

Volume III - IV

No. 4



Friday

7th August, 1953

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

### OFFICIAL REPORT

(Vol. III contains Nos. 1—25)

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(Part I—Questions and Answers)

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

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 7th August, 1953

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RAILWAY COLLIERIES

\*242. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of profit or loss per year since 1950 in the working of the Railway Collieries;

(b) what are the recommendations of the Railway Collieries Inquiry Committee; and

(c) whether the recommendations have been accepted or not?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 1950-51 9.4 per cent. (loss) of capital outlay. 1951-52 1.5 per cent. (profit) of capital outlay. The information regarding 1952-53 is not yet available.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the recommendations and action taken thereon is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 1.]

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know what steps are being taken by the Government so that this loss may be turned into a profit?

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**Shri Alagesan:** Now it is running at a profit. For the first time, last year it produced a profit.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know what are the difficulties in the way of implementation of the recommendations of the Comptroller and Auditor General in connection with stricter control on accounts?

**Shri Alagesan:** Does it relate to any of the items placed on the Table of the House?

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Yes; last item.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Was the Comptroller and Auditor General on the Railway Collieries Enquiry Committee?

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** The Comptroller and Auditor General has recommended certain measures for stricter control of the collieries. It is stated at the end, in the last para. of the statement.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** These recommendations refer to the Collieries Enquiry Committee.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Yes.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How does the Auditor General come in?

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** He has also made certain recommendations. It has been stated by the Minister in the statement that this matter will be taken up after the ownership of the collieries is finally transferred to the Ministry of Production. I want to know what are the difficulties in implementing the recommendations before the ownership is transferred to the Ministry of production.



**Shri Alagesan:** If the hon. Member is referring to the very last item, it is mentioned in the statement itself that a detailed report has been received from the Coal Commissioner and is under consideration of Finance in consultation with the Controller of Coal Accounts.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** If it is not possible to state the difficulties now, the hon. Minister may please give the information later.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He has stated that the matter is under consideration; no difficulties at this stage. Next question.

#### INDIAN CENTRAL JUTE COMMITTEE

\*243. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the existing arrangements for financing the Indian Central Jute Committee;

(b) whether any change in the existing financing arrangement of the Committee is contemplated by Government; and

(c) the reasons for not bringing into effect the financing arrangement of the Indian Central Jute Committee by the imposition of a cess for this purpose only?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) The Indian Central Jute Committee is financed by a grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum from the Government of India.

(b) and (c). The question of levying a cess on jute for financing the Indian Central Jute Committee has been considered by the Government of India from time to time, the last time being 1952 and it was felt that the jute industry could not bear any further taxation. However, the matter is being examined by the Estimates Committee and Government will review the position when the Estimates Committee's report is available.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether it is a fact that the plans and programmes of the Central Jute Committee for increasing the production of jute in the country are suffering a set back for want of adequate funds?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No specific complaint has been brought to my notice so far, Sir. It is quite likely that like every Committee this committee also wants to expand its work.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether, in view of the slump in the jute goods market and the brighter prospects of getting Pakistani jute to the Indian mills, Government have relaxed the execution of the plans and programmes for increasing jute cultivation, and contemplate to allot less money for that?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I do not think that the inference is correct, nor the premises. I do not think it is correct to assume so many things as my friend appears to do.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know the principles that govern the constitution of the Central Jute Committee?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is constituted under a Resolution which was promulgated on the 20th May, 1936.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether all the interests—specially of growers—are represented, and whether the representation is by nomination or election?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The growers as well as all other interests are represented: I am in a position to say that. It is by nomination. We consult the State Governments who have been given this representation. Government is investigating the possibilities of giving representation to well organised associations and non-official bodies of growers.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** In view of the fact that the price of jute has come down below the economic level, may I know what steps Government propose to take so that the cultivators may have a

margin of profit to cultivate jute profitably?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Is it not beyond the scope of this question?

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the Central Jute Research Institute is being financed by the Indian Central Jute Committee or by the I.C.A.R.?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I think my hon. friend knows it better. He has, probably, been a Member of that Committee.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** I do not know.

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

#### FEES TO OFFICIAL TRUSTEES

\*244. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the practice of paying fees to the *ex-officio* and official Trustees for attending the Trust meetings at the ports of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta has been discontinued?

(b) If so, what savings have been effected so far?

(c) Do the *ex-officio* Trustees attend the meetings regularly?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes, with effect from the 1st January 1953.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Government have received no complaints on the score of non-attendance of *ex-officio* trustees as the result of the discontinuance of fees and it is too early yet to form any definite conclusions from the statistics of attendance available.

#### STATEMENT

The saving effected has been as follows:

Calcutta	Rs. 2,340/- up to 31-5-53
Bombay	Rs. 2,310/- up to 30-6-53
Madras	Rs. 480/- up to 30-6-53

#### SAVINGS FROM MAJOR PORTS

\*245. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there have been considerable savings from the working of the Calcutta Port Trust during the year 1952-53?

(b) If so, what amount?

(c) Have there been similar savings at Bombay and Madras ports?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). The accounts of the Calcutta Port Commissioners for the year 1952-53 show a surplus of Rs. 36.9 lakhs.

(c) The Bombay and Madras Port Trusts have also shown surpluses during the year 1952-53.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know what is the surplus in the Cochin port as against the expenditure?

**Shri Alagesan:** I, just now, do not have the figures. I can supply the information to the hon. Member.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** What are the surpluses in Bombay and Madras?

**Shri Alagesan:** Bombay: 12.15 lakhs; Madras: 46.07 lakhs.

**Shri M. D. Joshi:** What amenities have Government provided in making use of these surpluses so far as the Bombay port is concerned?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not understand what the hon. Member means by amenities.

**Shri M. D. Joshi:** Amenities to passengers, etc.

**Shri Alagesan:** I should like to have notice of the question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question. Hon. Members should think of supplementary questions in advance.

#### DISPUTE BETWEEN BOMBAY PORT TRUST AND BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

\*246. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there was a dispute between the Port Trust

and the Bombay Municipal Corporation regarding the assessment of the Trust's properties for municipal taxes?

(b) What steps did Government take to settle this dispute?

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

(b) Government appointed Shri N. S. Lokur, President, Railway Rates Tribunal, to undertake an expert examination of the points of dispute between the parties and to advise Government with regard to the fixation of the rateable value of the Port Trust property for purposes of Municipal taxation as required by sec. 36 of the Bombay Port Trust Act. The findings and suggestions of Shri Lokur have been generally accepted by the Government of India and the parties were asked to intimate to Government an agreed amount as to the rateable value of the Port Trust properties for purposes of municipal taxation for the quinquennium 1944—49 in accordance with decisions of Government. Their reply is awaited.

#### JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

**\*247. Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under Japanese method of rice cultivation, State-wise; and

(b) the number of holders of less than five acres who have taken to the Japanese method?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 2.]

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know how this experiment in the Japanese method of cultivation is done—through Government agencies or through individual cultivators?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is divided into two parts. There are some places

where under Government supervision it is done on Government farms. But, by far the larger number is demonstration plots in private cultivators' fields.

**श्री हेडा :** समय समय पर जो रिपोर्टें गवर्नमेंट के पास इस सम्बन्ध में आती हैं उस लिहाज से वह कौन कौन सी स्टेट्स हैं जहां जो टारगेट मुकदरर किया गया था उस लिहाज से काफ़ी प्रगच्छा काम हो रहा है ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** जो स्टेटमेंट टेबिल पर रखा गया है वह देखा जाय तो मालूम होगा कि मद्रास में और हैदराबाद में बहुत प्रगच्छा काम होने की गुंजाइश दिखती है ।

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह :** यह जो खेती करने का जापानी तरीका है उसका पूरा पूरा वर्णन देने की क्या मन्त्री महोदय कृपा करेंगे ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** बहुत बहुत इस की कृपा कर चुके हैं ।

**Shri Shivanantappa:** May I know the total quantity of seed and total area saved to the Country?

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

**सेठ गोबिन्द दास :** जो जापानी पद्धति से धान या चावल बोया जाता है उस पर और जो इस से पहिले हमारे तरीके पर बोया जाता था उस पर जो खर्चा होता है उस में क्या अन्तर है ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** खर्चा तो बहुत ज्यादा है । लेकिन जो लोग प्रगच्छी तरह अपने देशी तरीके या पद्धति से भी बोया करते थे उन को भी ज्यादा खर्चा आता था ।

**Prof. D. C. Sharma:** May I know, Sir, if an attempt is being made to pre-

duce rice by an Indian method in place of the Japanese method which will be more in consonance with the needs of our own agriculturists?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** If the hon. Member had taken the trouble, he would have found that we have not insisted upon the Japanese method everywhere. Wherever the Indian method is superior to or is as good as the Japanese method, we have no intention to interfere.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know, Sir, what kind of help or assistance is given to these cultivators who have taken up this method of cultivation?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We are giving them the fertilisers they need. In most places seed is also being given in the same way without insisting on payment immediately. Payment will be received after the crops have been raised and harvested.

**Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** May I know how the yield raised by the Japanese method compares with local methods where they are being employed now?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** In many places the local method adopts only a part of the Japanese method and I can say safely that if all the items in the Japanese method are followed, there will be a significant increase in the yield even then.

**Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Are there now comparative figures?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** They differ from State to State.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether, since this system was introduced, it has been tried in Travancore-Cochin State?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is yet to be tried. I know that Travancore-Cochin cultivators are very good cultivators and they produce on an average very good yields. The results are awaited.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Has the hon. Member any statistics with re-

gard to cultivation of paddy in Travancore-Cochin State?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir, we have some.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know how this Japanese method of cultivation compares with that which is carried on in Tanjore District?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There are very many good Indian cultivators who had produced good results but unfortunately this has not been on as large a scale as we desire.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I enquire whether in spite of the mounting stock of fertilizers is the Sindhri Factory people who resort to the Japanese method find it difficult to get the necessary fertilisers owing to defects in distribution?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We are trying our best to see that the defects in distribution are removed. I am also aware of some defects.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जापानी मैन्युअल जो है वह गरीब लोगों के लिये अच्छा नहीं है। इस में बहुत खर्चा होता है। इस वास्ते गरीब लोगों के लिये मदद देने को गवर्नमेंट क्या कर रही है ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : उसी कारण से वे लोग गरीब हैं।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member is giving information and not putting a question.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : मैं सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ कि इस के लिये गवर्नमेंट के पास क्या सबूत है कि इस से गरीब लोगों की मदद हो सकती है ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : बहुत मदद होती है।

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Has it come to the notice of the Government

that this Japanese method of rice cultivation is already in existence in certain parts of Mysore and what is the reason for giving this name 'Japanese'?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is wrong to say that in any part of India all the items in the Japanese methods were being practised but I know there are certain items being employed in parts.

**Shri Heda:** Have the Government given an assurance that they would inspect the area under Japanese method of rice cultivation and give their advice to the cultivators from time to time?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We have got our publicity campaign and it was our intention to broadcast as much information as possible and advise the cultivators.

#### COMPENSATION TO AIR TRANSPORT COMPANIES

\*248. **Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total amount paid as compensation to different Air Transport Companies by the two Air Corporations?

(b) What is the highest and lowest compensation paid for a Dakota type of aeroplane?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No compensation has yet been paid to any airline.

(b) It is not possible to give this information until compensation has been finally determined according to the provisions of the Air Corporations Act.

**श्री हेडा :** क्या मंत्री महोदय बता सकेंगे कि किस समय तक यह जो इस तरह से कमनसेशन या जो कुछ भी देना है उस का निर्धारण किया जायगा ?

**श्री राजबहादुर :** अभी जो कुछ इन की सम्पत्ति है और जो कुछ इन का कर्जा है, उस का मूल्यांकन किया जा रहा है और जैसे ही यह समाप्त होगा और विशेषज्ञों

की टीम इन सब बातों की जांच कर सकेगी, उस वक्त इन का मूल्य निर्धारण किया जायगा ।

**श्री हेडा :** मैं समय पूछ रहा था, कितना समय इस में लगेगा ?

**श्री राज बहादुर :** मैं कोई निश्चित समय नहीं बता सकता । सम्भव है कि छः महीने लग जायें ।

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Is it a fact that the stores of Air India have not been taken over?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Sir, according to our knowledge all the stores have been taken over on the appointed date along with the assets.

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** Kindly give an indication of the basis of assessment.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That basis has been provided in the provisions of the Act.

#### SUPPLY OF MEAT TINS IN SCARCITY AREAS

\*249. **Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of meat tins received from Bucharest through the Indian Red Cross for distribution in the famine-stricken areas of the country?

(b) How many of the above were allotted for distribution in Rayalseema areas?

(c) What machinery is in operation to ensure that these meat tins are properly distributed to the famine-stricken areas of the country generally, and Rayalseema particularly?

(d) Have any instances of irregular distribution, or non-distribution of these meat tins been brought to the notice of Government?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what action have Government taken on this, and how

have they ensured that proper distribution to famine-stricken people is made?

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

(a) The Indian Red Cross Society have not received any gift of meat tins from Bucharest for distribution in the scarcity-stricken areas.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

**Shri Eswara Reddy:** Are the Government aware of the fact that a world federation of democratic countries from Bucharest sent meat tins?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** That is not from Bucharest. It is from Budapest which is in Hungary.

#### CHLOROPHYLL

**\*250. Shri Eswara Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the categorical rejection of the claims for Chlorophyll as a deodorant by the chemical and clinical trials in Britain and U.S. by eminent scientists;

(b) whether Government intend to take steps to prevent false advertising in this country in the name of the high qualities of Chlorophyll; and

(c) whether Government are prepared to publish the results of the researches conducted in the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun so that they can be verified by other scientists of our country?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Numerous articles on chlorophyll as a deodorant have appeared in journals such as the British Medical Journal and the Journal of American Medical Society, Pharmaceutical Journal etc., giving expressions to opinions both in favour of and against.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A list of papers published by the Institute is placed on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

A list of Papers published by Drs. S. V. Puntambekar and P. Ramachandra Rao of the Forest Research Institute, Dera Dun.

(1) A note on the Extraction of Chlorophyll Pigment for colouration of Hydrogenated fats published in the Indian Forester, December 1951 (Vol. 77 No. 12).

(2) A note on the preparation and uses of Copper Chlorophyll published in the Indian Forester, February 1953 (Vol. 79 No. 2)

(3) Chlorophyll for colouration of Vanaspati, published in the Indian Forester, December 1952 (Vol. 78 No. 12).

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the research on chlorophyll done at Dehra Dun has given any effect in the colouration of Vanaspati?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is being investigated.

#### IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS FROM AUSTRALIA

**\*251. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat and wheat flour which has so far been imported from Australia during the year 1953; and

(b) the total price paid for that?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) The total quantity of wheat and wheat flour imported from Australia during period 1st January, 1953 to 31st July, 1953 is as follows:

(Figures in '000 tons)	
Wheat	292.9
Wheat Flour	54.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>347.0</b>

(b) About Rs. 14 crores.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** How much wheat and wheat flour do Government

propose to buy this year from Australia?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We have already purchased what we wanted to purchase. That comes to 347,000 tons.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** What is the average under this head for the last five years approximately?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** From Australia?

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** Yes, under the head of wheat and wheat products from Australia, or, if that not be available, from foreign countries.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The hon. Member wants the cost or total quantity?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The quantity on average.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The quantity I can give for Australia for five or six years.

1946	385,000 tons.
1947	168,000 tons.
1948	633,000 tons.
1949	762,000 tons.
1950	770,000 tons.
1951	192,000 tons.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** Have Government thought of any method of getting wheat from such uneconomic holdings as are not yet profitable in India itself?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We are going away from the subject. This is from Australia. Many things can be done in India. How does that come in? I must call another hon. Member.

