

Par. 8.2.1.1.52

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Tuesday,
17th November, 1953

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

**PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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

Date: 24.11.2014

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, the 17th November, 1953

The House met at Half Past One of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RELIEF FOR INVOLUNTARY UNEMPLOYMENT

*32. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1269 asked on the 14th September, 1953 and state:

(a) whether the examination of the proposals submitted to the Planning Commission by the Ministry of Labour providing for relief for involuntary unemployment has since been concluded; and

(b) if so, what decisions the Planning Commission have taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953, promulgated on the 24th October 1953, which includes provision for the payment by the employer of compensation to his workmen laid-off. A copy of the Ordinance has already been placed on the Table of the House.

Shri S. C. Samanta: With reference to this unemployment question may I know whether the Directors of Employment Exchanges have been associated

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with the Community Projects in the country?

Shri Abid Ali: I do not know, Sir, how this supplementary arises.

Mr. Speaker: There does not seem to be any connection with that.

ठा० युगल किशोर सिन्हा : जो पहले से बेकार लोग हैं उन के सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या इन्तजाम किया है ? अब जो लोग बेकार किये जायेंगे उन के लिये ग्राडिनेन्स में प्रावीजन किया गया है । लेकिन जो लोग अभी बेकार हैं या बेकार कर दिये गये हैं, उन लोगों के लिये ग्राडिनेन्स में कोई प्रावीजन नहीं है । उस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

श्री आबिद अली : जी, हां, यह सही है कि जिस तारीख से ग्राडिनेन्स प्रमल में आया है उस के बाद से जो लोग ले ग्राफ किये जायेंगे उन के लिये ग्राडिनेन्स में प्रावीजन किया गया है उन्हीं से इस ग्राडिनेन्स का सम्बन्ध है ।

ठा० युगल किशोर सिन्हा : इसीलिये मैं ने सवाल किया कि सरकार ने उन लोगों के सम्बन्ध में क्या किया ?

Mr. Speaker: The question is very clear. He probably does not know about it.

ANN APOORNA DINING CARS

*33. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Annapoorna dining car attached to the Delhi-Madras

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Janta Express will be a regular feature or it was done only by way of experiment; and

(b) whether it is contemplated to attach Annapoorna cars to trains which normally have dining cars attached to them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) This is only an experiment.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the experiment proved a failure or a success?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That will be a matter of opinion.

सेठ गोविन्द बास : यह तजुर्बा किन किन लाइन्स पर किया जा रहा है ? क्या एक ही लाइन पर किया जा रहा है या और भी कहीं किया जा रहा है ?

श्री अलगेसन : एक ही लाइन पर अभी किया जा रहा है ।

Shri Nanadas: May I know the number of Annapoorna dining cars that are available in the Indian Railways?

Shri Alagesan: Only one was built and it is being used now.

RESEARCH ON RICE FUNGUS DISEASE

***34. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale field research in rice-growing areas in India on the problem of controlling fungus diseases is now being conducted by a British firm;

(b) if so, whether this firm has submitted any report; and

(c) whether statistics are available regarding the loss to crops every year due to these diseases?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes; the experiments are being conducted at a number of centres in India including the Cen-

tral Rice Research Institute, at the instance of the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

(b) The experiments are in progress. The firm has not submitted any report so far.

(c) The disease appears every year in a mild form except that in 1918 in the delta of Godavari and Kistna and in 1942-43 in Bengal almost total destruction of crop was caused by the disease.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know how many teams are engaged just at present in various centres for this research?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I want notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What are the centres, except the one mentioned just now, which have been selected for this purpose?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice for that also because this is done by a private firm and we have allowed it only as regards the Rice Research Institute. As regards the others I have no information.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any Indians have been sent to London and whether they are studying this crop protection work?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any Government expense is involved in this?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any team is engaged in East and West Godavari Districts in order to combat this fungus?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not in the delta itself; the research is done elsewhere.

TELEGRAPH CENTENARY EXHIBITION

***35. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether a special telegraph service called "Send your

own Greeting Message Service" has been introduced during the Telegraph Centenary Exhibition?

(b) If so, what was the average number of visitors who availed themselves of this opportunity every day and what was the number of messages transmitted every day?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, from 1st November 1953.

(b) About 3,000 visitors a day came to see the Exhibition and only 158 messages a day on an average were booked at this concessional rate.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether these messages are restricted to Delhi and New Delhi only or whether they can be sent to other stations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are only for Delhi and New Delhi, not for other stations.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How long is this service to continue?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Up to the end of the Exhibition, that is, the 30th of November, provisionally.

STOPPAGE OF TEA SALE ON PLATFORMS AFTER MIDNIGHT

***36. Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vendors have been prohibited to sell tea between midnight and 4 A.M. at railway platforms; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) At small stations the vending and catering contractors are not permitted to sell any articles, including tea, during the hours of 11 P.M. to 4 A.M. At big stations and Junctions, light refreshments, including tea, are permitted to be sold during these hours at the stall only, but not on the platforms or on trains.

(b) These restrictions have been imposed in order to prevent inconvenience to passengers who wish to

have a night's rest while travelling in trains.

Shri Heda: In view of the fact that a great number of passengers, particularly those who have to travel by third class, have to keep themselves awake to look after their luggage or to get down at intermediate stations, may I know what alternative arrangement has been made for them?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: This question was taken up at the first meeting of the National Railway Users Consultative Committee and it was proposed by the majority of members that this ban on sale should be removed, and the proposal has been acceded to by the Ministry.

Shri Heda: Can the hon. Parliamentary Secretary give us an idea of the percentage of passengers that can sleep?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is Government aware that this order has caused great hardship to third class passengers who are unable to get down and go to the stall for their refreshment, because if they do so they lose their seats?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): Hawking at night is really awkward. You will excuse me, Sir, if I say that it is a crude way of doing things. But as the Parliamentary Secretary said just now, this matter was raised in the National Railway Users Council, and we have now agreed to the sale of cold and hot drinks at night.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Before this was done, was any attempt made to find out whether the majority of passengers were in favour of it or against it?

Mr. Speaker: I think I will go to the next question.

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

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

(a) whether the Indian Mission which had gone to Japan to make a

study of Japanese method of rice cultivation, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the important recommendations that have been made; and

(c) whether steps have been taken to give effect to these recommendations?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Not yet. The report is expected to be ready soon.

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

Shri S. N. Das: What was the time taken by the Mission to study?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They went to Japan in June and returned in October.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the officers constituting this Mission had the time to go all over India and study the Indian methods of rice cultivation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are all fairly senior officers. I am sure they know about the cultivation of rice in India fairly well.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this Mission has submitted any interim report? What are the recommendations that they have made?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: To my knowledge, no interim report has been received. The final report is about to be received soon.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN PUNJAB

*38. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of the Punjab have proposed the closing down of the Employment Exchanges in that State; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of Punjab have decided to set up a Subordinate

Services Commission for recruitment to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 50/- to Rs. 149/- per month.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know when that decision of the Punjab Government is going to be given effect to?

Shri Abid Ali: From the beginning of the month of December.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the reply to part (b) of my question? What is the chief reason for which the Punjab Government have decided to close down Employment Exchanges?

Shri Abid Ali: I have just stated in my reply to part (b) that they want to set up their own Services Commission.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is their decision. What is their reason for closing down the Employment Exchanges?

Shri Abid Ali: That is the decision of the Punjab Government.

Mr. Speaker: They want to start their own Exchange: that is the reason.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether the Employment Exchange Centres in the Punjab were doing recruitment work only for the Punjab Government or also for the Central Government?

Shri Abid Ali: For the Central Government, for the Punjab Government and also for other industries.

Shri Damodara Menon: My point is, which agency will do recruitment work for the Central Services in the Punjab?

Shri Abid Ali: After the abolition of these Employment Exchanges in the Punjab, what will happen about recruitment for Central Services, we have not yet decided.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is the intention of the Central Government to allow each State Government to have its own Employment Exchange?

Shri Abid Ali: It is not our allowing them. We work in co-operation with the State Governments and in this

particular case, the Punjab Government is not inclined to continue the Employment Exchanges in the Punjab.

SHIVA RAO COMMITTEE

*39. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Shiva Rao Committee set up by Government to review the working of the Employment Exchanges has completed its work?

(b) If not, by what time is the Committee likely to complete its work and submit its report?

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

(b) It is not possible to indicate any definite date at this stage.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister is not in a position to indicate any definite date about this Committee's work, may I know the considerations which led to the appointment of this Committee, which does not have any time schedule?

Shri Abid Ali: As the hon. Member is aware, Shri B. Shiva Rao is unwell. Only yesterday the House granted him permission to remain absent from the present session of the House. He is in Zurich. We are in correspondence with him and we are thinking of alternative arrangements because he is the Chairman of the Committee.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that long queues of applicants have become a daily sight at the Employment Exchanges in Punjab, Delhi and in other parts of the country also, may I know whether the Government propose to take any action to relieve this congestion at these offices?

Shri Abid Ali: I do not think there is any congestion. But, in case any particular difficulty is there, and if it is brought to our notice, certainly we will do our best to remove it.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the terms of reference of the Shiva Rao Committee and whether it is to expand and

introduce better methods or to close down the Employment Exchanges?

Shri Abid Ali: The terms of reference have already been published and placed on the Table of the House and also discussed many times here. They cover the future of the working of the Employment Exchanges.

LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE

*40. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the total amount given by the Government of India to the Lady Hardinge Medical College since the 15th August 1947 till the 15th August 1953?

(b) How do Government satisfy themselves that the money so given is properly utilised?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Rs. 56,41,990/12/-.

(b) The accounts of the institution are audited by the Accountant General Central Revenues from time to time and a report containing the result of audit is submitted to the Government of India. The audited accounts are examined before grants are paid to the institution during the succeeding year.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the accounts of this Institution have been audited by the Auditor-General?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether, consequent on the taking over of the management of this institution, it will be necessary to spend more money on this institution?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I am not in a position to say how much we are going to spend on it after taking over.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government are aware that the Principal of the institution is paid a salary of somewhere about Rs. 5,000 to 6,000?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I can clear the position, Sir. Actually, we are not paying the Principal of the Lady Harding Medical College. She is paid by the TCA. As a matter of fact, there is only an amount of Rs. 5,200 set apart for 1953-54 to be spent on her in T.A. and other expenses to be met by her.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether there is any Managing Committee which controls the financial details of this College?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is a Board of Administration which has been constituted by the Government of India, which goes into every aspect of the working of the institution.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Formerly students used to be admitted to this College from the different States in our country. Last year, it was not done like that. May I know the special reasons if any for stopping that practice?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have not understood the question properly. But, I can give a clear idea as to how selection is being made. If you will permit me, Sir, I can give some details.

Shri V. P. Nayar: One question, Sir.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I think we must go to the next question. This is not a general question about the management.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In answer the Minister has said that the Accountant General has audited the accounts. I want to ask questions on that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must put a question specifically for that purpose. Next question.

FLOODS IN MANIPUR

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

(a) the extent of damage caused to cultivation in Manipur due to the sudden rise of flood water on the 15th, 16th and 17th, September 1953;

(b) the estimated loss to crops thus caused;

(c) whether any help was asked for or given to the State of Manipur from Central Government to tide over the shortage due to loss of crops; and

(d) whether any test relief work was arranged to relieve the immediate distress?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) About 50,000 acres of paddy land were submerged.

(b) The loss to crops is estimated at 5 per cent. of the total production of the State.

(c) Yes. The Government of India sanctioned Rs. 10,000 for gratuitous relief, and Rs. 25,000 for supply of wheat-seed on loan to the cultivators whose crops were destroyed by flood, to enable them to raise another crop.

(d) No.

Shri Amjad Ali: Was any amount asked for by the Manipur Government from the Central Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not any specific sum to my knowledge. But, we have met all the requirements of the situation as reported by the Chief Commissioner.

Shri T. N. Singh: The answer to part (b) has been given in relation to an unknown figure: estimated total production of the State. We would like to know the exact answer to the question as to what the estimated loss is, in tons or maunds.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not followed the question.

Mr. Speaker: What is the amount?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have mentioned that the Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 10,000 for relief.

Mr. Speaker: Part (b): estimated loss?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: About 50,000 acres of paddy lands were submerged. It is very difficult to calculate the loss

RICE IMPORT

*43. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state which will be the States to which rice would have to be supplied from the Centre?

(b) Is there any proposal at present to import rice?

(c) If so, what quantity and through which agencies?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) During the next few months rice will have to be supplied mainly to West Bengal, Travancore-Cochin, Bombay and Kashmir.

(b) and (c). Under the relaxations recently allowed a small quantity of rice may be imported by private trade during 1954 for distribution in the country and Government may consider importing some quantity for building up of reserves.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether the requirements of the various States for the next year have been ascertained and if so whether any proposals have been received by the Government?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have not yet ascertained the final estimates; but we have got a rough figure. The total requirements of the deficit States will come to about 11 lakh tons of rice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether there is any idea of stopping State procurement of rice? Has it come to the notice of the Government that in view of reports to that effect, the growers are entering into forward markets for very low prices?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This forward market has been in existence from time immemorial, because of the poverty of agriculturists in the villages, when they are in need of money they even sell their standing crops. That means they enter into forward contracts. We are trying our best to see that the fair prices are given to the agriculturist. From Madras I had to give a warning to the merchants not

to enter into such agreements and exploit the poor agriculturists.

Shri A. M. Thomas: My question has not been answered. My question was whether there is any idea of stopping State procurement.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No. We are procuring.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if there is any possibility of removing restrictions on the inter-State movement of rice in the near future?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Restrictions on inter-State movements have been relaxed in some provinces, but the restrictions on inter-State movement will remain.

Shri Heda: May we know the names of the States which from deficit areas have become self-sufficient or surplus areas this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Hyderabad which was hitherto a deficit State has become self-sufficient. Similarly, Mysore, Saurashtra and Assam which were deficit States have become self-sufficient, and by the end of the present harvest season we hope some more States will become self-sufficient, or surplus.

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

*44. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total acreage of land that has been put under the Japanese method of Paddy cultivation during the Kharif season in various States in India?

(b) What is the average yield per acre under such cultivation method?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) According to the information received from the State Governments an area of approximately 1,24,900 acres was put under the Japanese method of paddy cultivation during the Kharif season, 1953. Some important States like West Bengal have not yet reported. These figures also only include such

areas from where definite and detailed data are available and excludes areas where the method has been practised partially, e.g. by merely transplanting or using chemical fertilisers etc. Such area is estimated to be not less than 30 lakh acres.

(b) Small-scale experiments carried out in Bombay State during 1952 indicate that the average yield varies from 3,000 lbs. to 4,000 lbs. of paddy per acre depending on soil and climatic conditions. As the harvesting is still in progress it is yet too early to give figures of yield for the current year.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that the increase in yield is also due to the use of chemical fertilizers in these fields?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes; but if all the other items in the method are followed, the yield is far more than can be attributable only to the use of chemical fertilizers.

Shri Gidwani: Will it make a substantial difference if the ordinary manure is used?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir, it should make some difference.

Shri V. P. Nayar: From the details available with the hon. Minister can he tell us what is the additional cost per acre under the Japanese method of cultivation as compared to the Indian method?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is being calculated, and I propose to give detailed information about it, but there are farmers who are prepared to challenge the statement that the Japanese method is more costly than the ordinary method.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the extent of land that is under the Japanese method of paddy cultivation in Andhra State, and whether any of it has been damaged by the floods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no separate figures for Andhra.

WORKING JOURNALISTS

*45. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the demands made by the Working Journalists of India on Sunday, the 27th September, 1953 for being classified amongst the "workmen" as contemplated by the Industrial Disputes Act?

(b) If so, what immediate steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The question of inclusion of working journalists within the purview of the new Industrial Relations legislation which is intended to replace the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is under consideration.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know why when the Ordinance No. 5 of 1953 was promulgated in October last the question was not taken up and this amendment was not effected? Is there any special reason for that?

Shri Abid Ali: This particular question is much larger than that, and therefore we are giving serious consideration to it, and, as I have stated, at the time of bringing the new Bill this item will be given due weight.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know the length of time that is expected to be taken in bringing this new amending Bill?

Shri Abid Ali: It is very difficult for me to give any definite date, but it may be early next year.

FLOOD DAMAGE

*48. **Shri Gopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the estimated damages done to crops so far in each State, by the floods of 1953?

(b) To what extent has the production of foodgrains suffered due to the ravages caused by the floods?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The

information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Gopala Rao: In view of the fact that this calamity of floods has become an annual feature, what steps are the Government contemplating in the matter of flood control and proper utilisation of these waters?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it requires an answer.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This matter is constantly before the State Governments and everything possible is being done.

CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

*49. **Shri Gopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Committee which was appointed to look into the working of the Central Tractor Organisation has submitted its report?

(b) If not, when is the report expected?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Committee is likely to submit its report early in December, 1953.

Shri Gopala Rao: When answering a question in the last session itself, the hon. Minister said that the report will be submitted within two or three weeks. As it is a burning problem today in the country, may I know what is the reason that has led to so much delay in submitting this report?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Very often what we intend does not happen because certain difficulties arise. I think in this particular case the Joint Secretary who was in charge had to go for other business elsewhere, and he has recently had to leave for Canada also. I believe that is the reason.

Dr. Jaisooriya: May I know the name of this Committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Members of the Committee are: Col. B.-H. Zaidi, Chairman; Shri Govinda Reddy, M.P.,

Member; Shri G. R. Damodaran, M.P., Member; Shri P. N. Thapar, I.C.S., representing the Planning Commission, Member; Shri M. R. Bhide, I.C.S., Additional Secretary, Member.

Dr. Jaisooriya: May I know the *locus standi* of this Committee?

Mr. Speaker: I think the question is not clear.

Shri T. N. Singh: Last time a question was raised in the House that this Committee has the same terms of reference as the Estimates Committee which is enquiring into this very subject. May I know whether any variation has been made in the terms of reference of this Committee so as to avoid duplication of work?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is a complete misunderstanding which the Estimates Committee is labouring under. This Committee was appointed for definite purposes which are quite distinct and distinguishable from the way in which the Estimates Committee is likely to examine the budget. I can, if the hon. Member requires, give him all the twelve points on which we want an investigation by this Committee. I can assure him that there was at no time any intention of encroaching on the jurisdiction of the Estimates Committee. We wanted this Committee for very specific purposes—I am prepared to read them—which will convince the hon. Members about the intentions we have.

Mr. Speaker: I think, if there is such a misunderstanding, it is better there are informal consultation with the Chairman of the Estimates Committee and the matter be clarified.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no objection, Sir.

VENDING CONTRACTS ON RAILWAYS

*50. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to answer the starred question No. 1390, on the 18th September,

1953, regarding the vending Contracts on Railways and state:

(a) whether this subject has since been discussed in the National Railway Users' Consultative Council and whether any new scheme has been proposed; and

(b) whether any attempt is made to get this work done through the Railway Workers' or Consumers' Co-operative Societies?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The subject was discussed at the meeting of the National Railway Users' Consultative Council, held at New Delhi on 27/28 October 1953. The matter is now under examination of Government in the light of the discussion at the meeting of the Council.

(b) Registered Co-operative Societies are also considered for the award of a catering and vending contracts at stations provided they have the experience, resources and ability to provide service of the required standard.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: What were the new proposals made by the Consultative Council?

Shri Alagesan: This question was gone into very thoroughly and opinions were expressed as to the improvements that should be effected in the present catering and vending arrangements. In the light of the discussion that took place, Government is reconsidering the whole position.

Shri Nanadas: In giving contracts of these Railway catering, may I know whether any concessions are given to co-operative organisations?

Shri Alagesan: As stated in answer to part (b) of the question, co-operative societies are given preference over others if they come forward.

Shri Nanadas: What are the concessions given to them—specific concessions given?

Shri Alagesan: No concession is given to them. The concession is in

the consideration that is shown to them.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the fact that the Railway has certain contracts, especially for catering, with firms for five years, has the Government considered the possibility of terminating such contracts if it is necessary to do so?

Shri Alagesan: Generally, the contracts are entered into for a period of three years.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what is the time limit for the contract....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member need not pursue a side issue.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is the main issue. It may not be possible to terminate the contracts, because under the contracts, certain firms have a right to be there for five years.

May I know the period of contract for the firm of Vallabhdas, catering in the Grand Trunk Express?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is no use going into individual questions.

WORKERS IN RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS

***51. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have received representations regarding the desirability of applying the provisions of the Factory Act, Payment of Wages Act, Industrial Disputes Act, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, and Minimum Wages Act, to the workers employed at the sites of River Valley Projects?

(b) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) The Government of India have not received any such representation. An enquiry has been made from the State Governments concerned whether they have received any such representation and their replies are awaited.

(b) A number of labour laws, for example, the Factories Act, 1948, the

Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, are already applicable to the workers engaged in some of the operations connected with River Valley Projects. The question whether or to what extent the labour laws should be made applicable to all other workers employed in such Projects is under consideration.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: May I know the operations where these Acts have been made applicable?

Shri Abid Ali: Such of the operations to which these Acts could be made applicable, within the scope of the respective Acts.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: May I know whether these Acts have been made applicable outside the workshops that are covered by the Factories Act?

Shri Abid Ali: It will be very difficult to cover those operations which are outside the factories.

REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR MINERS

***52. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Rehabilitation Centre at the premises of the Central Hospital at Dhanbad for disabled miners has been started;

(b) if so, what sort of assistance is rendered at the Centre;

(c) the number at present residing in the Centre; and

(d) whether any such centre has been started anywhere else in India?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Not yet.

(b) In the rehabilitation Centre, when started, disabled miners will be given requisite treatment and supplied with artificial limbs where necessary. Before discharge they will also be taught crafts suitable to their ability so that they may either go

back to their previous jobs or seek suitable alternative employment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is understood that there are some centres attached to the Military Hospital at Poona and to some of the Civil Hospitals like the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Bombay.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether miners other than coal miners will also be given this help?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir. Since this particular Centre will be worked by the Coal Mines Welfare Fund, other miners cannot be entitled to the relief there.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether, when these disabled miners are found to be permanently disabled, any gratuity or pension will be given to them? What arrangements have been made for that purpose?

Shri Abid Ali: The Workmen's Compensation Act applies to them also.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know how long it will take for this Rehabilitation Centre at the Central Hospital, to start functioning?

Shri Abid Ali: For certain equipments which are not available in India, orders have been placed through the Supply Department in London. As soon as the equipments are received, the Centre will start working.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether there is any proposal to start a similar Centre for mica labourers?

Shri Abid Ali: Not at present.

DEVELOPMENT OF BOMBAY PORT

***53. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating the development of Bombay Port; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this direction?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Port of Bombay is already a fully developed Port, but certain schemes for the improvement of port facilities are being taken up as part of the Five Year Plan.

(b) A statement showing the Schemes has been laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 13.]

Shri A. M. Thomas: In today's papers, it is reported that there is an additional allotment of Rs. 4 crores, over and above the allotment made in the Five Year Plan. Is there any basis for that report?

Mr. Speaker: Is it with reference to Bombay Port?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes, Sir.

Shri Alagesan: That is the new marine oil terminal project, which is also being executed partly in the Five Year Plan period.

WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS

***54. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to reply given to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1406 asked on the 18th September, 1953 and state when the enquiry to find out which All-India organisation of workers is the most representatives, was conducted?

(b) What is the total membership of each of the four All-India organisations of workers?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) In early 1953.

(b) Partially verified membership of each of the four organisations is as follows:

(i) Indian National Trade Union Congress: 7,15,684.

(ii) Hind Mazdoor Sabha: 2,91,957.

(iii) All India Trade Union Congress: 1,20,390.

(iv) United Trades Union Congress: 37,991.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Who conducted that inquiry, and what was the procedure adopted?

Shri Abid Ali: The inquiry was conducted by the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Labour, Government of India. And the procedure was to verify the information supplied by the central organisations, with respect to the affiliated unions and the returns submitted by them to the Registrar of Trade Unions, in the respective States. On the basis of whatever information we could collect from the returns submitted by the unions affiliated to the respective central organisations, these statements have been prepared.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In view of the judgment of the Labour Appellate Tribunal that the Registrar of Trade Unions in Madhya Pradesh has erroneously granted certificates of registration to certain trade unions affiliated to the INTUC in Madhya Pradesh, may I know whether Government propose to conduct any fresh inquiry?

Shri Abid Ali: This judgment has nothing to do with this particular question, because as I have already stated, we collected the figures on the basis of the information which the unions themselves submitted in their returns to the Registrar. With regard to the suggestion for an inquiry, I might say that we conduct inquiries every year. This inquiry pertains to the figures up to 31st March 1952. The inquiry with regard to the returns submitted for the year ending 31st March 1953 is already in hand, and the figures will be available by the end of December 1953.

