made or act done in exercise of any of those powers by the member authorised by the Commission in that behalf shall be deemed to be the order or act, as the case may be, of the Commission."

Now this provision introduces a difficulty and at the same time imports a contradiction. So far as membership of the Commission is concerned, if you will kindly refer to the clause defining member you will find that:

"'member' means a member of the Commission and includes the chairman."

So an associate member is a member of the Commission. And you have given to one member, whether he is an associate or a regular member, complete power within the contemplation of sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause 7(1). That is to say, the rest of them may not discharge their duties, they may not have the full time or the inclination, but any single member can decide almost the fate of the particular moot point before him. He has that power. My suggestion is that not less than three members should come to a decision on matters which are contemplated by sub-clause (3). Therefore, it should not be any member in sub-clause (3). That is, so far as the practical difficulty is concerned. So far as I can notice, any member means any associate member also. And it is provided that any order made or act done in exercise of any of those powers by the member authorised by the Commission in that behalf, shall be deemed to be the order or act, as the case may be, of the Commission. So, as associate member cannot decide, and yet any decision by any single member associate or otherwise shall be deemed to be the order of the Commission. It is rather a curious position.

Shri S. S. More: Authorised by the Commission.

Shri Tek Chand: The wording is 'shall be deemed to be order or act, as the case may be, of the Commission'. It is not authorised. There is no question of subsequent confirmation or authorisation.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member will observe that the term 'member' also has been defined.

Shri Tek Chand: I brought that fact to your kind notice. The definition is that 'member' means a member of the Commission.

Shri Biswas: Excluding the associate members. That definition is limited only to a member of the Commission. Associate members are not included in the definition clause. If you look at clause 5(2), you will find the words—"the persons to be so associated from each State (hereinafter referred to as 'associate members'))" which give the definition of "associate members". They are not the same as the members of the Commission.

Shri Tek Chand: That being so, the position of an associate member who is the only person who understands the practical difficulties is reduced to the status of a mere assessor or an adviser. Any one of us who has had something to do with these courts ought to know the

fate of the assessor. He is absolutely nothing but just a glorified human effigy occupying a chair. They have only to nominate a single member who is likely to sweep the polls if members of the Scheduled Castes happen to be in a majority.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair].

If they happen to be in a majority, it will be an act of.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat. He can continue later. Half-an-hour has been allotted for discussion on a question tabled by Mr. Guha. That discussion will be over by five O'clock. The hon. Member may continue after five.

Shri Velayudhan: Are we sitting after five?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes. It will take half an hour to conclude this debate.

TEA GARDENS IN ASSAM AND WEST BENGAL

Shri A. C. Guha (Santipur): The House must have been aware of the crisis that is now prevailing in the tea industry of the country. (Interruptions).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are not able to hear so long as they talk like this in the House.

Shri A. C. Guha: During this session on so many occasions this question was raised on the floor of the House and there was also a Short Notice Question the other day. Government also have been making enquiries into the crisis for some months. So Government are also cognisant of the position, and the hon. Minister has stated in reply to the Short Notice Question that 20 gardens have already closed though information available from other sources would indicate that a larger number of gardens had been closed. Some points could not be really discussed during the Short Notice Question. So I gave notice for this half-an-hour discussion, particularly to cover the following points: the recommendations of the official Committee and how far the Government are going to implement those recommendations; the failure of sale of tea in the Calcutta market and consequent accumulation of large stocks of tea; and credit facilities available to the distressed tea gardens owing to the present crisis in the tea industry.

The official team went round the country and made a thorough enquiry into the tea industry. They have made as many as 50 recommendations as to how relief can be rendered to this important industry. So I think this House is entitled to know how the Government are going to implement these recommendations—how far they have been able to accept the recommendations and when these recommendations will be implemented.