**Shri Kelappan:** How does the price of the imported wheat compare with that of the Indian wheat?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Though the landing cost will be a little bit more than the indigenous price, the actual cost we pay there in the country of origin will be less than that of the Indian wheat.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know, in view of the increase of price of imported wheat, was the price of last year from Australia less than this year's?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The price till the end of this year, i.e., up to the end of July, was the same as last year. What price we have to pay next year has yet to be decided, because it will depend upon the price in the open market.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May we know, then, why the price has gone up in rations?

**Shri Kidwai:** Nobody says the price has gone up because in the open market itself the price paid came to what was last year, and if it again occurs at the time of purchasing, then we will not have to pay any higher price.

#### LOANS FOR PURCHASE OF FERTILISERS

**\*252. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have given any loan to any State Government for the purchase and distribution of fertilizers during the year 1953:

(b) if so, to which State Governments; and

(c) the total amount of loan given to them?

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

(b) and (c). A statement showing the required information is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix II, annexure No. 3.]

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know on what basis the loans have been granted to the State Governments, and whether the State Governments which have been granted loans are distributing the fertilizer on a uniform basis to the cultivators?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The loans are advanced according to requirements

and the possible consumption of fertilizers that was fixed by negotiation between each particular State and the Central Government, and it is to be expected that all cultivators who are in need of this and are likely to utilize it for the better method of cultivation would get it.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether as a result of granting these loans, the cultivators of the States concerned are enabled to use more fertilizers this year than they used to do previously?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** I think there is some misapprehension. The loan is not cash loans. The fertilizer has been given to them for distribution as loan and the price will be collected at the time of harvesting.

**Shri Dabhi:** Is any interest being charged on these loans?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir. Interest at 3.125 per cent. is charged.

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** May I know whether the Government of India have any check on the use of the sums which are given to the State Governments?

**Shri Kidwai:** I said no sums have been given to the State Governments. If they can misuse the fertilizers, they are free to do so!

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether it is a fact that the credit agricultural depots working under the auspices of the State Co-operative Bank of Bihar engaged in distributing fertilizers are being closed down on a large scale in the State of Bihar?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am not aware. I would like to have notice.

**Shri Kakkan:** On account of failure of monsoon in Madras State last year, the agriculturists are unable to repay the loans. So, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government will instruct the Madras Government to collect the loans in the next fiscal year?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** If the question refers to this year's loans and giving fertilizers, for that payment has not to be made, immediately. I am not aware of the previous year's situation. I would like to have notice.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether the Central Government have issued any instructions to the State Governments to the effect that fertilizers in the form of loans will not be issued to cultivators who own less than five acres of land?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No, Sir. There is no such restriction.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know, Sir, whether the accumulated stocks of fertilizers in Sindri which were causing concern in January and February of this year have been cleared as a result of the introduction of this system, and if not, how much has been cleared?

**Shri Kidwai:** A large stock has been distributed throughout the country. Therefore, the stocks are not so much in accumulation as they were at the time when the reports were published in the papers.

#### LOCUST SWARMS

**\*253. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any movement of locust swarms into India from Pakistan during the past four months;

(b) whether there has been any rise in the locust breeding in the desert areas of North-West India; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to fight that locust menace?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement showing the steps being taken by Government to fight the locust menace is placed on the



Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 4.]

**डा० राम सुभग सिंह :** लोकस्ट स्मार्त का मुकाबला करने के लिए सरकार की ओर से जो प्रबन्ध किया गया है, क्या वह पर्याप्त है और ठीक तरह से काम कर रहा है ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** जी हां ।

**डा० राम सुभग सिंह :** यहां दिल्ली में पिछले महीने जो लोकस्ट का स्वार्म आया था, उसका मुकाबला करने के लिए समय पर क्यों नहीं कोई इन्तजाम किया जा सका ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** जब यह लोकस्ट ऊपर से भागते हैं तो उस वक्त उन पर हमला करना या उनको डिस्ट्राय करना बहुत मुश्किल हो जाता है ।

**सेठ गोबिन्द दास :** इन टिड्डियों का इस वर्ष देश के किस २ हिस्से में आने का भय है और इस सम्बन्ध में विशेषज्ञों ने क्या कोई राय दी है ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** वह तो आये और चले भी गये हैं ।

**सेठ गोबिन्द दास :** मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि इस वर्ष और अधिक भय देश के किस २ हिस्से में है, इस सम्बन्ध में कोई विशेषज्ञों की राय सरकार को मिली है ?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Unfortunately, the locusts can go very far. They can go right up to West Bengal, right up to Madras. They have gone to Orissa. So, hardly any State except Travancore-Cochin and Mysore are probably likely to be free from it.

**डा० सुरेश चन्द्र :** क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इन लोकस्ट्स पर आक्रमण करने के लिए कितने अफसर लगाये गये हैं ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** जितने ज्यादा लोकस्ट्स होंगे उतने ही ज्यादा अफसर लगेंगे ।

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know if the Government have any statistics about the damage caused by these locusts?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We have asked for detailed reports but from no place have any substantial damages been reported.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know whether it is not possible to destroy the locusts in their breeding places?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir. That is the only way we try to destroy them.

**श्री राधे लाल व्यास :** क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि जो पंख वाले लोकस्ट हैं उनका मारा जाना कठिन है और केवल हौपसं को ही मारा जा सकता है ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** हां, यह बिल्कुल दुरुस्त है ।

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know whether any method has been found out to distinguish between Pakistan locust swarms and Indian locust swarms?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Not so far.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether any of the countries with whom we are in agreement for prevention of locust swarms or for killing operations, have informed us that there is an imminent danger of a great attack on India?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir. We have been told during the last few months that there is a likelihood of a very heavy invasion by locusts this year.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Which are those countries?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There is an international organisation which aids us from time to time. It is not a question of any particular country. All

the countries right from Arabia to Afghanistan and including Pakistan.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** My question was from which countries the attack is apprehended?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** They come *via* Pakistan.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is difficult to say that. They can, I believe, come sometimes directly.

**Shri Veeraswamy:** May I know whether there is any likelihood of the locusts moving towards the south?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Excepting Madras, the south is fairly free from locusts.

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह :** अग्नी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि टिड्डियों का आक्रमण रोकने में सरकार असमर्थ है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यदि कभी आदमियों का आक्रमण होगा तो सरकार उस को रोकने में समर्थ होगी या नहीं ?

**रक्षा संगठन मंत्री (श्री त्यागी) :**  
जरूर ।

**श्री राधे लाल व्यास :** क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जैसे सन् १९४० और ४६ की सार्किल में इन टिड्डियों को मारने के लिये डिफेन्स डिपार्टमेंट से काफी मदद ली गई थी, इस वर्ष डिफेन्स डिपार्टमेंट से कोई मदद ली जा रही है, और अग्नी तक डिफेन्स डिपार्टमेंट ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या किया है ?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Not only the defence personnel, but everybody is being asked to help us to the utmost. Just as we took their help last year, we are taking their help this year also far earlier than last year.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Is it a fact that the breeding ground for locusts is Iran, and the Iran Government does not help us in destroying these locusts?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** As the hon. Members may have seen in the papers, we sent some people to help the middle East countries, with the equipment, and it is being fought on an international basis.

**Shri Radha Raman rose—**

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** Next question. We have had enough on this question.

#### DEMANDS OF ALL-INDIA TELEGRAPH LINE STAFF UNION

**\*255. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at the conference of the All-India Telegraph Line Staff Union held on the 24th May, 1953 at Calcutta, a demand was made that a high power tribunal be appointed to investigate into their grievances and recommend remedies;

(b) whether the Conference also urged upon Government to revise their pay and improve housing and provide medical facilities to them; and

(c) if so, whether Government have considered their demands and what their decision is regarding the same?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes. Government have seen a copy of the resolutions referred to, demanding, among other things, the establishment of a high power tribunal for looking into the grievances of the linestaff.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under examination and a reply will be sent to the union in due course.

**Shri Gidwani:** How long is it likely to take?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** A copy of the resolutions was not sent to us until after we had called for it, and the

union sent it to us only on the last date of July, 1953.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know what categories of postal employees are provided with housing facilities?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** All categories of postal employees are provided, according to their chance and according to the availability of houses.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know what are the medical facilities that are provided at present?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That question hardly arises out of this. This is a question relating to resolutions passed by the Telegraph Line Staff Union. If any questions are put relating to that, then it is all right.

Next question.

#### ENQUIRY INTO WORKING OF THE CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

\*256. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the editorial comment in *The Hindustan Times*, New Delhi, dated the 21st May, 1953, published on page 7, demanding inquiry into the working of the Central Tractor Organisation?

(b) Is it a fact that out of the 126 tractors supplied by the Central Tractor Organisation to Punjab Government, only 38 were in working order as stated in the above mentioned editorial?

(c) Why were the remaining tractors not in working order?

(d) What is the total cost of the tractors supplied to the Punjab Government?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 5.]

**Shri Gidwani:** In reply to my question, the statement says that Government had already appointed a Committee, before the comment appeared in *The Hindustan Times*, under the chairmanship of a Member of Parliament. May I know why his name has not been mentioned here? Who is the Member concerned?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** If the hon. Member wants it, I can mention his name. Col. Zaidi is the Member who is the Chairman of that Committee.

**सेठ गोबिन्द दास :** क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह बात मालूम है कि ज्यादातर ट्रैक्टर जो कि बिगड़ जाते हैं जल्दी से इसलिये काम में नहीं लाये जा सकते कि उन के अतिरिक्त हिस्से मिलने में दिक्कत होती है, और इस सम्बन्ध में कि उन के अतिरिक्त हिस्से मिल जायें सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Under the rules the tractor dealers are expected to keep spare parts to the extent of 15 per cent. of the value of tractors. We are examining this question again, and we are trying to see that those firms which supply the tractors will be held liable for making arrangements for their repairs.

**Shri Gidwani:** In the statement, it is said that the Committee has made considerable progress with its task. May I know the rate of progress? Has the Committee submitted any interim report to the Government?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No, Sir. No interim report has been submitted. It is expected that within a few weeks, it should be possible to get the report of the Committee.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Mr. S. N. Das.

**Shri Gidwani:** As regards the inquiry into the working of the.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Member must hear me also. I have called Mr. Shree Narayan Das.

**श्री एस० एन० दास :** क्या यह बात सही है कि सेन्ट्रल ट्रैक्टर भार्गोनाइजेशन की ओर से बहुत बड़ी तादाद में इस के कल पुर्जे और हिस्से मंगाये गये हैं, जो कि बरसों तक काम में आने लायक नहीं और इस वजह से सरकार को बहुत नुस्सान उठाना पड़ा है ?

**डा० पी० एस० बेगुन :** मैं समझता हूँ कि यह सवाल बिल्कुल भ्रम है, यह तो पंजाब के ट्रैक्टरों का सवाल है। मैं नहीं समझता कि जो कुछ आनरेबल मेम्बर साहब ने पूछा है उस की कोई निस्वत इस से है।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Sardar Hukam Singh.

**Shri Gidwani rose—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Member cannot have a monopoly of all the questions. Can I allow him a discussion for half an hour, and block all the other hon. Members?

**Shri Gidwani:** Have I not a right to put questions, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have allowed the hon. Member two questions already. Am I to allow him ten questions? I must distribute the questions to all hon. Members on all sides.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** He should be entitled to ask more questions.

**Shri Kelappan:** Information has to be elicited, and that is more important.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. The position is this. Some hon. Members take the trouble of putting down questions. Other hon. Members come here and want to take advantage of some question and then go on asking questions repeatedly, and put supplementaries after supplementaries. Why should they not take the trouble of putting the questions themselves, instead

of putting a series of supplementaries. I can allow the person who has tabled the question two or three supplementaries. But can I allow him to have a monopoly of all the questions here, and not allow any other hon. Member on any other side to put questions? He also represents one constituency or one group, and therefore he may have his own viewpoint. I have already stated that I will not allow the person who has tabled the question, more than five questions, depending upon the nature of the importance of the question. I have allowed the hon. Member, in this particular case, two questions, and I am just looking round and distributing the questions to other hon. Members. Ultimately before winding this up, I shall ask him to put one more supplementary. In the meanwhile, if he loses patience, what can I do?

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is it a fact that out of the 84 tractors described in the statement to be in a fairly good working condition, a large number could not be used, and went out of order, as there were no spares with the C.T.O., that could be supplied to the Punjab Government?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I would like to have notice of this question. But I might inform the House that before the tractors were passed on to the Punjab Government, their own engineer had also inspected these tractors.

**Shri Gidwani:** Is it a fact that the tractors supplied to the State Government of Delhi were also not in working order, and have they also complained to that effect?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** This question refers to the Punjab Government. I have no information about the Delhi State Government tractors, for the present.

**Shri Gidwani:** What is the C.T.O.? The Government say they are not concerned with the losses that have been incurred by the Punjab Government, but some losses have been incurred by

the C.T.O. also. Is it not a central organisation working under the Government of India?

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

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** May I know the number of tractors lying out of order, and which cannot be used, in the C.T.O.?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** If the hon. Member is referring to tractors outside those mentioned in the question, I would like to have notice.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** The first part of the question relates to the C.T.O. generally and not particularly to the tractors given to the Punjab Government.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister has got information with him only with regard to those tractors.

**Shri Kelappan:** What is the total number of tractors in the organisation?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I could not state it now.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I may inform hon. Members that the Central Tractor Organisation or any other organisation run by the Central Government issues an Administration Report every year and copies are available in the Library. Questions may be put on whatever is not available in these reports that are published. Again and again, I find that when some institution is referred to, as for example, the Jute Committee, then questions are put on the finances of the Jute Committee, composition of the Jute Committee and who is the President of the Committee and so on, when all that is available here. There is enough of literature about the C.T.O. here. If there is anything new or if after perusal something is not clarified, then questions may be put. I have no objection to allow questions regarding all matters available in the Library, but it will unnecessarily take up the time of the House and block other Members who have got some other questions to ask.

#### GRIEVANCES OF INSURANCE EMPLOYEES IN BOMBAY

\*257. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that insurance employees in Bombay city demonstrated before the office of the Regional Labour Commissioner when the Chief Labour Commissioner of the Government of India was there on the 21st May, 1953?

(b) Is it a fact that the Chief Labour Commissioner promised to look into their grievances?

(c) If so, have their grievances been looked into and redressed?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) About 200 insurance employees came to the office of the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Bombay, when the Chief Labour Commissioner was holding a general discussion regarding the demands put forward by some unions.

(b) The Chief Labour Commissioner informed the employees that he was looking into their grievances.

(c) With a view to bringing about a settlement in conciliation, the Chief Labour Commissioner convened a joint meeting of representatives of some managements and employees of insurance companies on the 29th June 1953 at which certain tentative conclusions were reached. The meeting also appointed a sub-committee consisting of representatives of management and employees to discuss the question of scales of pay and allowances and other demands. The result of the Sub-Committee's discussions will be placed before a full meeting to be held towards the end of August, 1953.

#### NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE

\*258. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether other cities than those served at present are being proposed to be joined by night air mail service?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** There is no such proposal under consideration at

the moment. Now that Indian Airlines Corporation has taken over the undertakings of all the airlines, it will doubtless examine the possibility of extending the night air mail services to other cities.

**श्री हेडा :** त्रिविन्द्रम, बंगलोर और हैदराबाद जैसे महत्व के शहर नाइट एयर मेल से टच नहीं किये जाते हैं। क्या इस बारे में सरकार कुछ सोच रही है ?