Dr. Jaisooriya: Is the hon. Minister aware that most of these figures are fictitious?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

SINGARENI COLLIERIES

***55. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how many quarters for workers have been constructed during the year

1952, by the Singareni Collieries Company and the number proposed to be constructed by the end of 1953?

(b) What is the total amount of subsidy given to the Company from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund during the years 1952 and 1953?

(c) What is the percentage of workers who have so far been provided with quarters?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) 26 houses were constructed during 1952 and 156 houses are likely to be constructed during 1953.

(b) Nil.

(c) About 89 per cent.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that some quarters are being constructed by the Company, which are not according to the specifications laid down by Government?

Shri Abid Ali: We have not received any complaint to that effect, and I take the information from the hon. Member.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether this 89 per cent. who have been provided with quarters, includes only workers on monthly salaries, or workers on weekly wages as well?

Shri Abid Ali: Out of about 17,000 workers who are employed in these mines, about 15,254 reside in the collieries, and 13,000 have been provided with accommodation.

HOUSING OF P. & T. EMPLOYEES

*57. **Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the Posts and Telegraphs employees who have been provided with quarters so far; and

(b) the scheme, if any, to improve the housing condition of these employees?

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

problem of providing quarters for the P. & T. employees is generally confined to large towns and cities only. Generally we make recruitment to the subordinate posts on local basis and bulk of our staff is spread over semi urban and rural areas where there is no housing problem. Precise figures giving the required percentage for bigger towns and cities are not readily available. They will be collected and placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) A sum of Rs. 134 lakhs has been allocated for construction of quarters for P. and T. staff in the Five Year Plan of the Department. In places where residential accommodation is difficult to obtain large P. & T. colonies are being constructed. Advantage is also being taken to put up quarters in departmental office compounds where adequate vacant land is available for the purpose.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that houses are more rare in small towns than in big towns, and have the Government given priority to housing arrangements in small towns?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I have said, generally our recruitment is on a local basis. In small urban and rural areas this problem does not confront us. With regard to larger sizeable towns and cities, we are already up against the problem and are trying to tackle it as best as we can.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether it would be advantageous to have departmental houses in rural areas instead of giving house rent allowance?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We do not pay house rent allowance in rural areas.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Are Government aware that even in big towns and capital cities of States, the shortage of accommodation for the P. & T. staff is very great and they have been suffering for want of it for a very long time?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are painfully aware of it. But we have been heir to this particular situation. Before Independence there was no such demand for quarters; before the war also there was no such housing shortage, and on account of the readily available building materials and finances, the situation remained quite easy. But it grew difficult later on and as a result of that, the present situation has arisen.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Is there any planned scheme....

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

FOODGRAINS ALLOTMENT TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR

***60. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how much rice and wheat was given to the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the year 1952-53?

(b) What was the value of purchase and sale to the Central Government and the State Government respectively?

(c) How much subsidy did Government undertake in supplying rice to the State?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) 6898 Tons of wheat but no rice was supplied to Jammu and Kashmir State during 1952-53.

(b) Wheat was supplied to Jammu and Kashmir State from internal surplus States and under the existing arrangements the recipient State pays direct to the supplying State, the cost of such supplies and the Centre does not come into the picture so far as financial adjustment is concerned. The total cost to the Jammu and Kashmir Government for this wheat including freight and all incidental charges was about 33½ lakhs of rupees and the wheat was sold by them on the 'no profit no loss' basis.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

RECRUITMENT OF SEA-FARERS

***61. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are allegations of serious corruption in the recruitment of sea-farers; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the measures that Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Government have often received such complaints.

(b) Government have under consideration a scheme for the establishment of statutory Employment Offices for regulating the recruitment of sea-farers.

MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN ANDHRA

***62. Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of Madras have submitted a list of minor irrigation projects in the Andhra State for the year 1953-54?

(b) What is the amount that has been granted for the execution of new projects and the development of the existing ones by the Central Government?

(c) Has any report been received from the State of Madras or Andhra on the progress of the project works?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Not yet.

(b) and (c). The information is not yet available and will be placed on the Table of the House when available.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know, Sir, whether previously any general survey was effected by the Madras Government on minor irrigation projects in the Andhra area?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the schemes that were coming to us before the separation of the two States

were combined and Andhra areas were included in the proposals.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the newly-formed Andhra State has asked the Central Government for any aid for minor irrigation projects?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not yet, Sir. They have been called for.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know, Sir, whether any instructions were issued that a general survey of minor irrigation projects in the Andhra State be conducted in the near future?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I am contemplating to address the Andhra Government so far as this is concerned.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it is too early.

AID TO MADRAS STATE

*63. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what amounts of loan and grant have been given to the Madras State under the "Grow More Food" Scheme since the 1st April, 1953?

(b) How much out of it has been allocated to works in the Andhra State and on what schemes?

(c) What amount out of the grant allocated to works in the Andhra State stands unspent at present?

(d) How much of the amount went to aid private-owned projects such as irrigation wells and tanks under the "Grow More Food Campaign"?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Up to 15th October 1953, the amounts sanctioned are—Loans Rs. 43,00,810 and Grants Rs. 23,49,451.

(b) to (d). The information has been called for from the Government of Andhra and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

COAL CESS

*64. **Shri Soren:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the an-

swer given to unstarred question No. 198 on the 11th August, 1953 and state:

(a) the amount spent by the Central Government out of the cess collected by the Central Government for the welfare of the coal mine labourers; and

(b) whether the amount of the Bihar Government's collection of local cess are available now and if so, how much it is?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

COURTESY WEEK

*65. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Railway-men observed a courtesy week in October 1953?

(b) If so, what were the main features of this week?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes. A courtesy week was observed from 2nd October 1953 to 8th October 1953.

(b) An all-out campaign was launched on the railways for educating the staff in the habit of courteous behaviour towards the public by (i) distribution of posters and folders in English as well as in regional languages, (ii) special courtesy lectures to staff, (iii) special watch over the conduct of staff at important stations during busy hours, (iv) publicity by loudspeakers and (v) in local press.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: May I know, Sir, if this 'courtesy-week' applies to those ticket checkers also who in the wake of the disappointment of 'Give me money and no ticket' campaign, push the innocent villagers out of the train?

Mr. Speaker: Has he any other question to put?

Shri Bhagwat Jha: There are many, but they won't reply.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, if the observance of this 'courtesy week' also tried to bring about a more courteous treatment between the passengers who wanted to board a train and the passengers who were already in the train?

Shri Frank Anthony: Is it a fact, Sir, that....

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Sir, my question is being answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It need not be answered.

Shri Frank Anthony: Is it a fact Sir, that this courtesy week has been resented by the large body of subordinate railwaymen as implying an unwarranted slight on them and suggesting that they, compared with other Government servants, are a discourteous, go-rush lot of employees?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Our information, Sir, is to the contrary. In fact, this, 'courtesy week' has been observed with great enthusiasm by all railwaymen.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: My question was very important and the hon. Minister was going to answer, when my friend interrupted.

Mr. Speaker: I have disallowed it.

RADIO TELEPHONE

*66. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is to be linked by direct radio telephone with Persian Gulf (Bahrain) and Malaya (Singapore)?

(b) When is the scheme to materialise?

(c) What would be the approximate cost of this scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Negotiations are going on between the Overseas Communications Service and the Foreign Telegraph Administrations concerned for the establishment of direct radio telephone services with Persian Gulf and Singapore. The service with Persian

Gulf is expected to materialise shortly but there might be some delay in the case of the service to Singapore due to shortage of equipment at that end.

(c) The services will be worked with existing equipment and staff and as such no extra expenditure is involved.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: What are the other countries under the contemplation of Government which will be connected by means of this radio telephone?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Many countries. There are as many as 20 countries. If I may be permitted, I will read out the names.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

SURCHARGE ON FOODGRAINS

*67. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state in which of the States surcharge is levied on foodgrains?

(b) What are the rates of surcharge on different foodgrains in different States?

(c) What are the reasons for continuing the surcharge on foodgrains at present?

(d) Do Government propose to abolish the levying of surcharge on foodgrains in surplus States?

(e) If not, what are the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (e). Orissa is the only State which has been permitted to levy a surcharge on rice exports at as. d per maund up to 31st December 1953 as a very special case. This was agreed to in view of the comparatively low price of Orissa rice and in order to maximise procurement for making available larger surpluses for export to deficit areas, thereby minimising imports of costly rice from overseas.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether any surcharge is levied on rice in the Andhra State?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Well, Sir, Andhra is only 46 days old. This was meant for last year. From the beginning of next year, the proposal will be considered.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is large-scale agitation for the removal of this surcharge on rice in the Andhra State—previous Madras State?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have not yet decided the future policy of Andhra, Sir. They will be sending proposals and we will come to a decision by the end of this year. From the beginning of next year we will have definite proposals.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is any surcharge being levied on the rice procured from Orissa which is known as 'Koraput rice' and which is being supplied to Bengal in almost endless quantities?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: For every maund of rice that is exported from Orissa we collect 8 annas and pay to the Orissa Government.

Shri Nanadas: Since the Government consider the Andhra State to be a surplus State in rice, may I know what justification is there for levying surcharge on rice still?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are not levying any surcharge in Andhra.

IMPORT OF AMMONIUM NITRATE

*68. **Shri Buchhikotaiiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 500 tons of Ammonium Nitrate was imported from Japan in the month of September, 1953 for agricultural purposes;

(b) if so, what amount has been paid for this fertilizer; and

(c) whether Government have distributed the fertilizer to the States or have used it in the fields under the Central Agricultural Department?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A total quantity of 1100 tons of Ammonium Nitrate was received from Japan during the month of September.

(b) The C.I.F. cost of this fertilizer is about 1,55,100 dollars which are paid by the U.S. Government under the Indo-American Technical Assistance Programme.

(c) This fertilizer is being distributed free of charge to the States for conducting storage tests and agronomic trials and also for demonstration purposes on the cultivators' fields. These experiments are being carried out under the direct control and supervision of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

Shri Buchhikotaiiah: May I know what quantity has been set apart for the Andhra State?

Mr. Speaker: I think all questions about the Andhra State are rather premature.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the break-up yet, Sir.

SUPPLY OF WAGONS

*69. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the replies given to unstarred question No. 525 asked on the 3rd September, 1953 and to starred question No. 1280 asked on the 15th September, 1953 and state the reasons for the daily average number of wagons actually supplied to the West Bengal, Bihar and Central Indian Collieries by the railways being less than half of the daily average number of wagons indented by the collieries not only up to 1951, but even in 1952 and 1953 (upto June)?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The Collieries are permitted to indent one wagon daily for every 10 wagons per month for which they have sanctions. The indents are therefore inflated and do not reflect accurately the actual requirements.

Sari T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, if the programme of coal despatches sanctioned by the Coal Commissioner is satisfied by the number of wagons that are supplied?

Shri Alagesan: They are met to a very great extent, Sir. I may say for the information of the House that in fact we have had surplus of wagons even to the extent of 2,000 wagons a day on certain days.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In which coal-field was there surplus of wagons?

Shri Alagesan: Because there was no loading they were not used.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: My question is at which coal-field there was this surplus of wagons?

Shri Alagesan: In Bihar and Bengal.

KATNI-MARWARA JUNCTION

*70. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to unstarred question No. 578 asked on the 7th September, 1953 and state what is the nature of the works undertaken to increase the wagon handling capacity of the Katni-Marwara junction and the time when they are expected to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): To increase the wagon handling capacity of the Katni-Marwara Junction the following works are in hand and are expected to be completed by the middle of next year:—

(i) Provision of Chord line at Katni.

(ii) Provision of additional lines at Katni South.

NON-PAYMENT OF SUGAR-CANE PRICES

*72. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of price of sugar-cane which has not been paid to the growers of U.P. and Bihar for the sugar-cane supplied to factories in 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(b) the district where the largest amount is to be paid; and

(c) the sugar factory which has to pay the largest sum?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). A statement showing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 14.]

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What is the total amount outstanding?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For the year 1952-53, it is Rs. 82.72 lakhs.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What steps are being taken by Government to ensure payment and when is the amount likely to be paid?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Well, Sir, the State Governments are aware of this responsibility and they are trying to do whatever is possible.

Cows

*75. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the scheme to find out the possibilities of using cows for work is being conducted at present?

(b) To what practical uses are these cows put?

(c) For how long is the scheme to continue and what is the total cost incurred thereon since its inception?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) In the first year the experimental cows of the 'Work' group were subjected to yoking, dragging dead weight, carting and ploughing. In the subsequent years all the cows in the work group were put to plough as they adapted themselves for this type of work easily.

(c) The scheme is continuing till 31st March 1955 when the collection of data spread over four lactations will become available. The total expenditure on the scheme is Rs. 18,800 up to 31st March 1953 and estimated

cost up to 31st March 1955 will be Rs. 29,600.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: How many experts are working on the scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is part of the Institute at Bangalore and no special experts are working in that Dairy Institute.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is it likely to be of any classical use to the country?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is our belief, Sir.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

*76. **Shri P. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether an assessment has been made regarding the requirements of wheat and rice which have to be met from imports during 1954?

(b) If so, what are the quantities required and the value thereof?

(c) Have Government made an estimate of the rice, wheat and millets expected to be procured in India during the year 1954?

(d) If so, what are those estimates?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). It is expected that during 1954 it will be possible to meet the rice requirements of deficit States from internal sources. No rice will be imported from abroad except a small quantity which the private trade may import under the relaxations recently allowed or the rice that the Government may import for building up Central reserve.

(c) and (d). Wheat and millets have been de-controlled and will generally not now be procured on Government account except to meet local scarcity, if any, in any State.

Firm figures of production of rice have not yet been received but it is expected that it would be possible to procure about 2 million tons of rice in 1954.

Shri P. Ramaswamy: May I know, Sir, what is the total need of rice in the deficit States for 1954-55 and how much rice surplus is expected from the surplus States in 1954?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: As I have already replied to some other question the demands of the deficit States in India will come to about 11 lakhs tons and we hope to procure about 12 lakhs tons.

Shri P. Ramaswamy: Will not any purchase of rice at all be made from Burma next year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We may consider the importing of some rice to build up a reserve. It depends upon the price. If we get cheaper rice we may import. But if we get still cheaper rice from Thailand or China, we may import from those countries.

Shri Achuthan: May I know whether the Government has considered the necessity of adopting a policy of distributing this imported rice to all the States at a reasonable price instead of thrusting it on one State particularly?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have not thrust it on Travancore-Cochin. That is a wrong impression. Though we have given them all the imported rice we have retained the issue price at Rs. 17/12, irrespective of the cost of imported rice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether these estimates have been made on the present rate of ration or whether any additional allotment is being contemplated also?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In the light of the improved crop condition in the country, we hope from the beginning of next year to increase the quantity of rice also wherever it is possible.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any conditions are being prescribed for the import of foreign rice by private agencies?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I think the hon. Member will have to address that

question to the Commerce and Industry Ministry. Though it is rice, import and export come under the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: That exhausts the list of questions for the day.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FACTORIES ACT

*41. **Shri Punnoose:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have received representations regarding the grant of leave with pay to workers employed in factories covered by the Factories Act?

(b) If so, what is the nature of these representations?

(c) What action, if any, have Government taken to prevent the owners from circumventing the provisions of the Factories Act in this behalf?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). Government have not received complaints against any particular factory for not complying with the leave provisions of the Factories Act, 1948. Some representations have, however, been received from workers in general against the provisions of Section 79 of the Act dealing with the method prescribed for determining continuous service for eligibility to leave with wages.

(c) The existing leave provisions are being substituted by new provisions which are more simple and liberal. An amending Bill was introduced in the Council of States on the 3rd September 1953. Under the new provisions, a qualifying period 240 days in a year has been fixed instead of 12 months, continuous service for eligibility to leave with wages.

EXHIBITION TRAINS

*46. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places visited by the two specially adopted Exhibition

Trains that are moving on the broad gauge as well as on the metre gauge throughout India; and

(b) the net income to the Railways during this period of four months?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) For the period from 10th July 1953 to 26th October 1953, the Broad Gauge Exhibition Train covered a distance of 3623 miles over the Central Railway System and was kept on show at 27 stations, the number of exhibition days being 93 during this period. From the 27th October 1953 the Train is on the Western Railway.

The Metre Gauge Exhibition Train has covered over 6804 miles from 10th July 1953 to 31st October 1953 on the Northern, Western and North-Eastern Railway Systems, and was on show at 41 stations, the number of exhibition days being 95 during this period.

(b) The net income of both the Trains is shown below:

Broad Gauge.—From 11th July 1953 to 26th October 1953, Rs. 34,434 approx.

Metre Gauge.—From 11th July 1953 to 31st October 1953, Rs. 21,344 approx.

IMPROVEMENTS IN POST OFFICES AND MAIL DELIVERY

*47. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had appointed an officer to suggest improvements in the organisational set up for control and supervision in Post Offices and in the arrangements for delivery of mails in rural area; and

(b) if so, what are his recommendations for improvements in the present system?

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

(b) The report is of interest mainly to the Department and has been under examination. Decisions have already

been taken on some of the recommendations; others are under consideration of Government and it is expected that final orders would be passed in about a month's time.

SENIORITY LISTS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*56. **Shri B. Y. Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the finalisation of the combined seniority lists of the various categories of staff on the re-grouped Railways has since been concluded?

(b) If not, what are the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The question which is a very complicated one has almost been finalised after the necessary consultation with Railway labour has been made.

सहायक स्टेशन मास्टरों के बतनोन्नति

*५८. श्री भार० एन० सिंह: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे:

(क) क्या सब रेलवे प्रशासनों ने अभी तक सहायक स्टेशन मास्टरों की बतनोन्नति (ग्र ग्रेडिंग) के सम्बन्ध में रेलवे बोर्ड की हिदायतों को क्रियान्वित नहीं किया है; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्यों?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes, except for 15 posts on the O.T. Section of the North-Eastern Railway. The allotment of these 15 posts which are intended for some important stations has yet to be finalised.

AID FOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES

*59. **Shri Bahadur:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:—

(a) the amount given as aid for irrigation schemes to Parts 'A', 'B' and 'C' States in the years 1950-51 and

1952-53 from the Central Government; and

(b) how far this aid has increased the agricultural production in all the States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A statement showing the expenditure sanctioned for minor irrigation schemes in Parts A, B and C States from 1949-50 to 1953-54 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 15.]

(b) A statement showing the estimated additional production achieved from these schemes, during the year 1949-50 to 1951-52 and the targets for the years 1952-53 and 1953-54, is also placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 15.]

POSTAL PARCELS TO LUSHAI HILLS IN ASSAM

*71. **Shri Rishang Keishang:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal parcels to Lungleh and Aijal in Lushai Hills, Assam had been stopped from November, 1952;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when was it resumed?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The booking of parcels for Lungleh and Demagiri in Lushai Hills was stopped from 3rd November, 1952 to 30th April, 1953 and again from 13th June, 1953 to 27th August, 1953. The booking of parcels for Aijal was not suspended.

(b) The necessity for imposing a ban on booking of parcels arose on account of the difficulty in the carriage of mails.

(c) The booking has already been resumed from 28th August 1953.

CHEAP FOODGRAIN SHOPS IN MANIPUR

*72. **Shri Rishang Keishang:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cheap grain shops opened in both the hills and plains of

Manipur during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) the quantity of food-grains stored and sold and the number of people who are depending on it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 2 in 1952-53 and 91 in 1953-54.

(b) During 1952-53, the Government of Manipur stored 26,837 maunds of rice and 14,714 maunds of paddy and sold 25,195 maunds of rice and 8,223 maunds of paddy. During 1953-54, the quantity stored was 26,329 maunds of rice and 6,591 maunds of paddy and that sold was 25,597 maunds of rice and 6,398 maunds of paddy upto 31st October, 1953. The number of people depending on Government supplies is not definitely known as distribution was not arranged on a system of ration cards.

LOCATION OF DIVISIONAL OFFICE IN ORISSA

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

(a) whether Government have received a Memorandum from 96 M.L.As. of Orissa for the location of Divisional Office in Orissa; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) The M.L.As. were advised that the views expressed by them had been noted and would be given due consideration if and when an occasion arises.

REPORT OF THE PANEL FOR INVESTIGATION OF SUGAR MILLS

*77. **Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the main recommendations of the report of the Panel constituted under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, for investigation into the affairs of certain sugar mills in U.P.?

(b) Do Government propose to lay a copy of the report of the Panel on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement giving the main recommendations of the Panel, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 16.]

(b) Copies of the reports of the Panel, are already available in the Parliament Secretariat Library.

QUININE PRODUCTION

17. **Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the total acreage of Cinchona plantations in each State?

(b) Are there any proposals for the opening of any new centres of Quinine production in India and if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The acreage of Cinchona plantations is given below:—

(1) Madras ... 9,302 acres.

(2) West Bengal ... 9,178 acres.

(3) Assam ... 699 acres.

Cinchona is not grown in other States.

(b) Factories for manufacturing quinine already exist in Madras and West Bengal. The Government of Assam have under consideration a scheme for starting a small quinine factory which will form part of a factory of minor forest products.

PLANTATION LABOUR

18. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of labourers showing the break-up of men, women and youths below 15 engaged in plantation labour in the various States in India for the years 1947-48 to 1952-53 and the average per capita income of workers in each category per month?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): Complete information covering the entire period is not readily available. State Governments have been

addressed in the matter. Two statements incorporating the information readily available are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 17.]

WASTE LANDS

19. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the extent of the total waste lands (cultivable and uncultivated lands), State-wise, in the year 1951?

(b) What was the extent of waste lands that were brought under cultivation during 1951-52 and 1952-53 (State-wise)?

(c) How much of it is under cultivation of food crops and how much of it is under cash crops?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Two statements giving the available information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 18.]

(c) Information is not readily available.

CASHEW TREE

20. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the estimated yield of raw nuts of a cashew tree in (i) Orissa, (ii) Madras, (iii) Andhra and (iv) Travancore-Cochin States?

(b) Has any research been conducted so far at the instance of the Government of India to increase the nut yield of Indian Cashew tree?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The yield of raw cashewnuts per tree varies from 1 lb. when the trees are closely planted to as much as 50 lbs. when the trees are widely planted. On an average the yield per tree in Travancore-Cochin and other areas of the West Coast may be taken to be 20 lbs. while in other producing areas on the East Coast it is slightly higher.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already sanctioned three schemes of research to be worked in Travancore-Cochin, Madras and Bombay respectively for improving the yield and quality of the cashewnut crop.

CASHEW NUT INDUSTRY

21. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have made any efforts to grow more Cashew trees or to increase the yield of the present nut bearing Cashew trees, to make India self-sufficient in this commodity?

(b) Have Government made any survey of fallow and waste lands available in India in which cashew trees could be successfully grown?

(c) If so, what is the area estimated to be so available?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned three schemes of research to be worked in important producing regions for improving the yield and quality of the Indian cashewnut crop. The State Governments concerned are directly responsible for any development work that may be necessary for increasing the local production of cashewnuts.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

CENTRAL LABOUR INSTITUTE

22. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Central Labour Institute proposed under the United States Technical Assistance Programme has been set up?

(b) From what date is the Institute functioning?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The Institute is to be established in the suburb of Bombay.

(b) Preliminaries concerning construction of the buildings required for the Institute are being attended to.

POST OFFICES IN BARODA DISTRICT

23. Dr. Amia: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices opened in Baroda District of Bombay State during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 giving the names of the places and dates on which these have been opened; and

(b) the names of the post offices in which telephone facilities are provided in Baroda District giving dates from which such facilities have been provided?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 1950-51:

1. Karnet Branch Office opened on 5th July, 1950.
2. Jubilee Garden (Baroda) Town Sub-office opened on 1st May, 1950.

1951-52:

1. Dumad Branch Office opened on 16th January, 1952.
2. Tarsali Branch Office opened on 16th January, 1952.
3. Sama Branch Office opened on 16th January, 1952.
4. Danteshwar Branch Office opened on 16th January, 1952.
5. Dhantaj Branch Office opened on 15th March, 1952.

1952-53:

1. Undera Branch Office opened on 16th February, 1953.
2. Virjai Branch Office opened on 20th February, 1953.
3. Chhatrali Branch Office opened on 23rd February, 1953.
4. Ajod Branch Office opened on 2nd March, 1953.
5. Sindhot Branch Office opened on 2nd March, 1953.

(b) The information is being collected and will be supplied shortly.