Then, the failure of the sale of tea, in the Calcutta auction and the consequent accumulation of large stocks of tea. From paper reports, we have seen that at least on two consecutive occasions no sale of tea in the Calcutta auction could be held. But the strangest thing is that almost by the same date a tea auction was held at Chittagong and that was going on quite all right.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I may tell the hon. Member, without taking his time, that there are the proposer and the seconder, two people, the hon. Minister has to answer and there are seven hon. Members who have given me their names and desire to put questions. Therefore, he will finish in ten minutes, the hon. Minister will take ten minutes and the other ten minutes will be taken by other hon. Members, one or two minutes each.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the reason for this failure of auction? Due to the failure of auction there has been an accumulation of these stocks. Sir, you also know we discussed this point in the Estimates Committee that auction should be held at Calcutta and Calcutta should be made the centre of the world tea market. While this auction is held at Calcutta, simultaneously an auction is also held at London. The better quality of tea, at least that which can be consumed by our foreign consumers, that quality of tea is almost entirely sent to London. So, in Calcutta auction we do not get the proper quality of tea that can be sold. The Government should have taken some step to prevent this duplication of tea sale and it was also suggested that in Calcutta proper warehousing should be arranged for storing all tea. As far as I have been able to know, that has not been properly done as yet. Then arises not only the question of providing the same but also the proper construction. Some steps should be taken that the quality of tea may not be impaired while being stored in those warehouses.

Shri B. Das (Jaipur-Keonjhar): By Government or the industry?

Shri A. C. Guha: By Government because they are collecting so many taxes.

Then, my third point was credit facilities for the distressed tea gardens, gardens which are closed. I may say they were solely or mostly Indian gardens. This crisis has not touched the bigger European gardens as keenly as it has touched the Indian gardens. One of the reasons for the closure of these gardens is that commercial banks have refused to give them any credit facilities. One of the conventions for these commercial banks was that while advancing money for the current crop they make calculations on the basis of the cost and the price realised for the last year's crop. So, the credit for the cost that will be incurred this year will be calculated on the basis of the prices realised last year. And, we know, last year the tea prices had fallen down and the last year's crop also has not been able to get a proper price. So, there has been automatically a limitation of the credit facilities. I know some of the commercial banks which have been lending money have refused to lend any further amount to these gardens. Then the official Committee suggested that the Industrial Finance Corporation and also the Land Mortgage Banks should be utilised for this purpose of financing the tea gardens. There also I think the Government should make their position clear, as to how far these tea gardens can get credit facilities either from Land Mortgage Banks or from the Industrial Finance Corporation or from some other commercial banks. If the commercial banks are persuaded to give more credit facilities, then I think the Reserve Bank will have to give some sort of guarantee.

Turning to the present crisis in the tea industry I would like to refer to one point, viz., the fixation of the price of tea. It should be done in collaboration with the auctioners in London also. The official team on the tea industry has referred to some very dangerous features in the present tea trade in Calcutta. I would particularly refer the House to recommendations Nos. 2 and 3. Recommendation No. 2 says:

"There also appears to be some substance in the criticism of the Calcutta auctions, for the bids are not unrestrictedly open."

Recommendation No. 3 says:

"It must be admitted that a small number of firms (in Calcutta four to be exact and all of them

European) has a great influence on market sentiment. It is to be wished that there is a larger number of brokers and a greater diversification."

Tea brokers in Calcutta are almost all of them Europeans and they have a stranglehold over the entire tea industry in Calcutta. So, I should like to have some clarification from the hon. Minister as to what the Government intends to do to remove these difficulties. During the course of the supplementaries arising out of the Short Notice Question the other day, a suggestion was made that there should be some discussion with the U.K. Government regarding fixation of prices. I should also like to mention that the U.K. which is our biggest consumer of tea has since the year 1938 begun to consume less Indian tea. The consumption by the U.K. is going down and during the last 12 or 14 years, the U.K. has taken something like 100 million lbs. of tea less than before from us. This point about the U.K. diverting its tea purchases from the Indian markets to other markets has to be considered by Government. In this connection, I would refer to our obligations as regards what is known as "imperial preference". If we are asked to give a certain preference to goods manufactured in the United Kingdom and in certain other Commonwealth countries, we should expect that the U.K. also would purchase Indian tea in preference to tea from other countries. Why there has been a decline of nearly 100 million lbs. in the purchase of Indian tea by the U.K. has also to be explained to us by Government.