**श्री राज बहादुर :** जैसा मैं ने निवेदन किया इंडियन एयर लाइन्स कारपोरेशन इस मामले पर विचार करेगी।

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether the Government will consider the necessity of linking up Vijayawada with the night airmail service?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is a suggestion for action.

**श्री राज बहादुर :** मैं इस बारे में निश्चित रूप से नहीं कह सकता।

#### FAMILY PLANNING

**\*260. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether voluntary organisations in the country have approached Government or the Planning Commission for assistance in the matter of propagating family planning in India?

(b) If so, has any assistance been given?

(c) Has the committee to prepare a programme for family planning been appointed by Government?

(d) If so, who are the Members?

(e) What have been their activities in this direction?

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

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) and (d). A copy of the order constituting the Family Planning Re-

search and Programmes Committee is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 6.]

(e) The Committee held its first meeting in Bombay in July, 1953, and its report is awaited.

**Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** May I know, Sir, if Government have been able finally to discover suitable techniques and methods of family planning and devise methods by which knowledge of those techniques can be widely disseminated?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Sir, it all depends on the report that will be received from the Committee that has been recently appointed.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know, Sir, what are the voluntary organisations which have been working in this field and what results they have achieved?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Those statistics are not available yet.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the Committee that has been appointed by the Central Government has been appointed only to give support to a particular method of family planning which has been recommended by the Central Government, or it has been appointed to find out for itself methods which are suitable to this country?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Not only a particular method, but as the hon. Member has mentioned, all the things will be considered.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know, Sir, if any principles have been laid down for this Committee, as to how much expenditure is going to be incurred for providing facilities in the villages and how much for the cities?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Not yet decided, Sir.

**Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** What are the considerations necessary to be satisfied before giving financial assistance to voluntary organisations?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** All this will depend on the report that will be

received from the Committee that met last month.

**Shri Achuthan:** May I know, Sir, whether any time-limit has been fixed for the submission of the Committee's report?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Sir, the report will be coming within a few days.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that up till now the activities of the Central Government regarding family planning have been confined only to one method which is still in an experimental stage and has not been accepted by world experts as efficacious?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Sir, the Member said there is one method of family planning considered by the Central Government. It is true and it is in the experimental stage.

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** Are the Government aware that such methods had been condemned by Mahatma Gandhi?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

#### RISE IN PRICES OF WHEAT AND RICE

\*261. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of wheat was stopped during the year 1953 from the wheat growing areas in India;

(b) the total quantity of rice and wheat procured so far; and

(c) whether it is a fact that prices of rice and wheat rose high in the months of April and May in all the States of the Indian Union and specially in the State of Bihar?

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

(a) Except for U.P. and Punjab procurement of wheat in other States has continued during the current year more or less as usual. In U.P. the procurement was given up altogether while in Punjab monopoly procurement was abandoned and the State

now makes purchases from the mandis and when the market rates are favourable.

(b) 1,150 thousand tons rice and 207 thousand tons wheat have been procured during the period from 1st January 1953 to about 18th July 1953.

(c) April and May are the months of seasonal shortage for rice and during these months, the seasonal firming up of prices was experienced this year also. On the whole, however, the prices of rice in April-May this year were lower than those during the corresponding period of the last year, indicating downward long-period trend of prices.

As regards wheat, April is the peak marketing period and the prices during this month were generally lower than in February-March. In May, the position was somewhat erratic: in Uttar Pradesh, certain parts of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh etc., the prices were generally lower than those in March, but in Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh etc. they were somewhat higher than those in March. In the case of wheat also, the prices in April-May 1953, in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Saurashtra, etc. were lower than during the corresponding period of last year indicating that the long-period trend of wheat prices was also downwards.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know, Sir, the total procurement target for wheat fixed for the States of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** There was no procurement of wheat in Uttar Pradesh this year.

**Shri Nanadas:** What are the procurement prices of rice in Andhra and what are the open market prices that are prevailing?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** In the beginning of the season, i.e. just after harvest some districts in Madras State are highly surplus, especially Bezvada and Guntur. The prices then were at par with the procurement prices. But



in the lean months the prices went up. Again they are coming down in view of better rains now.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the fact that the procurement of rice has fallen short in West Bengal, a request has been received from the State Government for the supply of an additional 50,000 tons of rice?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** They have been supplied an additional quantity of rice.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** Are the Government aware that the procurement price of paddy in East Godavari surplus district is less than Rs. 20 whereas the market price is more than Rs. 30—very often Rs. 35—for the last three or four months?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think the hon. Member will realise that procurement is resorted to because the open market prices are high.

**Shri Nanadas:** How many tons of rice were procured in Andhra?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Rise in prices, no tons.

**Shri Kidwai:** We still do not have separate figures for Andhra and other parts of Madras.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know the reason why procurement has been stopped especially when import is still going on?

**Shri Kidwai:** Procurement has been stopped in Punjab and U.P. Up to now we had to supply large quantities of wheat to U.P. but this year, perhaps, they will not require because the open market prices are lower than the prices in Government shops and sufficient quantity is available in the market.

#### RAILWAY CENTENARY EXHIBITION

\*262. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state;

(a) the total expenses incurred by Government in the celebration of the  
311 P.S.D.

Railway Centenary Exhibition in Delhi;

(b) the total income from the sale of entry tickets, rent from the stalls, etc.; and

(c) the expenses incurred over different functions arranged in the Exhibition in connection with the Centenary celebration or towards the propagation of the Exhibition?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) The expenditure incurred on the Indian Railways' Centenary Exhibition at New Delhi is estimated at Rs. 13.45 lakhs. The exact figure will, however, be known when all debits have been received and accounts are closed.

(b) Sale of entry tickets Rs. 2,02,860/

Rs. 4,49,093/11/6

From private stall holders, amusement park and refreshment contractors, hoarding sites etc.

TOTAL Rs. 6,51,953/11/6.

(c) The expenditure incurred on celebration of centenary Day on 16th April, 1953 was Rs. 7,272/4/- and that on the propaganda for the Exhibition Rs. 53,040/-.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Can the Minister tell us how much was spent on entertainment?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has he got the break-up?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** We do not have separate figures, Sir.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Is it true that the amount spent on entertainment ran into a figure approximating to a lakh of rupees?

सेठ गोबिन्द बाबू : यह जो प्रदर्शनी दिल्ली में हुई थी वह क्या अब अन्य स्थानों में भी जा रही है, और अगर जा रही है तो क्या सरकार को यह बात मालूम है कि



जहाँ यहाँ पर अब तक यह गयी है वहाँ पर यह इतने थोड़े समय तक ठहरी है कि लोग उस को देख नहीं पाए हैं और बहुत भीड़ हुई है और लोगों को बहुत दिक्कत उठानी पड़ी है ?

रेल तथा यातायात मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : जी, हाँ यह बात सही है कि दो एग्जीबीशन ट्रेन्स, एक मीटर गेज और एक ब्राड गेज, दोनों मुल्क के अलग अलग हिस्सों में जा रही है। उन के लिये कुछ जगहों पर, खास तौर पर मध्य प्रदेश में बहुत ज्यादा भीड़ हुई है। नागपुर से हमारे पास यह खबर आई कि एग्जीबीशन वहाँ तीन रोज रुकने के बजाय चार रोज और रोकੀ जाय। तो रोकने की मांग बहुत ज्यादा है। हमारे लिये मुश्किल है कि हम सब मांगों को पूरा कर सकें। फिर भी हम ने वक्त बढ़ा दिया है और जहाँ जरूरत ज्यादा होगी वहाँ उस को कुछ और ठहराने की कोशिश करेंगे।

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Sir, may I know whether the semi-permanent sheds are going to be utilised for any other exhibition, and, if so, for what?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** They will be utilised for the Housing Exhibition which is being held soon.

#### TRADE AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA

\*263. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India requested the Government of U.S.S.R. to enter into a long term trade agreement with a clear assurance that India would purchase Russian wheat at least for five years?

(b) Have the Government of U.S.S.R. accepted the request of the Government of India?

(c) If so, on what terms?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnapa):** (a) Yes Sir. In March, 1953 a proposal was made by us that the two Governments might enter into barter agreement for the supply of Russian wheat against Indian commodities; and that the barter may be for a period of three years.

(b) No reply has so far been received to this proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** Sir, may I add for the information of the House that yesterday we received an acceptance by Russia and negotiations are in progress.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know whether this will be on the barter system?

**Shri Kidwai:** Yes, it will be on the barter system.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know what are the articles that the USSR require on barter?

**Shri Kidwai:** As I said, the acceptance was conveyed to us only yesterday. Our officers will meet and discuss all these things.

#### ROBBERY ON MAILANI-GOURIPHANTA LINE

\*264. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the Mailani-Gouriphanta branch line, a cashier was robbed of about Rs. 22,000/- on the 23rd May, 1953?

(b) How many persons detained and started firing?

(c) Were the R.P.P. men there when the firing took place?

(d) Has the investigation started by the Railway police and, if so, with what result?

(e) How was the train stopped?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) Four persons detained from the train after it was stopped and one of them fired a shot in the air.

(c) No.

(d) Yes; the investigation is in progress.

(e) By certain obstructions placed across the railway line.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : इस तरह की चोरी इस लाइन में कितनी बार हुई है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : मेरी जाने में एक बार हुई है ।

#### EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

\*265. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee appointed for examining the working of the Employment Exchanges and also for reporting about its future has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations thereof?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

I may, however, add for the information of the hon. Members that the Committee was constituted in November 1952. Owing to the absence of the Chairman on deputation abroad and his subsequent illness, the Committee met only in February 1953. After the first meeting on the 9th February, 1953, the questionnaire was issued. Replies have been received from all State Governments and a large majority of others who were addressed. The Committee held its second meeting on the 10th April 1953. They visited Kanpur and Calcutta during April 1953 and recorded evidence. The Chairman of the Committee had to leave for Europe again under medical advice. The Committee expects to resume its work after the Chairman returns and

hopes to complete its work before the end of 1953.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know how long the Committee will take to submit its report?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I have mentioned all these points in my supplementary reply.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Is the Government contemplating extending these Employment Exchanges to the rural areas?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** We would take up the whole matter after the receipt of the report.

**Shri Nanadas:** In view of the fact that ever since the inception the Chairman has been absent, has the Government any proposal to appoint another Chairman in his place?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** The Chairman will return back soon.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** In view of the seriousness of the crisis of unemployment, will the Committee be asked to give its report within a short time?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** Of course.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Within what period?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I cannot say immediately but I do hope that by the end of 1953 the report will be ready.

**Shri M. R. Krishna:** May I know whether there are Mobile Employment Exchanges which could register and issue introductory cards to rural people.

**Shri V. V. Giri:** No, the question does not arise.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether it is to abolish these Employment Exchanges or to continue their services that the Committee has been appointed to report?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** The Committee will go into all these matters.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

\*266. **Shri Radha Raman:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the percentage of women who die at the time of child-birth in India?

(b) What steps are Government taking or propose to take to decrease this percentage?

**The Deputy Minister of Health (Shri-mati Chandrasekhar):** (a) No reliable information for maternal deaths in India is available. The Health survey and Development Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1943 came to the conclusion that the maternal death rate for undivided India was in the neighbourhood of 20 per 1,000 live births. It may, however, be claimed that there has been some reduction in maternal mortality in recent years as a result of the use of antibiotics and the expansion and improvement of maternity services.

(b) Schemes for the improvement of maternal and child health services are in progress in all these States. These include additional facilities for training of maternal and child health workers, the expansion of services for prenatal care of expectant mothers, an increase in institutional services and the provision of domiciliary midwifery. Emphasis is being laid on midwifery services in the rural areas.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know if the Government have examined the cause of maternity?

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

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO P. AND T  
EMPLOYEES IN ASSAM

\*254. **Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs employees in Assam used to be paid a compensatory allowance up to 1948?

(b) If so, what was the rate of this allowance?

(c) Is it a fact that since 1948, this allowance has been discontinued and if so, why?

(d) Are Government aware that at the Fifth Annual Conference of the Assam Circle Union of Posts and Telegraphs workers, a demand has been made for the restoration of this allowance?

(e) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

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

(b) 30 per cent. of pay.

(c) Yes. This allowance was sanctioned during the war period and since the reasons for which this was granted no longer exist, it has been discontinued.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Union have been informed that there is no justification for the grant of this war time allowance to the P. and T. staff in Assam. But Hill allowance for certain areas in Assam have been sanctioned for places where the State Government have sanctioned.

## HINGOLI-KHANDWA RAILWAY LINE

\*259. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of a new railway line between Hingoli and Khandwa has started; and

(b) if so, when it will be completed?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah nawas Khan):** (a) Not yet. It is proposed to take up the final location survey of the project soon and the work of construction will start thereafter.

(b) It is not possible at present to anticipate the date of completion but every effort will be made to complete the work as early as possible.

**KULU VALLEY TRANSPORT LIMITED**

\*267. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals to revive the Kulu Valley Transport Limited are under consideration of Government;

(b) whether it is proposed to associate the Punjab Government as a shareholder in the company; and

(c) what arrangements have been made to pay off the arrears of salaries due to the staff of the company, for which repeated representations have been made?

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

(b) No.

(c) Pending verification of the accounts of the employees of the Kulu Valley Transport Limited, the majority of them have been paid one month's basic pay. The question of making payment of the balance is under active consideration of the Kulu Valley Transport Ltd.

**LOCUSTS**

\*268. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any swarms of locusts were sighted in some districts of West Bengal in recent months;

(b) if so, in which districts;

(c) how they have been tackled;

(d) which other States have been attacked during the same period;

(e) the amount of loss therefrom; and

(f) whether the attack is of a larger magnitude in comparison with that in the corresponding period in the last two years?

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

(b) In Bankura, Midnapur, Murshidabad, Dinaipur, Malda and Burdwan districts.

(c) It is difficult to tackle the flying swarms during summer.

(d) Rajasthan, Punjab, Pepsu, Uttar Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh, Ajmer, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, Bihar, Orissa, Kutch and Bombay.

(e) Negligible; exact figures of damage have been called for from the State Governments.

(f) Larger number of swarms have arrived during May and June this year as compared with previous two years.

**COMPENSATION TO AIR COMPANIES**

\*269. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what machinery has been set up for the valuation of the aircrafts, spares and parts with a view to determining the amount of compensation to be given to Air Companies?

(b) What is the machinery set up for reviewing and considering the cases of employees at the time of integration of personnel and standardisation of pay scales?

(c) What is to be the basis of standardisation of pay scale and other emoluments?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Particulars of all such assets and liabilities as will vest in the Corporations on the "appointed date" are being collected. Parties composed of (a) personnel qualified in the inspection of aeronautical equipment (b) qualified accountants have been formed. These parties are visiting the various local offices, workshops, and stores depots of the air companies for an on-the-spot check up of the assets and their evaluation.

(b) It is proposed to appoint a Committee to consider questions relating to the integration of the staff taken over by the Indian Air Lines Corpora-

tion and the standardisation of their terms and conditions of service.

(c) This question is one of those which will have to be considered by the proposed Committee.

#### CENTRAL SEISMOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY

\*270. Shri S. C. Samanta: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the proposed Central Seismological Observatory has been established at Shillong?

(b) If so, what kind of instruments have already been installed there?

(c) What special arrangements have been made or are proposed to be made in this Central Observatory in comparison with other observatories in India?

(d) What is the amount spent so far over it?

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

(b) Three Wood-Anderson Seismographs, one Milne-Shaw Seismograph and one Wenner Accelerograph.

(c) This Observatory is better equipped than the other Seismological Observatories in India. The instruments already installed and those about to be installed are some of the best types of modern seismographs and accessories available in the world. An underground constant-temperature room has been specially constructed for the seismographs so that their working may not be affected by temperature changes.