ARRANGEMENT FOR PRINTING REQUIREMENTS OF RAILWAYS

24. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what are the existing arrangements by which printing requirements of all the railways are met;

(b) for how long the present system has worked; and

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted into the efficiency of the present system?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Partly by printing presses owned by railways and partly by privately owned presses.

(b) For well over 20 years.

(c) Yes. The system has, on the whole, worked satisfactorily.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS DURING FLOODS

25. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to floods in North Bihar during this year interruptions in postal communications were caused;

(b) if so, the extent of interruptions and the period during which they continued; and

(c) what alternative arrangements were made in cases of stoppage of train services?

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

(b) A statement showing the details of the interruptions is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 19.]

(c) Wherever possible, alternative mail arrangements were made by engaging boats, introducing runners' service or utilising trollies provided by the Railway.

अन्न की बरबादी

२६. सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १६.१२-१३ में सरकारी मंडारों में कितना अन्न मानवोपयोगी न होने के कारण पशु भोजन के रूप में काम लिया गया अब बा फेंक दिया गया ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): During 1952-53 the quantity of foodgrains which being unfit for human consumption was sold as fodder was 939 tons and the quantity of foodgrains which being unfit for human consumption was destroyed in 1952-53 was 34 tons in the Central Government godowns.

GRANTS TO MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

27. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any lump-sum grant has been given to a medical institution run by a Christian Missionary Society in Ludhiana; and

(b) if so, (i) the name of the institution and the Missionary Society which runs it, (ii) the amount of the grant given; and (iii) the purpose of the grant?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). It has been decided to pay a total grant of Rs. 12½ lakhs to the Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, spread over a period of ten years, for upgrading it to the M.B.B.S. standard. So far a sum of Rs. 2.0 lakhs only has been paid. The institution is run by the Union Mission.

GRANTS TO MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

28. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the details of the medical institutions to which grants were made, the amounts granted, the purpose of the grants made in 1951, 1952 and 1953 from the Minister of Health's Funds for discretionary grants?

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The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): A statement showing the details of the medical institutions to which grants were made, the amounts granted, the purpose for which grants were made from Health Minister's Discretionary Fund during 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953 (up-to-date), is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 20.]

SUIT AGAINST LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE

29. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases have been filed in the courts situated in Delhi against the management of the Lady Hardinge College, New Delhi since the 15th August, 1947;

(b) whether Government will lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the names of the plaintiffs, the nature of the suits, and the remedies sought in them; and

(c) how many of such cases have been finally decided?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Five.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 21.]

(c) Two.

RADIO LICENCES

30. **Shri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of radio licences issued in 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53, and 1953-54 up to June 1953 giving separate figures of new licences and renewals?

(b) What is the average annual income from licence fees?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the

House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 22.]

(b) Average income from Licence fees per year is Rs. 115-83 lakhs (approximately).

SALE OF POST CARDS AND STAMPS

31. Ch. Raghubir Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the income derived from the sale of (i) the post cards; and (ii) postage stamps separately in 1951-52 and 1952-53?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of the House showing the value of postage stamps and postal stationery sold during 1951-52 and 1952-53.

Separate figures for stamps and post cards are not available.

STATEMENT

The value of postage Stamps and Postal Stationery sold during 1951-52 and 1952-53.

1951-52	...	Rs. 21,33,17,154.
1952-53	...	Rs. 22,15,14,061.

BRIDGES ON JAMMU-PATHANKOT ROAD

32. Shri Ajit Singh: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amounts and the actual expenditure incurred on the construction of the following bridges on the Jammu-Pathankot Road:

- (i) Ravi Bridge at Madhopur,
- (ii) Basanter Bridge at Samba, and
- (iii) Ujh Bridge;

(b) the names of the agencies who constructed these bridges;

(c) the dates of commencement and completion of the construction of these bridges; and

(d) the authorities who designed these bridges?

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

(d). A statement giving the required information is attached. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 23.]

SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS OF EX-MYSORE STATE RAILWAYS

33. Shri B. Y. Reddi: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 1289 asked on the 15th September 1953 and state whether the case against the two Class II officers of ex-Mysore State Railways has since been disposed of?

(b) If so, what punishment was awarded to them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

RURAL POST OFFICES IN U. P.

34. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of post offices so far opened in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh in 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): During the period from 1st April, 1953 to 31st October, 1953 23 post offices were opened in rural areas in Uttar Pradesh.

COTTON PRODUCTION

35. Shri Balmiki: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total production of cotton in 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 in the different States in India?

(b) What steps have been taken by Government to make India self-sufficient in cotton production?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 24.]

(b) In 1950-51 Government of India in conjunction with State Governments

took the following steps to increase cotton production in the country:—

(i) All legislative and executive restrictions on the cultivation of cotton were removed.

(ii) State Governments were asked to remit land revenue in respect of additional areas brought under cotton cultivation in 1950-51, and the Government of India guaranteed to make good the loss thus caused to State Governments.

(iii) To look after these schemes special staff was appointed by Government of India.

(iv) Government of India made good the loss in foodgrains to State Governments as a result of diversion of areas from food crops to cotton.

(v) In co-operation with State Governments, Government of India arranged the supply of pure cotton seeds and manures, the latter at subsidised rates; brought fallow and waste lands under cultivation of cotton and provided technical advice to cotton growers.

(vi) The basic ceiling prices of all varieties of cotton were increased by Rs. 150 per candy (754 lbs.-cwt.).

(vii) State Governments gave all irrigation facilities to cotton growing areas.

(2) In 1951-52 in addition to continuing almost all the above measures the basic ceiling price was further raised by Rs. 50 per candy in the case of Jarilla and by Rs. 30 to Rs. 90 in the case of other varieties of cotton.

(3) In 1952-53 the cotton extension schemes were extended and the basic minimum prices of all varieties of cotton were further raised by Rs. 55 per candy.

LOCUSTS

36. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:

(a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how many locust invasions took place in India during the period from 1952 upto August, 1953?

(b) What are the States worst affected?

(c) Have any Experts come to India in this connection?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kildwai): (a) About 240 locust swarms entered the country during this period.

(b) Rajasthan, Punjab and PEPSU.

(c) NIL

LOCATION OF R. M. S. OFFICE AT CUDDALORE N. T.

37. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 75 asked on the 4th August, 1953 and state whether the proposal to locate the R.M.S. Office at Cuddalore N.T. Railway Station has been finalised?

(b) If so, when will the office be opened at Cuddalore N.T.?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Cuddalore R.M.S. will be located at Cuddalore New Town Railway Station as soon as the Railway authorities put up the building at that station, plans of which were received from the Railways recently and are under examination. Pending the construction of the above building by the Railways, it has been decided to shift the Cuddalore R.M.S. from its present building to a private building near the Cuddalore New Town Railway Station with effect from 1st January, 1954.

NEW POST OFFICES

38. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred and the annual income from the Post Offices opened during 1952-53?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Accounts of revenue and expenditure for each office are maintained only by the supervising offices at the District level.

The collection of approximate costs and revenue for over 1,000 offices opened in 1952-53 will entail considerable time and expenditure which will not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

NEW POST OFFICES IN ORISSA

39. **Shri R. N. S. Deo:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of new Post Offices proposed to be opened in Orissa, district-wise during the current year?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of the House showing the Post Offices proposed to be opened during the current year. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 25.]

THIRD CLASS TOURIST COACHES ON CENTRAL RAILWAY

40. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total number of third class tourist coaches on the Central Railway?

(b) To what uses other than for tours are these allowed?

(c) What was the total number of applications received for these coaches during 1952-53?

(d) How many of them were rejected at first but were subsequently granted?

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

(b) These are used only for tours.

(c) 182.

(d) As there were only 5 tourist cars available for allotment in 1952-53 the first five applications in turn were allotted the tourist car and all the others were asked to renew their applications if they desired to be considered for allotment for the following month. 38 such applications were renewed during 1952-53.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 17th November, 1953

—

The House met at Half Past One of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

2-29 P.M.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER INDIAN AIRCRAFT ACT.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934, a copy of the Ministry of Communications Notification No. 10-A/34-50, dated the 6th September, 1952, together with an explanatory note. [Placed in Library, See No. S-151/53.]

—

REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.—*Continued.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Bill. I believe the motion for third reading was moved yesterday.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): I moved yesterday for the passing of the Bill, as amended.

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Mr. Speaker: I shall place the motion before the House.

Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

I will now make one thing clear before the discussion proceeds, so that we may not have to waste any time and I may not have to invite the attention of hon. Member to what is relevant during the third reading. The Bill was duly considered. The clauses were considered. The only scope of discussion on the third reading motion is to discuss the amendments adopted by the House—not threadbare, but their general effect. It is also open to Members to object to the Bill being passed and in that case, they might shortly state the reason why the Bill should be rejected. The object of the third reading is not to repeat the arguments, not to treat it as an opportunity for those Members who have not spoken, to speak at length as if they were speaking on the consideration motion or during the clause-by-clause stage. These are the restrictions. It is very difficult for the Chair to limit the discussion quite within the scope of relevancy but Members will bear in mind what I have stated.

Sardar Hukam Singh: (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): Can we not refer to the amendments that ought to have been accepted and the effect that they would have had on the Bill if they had been accepted?

Mr. Speaker: That would be widening the scope too much and reopening the consideration as a whole.

Shri Gidwani: (Thana): If an assurance had been given by the Minister, may I ask whether for the purpose of clarification we could say something?

Mr. Speaker: It depends upon what clarification the hon. Member wants, but the best course is to have that clarification somewhere else rather than have it here now.

श्री अश्विन्त राम (हिसार) : अध्यक्ष जी, तीसरी रीडिंग के मौके पर मैं अपनी समझ के मुताबिक वही बात कहूंगा जिस बात का मुझे खतरा है कि जैसा बिल पास हुआ है अगर उस पर अमल किया जायगा तो कौन सी खराबी हो सकती है :

आज मुझे यह पहला मौका मिला है जब कि मैं सच्चे दिल से गवर्नमेंट को इस बात पर मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि उस ने बड़ी उदारता से बड़ी फराखदिली से इस बिल के अन्दर रुपया मुहैया किया है। पांच करोड़ रुपया मुहैया कर के फाइनेन्स डिपार्टमेंट ने बड़ी उदारता दिखाई है। लेकिन जैसा बिल पास हुआ है उस में मुझे एक ही खतरा है कि अगर इस बिल पर अमल किया गया, तो जैसी कि मेरी राय है बावजूद गवर्नमेंट की उदारता के फाइनेन्स एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन अपने मकसद में फेल हुआ है, कहीं ऐसे ही अब भी नाकामयाब न हो। इस का कारण यह है कि गवर्नमेंट ने एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन को सात करोड़ रुपया दिया, बड़ी उदारता से दिया, और अपना फर्ज अदा किया और साथ ही यह भी पास कर दिया कि यह अटानोमस बाडी है, उन्होंने ने तो अपना फर्ज अदा कर दिया, लेकिन इस के बावजूद मेरी यह राय है कि एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन खासा नाकामयाब हुआ है, क्योंकि इस वक्त अगर मैं एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के तकसीम करू तो उस के चार हिस्से हैं। दो आफिशल और दो नानआफिशल। अब अगर मैं आफिशल को तकसीम करूँ

तो उस के दो हिस्से हैं। एक तो स्लीपिंग हिस्सा है और दूसरा ऐक्टिव हिस्सा है जो एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर है वह तो ऐक्टिव हिस्सा है जो दूसरे मेम्बर हैं वह स्लीपिंग मेम्बर हैं। वह ऐसे मेम्बर हैं कि मीटिंग होती है तो चाहे वह उस को एटेंड करें या न करें।

इसी तरह नान आफिशल हिस्से के भी दो हिस्से हैं। एक हिस्सा तो उन लोगों का है जो कि एडवाइजरी बोर्ड के मेम्बर हैं और दूसरा हिस्सा वह है जो कि एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के मेम्बर हैं, लेकिन इन चार हिस्सों के बावजूद, जिस में कि आफिशल भी हैं और नानआफिशल भी, मेरी अदब से यह गुजारिश है कि अगर आज मैं रिफ्यूजीज की हालत को सामने रखता हूँ, अपने आदमियों को सामने रखता हूँ तो एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन अपने काम में बराबर फेल हुआ। लेकिन दिक्कत क्या है? दिक्कत यह होती है कि जो स्लीपिंग मेम्बर हैं वह परवाह नहीं करते वह अपने कामों में लगे हुए हैं, तनखाह मिलती है, कोई बात नहीं। जो चीफ एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर हैं वह गवर्नमेंट के मुलाजिम हैं, वह कोई ऐसी चीज सजेस्ट नहीं कर सकते जोकि रिवोल्यूशनरी हो, जो गवर्नमेंट को जरा धक्का लगाये ताकि गवर्नमेंट सोचे लेकिन they have not got the guts, they do not take up anything with the government दूसरी दिक्कत यह है। नानआफिशलस मेम्बरों का हिस्सा उन लोगों का है जो हमारी पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर हैं। उन्होंने ने बहुत काम किया है, लेकिन बदकिस्मती से वह बहुत मसरूफ हैं और कामों के अन्दर, और इतना मुनासिब नहीं समझते कि कहें कि और मेम्बर ले लिये जायें। वह खुद इतने मसरूफ हैं कि मसरूफियत की बजह से अपना काम करते हुए एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन में उन को जितना काम करना चाहिये उतना

नहीं कर पाते। ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का चौथा हिस्सा जो नानआफिशियल का है वह उस के एडवाइजरी मेम्बर्स का है। उन की कपेसिटी एडवाइजरी है, जैसे मैं हूँ। तीन चार साल से काम कर रहा हूँ। उन का काम है बोलना, जोर से बोलना और रेज्योल्यूशन पास कर देना। लेकिन इस के बावजूद भी उन के लिमिटेशन्स हैं। इस वास्ते हालांकि ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन काम कर रहा है, रुपया दे रहा है, फिर भी यह सख्त फेल हुआ है। मुझे इस बात का दुःख है, मैं इस बात को कहना नहीं चाहता पर क्या किया जाय? अगर हम एडवाइजरी बाडी में बोलते हैं तो कहते हैं कि तुम्हारी तो सिर्फ एडवाइजरी कपेसिटी है। मैं पब्लिक का नुमाइन्दा हूँ इसलिये मेरा फर्ज है कि मैं सच्ची बात कहूँ। तो दिक्कत क्या है यह सोचिये, आखिर काम क्यों नहीं होता है? कहते हैं कि हालात ऐसे हैं कि ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन जल्दी नहीं कर सकता। मेरी गुजारिश यह है कि अमल ने यह साबित कर दिया है कि यह बात गलत है। आप को मालूम होगा कि ३१ सितम्बर, २६५१ से ६५ हजार ऐप्लीकेशन्स आई हैं। जो आदमी ऐप्लीकेशन्स देते हैं उन का यह ख्याल होता है कि उन की ऐप्लीकेशन्स का फंसला जल्द हो जायेगा, दो दिन में, तीन दिन में, दस दिन में, महीना, दो महीना या चार महीने में। लेकिन बात क्या हुई। दो साल गुजर गये। इस के अन्दर ५० हजार ऐप्लीकेशन्स का फंसला हुआ है। अब यह गौर फरमाइये कि उन की हालत क्या है। जो ६५ हजार दर्खास्त्स थीं उन में से १३ हजार मंजूर हुई हैं, १३ हजार में से ८ हजार ने लोन लिया है, पांच हजार ने लोन भी नहीं लिया। अब जरा आप ऐनालाइज कीजिये कि असलियत क्या है। उन की हालत क्या होगी। जिन लोगों ने दर्खास्त्स दी हैं उन को दो हिस्सों में तकसीम कर लें। एक वह हिस्सा है जो कि बिल्कुल तबाह होकर आये हैं, उन के पास

रुपया नहीं है, वह अपना काम शुरू करना चाहते हैं, आज उन के पास कोई रुपया नहीं कि वह काम शुरू कर सकें, अगर उन की दर्खास्त्स दो साल तक पड़ी रही तो उन की हालत क्या होगी। जिन के पास आज खाने को नहीं है, दो बरस तक उन्होंने ने किसी तरह से गुजर किया, आज खाने को नहीं है, उन की दर्खास्त्स को दो महीने, चार महीने, साल, दो साल हो जाते हैं, उन की हालत क्या हो सकती है, लाजिमी तौर पर वह यह करेंगे कि अपने रिश्तेदारों से रुपया मांगेंगे, दोस्तों से मांगेंगे और दिन ब दिन मकरूज होते जायेंगे।

दूसरी कैटेगरी उन की है जिन के पास रुपया था, और साल दो साल, बाद जो अपना रुपया खा चुके, खाने के बाद दोस्तों से भी मांग चुके, भीख मांग चुके, आखिर क्या हुआ कि ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने उन को रुपया दिया नहीं है, उन्होंने ने कर्जा औरों से लिया और जिन से कर्जा लिया उन से बातें हुई कि आज मुझे कर्जा दे दो, मैं ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन से कर्जा लूंगा तो तुम को दूंगा और अपना काम चलाऊंगा। इस तरह से वह महीने दो महीने, साल दो साल उधार लेते रहे और उधार ले कर अपना काम चलाते रहे।

[SHRI PATASKAR in the Chair]

वह सोचते थे कि ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन रुपया देगा और मैं अपना काम चलाऊंगा। लेकिन हुआ क्या? ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने रुपया दिया नहीं, जिन दोस्तों से उन्होंने ने कर्जा लिया वह तकाजा करते रहे कि रुपया दो। ऐसी हालत में मैं क्या करता हूँ कि मैं दिल्ली छोड़ जाता हूँ, मैं मेरठ जाता हूँ ताकि दिल्ली वाला पीछे न पड़े। मेरठ में दोस्तों से मांगता हूँ, मेरठ में पांच हजार रुपया कर्जा लेता हूँ, जब वहां के लोग अपना रुपया मांगते हैं तो फिर इलाहबाद चला जाता हूँ। इस तरीके से उन रिपयजीज ने जो कि ६५ हजार की तादाद में थे और जिन्होंने ने कर्जों के लिये

[लाला अचित राम]

दर्शास्तें दी थीं उन की हालत बद से बदतर हो गई है। कल जब गुहा साहब बोल रहे थे तो मैं खामोश रहा : उन्होंने ने कहा कि ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने बड़ा अच्छा काम किया, जब उन्होंने ने उस की तारीफ की तो मुझे इस बात का बड़ा दुःख हुआ। गुहा साहब ने जो कि एक रिबोल्यूशनरी हैं ऐसी बात कहने की कैसे जुरत की। उन धादमियों की क्या हालत है ? आज मेरठ हैं तो कल कानपुर हैं और परसों किसी और जगह हैं। कर्जा भदा नहीं कर सकते और जगह जगह कर्जा लेते फिरते हैं। मैं यह किस वास्ते कहता हूं ? मैं यह इस वास्ते कहता हूं कि यह समझ बैठना ठीक नहीं है कि गवर्नमेंट रिबोल्यूशनरी तरीके से काम नहीं कर सकती। यह जो चारों बातों में ने कहीं उन में से हर एक का इलाज है। मैं कहता हूं कि लगातार ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन इस बात की सिफारिश करता रहा है कि हमारे पास ऐप्लीकेशन्स को डिस्पोज आफ करने के लिये बैठने की भी जगह नहीं है। जब बैठने की भी जगह नहीं है तो ऐप्लीकेशन्स कैसे डिस्पोज आफ हो सकती हैं। लेकिन यह कम्प्लेंट लगातार आती रही, दो महीने, चार महीने, साल, दो साल तक आती रही। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि इस की तरफ बिल्कुल तबज्जह नहीं की गई लेकिन जितनी तबज्जह करनी चाहिये थी उतनी नहीं की गई। चार महीने की बात है कि हम सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह की खिदमत में हाजिर हुए और कहा कि यह हमारी दिक्कत है जगह दीजिये। एक मिनट के अन्दर यह बात हुई। दूसरे दिन ही उन के इंजीनियर वगैरह वहां गये, जगह मिल गई, रुपया मिल गया और सवा महीने के अन्दर मकान बन गये। मैं ने गुहा साहब से कहा था कि आप गौर फरमाइये कि जब तक मकान न हो तो ऐप्लीकेशन्स कैसे डिस्पोज आफ हो सकती हैं। उन्होंने ने कहा कि भाई क्या बात करते हो।

कब बजट पेश होगा, कब ऐस्टीमेट बनेंगे, कब जगह मिलेगी, कितना वक्त पी० डबल्यू० [MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.] डी० लेगी। जब आप ने यह बात कही तो मेरे दिल पर मायूसी आई कि आज इस काम के लिये इतना लम्बा प्रोसीड्योर होगा। कब ऐस्टीमेट बनेंगे, कब फाइल आवेगी, कब ठेके मिलेंगे, और उस के बाद बनेगा। मैं ने कहा अच्छी बात है। सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह साहब मौजूद थे : हम उन की खिदमत में हाजिर हुए। दूसरे दिन ही उन के धादमी गये और जगह मिल गई और सवा महीने में मकान बन गया। यह मामला तीन साल तक पड़ा रहा। मैं आप को एक्जूस नहीं करता कि आप उदार नहीं हैं। आप उदार हैं। अभी आप पांच करोड़ रुपया दे रहे हैं, और ज्यादा देने का वायदा करते हैं। इस में शक नहीं कि आप रुपया देना चाहते हैं, लेकिन जिस बात की जरूरत है वह कांस्टेंट बिजलेस। आप को यह देखना चाहिये कि आया रिफ्यूजीज के इंटेरेस्ट सर्व होते हैं या नहीं। मैं कहता हूं कि पार्लियामेंट के मेंबर अच्छे हैं मैं अच्छा हूं और स्टाफ के धादमी भी अच्छे हैं। लेकिन इस अच्छाई से क्या फायदा अगर इस से रिफ्यूजीज को मदद नहीं मिलती। गवर्नमेंट किस वास्ते है गवर्नमेंट इसी वास्ते है कि वह सब इंटेरेस्ट्स को देखे। जब मकान बन गये तो मैं ने कहा कि अब इन के लिये इन्तजाम क्या हो? सुनिये जनाब। कहा जाता है कि यह मकान तो बन गये मगर अगर इन ऐप्लीकेशन्स को डिस्पोज आफ करना है तो स्टाफ रखना पड़ेगा ॥ और उस के बाद जब ऐप्लीकेशन्स खत्म हो जायेंगी तो उस स्टाफ को रिट्रेंच करना पड़ेगा और फिर मुसीबत आयेगी। महज इस वास्ते कि स्टाफ को बाद में रिट्रेंच करना पड़ेगा ॥ मुसीबत आयेगी इसलिये क्या स्टाफ नहीं रखा जायेगा ? एक तरफ स्टाफ के २५, ५०

या १०० आदमियों का इंटरैस्ट है और दूसरी तरफ हजारों रिफ्यूजीज का इंटरैस्ट है। आप इन में से किस को सेक्रीफाइस करेंगे। स्टाफ के इंटरैस्ट को सेक्रीफाइस करेंगे या रिफ्यूजीज के इंटरैस्ट को सेक्रीफाइस करेंगे? इस कांस्टीट्यूशन की वजह से मैं पांच सात मिनट यहां बोल लेता हूं और एडवाइजरी कमेटी में भी बोल लेता हूं। आप फौरन स्टाफ को रखिये और काम चलाइये। आप पूछेंगे कि मैं यह सब बातें क्यों कर रहा हूं। मैं पिछली मर्तबा से यह देख रहा हूं कि बावजूद इसके कि आप की भावना उदारता की है, आप रिफ्यूजीज की सेवा करना चाहते हैं, फिर भी आप नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। आप ने आठ हजार आदमियों को लोन दिया है। ५८ हजार में से आप ने ८ हजार को लोन दिया है। पांच हजार ने लेना मुनासिब नहीं समझा। लेकिन अब देखना यह है कि वह लोग यह रुपया लेते क्यों नहीं हैं। ऐसी कौन सी बात है। हम को इस का सबब जानना चाहिये। आप ने १३ हजार आदमियों की दरखास्तें मंजूर कीं और उन में से पांच हजार लोन नहीं लेना चाहते। What is the reason behind it? गौर फरमाइये। क्या वे आदमी बेअकल हो गये हैं? उस की वजह यह है कि न फाइनेन्स डिपार्टमेंट उन की पूछने वाला है, न एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन उन की पूछने वाला है और न कोई दुनिया के अन्दर उन का पुरसाने हाल है। यह हालत है। इस वास्ते वह क्या करें। आप मेहरबानी कर के पांच करोड़ रुपया दे रहे हैं एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन को। अभी यह आठ हजार ऐप्लीकेशन्स डिस्पोज आफ होने के बाद फिर आप लोन खोलेंगे। फिर ऐप्लीकेशन्स आयेंगी, फिर यही बात होगी। और फिर आप के सामने यही बातें आने वाली है। अगर यही बातें फिर होने वाली हैं तो मैं कहूंगा कि खुदा के वास्ते आप यह रुपया वापस कर लीजिये, गवर्नमेंट का रुपया बरबाद न करिये। जब मैं यहां

से जाता हूं तो लोग मुझ से पूछते हैं कि हम ने दो साल हुए दरखास्त दी थी उस का क्या बना? मैं कहता हूं कि मुझे पता नहीं है। जहां जाता हूं लोग मुझ से यही पूछते हैं और मैं कहता हूं कि मुझे पता नहीं है। चाहे मैं अपनी गवर्नमेंट को कनडैम न करूं लेकिन मेरा हृदय कहता है कि यह स्टोल प्रेम है। जैसा कि अग्रवाल साहब ने अपने आर्टिकल में लिखा है कि जब तक इस में रिबोल्यूशनरी चेंज नहीं आवेगा तब तक लोगों को रिलीफ नहीं मिलेगा। यह ब्यूरोक्रेसी है। मैं जानता हूं कि our Ministers are good, they are honest मैं जानता हूं कि हमारे गुहा साहब अच्छे हैं। जब आप इन बैंचों पर बैठते थे तो हम आप की बहुत बातें सुनते थे लेकिन अब आप उन बैंचों पर बैठते हैं तो आप एक लम्बी चौड़ी बात करते हैं कि कब बजट बनेगा, कब मंजूरी आयेगी, और कब क्या होगा। मेरा ख्याल यह है कि आप ने अभी तक रिफ्यूजीज के इंटरैस्ट को ठीक-तौर पर वाच नहीं किया है। ५८ हजार में से सिर्फ आठ हजार लोगों को लोन दिया है। मैं यह भी जानता हूं कि उन की क्या गत होगी। कितने ही उन में से दिवालिये बनेंगे और कितने ही जेल जायेंगे; जब कुछ फायदा नहीं होता तो what is the purpose of Administration?