I think that I have covered most of the points on which I should like to have clarification from the Government.

Shri Sarmah (Goalghat-Jorhat) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I know that one or two other hon. Members want to put some questions. It is, however, usual to ask the hon. Minister to reply first to the main questioner. But on this occasion, if one or two other hon. Members want to put some questions, I would allow that, and the hon. Minister may reply all of them together. How long would the hon. Minister like to take?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): As long as the House wants, Sir. I can dilate for 25 minutes if it is necessary, but if I am given three minutes I shall say all that I have to say.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This half-an-hour allotment is not exceeded generally. Therefore, may I enquire from him whether he will take ten minutes or fifteen minutes?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Just as the Chair wills it, Sir. I will try to be brief. If I am given ten minutes, I shall cover the whole ground.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will call upon the hon. Minister straightway then to give his answer. He can make a full statement and other questions may not be necessary at all. Otherwise, there would be only questions and no answer, and the whole discussion would be futile.

Shri A. C. Guha: The position is well known to the Government and the hon. Minister knows all the aspects of this problem.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I recognise, Sir, that the problem is one in which a number of hon. Members are interested and I do hope to be able to say something which, if it would not altogether satisfy all of them, may provide some assurance that Government is taking action in this matter. The hon. Member did mention the background of the trouble. That background is really that there is a gap between the cost of production and the price that tea obtains, whether it is in the internal market or in the export market, and this gap is due to the reduction in price being "so precipitate that the tea interests have not been able to adjust themselves to the new conditions. I have got a telegram yesterday from the India Office, London,.....

Shri B. Das: Say India House.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Call it India House or India Office. That telegram says that after deration and the removal of price control the retail price of low and medium quality tea is about 2 sh. 6d. whereas standard blends fetch anything between 3 sh. 6d. to 4 sh. 6d. and superior blends from 6 sh. to 10 sh. per lb.

This fact has been recognised by the official team on the tea industry as well. We have also now to recognise the fact that we cannot continue to sell indifferent grades of tea and obtain good prices in future. The reason for that is that while the United Kingdom was the sole buyer, we were able to exercise a certain amount of influence on the only buyer and all qualities of tea went to them.

Another silver lining, in my opinion, is a leading article, in the *Financial Times* of London, dated the 6th of

December, to which my hon. friend Mr. Tripathi drew my attention. It says:

"The decline in tea values has been the result of an unfortunate combination of circumstances. To begin with there is a considerable surplus of tea existing in 1951. At the same time, control was maintained in the United Kingdom which is the major world market in tea. Under this buyers were limited to the amount they can buy and sell. This control was lifted and before this ration has been increased quickly from two ounces to three ounces. The point is worthwhile noting. The ration of two ounces which people were accustomed to was quickly increased to three ounces. When control was raised stocks with the shops were high and also housewives had their own private stocks of a user. As a result of all these tea which costs 2 s. per lb. or in some instances 2 s. 9d. per lb. to bring over to auction in this country is now selling at a little over 1s. 6d."

Therefore, while the cause is given: the remedy or rather the future is also indicated that the prices are low because of over-stocking and as these stocks get absorbed, there must be a change in the position so far as tea trade is concerned.

The point on which my hon. friend laboured was the question of bank finance. One is related to the other. If there is a gap between the cost of production and the sale price obtained for that product, naturally that militates against bank finance available to those tea estates. Therefore, while something has to be done in regard to this bank finance, the point has to be recognised by all concerned that the mere fact of either an increase in price to some extent—it will not go back to the old days, that is fairly certain—or even of temporary finance is not going to help us out of the woods. All people concerned have got to act. Tea estates have to bring down their profits for a year or two. They must go without any dividends. And labour will have to adjust itself.

There is one peculiar condition in regard to labour, which I think is a good one, that obtains in tea estates alone, namely that labour is still being supplied with rice at Rs. five per maund. Naturally it reacts on the wages they get. The wages are low. The minimum wages fixed are anything between 14 annas to Rs. 1 1/2/- as against Rs. 2 1/8/- that agriculture labour gets in Assam, as my hon. friend pointed out. None the less it is a fact which has got to be noted that rations are supplied at Rs. five per maund of rice. What the tea

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

estates say is that it has no bearing, no relation, on the quantum of work done. Work is done only for one day in the week, but rations have to be supplied for the whole week, for all the members of the family, including the dependents. It may be right, it may be wrong, but there it is. It is an indication that some sacrifice is called for from all people all round.

Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang): The information which you have got is entirely wrong.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no doubt that Government is always in the wrong and my hon. friends are always in the right. But Government can only depend on wrong information and put it up. The hon. Member can correct me when his opportunity comes.

Shri B. Das: There is nothing to correct.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend mentioned about tea gardens that needed finance. According to our information the present acute difficulty is broadly confined to about 275 Indian owned tea gardens. They are mostly in the North and North-East. These are being financed by banks—by eight scheduled banks and one Apex Co-operative Bank in Assam. I do not know how many of them are what are called sub-marginal uneconomic units. Some of them are apparently of that category. No amount of bank finance, no amount of minimum price subsidy is going to help them. They have got to take the finances, and some of them might have to close down. But I understand that that is not generally the case. The other gardens, I mean the marginal units and the sound gardens, may be helped to some extent. It has been indicated to Government that steps should be taken by us to make bank finance continue to be available to these marginal gardens and the sounder gardens for financing their operations for 1953, notwithstanding the possible deficits in their payments during their operations in 1952. And it is suggested that some kind of help from Government or guarantee, as the case may be, might prevent the closure of an appreciable number of marginal gardens and enable these, in particular the sound gardens, to get a minimum bank finance until such time as the price situation improves.

The Government has been considerably exercised by the present position of the tea industry. The Secretary of my Ministry has been twice to Calcutta and once to Bombay during the last

ten days. We had the benefit of the assistance of the officers of the Finance Ministry and also some of the officers of the Reserve Bank in appraising the financial position. And the Government now feel, that they might consider the possibility of offering to guarantee banks against deficits in the financing of the 1953 crop, such guarantees being limited in amount to a percentage of the repayment to the bank by these gardens in 1952. Naturally, Government would insist on suitable safeguards like securities, hypothecation and things that banks usually ask for, so that no ultimate loss will accrue to Government by reason of this guarantee. But from the estates who avail themselves of such help from Government through banks, Government will have to ask for additional guarantees as for instance that they will not pay dividends until Government's guarantee is completely discharged and, secondly, that they will not embark on any precipitous discharging of labour. Government hopes that labour will avail itself of this opportunity, provided they keep the estates going and would not in turn insist on their pound of flesh.

My colleague the Minister of Labour is, I understand, holding a conference in Calcutta in about a week's time where tea interests, both estate and labour, will be represented. Government hopes that some good will come out of this conference which will at any rate ensure that labour will not have to undergo any undue suffering by reason of the estates being closed.

I would like to add that what I have said is more or less confined to the Indian-owned tea estates about which we have collected statistics. It may be that some of these Indian-owned tea estates are being financed by, what are called, agency houses. We cannot help them. Unless these estates depend on banks, scheduled banks or co-operative banks, for their finance, Government cannot offer the assistance indicated. If they are dependent on agency houses, they have got to make their own arrangements. At the same time, it may be that some of the European owned estates are also in difficulties. Our concern really is, apart from the fact that we want tea to be produced in this country, we do not want labour engaged in this industry to suffer by reason of the fact that this Government is quite prepared to extend some help to these estates also in the same manner as we indicated with reference to the Indian-owned estates. I understand that these estates have got some reserves in many cases. In many cases they do not need

the same quantum of help as Indian estates but subject to the general overriding consideration that these European-owned estates will treat their labour fairly, we will agree to some measure of conciliation and arbitration which might be agreed to. My colleague, the Labour Minister, is in Calcutta and at the tripartite conference; we are prepared to extend similar help subject to the same limits to other estates as well.