(d) About Rs. 1,88,000.

#### कुंभ मेला

\*271. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रयाग में होन वाले भागामी कुंभ मेले के अवसर पर रेल विभाग यात्रियों को सुविधा देन की क्या योजना बना रहा है ;

(ख) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में झूसी, इज्जत ब्रिज तथा जंक्शन स्टेशनों पर किसी प्रकार के निर्माण की योजना बनायी गयी है ;

(ग) मेले की अवधि में कितनी गाड़ियों के भ्राने और जाने का प्रबन्ध किया जा रहा है ; तथा

(घ) क्या इस वर्ष यात्रियों को विशेष कोई सुविधा दी जायेगी ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a), (b) and (d). A statement showing the facilities proposed to be offered is under preparation and will soon be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Subject to the availability of sufficient passenger stock and locomotives, the maximum feasible number of special trains that may be required to cope with the mela traffic will be run.

#### किसनपुर और हायाघाट स्टेशनों के बीच रेल दुर्घटना

\*२७२. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : (क) क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे की नं० ३३८ डाऊन पैसेंजर १६-२० मई की रात को साढ़े ग्यारह बजे किसनपुर और हायाघाट स्टेशनों के बीच दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गयी थी जिसके कारण १५ व्यक्ति घायल हुए और लगभग १०० यात्री डिब्बों से बाहर जा गिरे ?

(ख) इस दुर्घटना के कारण क्या वे ?

(ग) कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई तथा कितने घायल हुए ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (c). At about 11.35 hours on 20-5-1953, while No. 338 Dn. Passenger was on

the run between Haiyaghat and Kishanpur stations on the Samastipur-Darbhanga Main line Section of the North Eastern Railway, the engine and the first coach behind it parted from the rest of the train. Some of the passengers jumped out of the train in panic, as a result of which one passenger received serious and 14 others minor injuries.

(b) The accident was caused by the breakage of the trailing buffer of the coach next to the engine, due to flaw in metal.

**बम्बई के डाकियों द्वारा प्रदर्शन**

\*२७३. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या संचारण मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि २२ मई, १९५३ को बम्बई के ३०० डाकियों ने सरकार के विरोध में प्रदर्शन किया ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनकी मांगे क्या थीं ; तथा

(ग) सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या प्पग उठाये हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No. Some members of the All India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, however, are reported to have gathered outside the Bombay G.P.O. on the 22nd May, 1953 and proceeded in a procession towards the Marwadi Vidyalaya Hall where a meeting was held by them.

(b) The following demands were made by the Union in the resolutions passed in their meeting on 22nd May, 1953.

(i) that an open enquiry be made into the alleged handing over of a postman of Bombay G.P.O. to the police by the Investigating Inspector, Bombay G.P.O. and (ii) that the revised arrangements for the delivery of

acknowledgements pertaining to accountable articles introduced in Bombay from 15th May, 1953 should be cancelled and the old arrangement re-introduced.

(c) The demand for an open enquiry has not been acceded to; but the old procedure in respect of delivery of acknowledgements has been reintroduced.

**CENTRAL BOARD OF FORESTRY (MEETINGS)**

\*274. Prof. D. C. Sharma: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether a meeting of the Central Board of Forestry was held recently at Dehra Dun?

(b) If so, were any decisions arrived at for implementing the National Forest Policy?

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

(b) A copy of the resolutions adopted by the Board is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 7.]

**CALCUTTA-SILIGURI NATIONAL HIGHWAY**

\*275. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the stage at which construction work on the Calcutta-Siliguri National Highway No. 34 has reached?

(b) What would be the alignment of the Southern Section of this Highway downwards from Raghunathgunj in the District of Murshidabad?

(c) What is the estimated time limit and sanctioned expenditure for the completion of this National Highway?

(d) Is it a fact that large quantities of tar pitch and stone chips intended for this Highway are lying accumulated in different centres of the District of Murshidabad, although original earth-work and brick soling have hardly begun as yet?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table

of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 8.]

(c) The project is expected to be completed by March 1956, except for a few bridges, the construction of which may extend beyond that period. A sum of Rs. 230 lakhs has been earmarked under the current five year programme, for the development of this National Highway.

(d) Tar pitch	No.
Stone chips	Yes.

The stone chips have always to be collected in advance, as and when railway wagons become available.

#### NICOBAR ISLANDS

\*276. **Shri Raghubir Sahai:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) when was the expedition to Nicobar Islands undertaken which disclosed that India can obtain a huge amount of timber annually from those Islands;

(b) who constituted that expedition;

(c) when they submitted their report; and

(d) what steps have been taken to obtain the timber from there?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The expedition left Port Blair on 24th February 1952 and returned on 21st April 1952.

(b) A statement showing the Members who constituted the expedition is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The leader of the expedition submitted his report to the Local Administration on 27th June, 1952.

(d) The question whether the timber is to be extracted departmentally or through private agency is under consideration. The Chief Commissioner's proposal to open a Forest Division in the Nicobars is under consideration.

#### STATEMENT

*The names of the persons who constituted the expedition to the Nicobar Island.*

(1) **Shri B. S. Chengappa,** Conservator of Forests, Andamans—Leader.

(2) **Dr. P. R. Sondhi,** Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair.

(3) **Shri G. B. Das** of the Survey of India.

(4) **Shri K. C. Sahni,** Assistant Forest Botanist, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

(5) **Shri B. A. Subramaniam,** Assistant Conservator of Forests, Andamans.

(6) Forest subordinates, mazdoors, guards etc.

#### PRICES OF RICE

\*277. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that owing to the higher prices demanded by the Central Government and other State Governments from the Government of West Bengal for the rice supplied by them to the latter, the West Bengal Government have raised the price of rationed rice in the Calcutta Rationing Area from seven annas per seer to nine annas per seer with effect from the 1st June, 1953?

(b) Was there any prior consultation with the West Bengal Government by the Central Government before they decided to charge a higher price for rationed rice in the Calcutta Rationing Area?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). There has been no increase in the prices of rice supplied to West Bengal either by the Centre or by the States in recent months, nor has there been any increase in the retail issue prices of 'fine' and 'common' varieties of rice in the Calcutta industrial area, which continue to be Rs. 0-10-6 and Rs. 0-7-0 per seer respectively.

With effect from 1-6-53 a 'medium' variety of rice is also being issued at a retail issue price of Rs. 0-9-0 per seer with the prior approval of the Government of India.

#### RECOGNITION OF CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES UNION

**\*278. Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four unions of the employees of the Civil Aviation Department were merged in October 1952 and formed the Civil Aviation Department Employees Union;

(b) whether it is a fact that the four merged Unions were recognised Unions at the time of the merger;

(c) whether the merged Union has been recognised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). Three Unions of the employees of the Civil Aviation Department (and not four) were merged into one in October, 1952. Of these only one, viz., the Aeronautical Communications Employees Union, had been recognised by Government as an Association of Civil Servants.

(c) Yes. It has been recognised as an Association of Civil Servants.

(d) Does not arise.

#### CENTRAL LABOUR INSTITUTE

**\*279. Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scheme for the Central Labour Institute at Bombay has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details of the Scheme;

(c) whether the recognised All-India Labour Organisations have been consulted in preparation of the Scheme;

(d) whether the recognised All-India Labour Organisations will have any part in the conduct of the Institute; and

(e) if so, what?

**The Minister of Labour Shri V. V. Giri:** (a) The scheme is in the course of finalisation.

(b) The scheme envisaged is a composite one, comprising a Museum of Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare, an Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, a Training Centre and a Library-cum-Information centre. The details of the Scheme are explained in the note placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 9.]

(c) No.

(d) and (e). Yes. The Institute is intended to function as a socio-economic laboratory and as a centre for specialised training in labour problems and will provide a common platform for all groups concerned with the well-being of industrial community.

#### STRIKE BY COAL MINERS OF BELLAMPALLI

**\*280. Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 6,000 coal miners of Bellampalli in Hyderabad State went on strike on the 8th June, 1953?

(b) If so, what were the demands of the miners?

(c) How long did the strike last?

(d) What steps have Government taken to meet the demands of the Unions and settle the dispute?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) About 3,900 workers in the coal mines went on strike.

(b) The demand was that on demonetisation of Hali currency, wages and other emoluments should be paid in numerically equal amounts of Indian currency and not in equivalents arrived at by reducing the amounts at the prevailing rate of exchange.

(c) One month.

(d) Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner's Organisation conciliated the dispute. A Settlement was reached between the parties on the 6th July.



1953 on the basis of the formula which was announced by the Hyderabad Government. Accordingly the workers returned to work with effect from the 8th July 1953. A statement giving the terms of the settlement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 10.]

#### PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT

\*281. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Union Government paid a part of the purchase price of two aircraft bought by the Assam Government at a cost of Rs. 6,31,780, without calling for tenders?

(b) What was the Union Government's share of the expenditure?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). Two Dove aircraft VT-CTX and VT-COV were purchased in 1948 by the Government of Assam at a cost of £24,450 and £21,662/- respectively. The aircraft were to be used for the tours of the Governor, the Ministers and the higher administrative officers of the Assam Government. Half the cost of the aircraft VT-CTX was paid by the Government of India as this aircraft was for the use of the Governor of Assam for his tours in Tripura, Manipur and Cooch-Bihar States in his capacity as the Agent of the Government of India. Having decided that Dove aircraft were the most suitable for the purpose in view, the question of calling for tenders for the purchase of these aircraft did not arise.

#### AIRCRAFT FROM GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

\*282. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an aircraft was handed over to the Union Government by the State Government of Madras?

(b) If so, on what terms?

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

The Dove aircraft VT-CTG belonging to the Government of Madras was handed over to the Indian Air Force, together with the available spare parts, on the 15th March 1952.

(b) The Government of India did not pay anything to the Government of Madras in return for the aircraft, nor do they propose to do so.

#### IMPORT OF TRACTORS

\*283. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number and value of small size, medium and heavy tractors imported into India on Government or on private account during the half year ending the 30th June, 1953?

(b) How do the figures compare with the figures of corresponding period of last year?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). The total number and value of tractors imported into India, on Government as well as private account, during the half years ending 30th June 1952 and 30th June 1953, are as follows:—

Period	Number	Value in Rs.
Half year ending 30th June, 1952.	1609	1,87,46,683
Half year ending 30th June, 1953.	2151	1,94,52,719

Separate figures in respect of small, medium and heavy tractors are not available.

#### LOCO-SHEDS AND RUNNING REPAIR SHEDS

\*284. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the loco-sheds and running repair sheds on the Railway have been excluded from the scope of the operation of the Factories Act;

(b) if so, (i) the reasons therefor and (ii) since when this has been done;

(c) the implications of this measure;

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers are not given overtime allowance due to this change;

(e) if so, (i) the number affected and (ii) the extent to which affected;

(f) whether in many cases deduction of overtime allowance already paid have been ordered;

(g) whether representations have been received against such a measure from Railwaymen's Organizations; and

(h) if so, the steps taken thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The definition of the term 'Factory', as given in section 2(m) of the Factories Act, 1948, excludes railway running sheds.

(b) (i) The reasons for exclusion of railway running sheds from the scope of the Factories Act, 1948, are that running sheds are, from the nature of the work done in them, not factories. (ii) From 1-4-1949, on which date the Act came into force.

(c) The implications are that none of the provisions of the Factory Act, 1948, are applicable to the running sheds.

(d) No; overtime, as due and admissible under the Hours of Employment Regulations, is paid to staff concerned.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Railway Board are informed that only on one Railway, in a few cases in which overtime at a wrong rate was paid after 1-4-1949, overpayments were recovered.

(g) No representation has been received from any railwaymen's organization.

(h) Does not arise.

#### COLLISION ON DHARMAVARAM-PAKALA LINE

**\*285. Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casualties that occurred in the head-on collision between a goods train and a mixed train

on the night of the 13th June, 1953, on the Dharmavaram-Pakala metre gauge section (Southern Railway);

(b) the causes of the accident; and

(c) who has conducted the inquiry?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 67 persons died; 23 received grievous and 46 minor injuries.

(b) and (c). The Government Inspector of Railways, Bangalore, held his statutory enquiry into the accident and his finding is that the accident was the result of a lapse on the part of the Assistant Station Master, Mulacalacheruvu, in that he wrongly despatched the mixed train from his station.

#### INSPECTING STAFF FOR MINES DEPARTMENT

**\*286. Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mines Department is short of inspecting officers necessary for underground inspection; and

(b) if so, the difficulty in recruiting adequate number of qualified inspectors necessary for the Mines Department?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Yes.

(b) The reason is the dearth of suitable qualified candidates.

#### RISE IN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

**\*287. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for some time past the prices of foodgrains have been rising in the areas of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra and some other parts of the country;

(b) the percentage of rise in prices of foodgrains in the months of May, June, and July, 1953;

(c) the causes of this rise in prices; and

(d) the steps Government have taken or intend to take to check this tendency?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Prices of foodgrains in the country have shown a mixed tendency in recent months; while they have risen in certain areas, they have either been steady or even declined in others.

(b) The extent of fluctuations varies from centre to centre and cereal to cereal. A statement giving the prices of foodgrains and their percentage variations during May, June and July 1953 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 11.]

(c) The rise in prices may be attributed largely to seasonal shortage, particularly in the case of Kharif cereals, and to some extent to transport difficulties owing to setting in of rains, or farmers' being busy with agricultural operations.

(d) The steps in question include:

(i) Invoking the aid of the Central Foodgrains (Licencing and Procurement) Order, 1952.

(ii) Opening of fair price shops,

(iii) Issuing larger quantum of foodgrains to card-holders,

(iv) Reducing the issue prices of foodgrains,

(v) Issuing overseas wheat at subsidised rates in scarcity areas,

(vi) Tightening up of anti-smuggling and anti-hoarding measures; and

(vii) Reduction by the Government of India in the prices of the imported wheat by Re. 1/- in March 1953 and by another Re. 1/- from 1st July, 1953.

#### FERRY BOAT FOR GOALPARA

**\*288. Shri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state when a ferry was purchased for use on Jogighopa-Goalpara crossing?

(b) What was its price?

(c) What amount, if any, has been spent on its repairs since it was first put up for service on that route?

(d) Is it a fact that for a large part of the year, this boat remains out of use for repairs?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) September, 1948.

(b) Rs. 1,60,000/-.

(c) Rs. 65,585/-.

(d) Not since the beginning of this year. The ferry has, however, been leased out to a private firm from 1st July 1953 after calling for tenders. This firm is operating the service with its own steamer.

#### REPRESENTATION FROM PUBLIC OF DHULRI-FAKIREGRAM SECTION

**\*289. Shri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 28th April, 1953, a representation on behalf of the travelling public of Dhulri-Fakiregram section (Pandu-Region) was addressed to the Chief Operating Superintendent, North-Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur (U.P.), about the inconvenience caused to the travelling public by the new time table from the 16th April, 1953?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

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

(b) The arrival and departure timings of Mixed Trains Nos. 626 Down and 625 Up at Dhubri have now been altered from 1.35 and 2.30 hours to 23.00 and 23.50 hours respectively with effect from 20-6-1953.

#### LIGHT HOUSES

**\*290. Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of spare parts required for the repairs to light-houses, imported into India during the year 1952-53:

(b) whether there is any proposal to manufacture such spare parts in India; and

(c) if so where?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) So far as the lighthouses directly administered by the Central Government are concerned, no spare parts were imported during 1952-53. In so far as the lighthouses administered by the State Governments and other local authorities are concerned, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) and (c). Most of the spare parts required for the proper maintenance and upkeep of the lighthouses are already being manufactured in the Lighthouse Workshops at Madras and Bombay. It is the intention to develop these workshops so that all spare parts can be manufactured in the country though in the case of lenses and other optical equipment it will take us quite a long time to do so.