अब मैं एक बात और अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि जो गलतियां पहले हो चुकी हैं अगर आप उन को रोकने के लिये कम्पिटेंट नहीं हैं, if you don't feel strong enough to check these mistakes, तो मेहरबानी कर के आप इस रुपये को वापस कर लीजिये यह किसी और काम आयेगा। इस तरह तो रिफ्यूजीज का भला नहीं होगा। एक करोड़ का तो एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का ही खर्चा है। यह सारा रुपया उसी में चला जायेगा।

[लाला अचिन्त राम]

इस वास्ते आप मेहरबानी कर के इसे वापस कर लीजिये। अगर आप के अन्दर कांस्टेंट वाच रखने की हिम्मत है तो इस काम को कीजिये। जो भी आप के पास दरखास्त आये तो देखिये कि उस को तीन महीने से ज्यादा, न लगे। एक हफ्ता, दो हफ्ता, तीन हफ्ता चार हफ्ता, पांच हफ्ता, ६ हफ्ता या १२ हफ्ता तक का वक्त लग जाये। लेकिन अगर कोई एप्लीकेशन १२ हफ्ते से ज्यादा पड़ी रहेगी तो मैं क्या कहूंगा। और दूसरे लोग क्या कहेंगे वह यह कहेंगे कि "There is no Government" इस वास्ते कोई भी दरखास्त जो आप के पास आती है अगर वह तीन महीने से ज्यादा आपके दफ्तर में न रहे तब तो दफ्तर चलाइये अगर आप इस के कानफिडेंट हैं तब तो इस काम को चलाइये नहीं तो बन्द कर दीजिये।

दूसरी बात मैं और अर्ज करना चाहता हूं। आप मानें या न मानें लेकिन मैं अपना फर्ज समझता हूं कि मैं उस को आप के सामने अर्ज कर दू। वह है इंटरैस्ट के मुतालिक। मैं समझता हूं कि जो लोन दिया गया है उस पर गवर्नमेंट ६ परसेंट सूद चार्ज करती है। आज कल के हालात में जब कि मुल्क में स्लम्प आया हुआ है यह चीज कितनी गलत है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Will the hon. Member kindly look at me?

लाला अचिन्त राम : Thank you, Sir, बहुत से लोग जानते हैं, मुमकिन है कि कुछ को न मालूम हो कि हजरत मुहम्मद ने एक यह बात कही थी कि जब किसी को लोन दिया जाय तो उस पर सूद न दिया जावे, उन्होंने ने यह एक रिवोल्यूशनरी बात कही थी और उन के सजेशन को यह कह कर कनडैम किया गया कि यह इम्प्रैक्टिकल है,

यह रिवोल्यूशनरी है, यह अनइकानामिक है। मुमकिन है कि कुछ लोगों के लिये यह बात ठीक न हो और वह उसे कनडैम करते हों, मगर मैं यह बात कह सकता हूं कि हजरत मुहम्मद की यह बात रिफ्यूजीज के लिये तो ठीक है। अगर आज आप उन को रुपया देते हैं और उस पर सूद चार्ज करते हैं तो मैं कहूंगा कि आप उन की मिजरी का फायदा उठाते हैं। इसलिये मेरा कहना यह है, आप चाहे मानें या न मानें, कि जो रुपया गवर्नमेंट रिफ्यूजीज को लोन पर दे उस पर एक कौड़ी सूद भी चार्ज न करे। अगर वह चाहे तो ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के लिये एक से तीन परसेंट तक चार्ज कर सकती है। एक परसेंट चार्ज कर ले या दो परसेंट कर ले। लेकिन इस रुपये को इन्वेस्ट करने के स्थाल से लोन न दे। मैं मानता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट यह रुपया दान नहीं दे रही है। वह अपने रुपये को वापस ले।

But, why charge interest from the refugees, I cannot understand.

इस वास्ते मैं कहता हूं कि अगर आप को नया बिल लाना है तो नया बिल लाइये। अगर आप इस सजेशन को नहीं मानने वाले हैं तो न मानिये। लेकिन मैं कैसे कहूं कि आप इस को नहीं मान सकते। मैं समझता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट को सूद के लिये कुछ भी चार्ज नहीं करना चाहिये। उस को कोई सूद नहीं लेना चाहिये। हां, ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के लिये एक या दो परसेंट ले सकते हैं। मगर मैं आप से कहूंगा कि जो हजरत साहब ने १३००, १४०० वर्ष पहले कहा था और जिस पर लोग आज भी अमल करते हैं, तो फिर उस पर कम से कम आप रिफ्यूजीज के लिये तो अमल कीजिये। आप एक कौड़ी उन से मत लीजिये as interest, यह मेरा मतलब है।

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहने वाला हूँ वह मेरे ब्याल में न गुहा साहब के बस की बात है और न फायनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब के बस की बात है। मुझे माफ करेंगे कि अगर मैं कहूँ कि शायद वह पंडित जी के भी बस की बात नहीं है। वह यह है कि रुपया तो आप दे देते हैं, लेकिन उस रुपये से कोई क्या करेंगे जब कि स्टेट्स के आदमी उन को मकान रहने के लिये नहीं देते, उन को काम चलाने के लिये शाप प्रिमिसेज नहीं देते और न उन को कोटा देते हैं। आप को मालूम होगा कि जो रुपया आप उन को देते हैं उस को वह खा जाते हैं। उस के बाद आप कुर्की के वारंट निकालेंगे और उन को जेल भेजेंगे, इसलिये कि यह बात आप के बस की नहीं है। फायनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब की तरफ से स्टेट्स को दो चिट्ठियाँ लिखी गई कि प्रिमिसेज मुहय्या कीजिये, मकान दीजिये, शाप्स दीजिये। लेकिन इस बारे में कुछ नहीं हुआ। स्टेट्स वाले राजा बने बैठे हैं। थोड़ा सा पंडित जी के सामने आने पर हां-हां कर देते हैं, करते कुछ नहीं। इसलिये यह आप के बस का रोग नहीं है। लेकिन कहना तो मुझे पड़ता है, क्योंकि शायद यह किसी और के बस की बात हो। जब तक स्टेट्स आप के साथ कोआपरेट नहीं करेंगी, जो बात आप कहेंगे उस को नहीं मानेंगी, तब तक काम नहीं चलेगा। जहां तक सेंटर का सवाल है, They had no business to go against them : they must comply with them अगर आप की चिट्ठी जाती है कि जिस को लोन आप ने दिया है उस को बिजिनेस प्रिमिसेज मिलनी चाहिये तो आप देखेंगे कि वह दी जाती है : एक चिट्ठी भेजी, लेकिन कोई परवाह नहीं की गई। दूसरी भेजी, फिर भी कोई परवाह नहीं की गई इस बारे में मैं गुहा साहब से क्या गिला करूँ, फायनेन्स मिनिस्टर से साहब क्या गिला

करूँ, प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब से क्या गिला करूँ, और किसी से क्या गिला करूँ। यह फैक्ट है। इसलिये मैं कहूँगा कि आप को अगर सरकार को चलाना है तो आप ऐसा इन्तजाम कीजिये कि स्टेट्स की गवर्नमेंट आप के साथ कोआपरेट करें। आप इसे और मुहबत से कीजिये, प्रेम से कीजिये और चाहे सख्ती से कीजिये, but see that your orders are complied with. लेकिन अभी यह नहीं होते हैं। तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इस तरह से ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन चलाने से कोई फायदा नहीं है।

श्री धुलेकर : (जिलाभांसी - दक्षिण)
कोटा नहीं मिलता।

लाला अब्दुल्ल राम : हां, यह बात मेरे दिल में है। कंट्रोल की वजह से जो कोटा है उस के मिलने में उन को दिक्कत है। रुपया मिल जाये, या मकान भी मिल जाये, लेकिन मकान में वह क्या करेंगे, वह क्या अपने कारखाने बना सकते हैं जब तक कि कोटा उन को नहीं मिलता। इसलिये जहां जरूरत है बिजनेस प्रिमिसेज की, जहां जरूरत है बिजली के कनेक्शन की वहां कोटे की भी जरूरत है, मेटिरियल की भी जरूरत है।

आखिरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अभी गुहा साहब ने फरमाया है कि ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने यह फैसला किया है कि अब जो रुपया लोन्स का दिया जाय वह उन को दिया जाय जो कि ईस्ट बंगाल से आये हैं।

श्री ए० सी० गुहा : नहीं नहीं, I have not said anything like that,

लाला अब्दुल्ल राम : अच्छा, Thank you very much मैं अपनी गलती मान लेता हूँ उस की वजह यह है कि मैं बयकिस्मती से कल गैरहाजिर था, इसलिये जो रिपोर्ट मेरे पास आई उस पर मैं ने यह कहा। लेकिन

[लाला अचिन्त राम]

मैं महसूस करता हूँ, अपने दिल के अन्दर, कि गवर्नमेंट को ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन को इस मामले में सावधान रहना चाहिये। यह मौका है कि वह अपने पास रुपये का इन्तजाम रखें। जिस तरह पाकिस्तान के कांस्टीट्यूशन के लिये तबदीलियाँ आ रही हैं खास कर माइना-रिट्रीज के लिये उन से मालूम नहीं पड़ता कि दो चार महीने के बाद क्या हालत पैदा हो और कितना इनफ्लक्स (influx) यहां फिर आ जाय। मैं नहीं कहता कि ऐसा हो लेकिन जिस तरह के हालात नजर आते हैं उन से पता नहीं लग सकता। मास मेंटेलिटी अजीब तरह की होती है। अगर कोई असर हुआ तो फिर हजारों आदमी वहां से निकलना शुरू हो जायेंगे। फिर आप कहेंगे कि अब तो नया बिल पेश होने वाला है उस में इन्तजाम किया जायगा और उस के लिये वक्त नहीं रहा रुपया कहां से लावें। इसलिये मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह के तमाम खतरात जो आने वाले हैं उन के लिये आप पहले से ही इन्तजाम कर लें जिस से अगर कोई ऐसा खतरा पैदा हो तो आप उस का फौरन इन्तजाम कर सकें और लोगों को तकलीफ न हो; यह जो मुसीबत है उस को गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया को पहले से देख लेना चाहिये और उस का इन्तजाम करना चाहिये।

अब ज्यादा कहना नहीं चाहता। मैं आखिर में सिर्फ आनका शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ। आप ने जो प्राविजन्स किये हैं वह बहुत अच्छे हैं। (हंसी) मेरे बाज भाई शायद हंसते हैं कि मैं ने इतनी देर तो नुक्ताचीनी की और अब तारीफ कर रहा हूँ। लेकिन आप देखें कि इस में तीन बातें प्रोवाइड (provide) की गई हैं। पहले तो वह किया गया कि ७ करोड़ के बजाय अब साढ़े १२ करोड़ रुपये की हद मुकर्रर की गई है। दूसरे इस की मिश्राद को गवर्नमेंट ने जो पहले दस वर्ष

धी उस के बजाय १५ वर्ष कर दी है। मेरा दिल इस से खुश है। तीसरी बात यह है कि जो रुपया कर्ज का वापस आवेगा वह फिर कर्ज के लिये दिया जा सकेगा।

एक माननीय सदस्य : क्या आने वाला है ?

लाला अचिन्त राम : आप ने फरमाया है कि क्या आने वाला है। मैं कहता हूँ कि जो रुपया कर्ज में दिया जायेगा वह वापस आने वाला है। पूरा नहीं तो आठ आने वापस होगा इस में यह प्रोवाइजन है कि जो रुपया वापस होगा वह फिर कर्ज पर दिया जा सकेगा। जितना रुपया वापस आवेगा चाहे वह रुपये में १२ आने वापस हो या आठ आने वापस हो चाहे चार आने ही वापस हो तो जितना भी रुपया वापस होगा वह फिर कर्ज पर दिया जायेगा। इस तरह यह तीन प्रोवाइजन इस बिल में हैं जो बहुत अच्छे हैं। मैं इस को नुक्ता चीनी का मौजू नहीं बना सकता। इस के लिये मैं मुबारकबाद देता हूँ। फिर जैसा मैंने पहले कहा आप आने वाले खतरात के लिये इन्तजाम कर लें ताकि वक्त आने पर आप को न कहना पड़े कि इन्तजाम नहीं किया गया।

Sardar Hukam Singh: I was surprised to listen to my hon. friend Mr. Achint Ram. He began by offering congratulations and ended by showering thanks. But in between he said something about the working of the Administration, with which I want to associate myself. He said that the object with which this legislation was passed by us has not been fulfilled. One of the objects with which we established this Rehabilitation Finance Administration was for giving financial assistance on reasonable terms to displaced persons to enable them to settle in business or industry. I have to submit that this object has not been fulfilled. The terms on which the loans were advanced, the conditions that were imposed and the me-

thods that we have laid down for making recoveries are such that we cannot expect these unfortunate victims of partition to settle themselves in industry.

I might first take the rate of interest. Government charges three per cent, and in this Act we authorised the Administration to charge up to 6 per cent. That was the maximum that could be charged. But the Administration thought that they could not content themselves except with charging the maximum that had been permitted to them. Six per cent. is not an ordinary rate of interest, if we take into consideration that the purpose of the legislation was to help the refugees to rehabilitate themselves. This legislation has worked very hard, especially when we find that provincial loans are advanced on 3 per cent. when the days are hard, when there is so much slump and people are not getting any return for what they invest. Naturally, it is very difficult for those people to pay the instalments as they become due. Then you come round and complain that so many refugees are not able to pay their loans back and this Administration is running at a loss.

Besides the high rate of interest, the procedure for obtaining loans is so cumbersome that it is not easy for an ordinary man—unless he has certain pulls,—to get loans within a specified period within which he expects to start an industry or rehabilitate himself. Only as an illustration I might cite my own example. I also applied for a loan of Rs. 50,000—perhaps, it was in 1949. I started a transport business here in Delhi. After about 15 months when that business had failed and everything had gone, because I could not get any money, I was served with a notice of enquiry as to what caste I belonged to. The reply I sent was that there was no need of my giving any information about this, because my business had failed and therefore I did not want any loan. I stopped there and said I did not require any loan. There have been other cases as well of that sort

where people wanted money soon to start some business. And that enquiry also is there, whether they have invested anything of their own, whether they have any premises, what they will be able to invest if the loan is given to them and so on. Then by the time the application is looked into and some decision is taken, perhaps the object for which it was wanted is almost gone and there is no use of the loan. Then, if he is lucky to get his loan sanctioned, as was pointed out yesterday, it is doled out in such small instalments that the poor man, urged by necessity and compelled by circumstances, has to eat up the instalments that are given to him and he is unable to start his business. I am talking of small people, not those who have been given Rs. 50,000 or a lakh of rupees. But those people who are given five, seven or ten thousand. Most of them, not because they are dishonest, not because they do not want to pay it back, not because they do not want to start an industry or business, but because they are compelled by circumstances, have to eat up the instalment which is given to them before the next help reaches them, and therefore the whole object is frustrated.

So it has been pointed out that some speedier method should be adopted whereby the refugees can get the loans in a shorter period and the gap is not so much as to frustrate the very object of the loan.

Our friend just said that he would rather like, if the same procedure is to continue and if the same difficulties are to continue, that the Government should withdraw the Rs. 4½ crores that is now given to them. But he perhaps forgets the real fact that there is nothing to be withdrawn. That ordinance was passed and already Rs. 13 crores have been exhausted. There is nothing in the account of the Administration itself that the Government can take back now. We can only urge that the criticism that

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

has been offered, the stringency which is there in getting the loan and the methods in recovering the loan, should be looked into and some easier method should be adopted whereby these persons can feel that they are really being helped by a Government which wants them to be rehabilitated and that it is not a money lender who is giving them loans on usurious rates. That they do not feel and therefore the object, I say, has not been fulfilled as we wanted it to be.

Then, Sir, there are the conditions that he should produce guarantors. We have also learnt that there are complaints that certain guarantors are not traceable. It is quite right. Because, they have no property of their own and when they apply for loan their object is to get something to start with: when some small loans, five or seven thousand rupees, are sanctioned they have to run about to find some guarantors. And the guarantors have their own conditions before they can come forward. I might convey to the Finance Minister for his purposes that this is very good of the Administration or the office itself that there are certain persons who might not be helpful in some other respects but who have been helpful in this that they can find out guarantors for the loanees. But they dictate their own terms. If it is a loan of seven thousand somebody says "I can find you a guarantor, but you will have to give him two thousand out of the seven thousand". The poor man, compelled by circumstances, sometimes is agreeable to that. And two thousand goes to the man who says he would produce those guarantors. They are readily available round about that office. The loan would be given. Two thousand is gone in the first instance, five thousand he is prepared to get, that also perhaps in some instalments. Those guarantors are only known to the people who provide them. The loanee does not know them himself. Therefore when he is asked to give those particulars he is unable to do so. Those guarantors are missing. They are known to

those people alone who are there. It is therefore natural that some guarantors would not be traceable.

But there is the other condition. I submit there are some honest people who really want to repay if helped with any loan for which they apply, but they find it difficult. They do not want to resort to such devices that they should pay something out of it. Because, it is those who have no intention of paying back who would succumb to that temptation. Therefore there might be others who might not like to adopt those methods. They go round in their attempt to find out good guarantors, but that is not possible and they have to remain content without getting the loan. That is the reason that has been given in two Reports, that because they could not find good guarantors they could not utilise the loans sanctioned to them. There might be one or two dishonest men who might dupe us, but if a dozen others can get the advantage of this, we should try to relax these conditions about guarantors so that they can feel that they are helped and they can really invest the money in the business or enterprise that they want to start. The conditions that are laid down in the Act are that the whole business, the machinery etc., the tangible things will be mortgaged. The loan and the interest thereon will be the first charge on that machinery. We can keep a check on him that he does not remove them. And all earnings are also there. Therefore in cases which are really hard we can relax those conditions about guarantors, these guarantors should not be insisted upon and they should be helped to get the loans even without those people coming forward, because the pledge is already there. Whatever is purchased, whatever is got is pledged with the Government and Government has the first charge on it. There might be a few exceptions, but in all cases it would not be possible for these people to run away with the property and the Government would be able to realise it—unless of course where

they have lost their business, where they have not been able to earn anything and the capital itself is consumed. There might be a few cases like that. In regard to that I submit we can also forgive and write off those loans. The object was to help them and not only to start a business house charging so much interest for them. If two or three crores are lost, even then it does not matter. That would be a help for rehabilitation. If the Administration which is running at so much loss has consumed one crore already and may consume one or two crores in the future, then we need not grudge if two crores are taken by the loanees and they are recovered. We have not been supplied with figures to show whether the Administration is, at present, meeting its expenses from the interest that is being charged. It has to pay 3 per cent. to the Government and the balance of 3 per cent is the maximum that it can get. We want to know whether now it is able to meet its own expenses or not. In the one Administration report that we got, up to 31st December 1951, the deficit was 42 lakhs. The explanation given was that during the first year of its existence, the Administration has naturally to live on capital, and that as advances increase and the interest earnings go up, it may be hoped that the deficit will be wiped out. I want to know whether any deficit has been made good. We hoped that the deficit will be wiped out, as was expected then. Most of the moneys have been advanced to the refugees; thirteen crores have been spent up. Therefore, that argument, that as advances increase, etc., does not hold good now. They have gone to the maximum limit. Now, we should know whether really that deficit has been wiped out. Even in the report for the period ending with 30th June 1952, the same explanation was given. The deficit was put down at 50 lakhs. Previously it was 42 lakhs; then it came to 50 lakhs after six months. The deficit is Rs. 50,47,000. The deficit is accounted for almost entirely by the working expenses of the Administration. The interest earned till

30-6-52 exceeded interest payable to Government on their advances by a little over Rs. 13 lakhs. The same explanation is given in the end that for some time, working expenses were naturally out of all proportion to the earnings represented by the difference between interest earned and interest payable to Government. As advances increase, and *pari passu* interest earned by the Administration goes up, it may be hoped that the Administration will not only pay its way but also ultimately recoup the losses so far incurred. I would request the hon. Minister to tell us whether any portion of it has been recouped now, because the utmost limit is almost reached. Thirteen crores have been spent up.