I would like to say this before closing. Government is not now in a position to enter the field directly. We have no organisation. In fact, the hon. Member said we do not have even adequate information of how many estates have been closed. That is because the organisational set-up is such, it is not very efficient. We do intend during the period of the next 12 months to so revise our organisation that, at any rate, we can keep our finger on the pulse, but the House, the public, those who own the estates, those who run them and labour must realise that in the situation in which we are placed today, no good is ever done by saying that somebody in England had done something wrong, somebody in Calcutta had done something wrong and the Government is always wrong because it cannot help anybody. We have to put our heads together and see that those who make the least sacrifice are not asked to make all the sacrifice that is asked for of them but it is undoubtedly clear that some sacrifice is called for from all interests. If this assurance is forthcoming, I have no doubt that the Government can give the assurance that it will, to the extent possible, to the extent I am responsible to the House, not fritter away the finances of the exchequer. We are trying to do as much as we can. Again I depend upon this newspaper from London which says:

"First, the statistical position is much more promising than it was a year ago. So far as can be calculated there is no longer a surplus and for the 1952-53 season which ends in March supply and demand will be roughly in balance."

If that is a correct estimate, I think we will probably reach almost the zero point and hereafter things must look bright. I do hope that this paper is correct.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is hardly any time, half a minute.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): So much has been added by the hon. Minister that now there is no time left for us to discuss any

thing. The whole discussion had been one sided. Anyway there are only two points, the most important, which I should like to bring out. If he is short and brief, he may answer now. One of the peculiar features of this tea industry is that 80 per cent of it is owned by British capital and the entire industry is within the grip of that capital. Now the British producing interests in India are people who are manipulating this market in such a way that now tea is selling at a low price.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the question? Half a minute is over.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Sir, this is a discussion. We need not put everything in the form of questions. The whole question of collusion of the British tea companies has come up again and again in this House and the hon. Minister has not been able to supply us with any details. Usually, he just pleads incapacity or says that he is not able to go into it. We want to know exactly whether the whole question is going to be looked into. That is one question.

5 P.M.

My second question is this. We want to know whether the Government proposes to go into the whole question of the cost of production: exactly how much is going to labour, for food, for communications, how much is going to managing agencies, for brokers, etc., and for the high-salaried officers, etc. We know that the officers in most of these tea gardens live in palatial houses and are almost nabobs. Therefore, we want to know whether this whole question is going to be gone into and whether the demand of the tea garden owners that the Minimum Wages Act should not be applied, will not be considered by the Government.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can only promise that I shall consider all that the hon. Member has said.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry that I have not been able to call upon the other hon. Members. On prior occasions, it has been the practice for the hon. Minister, if possible, to accept any suggestions or questions sent to him. I am sure, he will satisfy individual Members as regards those points that have been raised or issue a summary memorandum replying to those points. There are these ways and they may be adopted. The hon. Minister has said that he will consider all the points, not only already placed before him, but also those that may be placed before him, hereafter.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now resume discussion of the Delimitation Commission Bill. We have got so many Bills on the agenda. We have got a very short time. Therefore, I propose to sit from ten o'clock to six o'clock in the evening with an interval from one o'clock to 2-30.

Some Hon. Members: From tomorrow?

Some Hon. Members: Tomorrow, there are Private Members' Bills.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: From day after tomorrow.

An Hon. Member: On the 12th, we have the Supplementary Demands.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): Even under the Factories Act, over time is paid. What about us?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On the day on which Supplementary Demands come up, we will commence at ten o'clock and the guillotine will be applied at five o'clock. There will be one more hour or 45 minutes. Today let us finish this matter.

Several Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let the hon. Members sit for half an hour. Let us

finish this Delimitation Commission Bill first stage.

Several Hon. Members: From tomorrow.. Not possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not want to take decisions over the head of the House regarding this matter. Tomorrow is a Private Members' Bill day. Day after tomorrow is allotted for Supplementary Demands. There will be guillotine at five o'clock. There is no good trying to sit after five. Therefore, from the 13th, when the Report of the Planning Commission is to be discussed.....

Several Hon. Members: From Monday.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right; from Monday. Hon. Members wanted one more day for that. Whether a day is allotted or not, I can make up that one day by sitting three-quarters of an hour earlier in the morning and from five to six in the evening. One and three-quarters of an hour each for three days will make up one day. We will start from Monday.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 11th December, 1952.