#### RECRUITMENT OF SEAMEN

**\*291. Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the recruiting and training facilities for sea-men in order to encourage the development of Indian shipping;

(b) whether they propose to open one more training centre in Saurashtra; and

(c) if so, when the proposal is likely to materialise?

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

(b) and (c). A proposal to start a training centre in Saurashtra is under consideration. It is, however, difficult to say at this stage when it is likely to materialise.

#### PASSENGER AND GOODS EARNINGS

**\*292. Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Railway goods earnings have improved during the year 1952-53?

(b) If so, to what extent?

(c) What is the position of passenger earnings during the year 1952-53?

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

(b) Goods earnings during 1952-53 amounted to Rs. 146.13 crores against Rs. 140.48 crores (excluding freight on carriage of railway coal and materials) in 1951-52.

(c) The passenger earnings during 1952-53 amounted to Rs. 100.36 crores against Rs. 109.88 crores during 1951-52.

#### DIVERSION OF S.S. 'Muzaffari' FROM COLOMBO

**\*293. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the freighter named 'Muzaffari' was diverted from Colombo to Bombay with 7,300 tons of Chinese rice; and

(b) whether the rice has been imported by India or it is by way of repayment of rice loan obtained by Ceylon from India in the year 1952?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes Sir. Steamer Muzaffari was diverted by the Government of Ceylon from Colombo to Bombay, where she discharged its entire cargo of about 7019 tons of Chinese rice.

(b) This rice was received in part replacement of about 14986 tons rice supplied to the Ceylon Government on loan in September/November, 1952.

#### INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES

**\*294. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the reasons which have led

the Indian Shipping Companies participating in the overseas trade not to avail themselves of any loan from Government during the year 1952-53?

(b) What action, if any, have Government taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The poor response from the Indian Shipping Companies concerned is mainly due to the delay in the finalisation of their own expansion plans and their inadequate financial resources.

(b) The Government of India have offered loans upto 75 per cent. of the purchase price of the ships at a concessional rate of interest of 2½ per cent. only. It is now for the Shipping Companies to come forward and avail of these facilities. Shipping, as is well-known, is in the private sector of our economy and it is primarily for the Shipping Companies themselves to take steps towards expansion of their fleet.

#### SPICES INQUIRY COMMITTEE

**\*295. Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any report of the Spices Inquiry Committee has been submitted to Government?

(b) If so, what are the main recommendations made by that Committee?

(c) Will Government lay a copy of this report together with the recommendations made and accepted by Government on the Table of the House?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### INTER CLASS ACCOMMODATION

**\*296. Giani G. S. Musafir:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the

number of passengers travelling in Inter Class is generally higher than the accommodation available for them?

(b) If so, are Government considering the question of increasing accommodation in this class?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

**\*297. Giani G. S. Musafir:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of applications for new telephone connections pending before the Delhi and New Delhi Telephone District Managers?

(b) How many of these applications can be sanctioned on the present plants of Delhi and New Delhi Telephone Exchanges?

(c) What provisions have Government under consideration to satisfy the rest of the applicants?

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

	New Delhi	Old Delhi
O Y T depositors	32	40
Exempted categories	1,280	1,455
Total	1,312	1,495

(b) About 390 telephone connections can be given from New Delhi Exchange and 800 from the Tis Hazari Exchange in Old Delhi.

(c) It is proposed to instal two new exchanges: in the South Block Secretariat of 2,000 lines and in Karol Bagh of 2,500 lines. The capacity of the Tis Hazari Exchange (Old Delhi) will be increased from 4,000 lines to 8,000 lines.

#### NATIONAL MALARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME

**\*298. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the progress made in the implementation of the National Malaria

Control Programme which was launched on the 1st April, 1953?

(b) Do Government propose to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing (i) the amount of assistance given by the Centre to each State, (ii) each State's contribution towards the implementation of this programme, (iii) the nature and amount of work done so far, and (iv) the measure of success achieved in each State?

(c) Have the Central Government appointed or created any agency in each State (i) to supervise the work done, (ii) to check the amount spent, (iii) to see that the results achieved are commensurate with the amount spent, and (iv) to suggest remedial action in unsatisfactory cases?

**The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar):** (a) and (b): (iii) and (iv). Ninety Malaria Control Units are being formed in the various States during the current year, each designed to protect approximately one million people living in malarious areas. The staff for the Units in all the States, except a few, are in position. The required quantity of D.D.T. has been supplied to most of the States. The supply of spraying equipment and vehicles for seventy-five units is expected to be completed by the end of this month. The States have been requested to start spraying operations in the areas already under control using D.D.T. provided by the Centre, and vehicles and spraying equipment available with the States without waiting for the supply of transport and equipment by the Centre. The operations will be extended to new areas when further transport and equipment become available. Spraying operations have already been started in some of the States. The results of the operations in most of the States will be available at the end of the malarious season i.e. in the month of November.

(b) (i) and (ii). Three statements giving the necessary information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 12.]

(c) (i) to (iv). No, but the staff of the Malaria Institute of India is being expanded in order to enable it to co-ordinate and supervise the work in various States.

#### RATIONALISATION OF POSTAL RATES

**\*299. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the reaction of Government to the demand made at the Annual Conference of postal workers held at Shillong in the second week of April 1953, for the rationalisation of postal rates as a commercial proposition?

(b) Have Government received any representations in respect of enhanced postal rates?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the near or remote future to bring these rates to the level of popular demands?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Government is not aware of any such demand made by the Union in the conference referred to.

(b) Yes.

(c) In view of the fact that the Postal Branch of the Department is running at a loss the Government does not consider it feasible to reduce the rates. Even with these rates there is a loss on each article that is handled except letters and letter cards. Besides, the scheme for expansion of postal facilities would receive a set-back.

#### RAILWAY COACHES

**\*302. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a set of Swiss-made passenger coaches have arrived in India recently;

(b) the number of coaches that have so far been ordered by the Government of India; and

(c) the mode of their distribution among the different Railways in India?

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

(b) 152.

(c) These are distributed to Railways to run in full rakes as far as possible for important train services over more than one Railway system.

#### TELEPHONE EXPERTS

**\*303. Shri Buchhikotalah:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state for how long the two experts manning the departments for the manufacture of dials and condensers in the Telephone Industries at Bangalore on contract basis are working?

(b) Are any instructions being given to Indian experts to manage these departments?

(c) What amount of money is being spent on these two experts?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) The expert for the manufacture of dials has been obtained on a year's contract from 5th May, 1953. No expert has been obtained for the manufacture of condensers.

(b) Yes; an Indian Assistant Engineer has been placed as an understudy to the Expert.

(c) The expert for dial manufacture is on an annual salary of £1560 plus class 'D' passage from United Kingdom to India and back. A kit allowance of Rs. 750 was also paid to him on arrival.

#### विषय-प्रवेश में नया रेल-यन्त्र

**\*३०४. श्री आर० एस० तिबारी :**  
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हरपाल पुर स्टेशन को छतरपुर, यन्त्र तथा सतना से जोड़ने वाला रेल-यन्त्र

बनाने के लिये कोई भूमि परिमाण हुआ था ; तथा

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह परिमाण कब हुआ था और उसे पूरा करने का क्या विचार किया गया है ?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). A Survey for a line from Harpalpur to Katni via Chattarpur was carried out in 1935, but as this project was not approved by the Central Board of Transport it was dropped.

#### डाक के टिकट

**\*३०५. श्री आर० एस० तिबारी :**  
क्या संचार मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ग्वालियर, त्रिवांकर-कोचीन तथा हैदराबाद के टिकटों का चलना क्रमशः कब से बन्द हो गया है ;

(ख) क्या केन्द्र के कोष में उपरोक्त राज्यों के टिकट बाकी हैं ; तथा

(ग) यदि हैं तो उनका मूल्यांकन क्या है ?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) The postage stamps of the ex-Hyderabad State were withdrawn from 1st April, 1950 and those of Gwalior and Travancore-Cochin from 1st January, 1951 and 1st July, 1951 respectively.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 13.]

#### तार तथा टेलिफोन की सुविधाएं

**\*३०६. श्री आर० एस० तिबारी :**  
(क) क्या संचार मंत्री यह बतलाने की



कृपा करेंगे कि विन्ध्य प्रदेश के प्रत्येक जिले और तहसील के मुख्य स्थानों में तार तथा टेलीफोन लगाये जाने की कोई योजना है ?

(ख) यदि है, तो उसकी तफसील क्या है ?

(ग) विन्ध्यप्रदेश के जिलों तथा तहसीलों के प्रधान केन्द्रों में कब तक तार लगाए जा सकेंगे ?

(घ) लोड़ी चंदला, भजगढ़, पवाई तथा सीधी के पूरे जिले में कब तक तार लगाए जाएंगे ?

(ङ) छतरपुर, टीकमगढ़ तथा सीधी जिलों में टेलीफोन लगाये जाने की क्या योजना है ?

(च) यह योजना कब तक कार्यान्वित होगी ?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). Normally all schemes for provision of telegraph and telephone facilities should not involve any loss to the Government. A loss upto a limit of Rs. 500 P.A. is, however, permitted in the case of a new telegraph office, provided the population of the place is not less than 5,000 and if there is no other office within a radius of five miles. Proposals which do not fulfil these conditions are sanctioned only if they are guaranteed by the respective State Government or other parties. Any telephone scheme involving a loss would also have to be similarly guaranteed.

The cases relating to the district and tehsil stations in Vindhya Pradesh are being examined on this basis. The question of liberalising these conditions is, however, under consideration.

(c) and (d). All district headquarters stations in Vindhya Pradesh have telegraph facilities. Telegraph  
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facilities are also available at Ajaigarh where messages are transmitted and received on the telephone line to Panna. Regarding the tehsil stations which remain to be provided, the Vindhya Pradesh Government have been addressed for accepting the guarantee conditions.

(e) and (f). The proposals are under correspondence with the State Government regarding the guarantee terms. They will be sanctioned if the terms are accepted by the State Government.

#### SIGNALS AND TELEPHONES ON N. E. RAILWAY

\*307. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some stations without signals and telephone connections on the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to equip them fully like other Railway stations?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) All stations on the North Eastern Railway are provided with signals except flag Stations where Signals are not required. 254 Crossing Stations and 135 flag Stations have not yet been provided with telephones.

(b) Does not arise so far as the question of providing signals is concerned. Railway Control telephones are, however, being provided as and when required for operational reasons.

#### DISTURBANCES BETWEEN EGMORE AND TINNEVELLY

\*308. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total amount of loss incurred by the Southern Railway owing to the recent disturbances caused during the second week of July, 1953 between Egmore and Tinnevely junctions?



(b) What steps have been taken by the authorities to prevent such disturbances in future?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No serious loss or damage to railway property has been caused.

(b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures to prevent such occurrences.

#### RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT CUTTACK

**\*309. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new remedy has been found against insect pests in the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack?

(b) Have steps been taken to popularise this remedy throughout India?

(c) Is the Research Institute carrying on further investigations on this remedy?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes; powdered rhizome of an indigenous semi-aquatic plant called 'Sweat flag' has been found very effective against pests of stored rice and paddy.

(b) This has been published in the annual reports of the Institute.

(c) Yes; further work is in progress.

#### DELIVERY OF MAILS AT BALODA BAZAR

**\*310. Shri B. N. Misra:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that mails at Baloda Bazaar are delivered to addressees on the second or even on the third day of their arrival at the post office?

(b) If so, what steps have the Postal authorities taken for an earlier delivery?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Some of the articles were being delivered on the following day of their arrival and

if the next day happened to be a Sunday they were delivered on the third day, on account of the Rail and the mail motor timings.

(b) Additional staff has been sanctioned to avoid the delay and to expedite the delivery and endeavours are also being made to revise the mail motor timings.

#### POSTAL RATES ON BOOKS

**\*311. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the trend in the income from postage on book-packets since the enhanced rates have come into operation in the current financial year?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** The information is not available as no account is kept of the revenue derived from various items of traffic separately. But from the trend of traffic for the month of May, 1953 it would appear that the income is on the increase.

#### ननी स्टेशन के पास मालगाड़ी का पटरी पर से उतरना

**\*४०. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** (क) क्या रेलवे की यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि २ जून, १९५३ को उत्तर रेलवे के ननी स्टेशन के पास १००६ डाऊन मालगाड़ी पटरी पर से उतर गयी थी जिसके कारण बहुत हानि हुई ?

(ख) दुर्घटना होने के क्या कारण थे ?

(ग) पिछली बार कब उन रेलों की पातों की जांच हुई थी ?

(घ) यात्रा आरम्भ होने के पहिले क्या गाड़ी के डिब्बों की जांच की गयी थी ?

(ङ) जब यह मालगाड़ी अलाहाबाद यार्ड में खड़ी थी तब क्या उसकी जांच की गयी थी ?

(च) जिन व्यक्तियों के कारण यह दुर्घटना हुई क्या उन्हें दंड दिया गया है ?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes, at about 22.18 hours on 2nd June 1953, seven wagons on 1006 Down Through Goods train derailed over a diamond crossing points at Naini Station, resulting in damage to engine, wagons and permanent way amounting approximately to Rs. 7,632.

(b) The truss bar hanger of a wagon worked out loose and interfered with its movement over the Diamond Crossing. This wagon got derailed and three wagons each in front and rear of this wagon also derailed in consequence.

(c) On the 28th and 29th May, 1953. There was nothing wrong with the track.

(d) and (e) Yes.

(f) The Assistant Train Examiner and Fitter on duty at Allahabad, who examined the train, have been held responsible for their failure to properly examine the wagon which had its truss bar hanger loose and derailed. Disciplinary action is being taken against the staff held responsible.

### नवद्वीप शान्तिपुर ट्रेन की दुर्घटना

१४१. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : (क) क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि १५ जून १९५३ को पूर्वी रेलवे की २ डाऊन नवद्वीप शान्तिपुर ट्रेन दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गयी थी, जिसके कारण बहुत से व्यक्ति घायल हो गए थे ?

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितने व्यक्ति घायल हो गए थे ?

(ग) कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हो गयी थी तथा कितने घायल हो गए थे ?

(घ) दुर्घटना होने का कारण क्या था ?

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने इस की कोई जांच की है ?

(च) यदि हां, तो उसका क्या परिणाम हुआ है ?

(छ) जब लेवल क्रॉसिंग पर ट्रक की टक्कर गाड़ी से हुई थी तब क्या फाटक बन्द था ?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) to (c). Yes. At about 6.20 hours on the 15th June 1953, while No. 2 Dn, Santipur-Navadwipghat Narrow Gauge Passenger train was on the run between Amghata and Krishnagar Road Stations, open doors of some of the Carriages on the train struck against a road lorry which was parked very near the railway track on a District Board Road running parallel and adjacent to the railway line. No one died. Two passengers were grievously injured and two others slightly.

(d) to (f). An enquiry by a committee of Senior Officers of the Railway was held into this accident. Their finding is that the accident was caused by the Driver of the motor vehicle having parked his vehicle at a distance of about three feet from the railway track infringing the standard moving dimensions and that the doors of some carriages having been kept open on the run by passengers sitting in the door-way and standing on the foot-board also contributed to the accident.

(g) The question does not arise, as the accident did not take place at a level-crossing.