I will end with this. The Bill had a laudable object and so all of us welcomed it. But the object for which this Administration had to work is not being fulfilled. The Ministry should carefully look into the grievances and the weaknesses that have been put forward in this House during the last two days.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल (बिलासपुर) :
रिहबिलिटेशन फाइनन्स ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन
ऐमेंडमेंट बिल जो कि माननीय
मंत्री महोदय ने पेश किया है, मैं उस
का स्वागत करता हूँ, लेकिन इस के
साथ साथ इस में जो कुछ खामियां हैं
उन की ओर भी संकेत कर देना चाहता हूँ,
विशेषकर इंटरेस्ट के बारे में। आज जो भी
इंटरेस्ट पुरुषार्थियों से लिया जाता है, आप
उन को शरणार्थी भी कहते हैं, वह ६ परसेंट
से ज्यादा नहीं होगा। यह ठीक बात है,
लेकिन हमें यह देखना चाहिये कि जो प्रान्तीय
या स्टेट की सरकारें हैं वे जो लोन देती हैं
वह ३ परसेंट के हिसाब से देती हैं। ऐसी हालत
में शरणार्थियों की सारी हालतों को देखते
हुए और जिस तरह से वह अपनी गुजर बसर
करते हैं उस पर नजर रखते हुए गौर करें
तो आप को मालूम होगा कि उन को किस मुसी-

[सरदार ए० एस० सहगल]

बत का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, उन्होंने अपना घर बार छोड़ा, और अगर गौर किया जाये तो उन्हीं की वजह से हम को स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त हुई है और मैं समझता हूँ कि इस में दो रायें नहीं हो सकतीं चाहे वह हमारे बंगाल के भाई हों, चाहे पंजाब के हों, या सिंध के हों इस बात को मानना पड़ेगा। ऐसी परिस्थिति में मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से इस बात को भ्रज करना चाहता हूँ कि वे जो इंटरेस्ट चार्ज कर रहे हैं उस में जो कुछ उन का खर्चा है, दफ्तर का खर्च, लोगों का खर्च, अफसरों का खर्च, इन सारी चीजों का खर्चा निकालने के बाद ४ परसेंट चार्ज कर लें तो मैं समझता हूँ कि शायद यह वाजिब चीज होगी। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि आप इन सारी चीजों के होते हुए भी इन्टरेस्ट बिल्कुल छोड़ दें जैसा कि कुछ भाइयों ने सुझाया है। मैं तो यह कहूँगा कि यदि सरकार उन को पैसा देती है तो बराबर उन से इन्टरेस्ट चार्ज करे लेकिन उतना ही चार्ज करे जितना कि वह दे सकते हो।

इस के अलावा उन्होंने ने एक चीज यह रक्खी है कि वह १० से १५ वर्ष के भीतर जितना भी कर्जा हो उस को दे सकेंगे। इस के लिये मैं उन से भ्रज करूँगा कि उन की सारी मुसीबतों को देखते हुए, उन की और सारी चीजों को देखते हुए यदि वह इस अवधि को २० वर्ष तक बढ़ा सकते हों तो उस पर विचार कर के, गौर कर के, कम से कम उन को २० वर्ष का समय दें ताकि वह अपना कर्जा आसानी से दे सकें। इस बीच के भ्रसों में जो आप ने कर्जा दिया है बराबर उस का सूद उन से वसूल कर सकते हैं। उन को इस बात पर अवश्य गौर करना चाहिये।

इस के साथ साथ उन्होंने ने आडिट के बारे में यह लिखा है कि जो ऐकाउन्ट्स हैं वह आडिट होंगे। मैं उन से कहना चाहता हूँ

कि वह चीज जिस तरह से शुरू हुई है और जिस वक्त से उस की स्थापना हुई है उस तारीख से वह ऐकाउन्ट्स का आडिट करायेंगे तो उन को मालूम होगा कि दरअसल क्या बातें हैं और यदि कोई चीज हो तो वह उस को जनता के सामने रख सकते हैं।

इस के साथ आप से मैं यह भी कहूँ कि जो भी आप दस्वास्ति ले रहे हैं चाहे वह बंगाल के लोगों की हों, चाहे पंजाब के लोगों की हों और चाहे सिंध के लोगों की हों जो भी शरणार्थी या पुरुषार्थी हैं उन की दस्वास्ति के लिये वह थोड़ा टाइम और दे दें ताकि वह नई दस्वास्ति भी दे सकें। उन को लिया जाय और उन के ऊपर गौर किया जाय। जैसे मान लीजिये कि कोई शरणार्थी है, उस के पास उस की मिल है और मिल पर वह कर्जा लेना चाहता है, ऐसी परिस्थिति में उस की मिल पर ही उस को कर्जा दिया जाय। यदि वह कोई चीज यहां पर कायम करना चाहता है और उस से अपना व्यापार बढ़ाना चाहता है तो उस पर गौर कर के उस को कर्जा दिया जाय। नई नई दस्वास्ति यदि आयेंगी तो हो सकता है कि उन में यह सारी चीजें आयें और उन पर हम को गौर करना चाहिये।

इन शब्दों के साथ माननीय मंत्री ने जो बिल रखा है मैं उस का समर्थन करता हूँ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to speak? The hon. Member has already taken part. This is a small Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I will not take much time of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava will speak. Then, I shall call upon the hon. Minister.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : मुझे सिर्फ एक चीज भ्रज करनी है। मैं इन चीजों में नहीं जाना चाहता कि रिफ्यूजीज के साथ कैसा सलूक किया जाय, किस तरह से कर्जा देने में सहूलियतें दी जायें या ज्यादा दिया जाय या कम दिया जाय। मैं तो सिर्फ एक चीज भ्रज करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

कल मैं ने भ्रज किया था कि जहां तक शरणार्थियों का सवाल है, जहां तक बिल को एफेक्टिव बनाने का सवाल है, जहां तक बिल के मकसद को पूरा करने का सवाल है, वह सवाल दरअसल एक चीज पर ही रिवाल्व करता है और वह यह है कि शरणार्थियों से आप क्या सूद लेते हैं। मैं सिर्फ इस बारे में ही कुछ भ्रज करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। कल हमारे फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब ने श्री गिडवानी साहब के जवाब में यह फरमाया था कि अगर एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन किसी शिपिंग कारपोरेशन को या किसी और को रुपया दे तो शर्त यह होगी कि पहले पांच बरस तक कोई सूद नहीं लिया जायेगा, उस के बाद सूद लिया जायेगा। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर दरअसल आप चाहते हैं कि शरणार्थी रिहैबिलिटेड हो जायें तो उस के लिये प्रैक्टिकल चीज यह है कि पहले एक या दो साल तक आप उन से कोई सूद न लें कम से कम उन को एस्टैब्लिश होने दिया जाये। अगर कर्जा लेकर कोई नया बिजनेस शुरू करे तो एक बरस के अन्दर वह इस काबिल नहीं हो सकता कि उस साल का इन्स्टालमेंट भी वह सरकार को दे सके, अपना गुजारा भी कर सके और ६ परसेंट सूद भी दे दे। मुझे ज्यादा एक्स्पीरिएन्स तो नहीं है, जो लोग उधर बैठे हैं उन से पूछिये कि अगर कोई भ्रादमी दस बीस हजार रुपया लगाकर कोई काम करे तो पहले

साल में वह ६ परसेंट कमाता भी है या नहीं।

इस लिये मैं जो एक छोटी सी तजवीज पेश करना चाहता हूँ वह यह कि कम से कम दो साल तक कोई इन्टरेस्ट चार्ज न किया जाय और किसी सूरत में भी ४ परसेंट से ज्यादा इन्टरेस्ट चार्ज न किया जाय। मैं इतना ही भ्रज कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं एक्स्ट्रीम पर नहीं जाना चाहता, मैं यह नहीं चाहता हूँ किसी भ्रादमी से कोई सूद चार्ज न किया जाय, जैसा कि अभी कहा गया, लेकिन मैं प्रैक्टिकल प्रोपोजीशन यही समझता हूँ कि भ्राम तौर पर सरकार ३ परसेंट पर लोन देती है और ३ परसेंट पर ही लॉकल गवर्नमेंट ने सारे कर्जें दिये हैं, तो यहां पर ज्यादा से ज्यादा ४ परसेंट चार्ज कर लिया जाय। लेकिन अगर इस से ज्यादा तजावुज करना है तो फिर इतना ही रखिये। हम न दुनिया को दिखला दिया कि हम ने ६ परसेंट पर लोन दिया। लेकिन इस से मतलब पूरा नहीं होगा।

इस बिल के अन्दर यह तरमीम पेश नहीं हो सकी क्यों कि ऐक्ट में यह लिखा हुआ है कि ६ परसेंट तक चार्ज किया जा सकता है। तो अब कौन है जो ६ परसेंट चार्ज करना चाहता है। क्या गवर्नमेंट ६ परसेंट चार्ज करना चाहती है या एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन चार्ज करना चाहता है, या कि शरणार्थी मजबूर करते हैं कि हम से ६ परसेंट से कम चार्ज मत करो। मैं भ्रदब से भ्रज करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर गवर्नमेंट चाहे तो अपने हुक्म से यह कर सकती है कि तीन परसेंट से ज्यादा न चार्ज किया जाय। अगर एडवाइजरी बोडी की या एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की सिफारिश की जरूरत हो तो

श्रीमती मुबेना कृपलानी (नईदिल्ली) :
हम लोगों ने तो बार बार डिमान्ड किया है।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : यह रिहैबिलिटेशन फाइनेन्स एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन बिल के कानून की बहस का आखिरी दिन है। सरकार ने १४ करोड़ ५० लाख रुपये तक कर दिया है, इंस्टालमेंट भी १५ कर दिये हैं और यह भी कर दिया है कि जो रुपया वसूल होगा वह भी इन्वेस्ट किया जा सकेगा। तो फिर आज यह कोपिंग स्टोन होगा अगर सरकार यह एश्योरेन्स दे कि अगर एंडवाइजरी बाड़ी और एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन यह सिफारिश करें तो वह इसे कबूल करेगी कि कम से कम पहले एक या दो साल तक कोई सूद चार्ज नहीं किया जायेगा।

श्री गिडबानी : पांच साल तक।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : यह अपनी अपनी राय है। अगर यह भी किया जाय तो हम बहुत मशकूर होंगे कि पहले दो साल तक कोई सूद न चार्ज किया जाय और बाद में चार परसेंट से ज्यादा किसी सूरत में न चार्ज किया जाय। अगर गवर्नमेंट इस पर सिम्पेथेटिक कन्सीडरेशन करे और एश्योरेन्स दे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह जो बिल कल एक मिनट में खत्म हो सकता था लेकिन आज बहस के लिये रखा गया उस का इकितकल इफेक्ट हम पर होगा और सारा कन्ट्री मशकूर होगा कि मिस्टर गुहा साहब जिन की बात हम सब जानते हैं कि वह अपने अन्दर ऐसा दिल रखते हैं जिस में देश के वास्ते और रिफ्यूजीज के वास्ते हमदर्दी है। अगर यह कहेंगे कि वह इस को सिम्पेथेटिक कन्सीडरेशन देंगे तो हम निहायत मशकूर होंगे।

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Gauhati): I am not going to make a speech. I want to know this only: The Rehabilitation Ministry has lately announced that they have adopted certain scheme to pay compensation to displaced persons, and according to that scheme, as far as I have been able to gather, not more than Rs. 8,000 will be

given to any one applicant. Now, what will be the effect of this on the loans which have been taken? Recovery of loans has been suspended in many cases to the extent of ten per cent of the verified claims. Now nobody will be getting more than Rs. 8,000 according to this scheme, but according to earlier arrangement, at least ten or six per cent of the amount will not be recovered in respect of those persons whose claims have been verified to a larger amount. What will be the effect of this on the realisation of the loan?

Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla) rose. —

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does Mr. Tek Chand also want to put a question?

Shri Tek Chand: No, Sir. I wish to make a few observations, if I may.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought I might call upon the hon. Minister to reply. We have had sufficient discussion over this matter. If there is any other point that has not been clarified, he may ask the Minister. So much has been said, though not strictly arising out of this Bill, and I allowed the discussion to go on.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): May I answer the question raised by Mr. Chaudhuri?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will come to the hon. Minister. Let me exhaust the non-officials.

Shri Tek Chand: I wanted to make a few observations if I may. I do not want to ask any questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Already I have allowed sufficient discussion. Let it not be said I am not allowing it.

Shri Tek Chand: I rise to extol the magnanimity which has motivated this measure, but I wish to endorse in no uncertain terms the criticism that has also been levelled. It is a matter of deep regret that years rolled by, months passed, and yet applications did not see the light of the day, they could not find any place on the desks of the officers concerned. Sir, it is

trite but true that justice delayed is justice denied. It would have been an act of mercy if applications not disposed of had been rejected earlier. People would not have stood in suspense waiting and waiting in the false hope that something might turn up. It would be desirable, if there are far more applications than can be disposed of, to say that applications from this number to that number stand rejected for the time being, or will not be considered for the next six months. People will have some satisfaction, but to entertain hopes and to keep the people on tenterhooks is galling in the extreme. This is something that deserves to be avoided and it can be avoided.

Regarding the rate of interest, my contention is that to insist on six per cent from a displaced person is tantamount to usury. It is almost an usurious interest,

An Hon. Member: Worse than that.

Shri Tek Chand:.... and that too, to insist that they must part with six per cent almost from the year that the loan is advanced. It is up to the Advisory Board or the Advisory Committee to advise them, to tell where to invest, because it is not desirable that the nation's money should be consumed and not invested, not used for purposes of rehabilitation but for purposes of consumption. Therefore, it would have been very desirable if the Advisory Committee had been guiding them, that they should invest in a particular manner or in a particular business.

Then, Sir, I must confess that to my mind the high expense of running this Administration is incomprehensible. That a Crore of Rupees should be spent in order to pay the high salaries of these worthy gentlemen, especially in matters of rehabilitation and relief, is hurting and is painful. Surely the matter is not so complicated, the matter is not such which requires very expensive experts. The expenses of administration deserve to be checked. And lastly, Sir the yardage seems to have increased to enormous length—I mean the yardage of that ribbon in

red. I won't call it red tape. And that I should think deserves to be abolished. Therefore, whereas the principle underlying the Bill is commendable, whereas the money and the relief that are going to be provided will be most welcome, at the same time it is requested that the expense deserves to be checked and the rate of interest deserves to be reduced.

Shri A. P. Jain: The question which Mr. R. K. Chaudhuri has raised has been before us. The officers of the Rehabilitation Ministry and the Rehabilitation Finance Administration are working out the possible effects of the compensation scheme on the rehabilitation loans and their recovery. I do hope that we will come to a fairly satisfactory conclusion whereby the loanes may receive some relief or a corresponding relief in the repayment of their loans, but the actual working may take a few days.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Thank you.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think most of the points mentioned today were raised yesterday also, and most of the speakers have gone beyond the scope of the Bill as stated by you.

Lala Achint Ram made certain personal references; and I think I should state here that he once approached me for constructing a building of its own for this Rehabilitation Finance Administration. He appealed to my past revolutionary career, and said that as a revolutionary I should construct a building for the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, say, within two weeks or a month or something like that.

To that naturally, I had to plead my inability.

Lala Achint Ram: It was constructed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Revolutionaries only destroy and do not construct.

Lala Achint Ram: In spite of your remarks, suggestions and opinions, it was constructed.

Shri A. C. Guha: That was the only offence I have committed, with my very good friend Lala Achint Ram.

[Shri A. C. Guha]

The other points raised are mostly regarding interest and certain conditions imposed on the disbursement of the loans and the consequent delay. As for interest, I think this House passed five years ago this Act, putting in it a provision that interest not exceeding 6 per cent. would be charged; and since then 6 per cent. has been the interest charged, and this 6 per cent. was of course, only in paper, because it is not actually realised. Further, there was also a system of giving a rebate of 1 per cent. if the interest is paid in time.

Shri Gidwani: If the instalments are spread in time.

Shri A. C. Guha: Interest also if paid in time.

So, the interest, in effect, will come to 5 per cent. Of course, I know that it is not possible for most of the loanees to take advantage of this facility. Anyhow, the feelings and sentiments expressed on the floor of this House, regarding interest must be taken note of by the Administration itself and also by Government. I cannot give any assurance, but I can only say that Government will examine the matter.

Certain objections have been raised regarding this 6 per cent. rate of interest. More than one Member has characterised this rate as usurious. I think even an established business man cannot get a bank loan at less than 7 per cent., and sometimes it is even more than that. So I do not think the rate is high as compared with the rates prevailing with the Banks. When this Act was passed—yesterday also I mentioned this thing—the bank rate was rather lower than what it is today. So, if there was sufficient ground for fixing this particular rate five years ago, I think from the point of view of the present market position, that ground holds much better than five years before.

As regards delay, I think this is more or less a complaint of the past, and not of the present.

Lala Achint Ram: There is every danger that these complaints will be repeated in future also.

Shri A. C. Guha: This institution has made good progress as regards expeditious disposal of the applications. I can give this assurance that Government and the Administration will surely see that the applications are quickly disposed of. I personally can admit that in most cases the refugees have not been able to make full use of the money advanced to them, not only from this Administration, but also from the ordinary rehabilitation funds, because of some delays and some instalment systems. The difficulty, particularly, of this Administration is that it is not actually giving grants on relief. The Administration gives money with an expectation that at least a certain percentage or portion of it will be realised. So, certain conditions have to be imposed to see the credit-worthiness of the loanee. In regard to this also, I think there has been some improvement in recent times.

Sardar Hukam Singh has mentioned some things about the guarantors. I know the difficulty that is being caused by this system, and I also know some of the corrupt practices indulged in by these guarantors. I can say, that during the last two months, we discussed this matter at least on two or three occasions. While we realise that the system of guarantors has not been.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Courtesy requires that hon. Members who raise points ought to remain in their seats to hear the replies or explanations given by the hon. Minister. There is no meaning in throwing some points here, and then going away without waiting for an explanation. I hope hon. Members will bear this in mind in future.

Shri A. C. Guha: While realising that this system of guarantors has not been able to give a sufficient security for the money advanced, and has also been causing some trouble for the applicant, yet it has also not

been possible for us altogether to dispense with this system. Anyhow, apart from the feelings expressed here, this question has been under our examination, for the last two or three months. If possible, we shall make certain relaxations in this matter.

I think Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava mentioned something about the rate of interest, and said that the Tatas are being given loans free of interest for five years, or something like that. I think he had made a very bad comparison, and thereby weakened his case. The loan that is given to the Tatas is really their money. A portion of the profit they would have usually earned is taken away by Government and put in a fund, and that money is given back to them as loan, and Government realise that loan again from them. There cannot be any comparison between that loan and the loan that is being given to the refugees through this Administration.

Sardar Hukam Singh mentioned his own personal case, that he applied for a certain loan for a transport business. I think it was right on the part of the Administration,—and it was better for himself also—that the loan was not given. He is now better rehabilitated and in a much better occupation. I do not know where that business would have transported him. At least now, he has been safely transported to this House and to some law courts also. So, on that score, he should thank the Rehabilitation Finance Administration that that loan has not been given to him.

Acharya Kripalani (Bhagalpur cum Purnea): What about asking his caste?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think I have nothing more to say. Before concluding I again thank the hon. Members who have taken such a keen interest in the working of this Administration. I should also point out, in conclusion, that this Administration has been doing good service, and that

the dark and gloomy side that has been painted here is not the real picture of this Administration. There may be some dark spots, but it has a shining surface also, to which this House should not be blind.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed”.

The motion was adopted.

SEA CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): Before the hon. Minister moves for the consideration of this measure, may I point out one matter? We are asked to allow drawback on imported materials used in the manufacture of goods which are exported. We do not know those materials on which the drawback is proposed to be permitted. The difficulty is that if we have not got that schedule, we cannot very usefully discuss this measure. And besides, if this is going to be an omnibus authorization to Government to do whatever they like, then that would be a modification of our tariff legislation, which should not be sought to be done by means of an amendment of the Sea Customs Act, as it stands today. That being so, I find very great difficulty in participating in a discussion of this legislation, because we have not got those materials, which to my mind, are absolutely necessary, if we are going to have anything like a fruitful discussion of this measure.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): I cannot understand what schedule.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may speak and then reply to the point that has been raised.

Shri A. C. Guha: I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878, be taken into consideration.”

[Shri A. C. Guha]

This Bill is intended primarily for three purposes: a drawback of duty on materials used in the manufacture of articles which are being exported to other countries may be given allowing manufacture of certain articles in bond, and also some of the articles manufactured in bond but intended for home consumption. These articles also may get the benefit of this drawback. These are the three main purposes for which this Bill is intended.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the third one?

Shri A. C. Guha: The first one is in regard to articles manufactured in some factories and then exported; the import duty on the materials used in the manufactured article may be refunded. The second one is the manufacture of articles in bond or warehouse and intended for export. The third is manufacture of articles in bond but used for home consumption. There also the drawback or refund may be given.

This Bill has become necessary because India is no longer just an exporter of raw materials. During recent years it has become an exporter of finished, manufactured goods also. I think it may be relevant here if I give the figures of the export of our manufactured goods. In 1948-49 it was Rs. 229 crores and in 1952-53 it is Rs. 260 crores, in spite of the fact that there has been a sudden drop this year in the export of manufactured jute goods. So, during these five years, the export of manufactured goods has increased rather considerably. This Bill is in the interest of our export trade, and almost all the industrial countries have got similar provisions. The USA, U.K., Japan and, Canada—all these countries have got similar provision. In the U.K. this provision has been made by Section 9 of their Finance Act of 1932. In the USA, Japan and Canada, they have got separate legislation giving the same benefit to their manufactured articles.

This Bill, I can say, has been welcomed by most of the commercial and business organisations of India, particularly those who are interested in the textile, art silk and plastic industries, because this Bill would enable these industries to get immediate relief.

I should mention here, Sir, that suddenly in recent years our export in textile goods has gone up considerably. This year, the prospect of textile export is not so bright. So it is necessary to give some help to the export trade of textile goods and that is why there was the urgency of having this Bill. The articles which may get this benefit would be plastic manufactures, typewriter ribbons, woollen vest and hosiery, carbon paper, sewing machines, electric fans, aluminium manufactures, the cycle industry, automobile industry, bichromates, enamelware, plastic moulded goods and so on. Of course, textiles will surely be there. Then we have scientific instruments and other things. The import duty on the component parts of these manufactured goods will be refunded to the manufacturer when these goods are being exported or when manufactured in bond even for home consumption. The export may be done by the manufacturer himself or by some commercial firm of exporters. In both the cases this benefit will be given.

One thing we have provided in this Bill is this. This is not an automatic refund of the import duty. The Government will promulgate certain rules and regulations, and according to those rules and regulations, each party will have to apply and then after proper examination, this refund will be given. The rate or the articles manufactured or the materials used also will be decided by these rule-making powers. It has also been decided, Sir, that the rules will be published for eliciting public opinion and then they will be finalised, and I shall move an amendment to that effect in proper time.

Then the question may be asked, how this necessity has suddenly arisen. What is the present provision in the Sea Customs Act? Section 42 of the Indian Sea Customs Act is the relevant section which may come nearest to this arrangement. But it has been found to be not quite enough to give all the facilities that we want to give to our export trade. Under Section 42, one definite condition is that the identity of materials on which duty has been paid at the time of levying import duty must be established when such materials have undergone manufacture and the manufactured goods are exported. This identification of materials with their pre-manufactured state after the new manufacturing process is gone through, is a very difficult thing. It is not always possible to establish this identity, and that is why this Section 42 is not quite enough. This Bill is going to add a new Section, Section 43B, to the Indian Sea Customs Act.

As for manufactures in bond, so long we have been giving certain facilities to this line under Section 100 of the Indian Sea Customs Act. Recently it has been pointed out to us that it may not be quite proper and regular to allow these facilities under Section 100 of the Indian Sea Customs Act. Cigarettes were being manufactured and motor vehicles were assembled in bond and we have been giving these industries certain facilities under Section 100. But now, after examination by the Law Ministry, I think that would not be the proper procedure—to allow these facilities under Section 100. The reason is that the only thing that has been taken care of under Section 100 is sorting, packing, separating and alteration for such purposes. But manufacture is not covered by any of these terms. So a separate Section has to be put in the Indian Sea Customs Act, i.e. 100A, and that is done by clause 3 of this Bill. In clause 3(4), it is provided that articles manufactured in bond, if used even for home consumption, would also get this benefit. In some

cases we find that the material may be charged a higher duty, while the finished goods are charged a lower duty. Steel is, I think, charged at the rate of 20 per cent. or even higher while machinery is charged at the rate of 5 per cent. So Indian manufacturers of machinery will find it very difficult to compete with foreign manufacturers if they are not allowed these facilities. Even though the machinery is intended for home consumption they should be allowed to compete with foreign imported machinery and that cannot be done unless this facility is allowed to them. So, this is also necessary for our industrial development, not only for our export trade but also for the development of industry for home consumption.

Clause 4 is only a penal clause for those who would try to make false declarations or who would try to take undue advantage of the provisions of this Bill. Sir, in view of the emergency, particularly for the textile industry, an Ordinance had to be promulgated and I shall move an amendment for the repeal of the Ordinance.

I have nothing further to add. I may only say that this Bill may not be taken as intended to perpetuate our industrial dependence on certain parts to be imported from outside. That is not our idea. We are trying to be as self-sufficient as any other industrial country. Unless we give this protection to our industry, it will not be possible for our industry to be developed in the manner in which and with the speed with which, we want our industry to be developed.

I hope the House will pass it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878, be taken into consideration."

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, a point was made by my hon. friend. The point may be answered. I am not going to make a speech. It is rather difficult to envisage the number of articles which come under the

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

scope of clause 43B. All that one can say at this stage is that whatever is done, the House will know about it. The House will be free to criticise Governmental action and enforce the withdrawal of facilities given. We are more or less finding our feet in the matter of our industry and also the building up of our exports. We find that there is a material handicap in regard to our industries so far as export trade is concerned. This is an enabling provision. The utilisation of these provisions must arise as and when cases come up before Government. I can only give the assurance that the cases will be strictly examined. At the moment, we have only the textile industry in view, where we have to import cotton which had cost in the past about Rs. 2400 a bale as against Rs. 600, 700 or 800 a bale of Indian cotton. That goes into fine and superfine goods which we export. Naturally the duty has to be given to them. It is only a component of the textile article that is exported. May be some portion of it is Indian cotton; there may be other materials also. We have got to assess the value of the cotton that is used and, in this particular instance, we had an urgency because of our export trade in fine and superfine goods. As other things grow from time to time a schedule will be evolved. All that Government can now say is that we shall place all such relaxations before the House. At the moment, it is rather difficult to envisage the number of goods or the categories of goods which may come under the scope of this particular clause.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, I have given something like a sample list. It is not possible to give an exhaustive list.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has read out some of those industries. Only the hon. Members on this side want to see that if some similar articles or materials are produced here, they can go in for foreign articles and then claim drawback.

Therefore they wanted to make sure about the articles.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The reputation of the Customs Department in India is, I think, far too much on the side of safety.

Shri Nanadas (Ongole—Reserved—Sch. Castes): According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, this Bill is intended for the development of India's export trade, and also for facilitating our industrial enterprise. To achieve these two objectives, the Government wants to give rebates on import duty paid on the raw materials contained in the manufactured goods exported abroad and also for allowing manufacture of goods in bond. Well, the objects are very high-sounding. But it is not known how this Bill is going to help our export trade and whether by giving this concession to the industry we are going to help the common man in this country. These are the two things which we have to examine.

Sir, this giving of drawbacks of import duty will also touch the Exchequer to some extent. The nation has to lose some money on account of this. But the Government was not good enough to tell us to what extent this will involve expenditure, what would be the possible loss to the Exchequer. In the Financial Memorandum attached to this Bill they say,

"Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to empower the Central Government to grant a drawback of duty on materials on export of goods manufactured therefrom. It is not possible at this stage to indicate what expenditure will be incurred as a result of the Bill passing into law."

Sir, this Sea Customs Act has been in force for such a long time since 1878 and under the old Act a similar provision is there. Under section 42 of the old Act rebates are allowed on re-exports. By this time they ought to have come to know what would be

the possible expenditure if this Bill is passed into law, and to which of the industries we have to allow rebates of import duty. I really do not know how the Government came to the conclusion that a Bill of this sort is necessary. I do not know whether Government have received any representations from the industry. If so, they would have come to know the estimate of the possible expenditure that we have to meet by this measure. It appears to me that in their anxiety to help increase the profits of textile magnates, Government have introduced this amending Bill. Not only that: they also promulgated an Ordinance for carrying out the provisions of this Bill. From the papers also, the intention of the Government seems to be quite clear. I may read from *Hindustan Times* (Weekly Edition) dated Sunday, October 25, 1953:—

"The second measure to help the industry is the amendment of the Sea Customs Act so as to provide for the grant of rebate of import duty on imported cotton used in the manufacture of cloth which is exported. Imported cotton is largely used in the manufacture of fine and superfine varieties of cloth."

If the Government wants to help these textile magnates who have already amassed crores of rupees as profits, it can boldly say so. I do not understand why Government in an indirect way says that it wants to help, encourage the development of the export trade of this country and for this purpose it is introducing this Bill. We are not against the development of our export trade. It should be developed very rapidly: there are no two opinions about that. But this is not the suitable method for it. If we want to improve our export trade, we have first to develop the industry internally, that is to say, we must satisfy the needs of the people in this country. After that, whatever surplus is left, that alone should be exported for the purpose of improving

our export trade. We do want to sacrifice something for getting essential raw materials from other countries by encouraging our export trade, but we cannot do so at the cost of the consumer in this country. After all, it is not mentioned in this Bill whether only the surplus textiles will be exported. It is not known on what materials the rebates will be given. The Bill says:—

"Where it appears to the Central Government that, in the case of goods of any class or description manufactured in, and exported from, India or shipped as provisions or stores for use on board a ship proceeding to a foreign port a drawback should be allowed of duties of customs chargeable under this Act in respect of any material of a class or description used in the manufacture of such goods....."

That is the wording of the Bill. From this it is not clear whether the Government wants to give rebates only on such of the raw materials for industry in respect of which the manufactured goods will be re-exported. In these circumstances, I do not know how Government is going to help the export trade and thereby the common people in this country through this Bill.

Also the Bill contains many lacunae. As the Deputy Leader of my party pointed out, the schedule is not given, showing the articles on which rebates will be allowed. Also the rates at which rebates will be given are not given. It is only stated that this Bill is intended to help our export trade and supply goods to the foreign consumer at a lesser price. What should be our aim in developing our economy? Is it just to give some concession to the industry and also some concession to the foreign consumer at the cost of the consumer in this country? On the other hand, our aim should be to help industrial development and produce more goods in this country first for the needs of our own people. We

[Shri Nanadas]

must see that goods are supplied to the consumer in this country at a reasonable price which is within his purchasing power. If the goods produced in this country are not within the purchasing power of the common man here, the prices must be lowered. Only by that means can we develop our industry and also our export trade. If we ignore home consumption and neglect the common consumer in this country, I doubt very much whether we will achieve the object in view. For how long are we going to depend upon the foreign consumer? For how many goods are we going to depend upon the foreign consumer? What for are we producing these goods: is it to help the foreign consumer and a few industrialists or is it to help the people in general in this country? If the Government is anxious to tide over the crisis in the textile industry and allow some concessions to the textile magnates, then the Government is not discharging its duty in the interests of this country, and if the Government asks us to support this Bill, then it is asking us to deceive ourselves. We do not object totally to the development of the export trade of this country, but it should not be at the cost of the consumer in this country. That is my first objection.

After all, what are the raw materials that we generally import? From the *Foreign Sea and Air-borne Trade and Navigation of India* for March 1952, it is clear that we are importing raw cotton and waste. That is the largest import of raw material. In the year 1951-52, we imported raw cotton and waste worth nearly Rs. 126½ crores and this is all finer variety of cotton. Another raw material we are importing is raw silk and cocoons and in the same year we imported nearly Rs. 1½ crores worth of them. Also, under "other textile materials", we imported about Rs. 10½ crores worth of goods. And the other largest raw material we are importing is mineral oil. In the year 1951-52, we imported nearly Rs. 79

crores worth of oil and besides this we are importing food, drinks and tobacco, under which grains, pulse and flour are the largest items. Under 'food, drinks and tobacco' we imported during 1951-52 nearly Rs. 262 crores worth of articles, and under other manufactured and semi-manufactured articles the amount is much bigger. My point is this. After all the Government intends to give rebates on raw material which enters into manufactured goods which are re-exported. From these figures it is quite clear that we import the largest quantities of raw cotton and waste. Which are the industrialists that are importing the largest quantities of raw cotton and waste? Are they the middle class industrialists or are they the millionaire textile magnates? If you want to help these people, all right you come out and say boldly that you want to help these millionaires. Again, Sir, at whose cost we are helping these textile magnates? According to the Report of the Working Party for the Cotton Textile Industry, we are helping these textile magnates at the cost of the cotton producer in this country. May I read the relevant passage from this Report—paragraph 34, page 14.

"The progress of the industry in this direction is reflected in the quantities of imported cotton from year to year, notably Egyptian, East African and American. This process, it will be seen later, has been intensified during the years following the last war partly on account of new machinery being installed but even more on account of the unavailability to an adequate extent of local cotton. When the fact is further borne in mind that much of the long staple variety was produced in Pakistan and is no longer available at least in sufficient quantities to the Indian Mills, the necessity for importing large quantities of superior cotton from abroad is clearly demon-

trated. The fact nevertheless has to be emphasized that while protection to the Indian Textile Industry was largely based on the ground that raw material was available in abundance within the country and that the Industry was helping the agriculturists to find a market for such raw material, the situation is tending to take a reverse turn and requires careful watching."

From this it is quite clear that by encouraging the import of foreign cotton in large quantities, we are harming our own cotton producers in this country. Government may say that we are importing only finer varieties of cotton, but my objection is—what steps have the Government taken to improve our cotton production in this country? I was told that near about Coimbatore in South India we can produce very good quality of cotton. Why can't we improve cotton production of that quality in our country? Can we help, by resorting to this method, the improvement of our cotton? Certainly we cannot help. The producers, as they get less money for their cotton, will have no incentive to produce better varieties of cotton and also invest more money and bring more land under cotton cultivation, and thereby you are systematically and consciously destroying cotton production in this country. In the same connection, Sir, the Report says—I am reading from page 21, paragraph 47.

"Regulation of exports of Short Staple Cotton.

It has been urged on the Committee that at a time of serious shortage of cotton, export of Bengals is not justified. If the mills were to make a serious attempt to use such cotton, they could undoubtedly do so; in fact, certain mills have used such cotton in their production of the lowest counts, but even these mills are handicapped if export is allowed, as thereby the price of such cotton is enhanced even-

locally and utilisation of this cotton at such enhanced price proves unprofitable."

Sir, on the one hand, you are allowing export of cotton from this country at a very low price, and on the other hand, you want to import foreign cotton, and for encouraging the import of foreign cotton, the Government wants to give some concession to the textile magnates. I really wonder how a Government, which boasts itself to be a Welfare State and also stands for the welfare of the producers, the hard labourers, in this country, is going to help these people by this method.

Sir, the Minister said that by this Bill the aluminium Industry is going to be benefited. The other day I also asked a question of the Commerce and Industry Minister and he replied that there is a lot of surplus of aluminium in this country, and according to the Planning Commission's Report, we want to produce in this country nearly 20 lakhs tons of aluminium by the end of the plan period. How are you going to utilise it? Are you going to export it as raw material or semi-manufactured material and that too at the cost of the local cottage industry? Aluminium is used in cottage industry for manufacturing cooking utensils in large quantities, but what is happening today. The Government, without even knowing, are allowing large quantities of stainless steel to be imported into this country, and now the stainless steel is taking the place of aluminium in the cooking utensils cottage industry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does that arise on this Bill? So far as the subject matter of the Bill is concerned, it relates to the drawback on imported materials used in the manufacture of goods which are exported—the export of the article is the main point—and also to the manufacture of goods in bonded warehouses.

Shri Nanadas: I am quoting an instance.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The instance is not relevant. This is not a general debate on the Finance Bill where you can talk about administration and other matters. We must confine ourselves to the three points that have been raised here. The hon. Member has said enough and has also repeated once or twice to emphasize his point. If he has got any fresh point, let him go on.

Shri Nanadas: The other material that we import is mineral oil. This Government entered into agreement with foreign companies for starting free oil refinery in this country.

Shri A. C. Guha: I wonder how 'mineral oil' imported by the oil refineries will come under this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is any mineral oil brought here, refined and exported?

Shri A. C. Guha: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then it does not enter into the picture.

Shri Nanadas: Since the schedule is not given we do not know on what material they are going to give rebates.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may move an amendment. He has tabled some amendments, but I do not find any which insists upon Government placing the items for which drawbacks are allowed, so that discussion may take place on those items when they are included in a particular Bill. The hon. Minister has said he will publish all that and invite objections. If the House should have an opportunity, some such provision may be made here.

Shri Nanadas: In the absence of the schedule of the items on which Government intends to give rebate this is one of the major materials that is going to affect the economy of the country in future. After all we have given permission to foreign companies to start oil refineries here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has given some instances

where this provision is likely to be used.

Shri Nanadas: What I fear is that this Bill will be taken advantage of by these oil monopolists in this country in future. They may ask for 'rebates because they will have to import crude oil from monopoly sellers in the international market. When the oil is refined here and the home market is not in a position to consume the whole oil, a major portion of the oil will have to be exported. When such an occasion arises, the oil refiners may take advantage of this Bill and I do not know what guarantee Government is going to give to this House that this concession will not be allowed to foreign oil refineries.

Here we have got foreign combines like Sen-Raleigh, T.I. Cycles and the automobile combines. In the Bill it has not been defined what is meant by "raw material" or for what kind of material they are going to give rebates. These companies may import semi-manufactured articles, assemble them here, export them abroad and claim rebates on the materials imported. Such contingencies are there.

The other material is raw jute. We have now to import jute from a foreign country like Pakistan. This raw jute is manufactured in this country and exported abroad. Does it mean that we are going to give rebates on the jute we import by sea from East Pakistan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, if we levy a duty; but we do not levy any duty now.

Shri Nanadas: If there is no duty well and good. But if we are going to levy a duty in future, then the jute industry also will claim rebates.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: At that rate the hon. member may take all the five hundred items and say that if an import duty is levied a drawback will have to be allowed. After all any legislation is based on existing considerations. When other factors come into play the question will have to be reviewed.

Shri Nanadas: I am only referring to major items of raw materials we import. I am not referring to all the raw materials that we require for manufacture in our industries.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the illustration should be with reference to items on which an import duty is levied. Is any import duty levied on jute?

Shri Nanadas: Again, Sir, the term "manufacture" is a very comprehensive term.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.)

The word "manufacture" is defined in the Factories Act of 1948 in Section 2, sub-section (k):

"(k) 'manufacturing process' means any process for—

- (i) making, altering, repairing, ornamenting, finishing, packing, oiling, washing, cleaning, breaking up, demolishing, or otherwise treating or adopting any article or substance with a view to its use, transport, delivery or disposal, or
- (ii) pumping oil, water or sewage, or
- (iii) generating, transforming or transmitting power; or
- (iv) printing by letterpress, lithography, photogravure or other similar work of book-binding, which is carried on by way of trade or for purposes of gain, or incidentally to another business so carried on; or
- (v) constructing, reconstructing, repairing, refitting, fitting or breaking up ships or vessels;"

Here in this Bill this term has not been defined clearly. Suppose a businessman imports raw materials into this country, stocks it for some time, waits until the prices go up in other countries, then repacks the same material and exports it, will he be entitled to rebates? So the terms

should be defined very clearly at the stage of framing rules; the words "raw materials" must also be defined. If this Bill is going to help increase the profits of foreign businessmen employing our cheap labour and also going to increase the profits of people like Tatas, Birlas and Dalmias, surely I cannot support it. If, however, Government is prepared to give us an assurance that this measure will be utilised in the interests of the common people and in the interests of export trade in general—that is surplus trade after satisfying the requirements of consumers in this country—then I support this. We want that the export trade of this country should be developed and that too very rapidly.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I find myself in a very embarrassing position after hearing the first speaker, whether to support the Bill or to oppose it. Sir, as a matter of fact, I wanted to support the Bill; even now I would like to support it in my own way. The previous speaker pointed out that by giving drawbacks on certain imported articles we will be helping the big industrialists. It may be true to a certain extent—I do not deny. But we have to take into consideration the present context of things, what our economy is and how our goods are faring in the international market. Today you are well aware, Sir, that in the external markets the prices of goods are fluctuating, they are falling, and it is very difficult for the goods of any country which have higher prices to compete well with the goods of other countries. So if you want to make our goods more competitive, if you want to develop our external market, then it is very necessary that you should find ways and means of facilitating our exports. Our party, the Praja Socialist Party, does not agree with mixed economy. But unfortunately the Government of the day is committed to this mixed economy principle. So long as the Government follows a policy of mixed economy, in that particular context of things they

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy]

have to think of ways and means of developing our trade and solving our economic problems. Now I am not going into the question of mixed economy or into the question whether there should be state trading or not. Of course we believe in state trading and we say that if state trading is adopted and if the Government comes into the picture of foreign trade many troubles can be solved and our export trade can be increased remarkably. But unfortunately the Government is not thinking on those lines. They are lukewarm about it, they seem to be nervous.

So in the present context when we have private enterprise and private business people trading inside and outside the country we have to think of certain measures which would help our country to prosper in the existing circumstances.

I find that so many factories are suffering from surplus production—textiles, lamps and so on. But the purchasing capacity of the common man is not sufficient to clear the stock produced in the factories. Unless these stocks are cleared immediately there is no scope for factories working to full capacity. We have to know that the present unemployment in the country is due to the very large accumulation of stocks in factories. If we want to create more opportunities for employment, if industries should function to their full capacity, if they should not close down, then it is necessary that we must find some stop-gap method of clearing these surplus stocks.

As I said, on account of the fact that the purchasing capacity of the people is very poor it is very difficult to clear the stocks inside the country now. There is lack of internal demand. The lack of demand is because there is not enough money in the pockets of the common man. In such circumstances the only way to clear the surplus stocks is to promote exports. The question is how to pro-

mote exports. If you want to promote exports you must remove the bottlenecks which are in the way of export trade. What are the bottlenecks in the way?

The main bottleneck is the export duties levied on certain goods which are regressive in their effect and which do not allow our goods to compete favourably in the outside market. So it is necessary to resort to the method of allowing drawback on certain articles. Of course the schedule of articles has not been given in the Bill. It would have been better if it had been given as it would have given us a better picture of the whole thing. But we all know on what articles drawback will be allowed, and we also know how far it is necessary at the present juncture to clear the surplus stocks.

In this connection I also want to make one or two points. Apart from removing this bottleneck by way of allowing drawback, I wish to say that it is necessary to take certain other measures also. One of them is that on articles which are intended for export there should not be any sales tax at all. Almost all the State Governments have resorted to sales tax. They tax every kind of goods processed or manufactured or traded within the boundary of the State. If we want to promote exports and if we want to develop our foreign exchange resources it is necessary that we should advise the State Governments not to levy sales tax on exportable goods for some time to come. Of course it may involve some loss of revenue, but it is necessary if we want to develop our external trade.

Another point is there is a transport bottleneck. It has been there since very many years but no serious attempt has been made so far by the Government to remove this bottleneck. The goods are not easily transported to ports, and for booking wagons and for transporting goods from one part of the country to an-

other people have to face innumerable difficulties. It is very necessary therefore that the Government should provide more transport facilities for goods which are intended for export. By taking these measures they would be greatly facilitating international trade. And, all of us should appreciate that international trade is very important and vital to our economy. Our friend just now said that we should develop our own home market, that we should not import any other things from outside, that we should develop our own cotton and so on. It is necessary, we should keep these things in view but at the present juncture when the Government is committed to a policy of mixed economy it is necessary to resort to these steps. I do not mean that I am endorsing these things unconditionally. I am making qualifications to my observations. When the Government is following a mixed economy, when large sectors of our economy are left in the hands of private people, we have to take certain steps which are necessary in these circumstances. So, from this point, I support the idea that it is necessary that drawback should be allowed on certain articles.

In this connection I may point out one more thing. Suppose there is an item of finished goods and in that item there is utilisation of an imported raw material on which import duty has been paid. If that item of finished goods is to be exported to some foreign country, the import duty already paid on the raw material should be refunded. That is very necessary. I do not know whether the Bill makes provision for this. I feel that in respect of all the articles which enter into the manufacture of exportable goods the import duties levied should be refunded.

Mr. Speaker: That is what clause 2 really means, as I read it.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: If it applies I have nothing more to say on that point.

Lastly, Sir, I want to say that the export policy should be conducted in a very systematic and organised way.

It is a very difficult sector and therefore, it is necessary to have an export research organisation. I think the Committee that went into this question in 1949 has also recommended the starting of such an organisation. If we set up an Export research organisation, that would facilitate in the matter of developing a coordinated and enlightened export policy. Our export policy is left mostly in the hands of private people. There is very little guidance from the Centre, and very little control from the Government. In a way, it is chaotic. If you want our export policy to be well organised, well coordinated and well integrated, it is necessary that there should be a Research Committee on the one hand and another Committee to supervise the whole thing and advise the Government on matters of export. I say that this Bill may be passed. In the existing circumstances, it is necessary to allow a draw-back on certain articles with a view to clear the surplus stocks. It will also facilitate the business people, traders and factory owners to provide more employment opportunities for our people.

Shri Kasliwal (Kota-Jhalawar): Before I speak on this Bill, I would like to answer one or two points which have been raised by the speakers from that side. The hon. Member who spoke last said something to the effect that our export policy was in the hands of a few individuals. I very much dispute that point, and maintain that our export policy is directly and actively in the hands of the Government. I do not at all think for a moment that in any country, a few individuals can direct the export policy of that country.

The second point to which I would like to answer is about section 42 of the Sea Customs Act which was referred to by the first speaker. I believe he has confused between section 42 of the Sea Customs Act and the new section 43B which is sought to be inserted in this Bill. Section 42 relates absolutely to rebates on re-exports. This Bill has nothing to do with re-exports. This Bill only maintains that

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drawback will be allowed on those manufactured goods which are sought to be exported. There is no question of re-export so far as this Bill is concerned.

Coming to the Bill itself, I think I must congratulate the Minister for being very realistic. I believe this is a handsome tribute that he has paid to the prevailing conditions in the country, to the falling off of new industrial enterprises in the private sector and to the growing unemployment. I must say that this concession which he has granted to the industry in the private sector has been very timely. While congratulating the hon. Minister, on this subject, I would like to draw his attention to one or two features: features in the sense that this House has not been well informed on certain items. I am not suggesting for a moment anything about the point which has been raised on the other side that a schedule should have been annexed. It is really difficult to maintain and put up a schedule at this stage because there are articles which are manufactured, but which are not protected; there are also certain protected industries in respect of which we can definitely say that the Government may have certain data. Those data should have been supplied to the House. The Tariff Commission has, I must say, in all cases in which an industry has come up before them either for protection or for the continuation of protection, invariably said that in respect of those raw materials which are being imported from abroad, there should be a kind of enquiry as to how far these particular industries are importing these raw materials, whether there is any decrease or increase in the import of these raw materials and so on. I tried to find out from the publications of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce whether they could supply any information in this respect. I could lay my hands on certain information which has appeared in the Journal of Industry and Trade which relates to the head-

ing, Protected Industries dependent on imported raw materials. Although this relates to 21 items which are protected, and which are importing raw materials, information on several heads is missing. Take the case of percentage of imports of raw materials. The information invariably is, it is not available. Except in the case of two items, they say the information is not available. Again, take the case, whether the imports are increasing or decreasing, no information is available. I submit the hon. Minister should have certainly given this information also although in the case of certain other items, he has given this information: countries from which imports are made, the name of the raw materials which are being imported and so on. I hope the hon. Minister will kindly do a favour to this House by publishing all this the next time this journal is issued so that it may be in a position to get all this information also.

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City-North): Shri H. N. Mukerjee, who spoke first on this Bill, just expressed his inability to understand how a Bill of this kind could be placed before this House for consideration. His principal objection was that this House was being asked to consider a Bill which was vague and which did not contain a schedule of the goods on which a drawback of customs duties was to be allowed. Here, I would only point out and draw the attention of Shri H. N. Mukerjee to section 42 of the principal Act. Section 42 does precisely what this Amending Bill seeks to do. A part of section 42 reads like this:

"When any goods, capable of being easily indentified, which have been imported by sea into any customs port from any foreign port, and upon which duties of customs have been paid on importation, are re-exported,.....seven eighths of such duties shallbe repaid as drawback:

and the only condition for the repayment of drawback is:

"that in every such case, the goods be identified to the satisfaction of the Customs Collector at such customs port.."

This is what the principal Act provides. In the present Bill, things are not as vague as that. They are much better. For, under Clause 2, the Government is going to publish a Notification in the official Gazette from time to time giving the list of the goods in respect of which drawback will be allowed.

Then, Sir, about another friend from the other side of the House—the hon. Mr. Nanadas. He seems almost to oppose the idea of this Bill. That is a little surprising, because expansion of export trade should be dear to all sides of this House and particularly to the Opposition. In our experience friends of industrial workers in every country of the world have always done their utmost to help the expansion of export trade in their respective countries. They have all raised the slogan "Export or perish" for their countries. When these friends realise how vital the maintenance of the level of our export trade is to our present economy, when they realise what actually is happening to our export trade and what is likely to happen in the near future if we do not do every thing in our power to help that export trade, I am sure they will look at this Bill with a little more kindly eye.

We shall not be wise if we continue to be complacent any longer in the matter of our export trade. In the past few years, say from about 1949 up to the present, there have been certain circumstances—adventitious circumstances—which have helped us to maintain the level of our export trade. It has been more of a series of luck for us rather than what we have ourselves done to help our export trade. Take for instance the help or the great stimulus that we received in expanding our export trade as a result of devaluation. Take for instance the outbreak of the Korean War. It gave us a tremendous advantage in our export trade. Then followed the stock-piling by the great Powers. Then

again came their re-armament programmes. All these things, one after another have helped our export trade. But, how much longer can we rely on these adventitious circumstances? In fact, as we know, the Korean War is over. As we know, stock-piling is being given up one after the other by the great Powers. As we know, the re-armament programme has been seriously modified with a view to reduce the burden on their tax-payers. And so far as devaluation is concerned, it is quite well known that devaluation does give a certain advantage to the country's export trade to begin with, but it also, at the same time, sets in a process of inflation which by degrees raises the price level in that country and in time wipes out any advantage that devaluation in the beginning might have given.

So, that is the story of our present state in respect of our export trade, and, therefore, we ought to welcome any measure that can possibly in any way help the maintenance of the level of our export. From that point of view, we welcome this measure as a measure designed to help the development of our export trade. But we cannot say the same thing about some of the provisions of this Bill, particularly provisions which seek to take rather large powers for Government—powers of inspection of documents, powers requiring access to manufacturing plant. However, this is a point about which I would have to say something more in detail when we come to consider this Bill Clause by Clause.