### WOOD

142. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual (i) production and (ii) requirements of wood in India at present;

(b) whether Government have information regarding the building

strength, durability and availability of the various kinds of soft wood in India;

(c) whether the Government of India have made any study of the possibility of using soft wood for building purposes; and

(d) if so, the result of such study?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

**"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN (GRANTS)**

**143. Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government of India by way of grants or subsidies to the Rajasthan Government for "Grow More Food" Schemes during each of the last four years ending March 1953; and

(b) the percentage of increase under the Schemes in the total acreage of fallow land during the same period?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a)—

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	Loan	Grant	Total
1949-50	Nil	Nil	Nil
1950-51	3.25	1.03	4.28
1951-52	1.50	3.06	4.56
1952-53	5.60	0.19	5.79 (from 1-4-52 to 31-12-52)

The figures are provisional.

(b) Prior to 1950-51 agricultural statistics of Rajasthan related to only a part of the State. For 1950-51, the latest year for which statistics are available, the figures relate practically to the whole State as it is now. No valid comparison of the extent of fallow lands in 1950-51 with earlier years is therefore possible. For 1950-51 the figure of fallow land was estimated at 14 million acres out of a total area of

81 million acres reporting for Agricultural statistics. No figures for subsequent years are available.

**GIFT FROM U.S.S.R. FOR SCARCITY AREAS**

**144. Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number and quantity of rice, milk tins, wheat and the amount of cash donation received from the USSR through the Indian Red Cross for distribution in the famine-stricken areas of the country?

(b) What quantity of the above were allotted for distribution in the Rayalseema area?

(c) What machinery is in operation to ensure that these gifts are properly distributed to the famine-stricken areas of the country generally and Rayalseema particularly?

(d) Have any instances of these gifts being misused or distributed improperly, or not being distributed at all been brought to the notice of Government?

(e) If so, what action have Government taken to prevent misuse of the gifts?

(f) Is it a fact that considerable quantities of these gifts are still lying undistributed in the godowns of Taluk offices of various places in Andhra and Tamil Nad?

(g) If so, what is the quantity lying undistributed and where?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

(c) In Madras, the Indian Red Cross Society decided to appoint Collectors as nominees of the Red Cross Society and the distribution is made by the Collectors through gruel Centres, and other organised agencies like maternity centres, hospitals, hostels, orphanages, Red Cross Branches and other charitable institutions. In Mysore, the stocks are held by Government through local Revenue and Food Authorities and the

allotments for distribution are made through the Red Cross Society. In Hyderabad, the distribution is being done by the Indian Red Cross Society in consultation with the District Collectors, who have formed local Committees for the purpose. In all these States, proper accounts are being maintained in all the distributing centres for the receipt, issue, and the balance of grains and milk tins, which are periodically checked by Government officials, special audit parties as well as by the Indian Red Cross Society.

(d) and (e). Only in Madras five complaints about the improper use of the gift were brought to the notice of the authorities. On investigation two complaints proved to be baseless. Legal action is being taken in two other cases while disciplinary action is being taken in the third case.

(f) and (g). There are small balances with State Governments left over for distribution as it was considered necessary that stocks should be conserved for use for as long a period of distress as could be foreseen by the local Collectors. Information regarding the actual stocks held in reserve is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

#### RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR PART 'C' STATE IN MEDICAL COLLEGES

**145. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some seats have been reserved by the Government of India in some of the medical colleges in the country for students belonging to Part "C" States?

(b) If so, how many seats have been reserved and in which colleges?

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

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 14.]

#### RETRENCHMENT OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS

**146. Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone operators retrenched in May-June, 1953 and the number originally estimated to be surplus during this stage;

(b) the number of those absorbed in Trunk Exchanges and other centres;

(c) the number estimated to be surplus during the next four stages June-July, 1953, Feb.-March, 1956, November-December, 1956 and August-September, 1957; and

(d) the number expected to be absorbed?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No Telephone Operator was retrenched at the first stage of the cut over in Calcutta Auto-Exchanges in May-June, 1953. The number of telephone operators originally estimated to be surplus at this stage was 150.

(b) 26 Telephone Operators have been absorbed, all in the Calcutta Trunk Exchange.

(c) Stage I—May-July 1953 ... 150

Stage II—June-July, 1955 ... 120

Stage III—February-March, 1956 ... 140

Stage IV—November-December, 1956 ... 150

Stage V—August-September, 1957 ... 100.

(d) Every effort will be made to absorb all the suitable Telephone Operators who become surplus consequent on the automatisisation scheme.

#### NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN PUNJAB

**147. Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of roads that will come under National Highways in

the Punjab at the end of the Five Year Plan; and

(b) the mileage of roads to be constructed at the end of 1953?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 631 miles (Total route mileage).

(b) There are no missing links in the Punjab but approximately 17 miles of bye-passes round towns will remain to be constructed at the end of 1953.

#### MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS

✓ **148. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding giving of loans and/or grants to the States for minor irrigation works:

(b) the amounts of loans and/or grants made to each State during the years 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53; and

(c) the amounts of loans and/or grants sanctioned for minor irrigation works in each State for the year 1953-54?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) For the purposes of financial assistance under the G.M.F. Minor Irrigation Schemes are classified broadly under two categories, namely, private and public schemes. Private schemes are those which are owned by private individuals and are executed with Government assistance, e.g., wells, small tanks, channels etc. Such schemes are eligible for a total subsidy not exceeding 25 per cent. of the expenditure involved. Public schemes are those which are beyond the capacity of private individuals and are executed by Government for the benefit of the general public, e.g., large tanks, dams, canals, tube-wells, etc. Such schemes are financed by loans only.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 15.]

#### STRUCTURES RAISED IN INDIAN RAILWAY CENTENARY EXHIBITION

**149. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether some of the permanent and semi-permanent structures raised in the Railway Centenary Exhibition will be maintained intact?

(b) If so, for what purpose will they be maintained?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). All the structures put up in the Indian Railways Centenary Exhibition are temporary. These have not yet been dismantled as the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply propose to use them in connection with the International Exhibition of Low Cost Housing in January 1954.

#### LOSS ON MECHANICAL CULTIVATION

**150. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India and the Punjab Government sustained a loss of Rs. 36 lakhs over mechanical cultivation scheme?

(b) How much loss was sustained by the Government of India and the State Government of Punjab in 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). The Government of Punjab sustained a total loss of Rs. 36,14,436 on their Land Reclamation and Mechanical Cultivation Scheme during the period 1949-50 to 1951-52 according to the information received from that Government. The year-wise break-up is as follows:—

1949-50	Rs. 1,02,800
1950-51	... Rs. 23,93,398
1951-52	... Rs. 11,18,238
	<hr/> Rs. 36,14,436

The Central Tractor Organisation were running the scheme from September, 1948 to July, 1949 only, and the loss incurred during this period is

estimated to be about Rs. 7 lakhs. This is in addition to the losses enumerated above. It has been decided that the Government of India and the Punjab Government should share this loss on a 50 : 50 basis.

#### DELHI POLYTECHNIC CENTRE

151. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trainees of matriculation and its equivalent qualifications enrolled at the Delhi Polytechnic Centre of Rehabilitation and Employment department; and

(b) the number of students who finished their courses at the centre and were placed in suitable employments?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) 221.

(b) 326 trainees completed their training in the last batch. The number of those who took up employment is not known, as there is, at present, no machinery to follow-up the careers of ex-trainees.

#### CLERKS IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

152. **Shri Dhusiya:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total number of permanent and temporary clerks in the Northern Railway?

(b) How many of them belong to the Scheduled Castes?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 8,222.

(b) 64.

#### TECHNICAL OFFICERS IN STORAGE DIRECTORATE

153. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total number of Technical Officers and Assistant Directors appointed in the Storage Directorate during 1952-53?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** Technical Officers—4.

Assistant Directors—3.

#### AIRCRAFTS WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS

154. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state which States have aircraft of their own for the use of Governors and Ministers?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** States which have aircraft of their own are Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, Bombay, C.P. and Berar, Punjab, Hyderabad and Saurashtra.

#### SUGAR

155. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of stock-in-hand of sugar at the beginning of the present season and as on the 1st July, 1953;

(b) the total quantity of sugar manufactured in India during the season 1952-53;

(c) its comparison with the sugar manufactured in India during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(d) the reasons for decrease, if any;

(e) the retail and wholesale prices of sugar at the time of decontrol;

(f) the present retail and wholesale prices of sugar in different main markets of India;

(g) if the prices are higher, the reason therefor; and

(h) the quantity of sugar exported out of India during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The stock of sugar with factories on 1st November, 1952 and 1st July, 1953 was 5,03,143 and 7,09,205 tons respectively. The corresponding figures for value work out to Rs. 424.60 lakhs and 521.27 lakhs.

(b) and (c). The production of sugar during the last three years was as

under:—

Year	Production (in lakh tons)
1950-51	11.16
1951-52	14.97
1952-53	12.93

(d) The reasons for fall in production during 1952-53 as compared with 1951-52 are as under:—

- (i) decrease in production of sugarcane by about 5 per cent.
- (ii) diversion of cane in factory zones to gur production owing to relatively high prices of gur.

- (iii) number of sugar factories working during the 1952-53 season was 134 as against 141 in 1951-52, and

- (iv) factories started crushing late by about three weeks.

(e) and (f). The wholesale and retail prices were as follows:—

(per maund)

As on	Calcutta	Kanpur	Bombay
	Whole-sale	Whole-sale	Whole-sale
	Retail		Retail
6-12-52	29/6 -/13/-	27/10 -/11/3	33/- -/14/-
25-7-53	31/14 -/13/3	31/- -/12/9	32/12 -/13/9

(g) The rise in sugar prices was found to be due to;

- (i) short production of gur and khandsari and consequent increased demand for factory sugar.
- (ii) rise in gur and khandsari prices.
- (iii) feeling in trade circles that the quantity of sugar available for consumption was not enough, and
- (iv) paucity of wagons for movement of sugar.

The prices of sugar remained at a reasonable level upto the third week of April, 1953 when they began to display an upward trend, and recorded an increase of about Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 per maund over the fair average price. As a result of the measures taken by

Government to bring down prices by accelerating movement of sugar; arranging distribution of sugar released out of reserve stock at a statutory ex-factory price of Rs. 27 per maund, through fair price/ration shops; and announcing their intention to import sugar, the prices in different areas have fallen by about Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per maund.

(h) The exports of sugar outside the country during the 1951-52 and 1952-53 seasons totalled 10,755 and 6,432 tons respectively. There was no export of sugar during 1950-51 season.

#### TRACTORS IN CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

156. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the number of small size, medium and heavy tractors run by the Central Tractor Organisation during the year 1952-53?

(b) What was the number of tractors operated by the same organisation during the year 1951-52?

(c) What are the States in which the tractors were run?

(d) What is the total cost of the tractors belonging to the Central Tractor Organisation?

(e) How many of them are lying idle?

(f) For what period have they remained idle?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwal):** (a) and (b). The number of small, medium and heavy tractors operated by the Central Tractor Organization during the 1951-52 and 1952-53 reclamation seasons is as follows:—

	1951-52	1952-53
Small Tractors.	58	45
Medium „	37	64
Heavy „	238	234.

(c) Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat and Bhopal.

(d) The total capitalised cost of the tractors belonging to the Organization is Rs. 1,92,86,270.



(e) and (f). At the end of the last operational season, i.e. in the first week of June, 1953, seven tractors were lying idle due to major breakdowns in the course of operations. These tractors, which required extensive repairs, were idle since October, 1952, and they are now being overhauled for operation during the next season.

#### REPAIR OF TRACTORS

157. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the number and value of spare parts of tractors imported by the Central Tractor Organisation and by other individuals and institutions during the half year ending the 30th June, 1953?

(b) What is the number of factories, run by Government or private agencies for the repair and manufacture of spare parts of tractors?

(c) Where are those factories situated?

(d) Are such institutions assisted by any technical foreign experts?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The total value of tractor spare parts imported on Government as well as non-Government account, during 1952-53 is Rs. 1,19,51,303. Information regarding the value of imports during the half year ending with the 30th June, 1953 is not available at present.

(b) and (c). The Central Tractor Organisation is running two workshops for repair of tractors and for manufacture of spare parts. One of the workshops is at New Delhi and the other is at Bairaigarh (Bhopal).

As regards private agencies, a number of firms have sponsored schemes for the manufacture of tractors and tractor parts in India but none of the schemes has so far materialised. All tractor importers are however required to maintain adequate workshop facilities and stocks of spare parts for maintenance and servicing of tractors imported by them.

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(d) Many of the tractor-importing firms have foreign technicians in their employ for proper maintenance and servicing of tractors imported by them. As regards the Central Tractor Organisation, two foreign experts, one an F.A.O. expert and the other an expert deputed to India under the Point 4 Programme, are at present attached to the Organisation, in connection with the repairing, maintenance and proper utilisation of tractors and implements.

#### STRIKE IN COAL MINES OF BELLAMPALLI

158. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for strike in the Bellampalli, Kothagudium and Yellandu collieries during the month of June, 1953;

(b) the number of workers involved;

(c) the man-hours lost;

(d) the efforts made by the Conciliation Officer to avert the strike;

(e) the loss in coal production;

(f) the value thereof; and

(g) whether the workers have been paid wages and other allowances for the period of strike?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) to (g). Detailed information asked for is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course. In regard to the strike in the Bellampalli Colliery, the available information has been furnished in my reply to the hon. Member's Starred Question No. 280, dated 7th August 1953.

#### PURCHASE OF FOODGRAINS FROM ABROAD

159. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total quantity of foodgrains of each variety purchased in foreign countries during the year 1953, upto date, together with—

(i) the total value of each, and

(ii) the names of the countries of purchase?



(b) Which agency had settled the rates of purchase?

(c) Was prior sanction of Government obtained before entering into contracts?

(d) Were all purchases made—

(i) on Government level and

(ii) on barter or

(iii) on cash payment basis?

(e) Were some purchases made by private agencies?

(f) Were any commissions and other overhead charges paid?

(g) If so, how much amount was so paid?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) The quantities of foodgrains purchased during the present year upto the end of July 1953 are as follows:—

Foodgrain	Quantity in lakh tons	Value in lakh rupees
Wheat	16.2	6308
Flour	0.75	392
Milo and Sorghum	1.18	477
Rice	1.75	1453
	19.88	8630

The countries from which these foodgrains have been purchased are as follows:—

Wheat—U.S.A., Canada, Australia and Argentine.

Flour—Australia.

Milo and Sorghum—U.S.A. and Australia.

Rice—Thailand, Burma and Pakistan.

(b) Wheat and flour purchases except from Argentine, were under the I.W.A. for which the rate is already fixed under the International Wheat Agreement. From Argentine the wheat was against the barter agreement concluded by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. All rates of purchases are normally approved beforehand by the Government.

(c) Yes.

(d) Majority of purchases were made at Government level either on barter or against cash payment. Small quantities were purchased from the trade.

(e) Yes, a small quantity.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

#### ANTI-MALARIA UNIT IN TRIPURA

**160. Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the mobile anti-malaria unit has worked in any place in Tripura?

(b) What is the approximate number of malaria patients in Agartala Town at present?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar):** (a) No.

(b) In all 1,521 malaria patients have been treated in the two Dispensaries and at the Out-Patient Department of the Victoria Memorial Hospital, Agartala. Many of these patients do not however, live within the Agartala town itself.

(c) The National Malaria Control Programme was started on the 11th July, 1953, in Tripura. Under this programme the State has been allotted  $\frac{1}{4}$  unit which is expected to protect half a million people residing in malarious areas of the State. The State will receive free supply of D.D.T., anti-malarial drugs, transport and spraying equipment which will go a long way in eradicating malaria from Tripura.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF MAIL IN HILLY REGIONS

**161. Shrimati Kamalendu Mati Shah:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what arrangements have been made to distribute mail in the hilly regions of U.P. where motorable and other roads do not exist?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** Mails are conveyed by runners on foot and they

are delivered through runners, extra-Departmental Branch Postmasters and/or Delivery Agents.