Now, Sir, we must realise that our export trade is on the brink of a crisis. Competition the world over for a number of the major items of our export trade is increasing. The re-entry of Japan into the world's export markets is an event of which we must take serious notice. And, therefore, this measure has not come any too soon. A measure of this kind was not only necessary, but also urgent.

In my experience of over thirty years of customs duties I have found

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that customs duties have been continuously creeping up bit by bit. I know of certain instances where from 20 per cent the customs duties today are at 50 per cent. With duties at such high rates it is a great problem for industry to finance their imports of raw materials, and therefore, facilities such as this measure seeks to give, such as draw-back on materials imported and incorporated into the manufactured product to be exported as well as the facility for allowing manufacturers to operate on their imported raw materials in bond, should be welcome. In some of the larger industries these imported raw materials which go into the manufacture amount to lakhs and lakhs of rupees, and with the duty at 20, 30 and 40 per cent, the investment required also goes up to very large amounts. Therefore, this Bill is not only necessary but very urgent.

And let us not, at the same time, think that we are doing anything very extraordinary, an extraordinarily good turn to our export trade. This is a very ordinary facility which has been provided in almost all the advanced countries. The hon. Deputy Finance Minister who moved the Bill has already mentioned the instances of the U.S.A., the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan, and there are several other countries. So, we are only doing what was due to our manufacturers, what has long been due to our export trade. We are only filling that need.

5 P. M.

Coming to some of the provisions of this Bill, some of us really have a feeling that the powers that Government is seeking to take under this Bill are not really necessary, and some of them seem to be in excess of the requirement of the object in view. After all, these powers are sought to be taken in order to enable the Customs officials to investigate into the details of a particular claim, to ascertain and verify some of the evidence that the manufacturer may produce. But from the way the provi-

sions are worded, it looks as if it is assumed that the manufacturer is going to be rather unwilling to give all the evidence, and to produce all the materials and information required to satisfy the Customs Collector. Why should it be so? There are two parties to this business, there is the Government and there is the manufacturer claiming a drawback of customs duty. Now, who should be the more eager between the two, the Government to give or the manufacturer to receive drawback? Obviously, it is the manufacturer who should be more eager to receive the drawback, and therefore should be in a frame of mind to co-operate in every way and to place before the Customs Collector, all the material, and all the evidence that will entitle him to claim his drawback. In the light of this, some of these provisions will have to be considered, when we come to consider the Bill clause by clause.

I will only make a passing reference here that some of these provisions as they are, hold the door open for possible vexation and harassment to the manufacturers. A thing like this in a Bill of this nature should be avoided by all means.

Now we all wish success to this Bill. But the success of this Bill will depend principally upon how the Central Government acts under clause 2, sub-clause 3 (a), i.e., in the matter of specifying "the class or description of manufactured goods in the case of which, and the class or description of material in respect of which, drawback is to be paid"; in other words, it will depend on how wide a range the Government are prepared to accept for the goods in respect of which drawback will be permitted. There is another very important clause, which has much to do with the success of this measure, and that is the proposed sub-clause 3(c) under clause 2 of this Bill, under which the Central Government has to 'specify the rate of drawback to be payable with reference to the weight, quantity or any

other basis as the Central Government may deem fit'. As we know, in the principal Act, the rate has been already stated. The rate of drawback is seven-eighths. I do not certainly, for a moment, suggest that such a thing should be done in the present measure also. The circumstances and the considerations are totally different between the two. But as a suggestion, it would certainly do to say that in this case the Government must not have a stingy attitude, in respect of the rate of drawback. It should not, according to some of us at least, be anything less than what it is in the principal Act, namely seven-eighths. The whole success of this effort will depend upon the right approach to this measure. This measure is going to be worked chiefly by customs officials. And their attitude in this matter, and their approach to these provisions is therefore very important. It should be made clear to them that in deciding cases for which drawback has to be allowed, they should not have a kind of a feeling that they are giving away something. They are not giving away something which belonged to them. What they are called upon in fact to do is to return to those from whom something was taken, and which now is not due to Government. That is the position which should be properly explained, because as I said earlier—I repeat it now—the attitude and approach of the officials who are to work this measure is going to determine how far we shall succeed in the objects we have in view.

The administration should also understand that there is going to be ultimately no loss of revenue involved in this whole business. Even if the drawbacks amount to lakhs and crores, let them understand that these lakhs and crores paid by way of drawbacks are not a loss of revenue. Temporarily they may appear to be so, but we must realise that exports are a form of transaction by which we buy our imports. What do we do with our exports? Why do we export at all? We export in order that we should have something with which

to buy our imports, and there can never be a state of affairs, at least in the case of this country, where there are going to be very large exports, and not enough imports to utilise the value available to us. So, these exports are going to gain to this country, imports, if not immediately, at least a little later on. Imports are the principal source of the customs revenue, and therefore let us understand that these drawbacks or any amount spent by way of drawbacks are not a real loss of revenue. On the contrary, the drawbacks that will be allowed will be in respect of a fraction of the articles exported, because drawbacks will apply only to that portion of the materials which were imported, and on which import duty was paid. That can always be only a portion or fraction of the total material or articles exported. And the export value of the total articles exported is bound to be much larger than any duty returned. Therefore that larger value of the total articles exported will give us a larger amount of purchasing power with which to buy our imports. Therefore, in every possible way, it should be explained to the administration that what is proposed to be done in this new way to help export trade with drawback, is ultimately to increase their revenues. Therefore, I would only make one appeal that this measure should be worked not grudgingly, but with a proper understanding of the vital significance of the measure that we have before us.

Finally, there is just one thing, Sir, I would say and I say it with a certain amount of timidity. I would personally have preferred if the working of this measure could be entrusted to other hands than our present Customs officials. I know the thing is not practicable and, therefore, I am prepared to be reconciled to it. Yet I feel I ought to give expression to some of the feelings or some of the fears I have in mind. In my experience I have not seen at least in this country a group of officials so thoroughly indoctrinated as our Customs

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officials. I don't know if the income-tax collectors probably make an exception, but here they are, these Customs officials, a fine body of men but very successfully indoctrinated. Their whole idea is to get revenue...

Shri A. C. Guha: That is what they are paid for.

Shri V. B. Gandhi: ... and the pity of it is that their whole effort of getting revenue is made not always with an excessive regard for justice.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): Before I adduce some more arguments in favour of this beneficial measure, I beg permission to reply to the point raised by the hon. Member, Prof. Mukerjee. He questioned the validity of this being brought before the House on the ground that it seeks to give to Government undefined powers.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

To that point, Sir, my answer is that section 42 of the present Act already gives Government that power. That power is much more wide than this Bill seeks to confer now. The speaker who spoke before me read out that section, but I am afraid he did not quite bring out the aspect of the provision which I beg Prof. Mukerjee to note. Under that section, Government are authorised to give rebate on the whole of the imported article provided it is exported. Under the present Bill what is sought to be done is to give rebate only to that portion of the raw material which enters in the finished product and not on the whole. And therefore what Government can do in respect of the whole, they can certainly do with respect to the part. I would have agreed with Mr. Mukerjee if he had brought out the point that the provisions of this Bill were enacted in the form of an Ordinance about a month back and what had happened to that Ordinance. I have not yet seen any rules framed under it, with the result that that Ordinance remains almost a bye-letter. And this is

the difficulty not only of trade and industry but also of all of us. This morning we heard at the time of the Question Hour that there were two Committees appointed and there was delay in submitting their reports. There are many other Committees which are asking for more time to submit their reports. Once these Committees submit their reports after long delays, Government take an indefinite time to give effect to the recommendations of those reports, if at all they give effect to those recommendations. And if at all they give effect to the recommendations, the Acts remain mere by-words. I would suggest, Sir, very humbly that whatever legislation is put through this House, is actually given effect to. And if that had been done in the case of this Ordinance, the point made by Prof. Mukerjee would have been amply answered.

Sir, this power which is being given to Government under the Bill is not a new power. As I have said, section 42 of the Sea Customs Act already provides it. Section 100 and section 101 also provide those very powers. Therefore, I do not want to go into the details of the constitutional aspect, but what I do want the Opposition to appreciate is that in our country a silent revolution is taking place. A revolution, about which we hear so much from the Opposition is actually taking place in our country in the industrial field. Our industrial production is going up. What is particularly impressive and heartening is that the composition of our import and export trade is improving if we compare the figures of percentages of our exports, we find that as against roughly 26 per cent of the exports of manufactured articles from the country between the years 1935 and 1940, the percentage has gone to 47 in 1952-53. It means that the complexion of our export trade is changing fast. Another aspect is that the export of raw materials is decreasing. It has decreased from 46.7 per cent to 26.3 per cent.

Again, if we come to our import figures, we find another tendency. Formerly, India was an importer mainly of manufactured articles. Now, it is importing raw materials increasing. If I quote the figures, in 1938-39 the import of raw materials was 21.7 per cent. It has gone on increasing to 23.5 in 1948-49 and 28.3 in 1952-53. Sir, about this figure I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that it does not include our trade from the overseas routes in which will figure huge imports of raw jute from Pakistan, and if that was included this percentage would be much higher. Therefore, keeping in line with this revolution that is taking place in our industrial structure and in our structure of export and import trade, whatever succour that Government can give to our industry will be welcome. It will not only be welcome, Sir, it is high time that it was made available to industry.

As is well known, a lot of capacity is lying idle in our country in various sectors of our industry. The hon. the Commerce and Industry Minister knows very well the plight of our engineering industry which developed during wartime. He has already appointed a Committee which is going into the idle capacity of that industry. If my information is correct, about 50 per cent. of the capacity of that industry is lying idle and one of the causes of that capacity lying idle is that that industry particularly has to use raw materials for which we have to pay a very high price in the international market. Particularly certain varieties of steel and certain varieties of metals which are used in the manufacturing of those engineering articles and, what this Bill seeks to do is to allow the manufacturers of those items rebate on the duty which is imposed on these imported commodities to the extent they enter in the articles that are exported.

Now, Sir, a question may be asked whether the small rebate that will be given or that small drawback that the industry will get will be enough

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to put these industries on their feet. I have my doubts about it but whatever steps are taken, whatever small mercies are shown will be helpful. And whom will it help ultimately? The industry may perhaps begin to work, if not cent per cent. of its capacity but to 10 per cent. or 15 per cent. more. What will be the result? The result will be that labour will be employed and we will have more employment in this country.

The other day the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Gopalan raised a debate on the floor of this House and the remedies he suggested were omnibus remedies. And, I am sure, if he had considered the high import duties on some of the raw materials which go to constitute our manufactured articles as one of the drawbacks, he would be very glad that this Bill has come after all.

Sir, my difficulty is that the Bill has not come a day too soon. In fact, the Export Promotion Committee which went into the plight of our exports which were at a low level at that time reported on this particular question. I will not quote from the report in extenso but I will read out just one small paragraph for the benefit of Mr. Nanadas who asked the House if there was any case for these drawbacks being allowed. That report in para 5 said:

"Again when goods imported into the country are processed before export, a similar drawback is allowed on export. Such assistance would be of considerable value in this country."

It was referring to U. K. practice.

"Thus the art-silk processor who pays 65 per cent. import duty on his raw materials is unable to compete in any foreign market. The soap manufacturer, the pharmaceutical chemist and piece-goods manufacturer using foreign cotton, the fishing pole manufacturer using Burmese bamboo and others using imported raw materials, all these would be greatly improved by suitable provisions of

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this nature. It is sometimes urged that imports of particular goods are allowed into the country for the internal needs of the country only and therefore no question of export ought to arise and, consequently, no need for giving any drawback. It must be remembered that processing within the country increases the value of the commodity by the value of the labour."

I would request Mr. Nanadas to please note this.

"... and when that finished, processed commodity is exported, it brings in foreign exchange equivalent to the original cost plus the expenditure within this country plus a profit. In the circumstances, it is almost in all cases advantageous to the country to have processed goods imported."

Another fear, Sir, which seems to linger in the minds of some of my friends on the other side and which was rather timidly given expression to by Mr. Nanadas is that this will be used by foreign monopolists, by foreign cartels to import raw materials, process them in this country and export them outside, thus exploiting Indian labour. I am surprised at the logic of this argument, Sir, because what is the *modus operandi*. The *modus operandi* is that raw materials are imported into this country. Even now, under section 42, as I said earlier, if the importer wants to export those raw materials, he is entitled to the entire rebate. Now, what is supposed to happen is that those raw materials are processed here and are manufactured here into some other articles. Take the case even of the refineries. Supposing, we have an import duty on crude oil. It will come here. Supposing that crude oil is processed here and we allow that product to be exported. What is the harm if a rebate is given? After all, our labour will get employment. There will be incidental expenditure incurred in this

country which will benefit us. This ghost of foreign companies and foreign cartels coming and taking advantage of the situation or of the legislation which is passed for the benefit of this country must be rooted out once for all and I will suggest very humbly to the members of the other House.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is better to say members on the other side of the House; otherwise it is likely to be misunderstood that he refers to members of the other House.

Shri Bansal: I will suggest to the members on the other side of the House that when it is brought again and again before this House as King Charles' head, they must weigh what they are saying and what are its implications.

A case in point was suggested to me in my private talks with some members from the other side that some American concerns who have long-term agreements with automobile manufacturers of this country will dump automobile parts here, get them assembled and export cars assembled in this country to the Far Eastern or Middle Eastern countries. As I have said, even if that was done, there was no harm to my country. In fact, my country will benefit. But, can this be done in any significant degree? Is any country going to be foolish enough to reduce employment opportunities in that country and increase them in our country? I cannot imagine any such thing happening. Can any one imagine that the Studebaker Corporation will not like to export manufactured cars from America directly to other countries and get them assembled here and export from here, giving all the incidental advantages to this country and also allowing an opportunity to India to stand on its own feet as regards the automobile industry? Sir, let us not be haunted by these imaginary fears when we are dealing with such an innocuous, and, in my humble opinion, beneficial measure as the present one.

I would also like to bring to the notice of this House, Sir, that in various countries there are what are called 'free trade zones'. In America, which country I had the opportunity of visiting some 3 or 4 months back, there are 6 free trade zones. In those free trade zones, facilities are allowed to importers to process and manufacture imported goods, even make slight changes in those imported goods, so that those goods are exported from those free trade zones without the payment of any duty, the advantage being that the importers and exporters of that country get the benefit of export and import trade. Therefore, where a Bill of this nature, which only provides for the import of certain raw materials to be processed and manufactured in the country, is being brought about, it should not be suspect. This practice is not new. Even in such highly industrialised countries as U.K. there is this provision of drawbacks in their Finance Act. Under that Act, they immediately laid down a schedule of the articles on which rebate was to be granted. I would have therefore very much liked that a schedule was appended to this Bill even at this stage, particularly when it had been promulgated in the form of an Ordinance.

I must thank my hon. friend Mr. Gandhi who spoke before me for bringing to the notice of the House the difficulties that the trade is likely to experience if this whole thing is left in the hands of customs people. He has a very wide experience of dealing with customs officials. I do not have that experience, but from whatever I know, a lot of difficulty is being experienced by the trade. The Commerce and Industry Minister knows very well that one of the reasons of the tea crisis which we faced sometime ago was that the officials took a long time in granting rebate of excise duty on tea, and one of the steps that had to be taken to tide over the crisis was to see that the rebate was granted expeditiously.

I do not know, Sir, whether it is permissible in the House to refer to a personal anecdote. If I have your

permission, I will relate it. I myself have been a victim of the customs officials recently. I had the honour of representing the Government of India at a conference on GATT and without knowing, I brought with me certain articles for which an import permit was required. Those articles were duly declared, and after declaring those articles, I wrote to the Import Controller saying, "I have brought these articles. Please release as many of them as you are capable of under your powers and dispose of the remaining according to the rules prescribed by law". He was good enough, after consulting higher authorities, to give me the import licence for the entire quantity of goods. They were worth only Rs. 200, but the customs officials took three weeks and one of my friends at Bombay had to dance attendance on them every day. Ultimately, he wrote a pathetic letter to me saying, "It seems to me that the labour of love is going to be wasted. I have been going there and standing in a queue for hours on end and I have not been able to get the permit from the customs people". (An Hon. Member: What happened finally?)

After three weeks, I got it—after dancing attendance everyday on the customs officials. If this can happen to a government delegate, if this can happen to a Member of Parliament, I can well imagine what will be the fate of ordinary people. (Shri S. N. Das: Equality before law!) I do not grudge it at all, but I am just bringing it to the notice of this supreme Parliament, so that it may see that whatever legislation is passed is implemented in the right spirit. If the purpose of this law is to make businessmen dance attendance on customs officials for weeks and months, then it is better that you do not have this Bill. That is what I would say. If this Bill is going to be implemented in the right spirit, in order to improve things and in order to give our industries a fighting chance in the international market, then my suggestion would be that we should leave as little power to the customs officials as possible, and lay down the details in the Bill itself, just as we have done in the

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case of the rebate on superfine cotton used in superfine piecegoods. We have laid down that so much will be given as rebate or drawback on the quantity of superfine cloth that is exported, thereby leaving a very limited discretion in the hands of the customs officials. Similarly, under this Bill, we should lay down clearly, specifying the articles on which drawback will be given, specifying that if such and such article is exported, so much will be deemed to be the cost of imported raw materials, and once it is certified by a registered chamber of commerce that this article contains imported raw material up to this percentage, the customs officials should allow that article to be exported and the rebate should be given without any other formality being gone through. Only if that is done, the purpose of this Bill will be served.

I want to say that this Bill which seeks to give drawback on raw materials is just one small step in the direction of increasing our export trade and increasing our competitive capacity. In my opinion, it is high time that we reviewed our import schedule in order to find out what duties are being paid on imported raw materials; what is the incidence of those on the manufactured goods, particularly those goods which are exported and which are subject to competition even in the internal market. As I said in the very beginning, our economy is undergoing a vast change. We are no longer producers and exporters of raw materials. We are producers of manufactured articles and therefore the entire conception of our import duties and the import schedule has to be changed. I am not making a very revolutionary recommendation. This question was gone into by the Tariff Commission in great detail and to my chagrin I find that the recommendations of bodies like the Tariff Commission go unattended to by Government. I had an opportunity of bringing this matter to the notice of the House some time back, but nothing seems to have happened. One of

the pertinent recommendations made by the Fiscal Commission was to consider this question of import duties on raw materials. In the Fiscal Commission's Report, quite a number of paragraphs have been devoted to the discussion of this question. They deal with the question of allowing import of raw materials duty-free and also with the difficulties that such a proposal may involve because it may be that a number of raw materials are currently being manufactured in the country itself. But even then, they suggest a number of alternatives and coming to compensatory action in regard to those items which are being manufactured in the country, they mention:

"the nature of the raw materials or stores produced;

the nature of additional burden likely to be imposed on the industries using the raw materials;

the proportion that the cost of raw materials or stores bears to the total cost of manufacture of the finished products;

the nature of the demand for the finished products; and

other connected considerations."

They were dealing here with subsidy to certain items of raw materials which are being produced in the country. But they also made a very strong plea for revising the tariff schedule as regards import duty on raw materials. I would humbly suggest to the Commerce and Industry Minister and also to the Finance Minister that this question must be gone into without any further delay, so that the competitive capacity of our industries in the home market as also in the export market is fully safeguarded. I had gone to attend the recent conference on GATT with my hon. friend Shri Karmarkar; both of us have come impressed with one idea, viz. that competition in the international market is going to increase. The emergence of Japan is a factor

which none of us can ignore. The emergence of Germany and the attempts that are being made even by countries like the U.S.A. and the U.K. to expand their exports deserve our serious attention. Therefore, it behoves our Government to take cognizance of these things and take necessary steps to see that the cost structure of our industry is not unnecessarily burdened particularly by the imposition of import duties on articles which go into the manufacture of things which are being consumed by the common people here, which are subject to competition from abroad and which we should export in a big way for the external market. Having said this, I once again say that this measure has not come a day too soon, and I congratulate the Finance Minister for bringing this measure before the House. I will end by making one final appeal, namely, that we must see to it that the provisions of this Bill are acted upon in a manner that will really be helpful to the industry and trade and not add one more headache to their various head-aches in the name of giving help to their export trade.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There has been sufficient discussion on this matter.

Dr. Krishnaswami (Kancheepuram)
rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to intervene at this stage, but let him please be brief.

Dr. Krishnaswami: I am not haunted by fears, either imaginary or real, like my friend who preceded me. I should like to speak on one or two important features of this Bill which have apparently escaped the attention even of the hon. Minister for Revenue and Expenditure. This amending Bill which has been introduced, marks a new stage in the economic evolution of our country. Why has it been necessary to introduce a new provision 43-B relating to drawback on imported materials used in the manufacture of goods which are exported? In 1878 when the Sea Customs Act

was passed, evidently we did not have any idea that we are going to export goods which are manufactured in our country, but today a new evolution has been reached in the economic progress of our country, and I am glad to find that we have introduced this Bill with a view to giving rebates on certain imported articles which go towards the making of the final manufactured commodities intended for export. Obviously in a measure of this sort, it is not possible, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, to specify the various items for which we are going to give rebates, but there is some substance in the contention that has been put forward by some of my colleagues on this side of the House that we ought to have from the Government a reasoned statement of the various grounds for the grant of rebates on certain commodities, which they think should be granted. I feel that if only we had a reasoned statement such as that which had been supplied in various other countries, it would help us considerably in supporting the Government whenever they grant such rebates. I think one of the important considerations which ought to be taken into account by Government in granting rebates on such manufactured commodities intended for export is the effect on the unemployment situation in the country. Speaking of unemployment, the main urge that has led to this new Bill being introduced is the anxiety of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to promote the export trade of our textile industry. I think it was about three weeks ago or thereabouts that the Minister of Commerce and Industry pointed out that we had reached practically the maximum stage in the production of our textile commodities and that unless and until we export both to internal and external markets, it would not be possible for us to have anything like progress in the textile industry. In fact, the recent ordinances that were issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry were all done with a view to preventing any degree of unemployment in the textile industry. I think it was made clear in

[Dr. Krishnaswami]

the second ordinance that was issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that it would be made more costly for the textile mills to retrench labour. Unless our export markets pick up and unless we have an internal market also developed, it would be next to impossible to keep the same number of people employed in our textile mills as we have been keeping until now.

Having said this, I should like to point out that export promotion is more difficult than export restriction. Government can easily restrict exports, but to promote exports requires a considerable degree of forethought and a considerable degree of enterprise. These drawbacks that are granted may not be quite sufficient to promote exports to any tangible extent, but undoubtedly if there are steps which do tend to promote textile exports, they ought to be welcomed. I feel, therefore, from that point of view and not from any other that we ought to welcome this measure. There are, of course, other commodities which can certainly be included, I believe, in the list of articles which are granted drawbacks, but the main consideration which ought to be borne in mind by the Government is—I think it is an important consideration—the amount of employment that we are going to have in this country and the increase in employment that we would have by granting such exemptions. After all, when we grant drawbacks, the Central exchequer will lose a certain amount of revenue. Any authority which grants drawbacks will, of course, have to take into account two considerations. Is the loss to the exchequer counterbalanced by an increase in the employment or by maintaining the employment in many of our industries? If that criterion is borne in mind and if drawbacks are granted on that criterion,—I do not say that that is the only criterion; there might be other criteria as well, but this is the main criterion—I think many of us would welcome such measures.

I have a bone to pick with the Government of India. When many of these measures are introduced and when some of these exemptions are granted, it is rarely that we obtain any information as to the grounds on which such exemptions are granted. Many of the rules that are formulated require a very trained mind to understand the purpose and the reasons for their having been implemented at a particular stage. I should wish the Government of India to go into this matter very carefully and formulate the reasons for any particular industry for which they are granting a drawback and make them clear to us so that we might be in a position to judge whether that particular industry deserves the drawback or not. My friend who preceded me referred to the need for having many imported articles liberalised and for having a definite set of rules evolved. There is going to be a meeting of the Import Advisory Committee some time next week and I hope that as soon as that meeting is over, the Minister of Commerce and Industry will come over to this House and give us not only a resume of what has taken place there—that we would also get from the papers—but also what exactly he feels about the suggestions that they have made and the policy that the Government intends implementing. I think that all these matters, particularly on matters pertaining to commerce and industry, we have to take a more detailed interest, especially as it affects the employment situation in our country. My friend, Shri Bansal, pointed out that there was a certain amount of increase in the manufactured goods for the purpose of export. I am not willing to take such a rosy view of the situation as he has depicted. I personally feel that we are in a very difficult position. In spite of the terms of trade having moved against us, we are not in the happy position in which we should have been, particularly as our imports have not increased tangibly and as there are other

difficulties which we have to take into account, so that from the points of view of increasing exports and also liberalising imports, we have to re-define our import and export policy anew. That would be straying into an entirely new field, which falls totally outside the purport of this Bill. As it is, Sir, I hope and trust that this Government, whenever it grants drawbacks to articles intended for export, will take us into its confidence and give us a detailed account of the reasons which have led them to grant such drawbacks. That, apart from obviating a great deal of misunderstanding in the public mind, would also be a clear indication to the customs officials who have come in for severe criticism at the hands of some of my friends, as to the policy that is being followed by the Government. I know that customs officials have necessarily to concentrate on a finding as much revenue as possible, but if it is placed before them that it is the Government's policy to surrender a portion of the revenue for the purpose of benefiting the economy of the country, I venture to think they would be more than willing to co-operate in making the Government's policy an absolute success.