#### TOURIST OFFICE IN SRINAGAR

**162. Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:**

(a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how much money has been spent on the tourist office opened in Srinagar recently?

(b) How was the recruitment of the staff made for this office?

(c) Will the employees engaged in the Tourist Office get the same privileges and amenities as are given to other Central Government employees?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The initial expenditure incurred on the setting up of the Government of India Tourist Office in Srinagar amounted to Rs. 10,500 approximately.

(b) By departmental selection.

(c) Yes. Except for Class IV employees who have been appointed on local scales of pay and allowances, other officers are in receipt of pay and allowances similar to those admissible to officers of comparable status of the Central Government stationed at Srinagar.

#### RAILWAY EARNINGS

**163. Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the approximate gross earnings of Indian Railways from Class I passengers in the first quarter of 1953-54 as compared with the corresponding period of 1952-53?

(b) Is it a fact that these earnings have gone down considerably?

(c) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Approximately Rs. 41.25 lakhs during the first quarter of 1953-54 as against Rs. 49.59 lakhs for the corresponding period of 1952-53.

(b) The earnings have dropped by Rs. 8½ lakhs as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

(c) The policy of progressive withdrawal of First class accommodation besides the general factors responsible for the recession in all classes of passenger traffic since 1951.

#### बर्षा

**१६४. सेठ गोबिन्द दास :** क्या संचार मंत्री उन राज्यों के नाम बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे जहाँ गत पांच वर्षों से वर्षा घटने लगी है ?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** No consistent tendency towards decrease in rainfall in any State has been noticed in the period of the last 5 years.

#### WAITING ROOMS

**165. Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I and II class waiting rooms on Railway Stations in India; and

(b) the number of Inter Class waiting rooms?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). So far as 1st, 2nd and inter class passengers are concerned, waiting rooms are maintained in three categories, namely:—

(i) for 1st and 2nd class passengers only.

(ii) for 1st, 2nd and inter class passengers only.

(iii) for inter class passengers only.

The numbers respectively are:—

(i) 1,290.

(ii) 695.

(iii) 538.

**INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES,  
BANGALORE**

**167. Shri Buchhikotiah:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of shares taken by the Centre in the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore; and

(b) the percentage of shares of the Mysore Government?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) 84.3 per cent.

(b) 12.5 per cent.

**HORTICULTURE**

**168. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what steps are being taken by Government to improve horticulture in India?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The improvement of horticulture is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is, however, financing research schemes on important all India problems. State schemes for development of horticulture are also eligible for assistance from 'Grow More Food' funds.

**TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS**

**169. Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state in what way priorities are determined to give new telephone connections?

(b) Is any list of applications for new connections in each Divisional or local office maintained in the order of their date of receipt?

(c) Is the priority list deviated from under any circumstances or conditions?

(d) If so, what are those circumstances or conditions?

(e) Have any complaints been received that the order in the priority lists has not been adhered to?

(f) Are these priority lists published monthly or at other intervals at the local offices?

(g) Are these lists open for inspection to the public?

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

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House indicating priorities in allotment of telephone connections. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 16.]

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). Yes, on the advice of Telephone Advisory Committees to the extent indicated in the statement placed on the Table of the House in reply to part (a).

(e) Some complaints have been received and they are due to ignorance of the recommendatory powers of the Telephone Advisory Committees.

(f) No.

(g) Yes.

(h) Does not arise.

**JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION**

**170. Shri Buchhikotiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the average cost of cultivating paddy per acre by the Japanese method in India in 1953?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** An all-India average has not been worked out so far. Experiments have been laid out in States with a view to studying the economics of cultivation and the data for the 1953 paddy crop will be available in the year 1954.

**TRAINING CENTRE AT BARODA**

**171. Shri Gidwai:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish a Training Centre at Baroda to give training

to its employees in the different branches of work connected with the department;

(b) whether the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs and other officers of the Department visited Baroda to select the building for the proposed Centre;

(c) whether any such selection was made; and

(d) when the Centre will start functioning?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Some buildings were seen. The final decision is yet pending.

(d) As soon as the negotiations for renting the building in view are finalised and necessary repairs are carried out.

#### THEFT OF RAILWAY COAL STOCK

**172. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an item of news published in the *Bharat Jyoti* of Bombay dated the 21st June, 1953 to the effect that coal worth many lakhs of rupees belonging to the railway administration is missing from Mcra-

dabad Division of the Northern Railway;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been held into the matter; and

(c) if so, the result of such inquiry?

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

(b) and (c). Enquiries made from the Northern Railway show that there has been no case of theft of coal on the Moradabad Division to the heavy extent as reported in the *Bharat Jyoti* of Bombay.

#### OOREGAUM GOLD MINES (EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS)

**173. Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been reached between the management and workers about providing alternative employment to the workers consequent upon the closure of Ooregaum Gold mines; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the said agreement?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the agreement is attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 17.]

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

## OFFICIAL REPORT

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## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 7th August, 1953

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-14 A.M.

## POINT OF PRIVILEGE

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy** (Mysore): On a point of privilege, Sir. In today's *Times of India* there is a reference to withholding of press gallery card to the correspondent of 'Hindustan'. It is being done, according to the paper, by the officials of the House of the People.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I do not want the hon. Member to take up the time of the House on that subject. We know exactly what the matter is. The person concerned saw me yesterday and I have fixed up a time to discuss the matter with him. He has also made a representation which I am looking into.

I may suggest to hon. Members that as soon as they get to know a particular matter, it need not necessarily be raised on the floor of the House. The procedure is that when a question of privilege is sought to be raised, they

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should write to me in the first instance. I will look into it and, if necessary, fix up a time. If the matter is considered to be of importance it will be referred to the Committee. This is the procedure.

## COIR INDUSTRY BILL

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** I beg to move\*\*.

"That the Bill to provide for the control by the Union of the Coir Industry and for that purpose to establish a Coir Board and levy a customs duty on coir fibre, coir yarn and coir products exported from India, be taken into consideration."

As hon. Members are already aware, the coir industry is one of great economic importance, principally to Travancore-Cochin, where it is concentrated, and also, from the point of view of earning foreign exchange, it is of importance to the whole country. In Travancore-Cochin I understand about one lakh families comprising of nearly five to six lakhs of persons, are engaged in this industry. Since alternative industrial employment in this area is practically nil, they are almost wholly dependent on the coir industry for their livelihood. This dependence is made the more acute since the fortunes of the industry are inextricably linked with the export trade in both unmanufactured coir and finished goods. Nearly three-fourths of the total production is exported.

\*\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Karmarkar]

Unfortunately, since the year 1951 there has been a decline in the exports, both of yarn and mats and mattings. Roundabout the early months of 1952, this decline became alarmingly steep. The reduction in the shipments of mats and mattings in the first quarter of 1952 is a little over 50 per cent. when compared to the shipments in the corresponding period of 1951. In respect of coir yarn, there has been a reduction of roughly 25 per cent. Investigations by India's Trade Representatives abroad reveal that the fall in exports was due not only to stock-piling in previous years and the general international slump but also to uneven quality, irregularity of supplies and uncertain prices. It would be pertinent to mention here that the reduction in exports has coincided with the steepfall in prices. From Rs. 583 per candy of 6 Cwt. of superior Angengo in March, 1951, the price fell to Rs. 275 per candy in May, 1952. Simultaneously wages have come down from Re. 1 per day to 8 or 9 annas per day in May, 1952.

This state of affairs with its resultant distress in Travancore-Cochin and other States like Madras, where the industry was once flourishing, has been a source of great anxiety and concern to Government. Interim measures for minimising the hardship on workers who have been thrown out of employment have been taken by the Central and State Governments through the starting of civil works in the effected areas. It was clear to us, however, that the only permanent way of rehabilitating the displaced workers was to take such steps as would ensure lasting improvements in the several aspects of the Industry itself.

Immediately following the crisis, Government sent a special officer to Travancore-Cochin to study the situation on the spot and later in November, 1952, a conference was convened

in Trivandrum, of different sections of the coir trade, to examine the problems facing the Industry and to suggest remedies. The Conference recommended that, with a view to controlling production improving its quality, weeding out undesirable elements in the export trade and developing an internal market so as to reduce the Industry's dependence on exports, Government should set up a Central Coir Board endowed with statutory powers. Well known precedents for the proposed Board exist in the Coffee and Tea industries. The Coir Industry is, in much the same manner, located in a compact geographical area; it is dependent primarily on export markets and its problems are those of rationalization of production and quality control. We consider, therefore, that the problems facing the Industry will be best met by the setting up of a statutory Coir Board as recommended by the Trivandrum Conference.

In regard to the financing of the Board, after a great deal of thought, we have come to the conclusion that an export duty be levied on coir fibre, coir yarn as well as on coir mats and mattings. Although the maximum duty may be fixed at Re. 1 per cwt., initially it is considered that 8 annas per cwt. would be sufficient with which to make a start. We were ourselves not a little disturbed in thinking whether in view of the existing depression in the Industry the latter would be able to sustain a levy straightway. But after calculating on the basis of prices and the amount of exports, we found that the incidence of the levy of 8 annas per cwt. would work out to something like 1½ per cent. on coir fibre and coir yarn and only 1 per cent. on mats and mattings. It may be argued that 8 annas per cwt. would weigh somewhat hard on coir fibre and coir yarn which are worth approximately Rs. 30 per cwt. and Rs. 37 per cwt.; while it will be light on mats and

matting which are worth roughly Rs. 100 per cwt. This is as it should be, as there will not be a very great deal of competition against us in respect of coir yarn for which we have already established a considerable market. By keeping the export levy low on mats and mattings, we would be encouraging the export of a fully processed finished commodity in preference to raw materials, namely, coir fibre and the semi-processed material, namely, coir yarn. From an examination of statistics over the last 2 years, it is seen that coir fibre and coir yarn account for more than 75 per cent. of the total exports. The incidence of the proposed levy as between coir yarn and coir goods will give the much-needed impetus to the latter. I have been fully aware of the disadvantageous position that mats and mattings occupy *vis-a-vis* coir yarn, in the context of our export trade. Later, when, with the improvement in the quality of our production of these articles at competitive rates, we are able to secure a steady overseas market for them, we might even consider the wholesale exemption of mats and mattings from the proposed levy. But for this no additional provision in the Bill is required. Section 23 of the Sea Customs act gives Government power to make the necessary exemption by a notification.

Before I conclude, I would like to offer a clarification for any possible doubt about the necessity for the Centre to assume control of the industry in all its aspects. I have earlier stated that the industry is concentrated mainly in the Travancore-Cochin area. It might be argued that on this basis, it might be sufficient if the State Government of Travancore-Cochin itself assume the responsibility. In fact the State Government has already promulgated certain orders for the licensing of coir spindles and for controlling the price and marketing of husks. Quite apart from the fact that these Orders do not cater for controlling the quality

of coir yarn which is an item of export, they are operative only insofar as the Travancore-Cochin State is concerned and this from an all-India viewpoint is a limiting factor. Besides Madras whose total production of coir is a close third of that produced in Travancore-Cochin, there are also other States like West Bengal, Bombay and Orissa which produce coir and coir goods in smaller quantities. It will, therefore, be seen that it is not only necessary for a Central Board to be established but that it is equally necessary that this Board should have control of the industry from the husk stage right up to the stage of the finished product.

I would not like to dilate further at this stage on the various provisions of the Bill. The pattern of the Coir Board proposed to be established follows the pattern of the other Boards which have been set up. It will be a Board functioning under Government control; it will be a Board which will include amongst its members representatives of the various interests concerned with the coir industry.

We look upon this problem as something of an urgent problem, naturally because it is giving us a substantial amount of foreign exchange, but more so because it concerns the employment position in a very thickly populated area like Travancore-Cochin with very few alternative avenues of employment, and, therefore, I regret to say that we are not in a position to accept the amendment seeking this Bill being sent to Select Committee. Already some time has elapsed. We do not want to spend some more time. In fact the draft Bill was ready before the last session, but due to the crowding of other work, important work, this could not reach the consideration stage. We are anxious to see to it that this Board functions at as early a stage as possible.

There is nothing complicated either about the functions of the Board or



[Shri Karmarkar]

about the personnel of the Board. Therefore, while I would deem it my duty to oppose the motion for reference of the Bill to Select Committee, I shall be very happy to discuss such amendments as hon. Members wish to press with a view to improving the measure. Ultimately the measure could be divided into three parts, the constitution of the Board, the functions of the Board, and other ancillary provisions. There is nothing complicated about it, nor anything that could not offer a solution by a straight exchange of views either off the floor of the House or on the Floor of the House.

I would not like to take more of the time of the House by dealing in detail with the various aspects of the Bill at this stage. It is a measure which concerns a part of our country where the employment position becomes a very serious one if the employment that people already have is disturbed, and therefore we are anxious to see that this Bill is placed on the statute book at as early a time as possible.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the control by the Union of the Coir Industry and for that purpose to establish a Coir Board and levy a customs duty on coir fibre, coir yarn and coir products exported from India, be taken into consideration."

**Shri V. P. Nayar** (Chirayinkil): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Kumari Annie Mascarene, Shri A. K. Gopalan, Shri K. A. Damodara Menon, Shri K. Kelappan, Shri P. T. Punnoose, Shri K. T. Achuthan, Shri A. Nesamony, Shri Eacharam Iyyani, Shri C. R. Iyyunni, Shri A. M. Thomas, Shri A. V. Thomas, Prof. C. P. Mathew, Shri Nettur P. Damodaran, Shri N. Sreekantan Nair, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari and the

mover, with instructions to report not later than the 17th August, 1953.

**Shri Kelappan** (Ponnani): Why not even one non-Malayalee?

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** There are two Ministers who are non Malayalees. In moving this motion to refer this Bill to Select Committee it should not at all be misunderstood that it is intended to delay the passage of this Bill. Before the motion was moved the hon. Minister anticipated this and also said that Government will be against referring this Bill to a Select Committee. That makes it necessary for me to explain why this motion has now been brought as it is.

As you know, Sir, the coir industry is one in which the Travancore-Cochin State and the Malabar district of the Madras State are almost solely concerned. The economy of these places is very largely dependent upon this industry and I think Government also have accepted this position. Recently there has been a crisis in the industry. We have had the industry for about three decades. We have had slumps Booms and crises, but never before in the history of this industry have we had such a prolonged crisis as we have now. Here is a matter in which you can expect that every Member from Travancore-Cochin and Malabar, irrespective of his party affiliations, will struggle his utmost to catch your eye and speak. That is precisely the reason why I have put almost all the Members from the particular region that will be affected by this Bill, into the Select Committee. And surely they know the importance more than other hon. Members. We know also that the hands of the Government are full for this session. But I feel that the hon. the Leader of the House can find time to have one hour or so for this Bill, in case, as I suggest, the Bill comes back from the Select-Committee on the 17th August. There should be no difficulty for that. In fact, if the Bill is to be discussed at this stage, every Member from my State and from the Malabar district



of Madras State will have to speak. And you will agree with me, Sir, when I say that on such matters a Select Committee can go deeper into the issue than this House, having five hundred Members, as a whole.