Shri A. C. Guha: I feel this Bill has got rather a good reception in this House. The only dissentient was Shri Nanadas. He raised some points. I shall try to meet his objections, as far as possible.

The first point he tried to make was as to how this Bill would help the common man. We expect that by passing this Bill we shall be helping our industry, particularly our export trade. That will add to the national wealth and also open new opportunities for further employment and I hope the benefit will go to the common man to that extent. I cannot say that the common man will get any other benefit except through more employment and except through the general improvement in the national economic conditions.

Mr. Nanadas then referred to the existence of section 42, and wanted to

know why in spite of it we should have come forward with this amending Bill. Sir, in my preliminary speech I referred to the inadequacy of Section 42. Several other members also, particularly, Shri Gandhi and Shri Bansal referred to section 42 and pointed out how that section could not cover the necessity which this Bill sought to cover. Section 42 is for drawback for re-export, not for manufacturing, not for giving any benefit to manufactured articles on account of imported material used in the manufacture of that article. Particularly, the condition of identification is a very difficult one. A particular raw material may be processed in the course of manufacturing an article. It is very difficult to identify that particular raw material, which has paid the import duty, has been used in the manufacture of that article. So, section 42 is not adequate to give the relief which this Bill seeks to give.

Then Shri Nanadas also cast some doubts about the *bona fides* of the Government, as to their motives in passing this Bill. He feels that Government are anxious to help the textile magnates—he used a phrase, monopoly textile magnates. I do not know what he means by monopoly textile magnates. Surely, this Bill will help the textile industry and by helping the industry the labour as well as the industrialist will get some relief. There is no doubt that the industrialists will also get some relief. I think we can now claim that we have almost reached the target of our Five Year Plan as regards production of textile goods. Now the necessity is to have new markets for the textile goods. Textile goods are piling up in store houses; and unless we can find an export market, the industry will come to a standstill and naturally labour also will suffer.

Shri Nanadas also mentioned the case of the growers of cotton. He feels that Government has not been doing anything to grow more cotton in the country, or to become self-sufficient in cotton and that, by passing this Bill we shall encourage more import

[Shri A. C. Guha]

of foreign cotton and we shall ruin the cotton cultivator altogether. Perhaps, he is not aware that during the past four or five years the cotton production of this country has gone up by over one hundred per cent. I also feel that he is not aware of the definite programme that Government has for being self-sufficient in cotton, jute and also in foodgrains. This is what is known as the "Integrated Plan" for being self-sufficient in agricultural products. It has always been the anxiety of Government to be self-sufficient in cotton, not only in short staple cotton, but also in long staple cotton, so that we may not have the necessity of depending so much on imported cotton.

Then he said something about aluminium and in that connection said that stainless steel utensils are coming into competition with aluminium. Sir, aluminium sheets we import; so also stainless steel sheets. It is only from imported sheets that these utensils are manufactured. So we practically stand on the same footing, as regards both these industries. Recently we have been manufacturing some aluminium sheets, but not to a very considerable quantity.

Then he asked for a definition of the term "manufacture". That will be done in the rules. If he had taken care to read the Bill carefully he would have found that it is provided that all these things, the rate, the specification of the article, class and description of the article, everything is to be done through rules. Anything regulating the customs is done through rules. That is the procedure followed everywhere. In England the Board of Trade or the Treasury formulate certain rules and they classify certain articles and according to those rules the Act is implemented. Here also we shall frame rules and the rules will be pre-published and after getting public reactions, the rules will be finalised.

Most other members have welcomed this Bill. I should in this connection

refer to one or two remarks made by my hon. friend Mr. Gurupadaswamy. He mentioned something about our purchasing capacity,—that our purchasing capacity has gone down and has not kept pace with our production. I think this Bill may help to increase the purchasing capacity of the people. Then he said that the export policy of this country is in the hands of a few individuals. I think it is not quite correct. I may say that he is entirely wrong to have such a misapprehension about the export and import policy of this country. Government have got export and import advisory committees with which some Members of Parliament and some public men are associated and Government are always watching the export and import of the country. So it is not at all true to say that the export policy is in the hands of a few individuals. Whenever Mr. Gurupadaswamy feels that the export policy has not been properly worked, he may bring such cases to the notice of the Minister in Charge and I am sure the Minister of Commerce and Industry will surely look into those things.

Shri Gandhi has mentioned that through this Bill the Government are trying to take more powers than is really necessary. I think the Government is not actually taking any power at all. The power with which this Bill is to be worked will be according to some rules to be framed. And while framing the rules the commercial bodies will be consulted. That is why we are providing that they will first be published, the public reactions will be considered and then the rules will be finalised. I think the business community will get enough opportunity to influence the Government when these rules are finalised, and so it is not quite correct to say that the Government are taking more power than is actually necessary.

Shri Nanadas and Shri Gandhi also mentioned about the loss of revenue. It is very difficult to give any definite amount. I think it may be near about Rs. 3 crores, or something like that annually. But I may agree with

Shri Gandhi that ultimately it may not be a real loss. For what we may be giving in one hand, I think, we may be able to take by another hand. If we lose something by way of drawbacks we may gain something on some other items. At least we expect that we shall get almost the same amount of revenue in some other item, say, income-tax or export duty or import duty or through other channels. Anyhow, on this particular head the loss of revenue may be near about Rs. 3 crores, or a little more or a little less, and the House may have to pass this session a small supplementary demand to cover the expenses that will be entailed on account of this Bill.

Dr. Krishnaswami has referred to the employment situation. I think I have already mentioned that this Bill is likely to improve the employment situation and is likely to give wider scope for employment. As we all know, unemployment is a serious problem now and we may hope that this Bill will lend some help to the solution of that problem.

Some Members have mentioned something about Customs Officials. I think the Central Board of Revenue and the Customs Department must have taken note of the compliments which the two Members have given to them and I think they will take every step to remove all misapprehension from the mind of the public that the Customs Department is a source of trouble to the public. I wish to assure the House that we shall take every step, whenever any case is brought to our notice, of any unnecessary harassment to any individual or to the business community, we shall do everything that is possible to relieve the public inconvenience. But at the same time, Sir, I would like to say that the Customs Department being a revenue-collecting department must appear to the public to be irksome and harassing. I think it is inevitable for them to appear in that role. Provided that is borne in mind, we shall see that any unnecessary harassment is not caused to the public or to the business community.

I can assure the House that the Department will surely try to work this Bill in the right spirit for which it is intended and we expect that this will give great relief to our industry and will foster the export trade of the country and will add to the general prosperity of the nation and, as Mr. Nanadas has asked for, will give relief to the common man.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2.— (Insertion of new section 43B etc.)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Nanadas. Is he moving any amendment?

Shri Nanadas: Yes, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: I have an amendment to move in clause 2.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has notice been given?

Shri A. C. Guha: Yes, Sir. Notice was given in the name of Shri M. C. Shah. Today, I have sent notice in my name.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: First of all, I shall call the Government amendment and then, I will come to the other amendments.

Shri A. C. Guha: I beg to move:

In page 1, line 21, after "may" insert:

"subject to the condition of previous publication".

I have already stated that these rules should be finalised after consulting the business community and the general public. So, these rules will be published first, then the public reactions will be considered and then the rules will be finalised.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 1, line 21, after "may"

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

insert:

"subject to the condition of previous publication."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Nanadas: I beg to move:

In page 1, line 9, after "description" insert:

"which are surplus to the needs of the people in India and which are".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why not take up all the amendments together?

Shri Nanadas: I beg to move:

In page 1, line 13, after "any" insert "raw".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: And No. 6 also?

Shri Nanadas: Yes, Sir. I beg to move:

In page 2, after line 35, insert:

"(4) All notifications issued and the rules framed under this Act shall be placed on the Table of the House of the People."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already spoken at length on the first two amendments. The only other thing is in respect of notifications. Let him say something regarding that.

Shri Nanadas: In this Bill, the Government have not given the schedule of the raw materials and also the rates at which rebates will be allowed. The Government want us to sign a blank cheque and hand it over to them to use as they wish. Therefore, I say that all the notifications giving rebates on any particular raw material and the rules framed under this Act fixing the rates of rebates should be placed on the Table of the House so that this House may have an opportunity to discuss them whenever necessary. Therefore, I have moved my third amendment and I ask the House to adopt it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendments moved:

(1) In page 1, line 9, after "description" insert:

"which are surplus to the needs of the people in India and which are".

(2) In page 1, line 13, after "any" insert "raw".

(3) In page 2, after line 35, insert:

"(4) All notifications issued and the rules framed under this Act shall be placed on the Table of the House of the People."

The hon. Minister may have no objection to this.

Shri A. C. Guha: On principle we have no objection, but there is some difficulty. Under the Sea Customs Act, the Central Board of Revenue have to publish so many rules and regulations. The other rules and regulations will not be placed on the Table of the House. Why single out only this thing?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are of some importance. Each item will have to be discussed at length, whether that particular item deserves rebate and the quantum of rebate and so on.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The amendment seeks to say ".....under this Act". That means that it is an amendment to the Act to say that all rules under the Sea Customs Act will have to be placed on the Table of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It may be said, "under this clause".

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It says, all notifications under this Act.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think it is inadvertence. To read this amendment as implying all notifications under the Sea Customs Act is not within the scope of this Bill. Therefore, he means only that it must apply to section 43B.

Shri Nanadas: I meant only section 43B.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think he has any objection to amend it in this way.

Shri Nanadas: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only for information. What is the objection?

Shri A. C. Guha: There should be a slight modification before we can accept it. The amendment says that the rules have to be placed only on the Table of the House of the People, but I think they should be placed before both the Houses. With this modification we can accept it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has not even said within what time, and has given absolute latitude to the Government.

Shri A. C. Guha: We may also add "as soon as may be". So, the amendment will now read:

"All notifications issued and rules made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be, on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:
In page 2, after line 35, insert:

"(4) All notifications issued and rules made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be, on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is Mr. Nanadas pressing his other amendments? Need I put them to the vote?

Shri Nanadas: Yes. I am pressing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 1, line 9, after "description" insert:

"which are surplus to the needs of the people in India and which are".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 1, line 13, after "any" insert "raw".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3.—(Insertion of new section—100A etc.)

Shri Nanadas: If the goods in bonded warehouses are allowed in the manufacturing process, then many people will have to work in the bonded warehouses which will not fulfil the conditions of the Factories Act. It will not have sufficient ventilation and other facilities. So I want that where the manufacturing process is allowed in the warehouses they should fulfil the conditions laid down in the Factories Act of 1948.

I beg to move:

In page 2, after line 44, insert:

"Provided that the warehouse fulfils the conditions laid down in the Factories Act, 1948 (No. LXIII of 1948)."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would it not automatically apply?

Shri A. C. Guha: For some industries it may automatically apply, but some industries may not come under the Factories Act rules. These things will be controlled by the Customs authorities, and they will frame the rules. While framing the rules they will certainly take notice of this and will take sufficient precaution so that the interests of the labourers may be safeguarded.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I only wanted information on this matter for the

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

benefit of the House. The Factories Act is independent of this. The Factories Act applies where 20 persons are engaged or even ten persons, where power is used and so on.

Shri A. C. Guha: But, under the Factories Act, certain installations are excluded. Such things cannot be included by a Clause in the Sea Customs Act.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think that is the intention of his amendment. He only wants that by merely being called a warehouse under this particular law, the Sea Customs Act, they ought not to escape the provisions in cases where the Factories Act would otherwise apply. I do not think this amendment is necessary at all.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Government also feel that it is not necessary?

Shri A. C. Guha: This amendment is not necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member pressing it?

Shri Nanadas: In view of the assurances given by the hon. Minister that the Customs Officials will look into the welfare of the labour engaged in warehouses, I am not pressing it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I seek one small clarification, Sir? Do Government envisage the likelihood of less than 20 people being employed in these warehouses for purposes of manufacture?

Shri A. C. Guha: May be, it is very difficult to say. I know of one instance where some chemicals have been brought and kept in a warehouse, and they are being taken from there; I do not think for that particular purpose, more than 20 people are working there.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): May I put one question, Sir? Are Government aware that because there is a dispute between the sea customs authorities, and the labour authorities, many of the issues which

are pending before these two authorities are still lying without any solution at all?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Where? In the whole of India generally, or in the whole world?

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: In Bombay for instance, many of the issues are in dispute between the Sea Customs Department and the Labour Department, so much so, the issues are never settled; there are no proper rules as yet made, and the sea customs authorities are not allowed to frame rules for the normal working.

Shri A. C. Guha: If the hon. Member brings these things to our notice, surely we shall look into them, and take proper action.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): May I know whether the Factories Act would not apply?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It will apply.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If it applies, then the amendment is not necessary.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position is this. Under section 100A of the Sea Customs Act, the Customs Authority is supreme to the extent that any provision of the Factories Act derogates from their authority. That is the provision in Section 100A of the Sea Customs Act, which relates to bonded warehouses. Because certain additional precautions are necessary in their case, the Factories Act will normally not apply where it is in conflict with the provisions of Section 100A. But it stands to reason that all the reasonable provisions of the Factories Act, in so far as it relates to the welfare of labour, must apply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That means it will be an additional safeguard, and not be derogatory to the wholesome provisions. The human material is more important any day than any manufactured article.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It does not concern that aspect of it at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think there will be any cause for any such complaint, but all care will be taken. That is the assurance given by Government.

As there are no amendments to clauses 3 and 4, I shall put them together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"Clauses 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

New Clause 5

Amendment made:

In page 3, after line 44, add:

"5. Repeal of Ordinance 3 of 1953.—(1) The Sea Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953 (3 of 1953) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken in the exercise of any power conferred by or under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken in the exercise of the power conferred by or under this Act, as if this Act were in force on the day on which such things were done or action was taken."

—[*Shri A. C. Guha.*]

New Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

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

Shri A. C. Guha: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

I think I should clear up one thing which has been mentioned by Mr. Bansal, about the rules not yet being framed under the Ordinance. In any case Sir, if this Bill is passed today, it would take about three weeks' time to finalise the rules. The latest position is that the rules have just

been finalised and I expect they will be issued tomorrow.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central): Very good.

Shri A. C. Guha: When this Bill is passed, it will go to the Upper House and then to the President for assent. So it will take some time more. But I think tomorrow the rules may be issued. We expected that the rules might have been issued earlier, but there was some inter-departmental correspondence. Anyhow, it has been delayed only 18 or 20 days. I hope this small delay will not be taken objection to. I commend this Bill now before the House for acceptance.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I do not wish to tire the House at this stage and I propose to be very brief. But I intervene in this discussion because I feel I am not happy with the measure as it is formulated and as it is, I am sure, going to be passed in a very few minutes.

I have listened with as much attention as I could muster to the arguments made on the other side, but some of the misgivings with which I had started my approach to this Bill still remain, and that is why, Sir, I wish to make a few observations. I want to make it very clear that as far as the objective of this Bill is concerned, the stepping of our export trade, we are at one with the Government, but we feel at the same time that the over-all interests of the country should be the primary consideration, and we have our suspicion that in regard to certain matters which have arisen out of this legislation, the over-all interests of the people of this country have not been given that amount of consideration which they should have got.

Now, Sir, we want, first of all, improvement in our production and in our internal consumption. And from abroad, of course, we need, most of all, capital goods and only the most

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

essential raw materials, and not necessarily for purposes of export. That is why I wanted a very much more careful scrutiny of the proposals made in this legislation. I am not very sure that we are going to have only the minimum amount of the most essential raw materials which we have got to bring to this country in order that our over-all economic life might be improved, and that is why, Sir, I do have my misgivings. Let us step up our exports by all means, but let us not forget the interests and the economy of our country—the interests of the consumer, the interests of industrial development of our country. Now, Sir, we have no basic industries. If we need anything from abroad more than anything else, it is capital goods. As far as this Bill is concerned, it does not touch that aspect of the matter. This Bill, I fear, even militates against the growth of a really independent Indian industry. I am really sorry to have to say it, because I wish I could say that the Government is trying to see that our industry is put on its feet. Take the textile industry, for example, Sir, I have got the report of the Working Party for the cotton textile industry which was headed by Shri A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, and in this report there are very definite indications—I think that some extracts were read out in this House—which show how the production of cotton, in spite of what Mr. Guha has said, has not been encouraged to the extent it might have been. Now, Sir, this sort of thing is going on, and if we have an opportunity, if we have a licence under the law to bring from abroad raw materials for fashioning them into some kind of finished products and sending abroad, then in regard to certain industries which ought to be self-sufficient and completely independent from A to Z, there might be the temptation—there will be the temptation—for our having to depend upon these imports. Besides reference has also been made to certain foreign interests, Sir, and I do not think the answer which was sought to be given by my friend, Mr. Bansal was at all satis-

factory. I do not understand, Sir, how our industrialists can feel very happy about the infiltration—perhaps a stronger word ought to be used—of these foreign interests in our country. There are these oil refineries; crude oil is coming in and after refining, the oil is going to be sent out. All that is going to fatten the already fat pockets of foreign capitalists. I do not understand why we should go on helping them. I tried to note down certain of the items mentioned by Mr. Guha. He referred to cycles, typewriters, automobiles, calculators and so on and so forth. As far as typewriters are concerned, I saw in the papers the other day that the Remington Typewriter Company has got a new licence. This Remington Co., people are going to get an advantage out of this. The answer to that from the other side is that there would be employment, more labour would be occupied; incidental activities would mean employment of a few professional people and so on and so forth. But is that the perspective in which for this period of the Plan we are thinking of our industrial development? Are we going to allow especially these foreign interests to take advantage of this kind of legislation and to fatten themselves? They are already fat enough. That being so, extra profits are being permitted to be made by these interests. I do not see how we could be very happy about it. I want to make it clear once again that as far as genuine encouragement of our export trade is concerned, that should be by methods which are completely *bona fide* and which redound to the economy of our country and the consumption needs of the people of our country. We are certainly prepared to assist Government, but, as far as this particular Bill is concerned, in spite of the arguments advanced from the other side, I feel I am not very happy at the way in which the Government has proceeded with this legislation. I tried to indicate my misgivings at the beginning of this discussion. I am afraid, Sir, my misgivings have not been entirely eliminated which is why I cannot welcome this measure

in the form in which, I am afraid, it is going to be passed in a very few minutes.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I submit a word, Sir. I have heard the speech of Shri H. N. Mukerjee. I am very sorry that he has made certain statements about the lessening of the cultivation of cotton etc., or that the growing of cotton will to an extent be minimised. That was the remark made by Mr. Nanadas also. I am a member of the Central Cotton Committee and I can submit for the consideration of the House that so far as cultivation of cotton is concerned, we have made very good strides. In the Punjab we have passed an Act whereby only long-staple cotton can be grown in the Punjab. At the same time, in the whole country, so far as the growing of cotton is concerned, we have reached the mark which the Five Year Plan just indicated for us. Though last year the progress was not very great, still we are progressing very rapidly. This apprehension that this Bill will tend towards the minimising of the cotton cultivation etc. is certainly unfounded.

I think, so far as this Bill is concerned, it is going to step up our export trade. About the other fear that has been expressed, I cannot say anything. At the same time, Mr. Guha made out a case while he was speaking on the first motion. He made it clear that so far as these industries are concerned, the Government will take care to see that the trade of foreigners is not increased and we are not handicapped. I should think, Sir, that with the proper exercise of discretion, it will only lead to the prosperity of the people and better employment of our labour. I am sorry that Mr. Mukerjee's doubts have not been dispelled. I do not see any apprehension of that sort. He is over suspicious in this matter and I think many people on this side of the House have got no suspicions and we whole-heartedly support this measure.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: I must congratulate Mr. Guha and the industrialists of this country—if for nothing else—for the imagination displayed in

bringing forward this measure. That we have been thinking on the lines of exporting goods from this country is indeed a clear indication of the fact that the progress of industrialisation occupies a prominent place in the mind of the authorities of the Government. Let me, however, point out to this House and to you, Sir, and also to the hon. Minister that export is not a very easy thing and it does not happen by a magic wand either. I have no doubt that friends on the Government benches are aware of what it has meant, what time it has taken, what subsidy has been given by Governments in order that their country's goods may be sold in foreign markets. When I heard the debate on the Bill—and also read some portions of it—I was reminded of a story which I will share with you, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: At 6-30?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: It will not take more than five seconds. It is short and interesting. There was a person taking a pot of curd to the market to sell it. He thought, "What shall I do with the money when I sell the curd"? He said to himself, "I will buy a goat". Then he thought, "What shall I do when the goat breeds"? He said to himself again, "I will sell the goat and its kids and buy a horse". Then he thought, "What shall I do with the horse"? He said to himself, "I shall ride the horse like this", and in displaying his intention to ride the horse the pot of curd was thrown on the street and the curd was spilt on the road. (*An Hon. Member:* Whose pot?) That will have to be decided by a tribunal. I am afraid that if this question of importing goods for the purposes of export is not very carefully and very tactfully handled, the result might be that we may have more imports—of that, we may be certain—but we may have no exports because we have not cultivated foreign markets. Government will therefore be well advised first of all to ascertain the trend of the markets. We have our trade agents in most countries. Let us ascertain what is the position of the market in those countries. After all, let us not forget that we shall have to

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face very severe competition with industrialists who have been in this trade in those countries for a very long time. In saying what I have done, I have no desire to minimise the importance of the Bill that has been brought before the House, and as I said, I appreciate the imagination of the Government and the desire for increasing the industrial output of this country. But I do submit that before launching on this scheme, we must give very careful thought to the aspect which I have pointed out.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is only one matter that I would like to mention in reply to the hon. Deputy Leader of the Communist Party. He has referred to the report of the Textile Working Party. I do not know which portion of it he has taken: probably, it suited him to quote from that portion. The real fact happens to be that our production of textiles is much in excess of our cotton production; so we have to import some cotton. We are undoubtedly trying to expand our cotton production. In fact, we are expanding it and barring accidents which develop because of seasons, this year I expect that our cotton production will be a record production. It is unofficially estimated to be 42 lakhs of bales. It may be that, or it may be 40 lakh bales, even in which case it will be 6 lakh bales more than what it was last year. We are trying within the conditions permissible to grow long staple cotton also, and as my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava mentioned, Punjab is doing it and some parts of South India are doing it. Maybe, if we have the Sabarmati Scheme, more long staple cotton will be grown round about the Ahmedabad area. Nevertheless, we shall have to depend upon import of long staple cotton for a long time to come so long as we manufacture about 5,000 million yards of cloth. But I can see no harm in our importing cotton and exporting it later, giving a rebate to the textile mills and employing more labour. So far as other things are concerned, they

are comparatively small. We are not envisaging any very big debates to be given in respect of other commodities. Then this question of foreign interests bringing in crude oil, refining it and exporting it—maybe that they might accept it for local consumption. Suppose they accept, what is wrong? Whose money goes? This kind of twisting of economics round and round somebody's neck in order to prove a political slogan does not carry conviction. If one is not convinced today and will not be convinced tomorrow or the day after or for many years to come, it means that he is determined not to be convinced. I am afraid we could not carry conviction to those people who will never be convinced.

Shri A. C. Guha: I shall only take two minutes, not more than that. **Shri Mukerjee** may have made a mistake in understanding what I said. I did not mention 'typewriter', but I mentioned 'typewriter ribbon'.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): There is not much difference.

Shri A. C. Guha: Any firm, I mean foreign firm, working in this country will have to work under this general policy and no particular apprehension need be felt about the foreign firms. Two Members mentioned that this may lead to more import of foreign articles. They should remember that under the Import Control Regulations, every article is controlled and a permit is required before an article can be imported. There need not be any apprehension on that score also.

I thank the Members and hope that the Bill will be passed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The House then adjourned till Half Past One of the Clock on Wednesday, the 18th November, 1953.