I wanted also to bring to the attention of the House another very important aspect which Government seems to have conveniently ignored. We are not against setting up a Board. Something is better than nothing. But we have had the experience of other Boards. There are ever so many Boards, the Rubber Board, the Coffee Board, the Tea Board, the Coconut Board etc. But only yesterday the hon. the Commerce Minister stated on the floor of the House that in a matter which primarily affected Travancore-Cochin, not only the wishes of the representatives of the people were not considered but even the representation of the State Government was ignored! Yesterday you will remember, Sir, when I put a question whether it was not a fact that the Travancore-Cochin Government made a representation to the Union Government that the import duty on coconut oil should not be reduced, the hon. Minister said that they were able to convince the State Government that it should be reduced! There was the Coconut Board. It was not consulted at all in this matter. We do not want this Coir Board to be a Board just like the other Boards. That is the reason why we want this Bill to be sent to a Select Committee so that all of us who come from that area can sit together, go deep into detail, consider every provision and make necessary alterations, so that when it comes back with the report of the Select Committee there may not be any occasion for us to have any detailed discussion on the floor of the House.

Government have also forgotten the fact that it is not due to any inherent defect in the industry at the place alone that we have a crisis now. It is more due to the international aspect of it. I wish to focuss the attention of the House to this point also. You

will find that the industry is very largely controlled by foreigners. It is not a casual foreign investor who operates in this field. There are very big concerns, Volkart Brothers, for instance, which is one of the biggest concerns, Pierce, Leslie & Company and Aspinwall & etc. All these together control about 75 to 80 per cent. of the industry. Unfortunately we have built up a trade in coir only with one set of countries. Here is a list of the countries from which, before the Bill was drafted perhaps, the Government collected some information through their accredited Trade Representatives. That is published in the Journal of Industry & Trade (June 1953 issue). If you go through page 747 of the Journal you will find it stated: "Briefly, the position is as follows in the more important markets", and there they list them. The countries are U.K., U.S.A., Switzerland, Sweden, France, Italy, Germany, Canada, Egypt, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, Thailand, Philippines, Japan and New Zealand. There is also another list which I got from the Research Section and no other country is included there. These are the only markets where we can sell our coir.

You know that after 1951 there have been very bad changes in the economy of these countries. The United Kingdom, for example, which consumed coir worth about Rs. 1,08,62,870 in 1951-52, could consume only coir worth about Rs. 51,47,622 in 1952-53. Western Germany which consumed coir for Rs. 81,41,656 in 1951-52 cut down the imports to Rs. 65,73,487 in 1952-53. France imported coir for Rs. 35,86,444 in 1951-52 but in 1952-53 it was Rs. 26,23,140.

That is why after 1951-52 there has been a decrease in the import of coir products by all the countries to which we have been exporting coir products. There is some reason for that also.

It will be very interesting if we see the balance of trade position of these

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

importing countries. Here in the Reserve Bank of India Bulletin for June 1953 the figures are given. For U.K. in 1948 it was £431.5 million and £1,197.1 million in 1951. The adverse balance of trade for United Kingdom increased three times. The same applies to France, for which also I have got some figures.

I am trying to point out to you Mr. Deputy-Speaker and to the House that it is not precisely because of any internal difficulty that the crisis persists and deepens. It has been the result of the impact of certain other circumstances which developed at other places. For France, for example, the balance of trade in 1951 stood at minus 339,000 million francs and if you analyse the figure further you will also see that the deficit with United States of America alone amounted to 125,000 million francs. That is why these countries—United Kingdom, France, Western Germany, and other countries, which used to import coir and coir products in large quantities, could not find money enough to continue their imports as they were doing before.

You will also find that this fact has been admitted in the Conference of the Finance Ministers of the Commonwealth in which our hon. Finance Minister also took a plunge and not a swim. The deficit in the balance of trade of all these countries have had its repercussions on the coir industry and unless you open up the trade with other countries which are not in the group of the United States financiers and which do not have such adverse balance of trade increasing year after year, you will not be able to solve the problem permanently.

You will also find, it is very interesting, that while the Western European countries have been showing increased adverse balance of trade, the United States of America has not been doing so. Here is the figure for U.S. also. The balance of trade for United States of America for 1948-49 was

5570 million dollars. In 1951-52 it is almost the same—5200 million dollars.

It is also interesting to know that the United States, which controlled only 29 per cent. of the entire gold reserves of the world in 1931, increased its control to about 54 per cent. on the eve of the second world war and today they hold over 70 per cent. of the world's visible gold reserves.

That is the situation which has created in the Western European countries a peculiar circumstance by which they were obliged to restrict their imports and so we have had these repercussions in the coir industry which depends entirely on such countries. Government has made no effort to counter-act the situation. If you go through this article you will find that no effort has been made to open up trade with regions with vast potentialities. There is the U.S.S.R., there is China, there are Eastern European countries with which we have no trade in coir and unless the Government takes a very keen interest in trade with these countries. I do not think that there is any chance of permanently resolving this crisis.

In spite of that something, as I said before, is better than nothing and I do consider that this Bill, if it is properly amended, and if those Members of the House, who have opportunity to know what is the actual position, go into the matter in greater detail and then find out the solutions, would certainly lead to a better Bill which will be more effective.

When the words coir industry are mentioned some of us look back to our state and it is not only the Communist Members but also the Congress Members who should recall the spectacle which we saw during our visits to the state off the sessions. Hundreds of thousands of people reduced to skeleton, people who were once upon a time men and women. There are mothers, thousands of them, unable to suckle their children because of continued starvation and the conse-

quent exhaustion. Tens of Hundreds of ematiated rickety children showing visible symptoms of prolonged starvation. That is the situation in which the coir industry crisis has put our people. The very mention of the words makes us look back to our place and you can rest assured, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that on this Bill, regardless of parties—every Member from Travancore-Cochin State will try to speak.

**An Hon. Member:** Why not others?

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** But I hope that the House will leave this measure, largely, for us to discuss and we would certainly welcome any suggestion from the other hon. Members. So, for these reasons, I consider it absolutely necessary that the Bill should be referred to the Select Committee, which I suggest.

This morning I heard the hon. Minister, who unfortunately is not here now, saying that he may even withdraw the Bill if we press for a Select Committee. It was only today that Mr. A. V. Thomas a Congress Member, received a telegram that this Bill must be referred to a Select Committee. Some of us have also received letters telegrams that this Bill should not be passed in a haphazard or hasty manner. We must also sit together and find out all possible means before we pass this into law. It is very easy to find time. This is a matter which affects millions of people; this is a matter which decides the economy of millions of people. It is a very important matter and so it should not be difficult for Government to find one hour to consider the report of the Select Committee.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Amendment moved;

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Kumari Annie Mascarene, Shri A. K. Gopalan, Shri K. A. Damodara Menon, Shri K. Kelappan Shri P. T. Punnoose, Shri K. T. Achuthan, Shri A. Nesamony, Shri Eacharam Iyyani,

Shri C. R. Iyyunni, Shri A. M. Thomas, Shri A. V. Thomas, Prof. C. P. Mathew, Shri Nattur P. Damodaran, Shri N. Sreekantan Nair, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari and the mover with instructions to report not later than the 17th August, 1953."

**(Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Mr. Thomas.

**Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru):** On a point of information, Sir; this coir industry we have in East Godavari, West Godavari, etc. But no representation has been given to that part of the country.

**Some Hon. Members:** You can move that.

**Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam):** We are going to oppose this.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Member can make a suggestion to that effect. Yes, Mr. Thomas.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I rise to welcome this measure. I wish to give my full support to this Bill and I oppose the motion moved by my hon. friend Mr. V. P. Nayar to refer this Bill to a Select Committee. I am as anxious as the hon. Member himself to have the Bill in as perfect a form as possible. At the same time, I am more anxious to have the Bill passed at the earliest possible opportunity and have a Central organisation which will control the Industry and work for its development.

[**PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA**  
in the Chair]

This Bill has not come a day too soon. Coconut and its by-products form one of the main sources of livelihood of the people of Kerala, that is, Travancore-Cochin, and the Malabar district in Madras. With regard to coconuts, to look to the agricultural side of it, its production and other aspects, we have got the Central Coconut Committee. The idea came to be mooted very seriously for the setting up of a Coir Board and control of the industry when depression set in this industry to an alarming

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

extent towards the end of 1951 and in 1952. This depression still persists although signs of improvement are visible. The Central Coconut Committee was demanding that it should be permitted to take up the development of the coir industry on the ground that this work, judged by certain considerations and standard ought to belong to that body. The Central Government has taken a decision that a separate Board for this industry will be more conducive to an effective control of the manufacturing and marketing side of coir and that controversy can now be deemed to be at an end.

The position of the coir industry in the economy of Kerala has been well described by the hon. Minister himself in his speech and it requires no emphasis at my hands. The importance of this industry can very well be imagined from the fact that after the general elections, when we met for the Budget session in 1952, Members of Parliament from Travancore-Cochin State and the Malabar district have, irrespective of party affiliations, jointly approached the Government of India, referred to the alternations of booms and slumps in this industry, suggested short term and long term remedies and impressed the necessity for the Central Government to interfere and stabilise the conditions. The joint memorandum, a copy of which is in my hands, and a copy of which, I am sure, will be in the hands of the hon. Minister advocated the formation of a Coir Board on the lines of the Boards set up in other commodities. Bringing home to this House the importance of this industry, the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill has erred only on the side of moderation.

The world production of coir fibre is calculated at about 2,20,000 tons of which 1,32,600 tons are produced in India. Almost the entire quality of coir produced in India comes from Kerala, more than a lac tons from

Travancore-Cochin and about 25,000 tons from Malabar. As the hon. Minister has referred, small quantities of coir are also produced in Mysore, Orissa, West Bengal and Bombay; but the quantity is, so to say, negligible. Accurate statistics are not available of the number of people employed in this industry since it is organised partly on a cottage basis and partly on a factory basis. Alleppey, the main centre of coir matting industry, employs about 23,000 people in the factories situated there and in the neighbourhood. The industry is highly organised in Travancore-Cochin and gives employment to 5 to 6 lakhs of people. If the large number of people engaged in the preliminary stages of the industry are also taken into consideration, the figure will exceed a million people. It is a matter which naturally gives concern to any responsible person who deals with the public of that locality.

It has been the practice, and a healthy practice too, when we deal with such Bills, for the hon. Minister to refer to the conditions of the industry as a whole and the House to examine to steps that have been taken by the Government to deal with the situation in which the industry finds itself. The average annual production of cocoanuts in India taking the five years ending 1949-50, is 3300 millions. But, not all the husks are processed for coir. About 50 per cent. are utilised, making all allowances for other use and wastage, for the manufacture of coir and coir products. The export earnings, as mentioned by the hon. Minister, taking the figures for the years 1946-1951, exceed 10 crores of rupees. It is a substantial sum as far as the export earnings of our country are concerned. I have got three years' figures before me with regard to exports to foreign countries. In 1949-50 it was Rs. 7,21,00,000; In 1950-51 it was Rs. 10,76,00,000; in 1951-52 it was Rs. 10,80,00,000.

I pointed out that the industry has been facing a slump since the middle of 1951. Going by the figures that I have got before me, this coir trade has been characterised by periodical booms and slumps. In 1939 we experienced a slump. In 1949, we experienced another slump. We are now passing through another slump in this industry. As pointed out by the hon. Minister and by my hon. friend Mr. V. P. Nayar, the industry has registered a considerable recession in the first quarter of 1952. There has been a reduction of about 50 per cent in the shipping of mats and mattings and about 25 per cent in the coir yarn compared with the corresponding period in 1951. This is a sharp decline which has to be viewed with alarm. The price per ton of Cochin fibre which was Rs. 722/6/- in the first week of July 1946, fell to Rs. 498/6/- in the middle of July 1949. Thereafter it went up gradually and reached the figure of Rs. 1428 in April 1951, after which it declined steadily to Rs. 655/3/-. Therefore, the decline is from Rs. 1428 in April 1951 to Rs. 655/3/- towards the end of November 1952. The causes of the slump and how we are to combat them are continued in a very illuminating article which has been published by the Secretary of the Central Coconut Committee, Mr. Gopalan, in the latest issue of the Indian Coconut Journal, July-September part (1952). I would earnestly commend to the notice of the Government the causes that have been pointed out by the learned writer, as well as the remedies that have been suggested by him. It is a very brilliant article which calls for earnest attention at the hands of the Government.

Government has been alive to the situation, and it has taken certain remedial measures too. The remedial measures that have been taken by the Central Government as well as by the State Governments have been given in the May Part of the *Journal of Industry and Trade* published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. I would say that we are grate-

ful for the steps taken by the Government, but they are quite inadequate to meet the situation. The first step that has been pointed out is: "for giving immediate relief to the displaced workers affected by the depression, Government have taken steps to start certain civil works and some relief has also been afforded by the establishment of two community projects in Trivandrum, and Trichur in Travancore-Cochin". I am glad that the Government has not thought fit to include all other activities of the Government that are taking place in my State as well as in the neighbouring States as steps taken in the direction of alleviation of the distress in the coir industry. All the same, certain other steps, though inadequate are notable. They are the grant of Rs. 18,400 and a loan of Rs. 2 lakhs which have been made to the Travancore-Cochin Government for the organisation and development of Coir Co-operative Societies. As against the magnitude of the problem, this sum of Rs. 18,400, I need not submit, is a very paltry amount. It has been stated that a sum of Rs. 96 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Centre for the earth work, etc. for the Ernakulam-Quilon Railway project to provide alternative employment to the people there. I am glad to say that this earth work in connection with the Ernakulam-Quilon Project is one of the right steps taken to alleviate the distress there. But, I understand that the entire amount will not be utilised during the course of this financial year since the sanction for the major works which have to be carried out, has not yet been given by the Central Government.

Then it has been stated that the State Governments and the Central Government have been requested to make increased purchase of coir and coir products but I understand that the other State Governments and the Departments of Central Government have not been after all very enthusiastic to purchase coir products manufactured in my State. It has been stated that representatives of various

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importing countries have been requested to do everything possible in this direction. This is a very vague statement and I should say that it should be stressed on our trade representatives abroad of the considerable importance of the coir industry. The coir conference which has been referred to by the hon. Minister and which had been convened in Trivandrum suggested also—as we have done in our representation—the constitution of a Coir Board. Mere passing of the Bill will not be a panacea for the ailments which the industry is now suffering from. Some central organization is, of course, necessary. It is in need of a better machinery—some official organisation to safeguard its interests. In the field of production, distribution and marketing, I am sure, the necessity for that organisation will never be questioned.

Coming to the Bill proper, bearing in mind the opinion that this House has expressed with regard to the constitution and the composition of similar boards with regard to other commodities like Tea, I do not think it worthwhile to canvas for a more democratic composition of this Board. I have got the assurance which has been given by the hon. the Commerce and Industry Minister himself when the Tea Bill was moved, and when I pleaded for a more democratic set up in the composition and constitution of the Board. It was stated that the rules will provide for representatives of organisations and others to come in as far as possible and it may not be necessary to change the constitution of the Board as laid down in the Bill. I do not think any useful purpose will be served by repeating the same arguments which I advanced when I spoke on the Tea Bill with regard to the constitution of the Board. However, I would make some suggestions in other directions with regard to the constitution of the Board itself without doing violent changes in the Bill as it stands at present. The board, it has been stated, "will con-

sist of such number not exceeding 40." As has been pointed out in the House, the industry is confined practically to the area of Travancore-Cochin and Malabar and I do not think to represent the various interests this number is necessary. It should be our concern not to make the administration top-heavy and expensive. Forty is too large and I believe a maximum of 30 will be adequate to represent the various interests that the Parliament and the Government will have in view to be given representation in this Board. I cannot understand why the Government in this Bill contemplates to give representation to growers of cocoanuts and persons employed by growers of cocoanuts. I am afraid whether in framing this Bill the framers had in view the constitution of the Central Coconut Committee. The Central Coconut Committee which goes into the agricultural and other economic aspects of coconut provides for representation for 26 non-official members in the Coconut Committee of whom 9 represent the growers of Coconuts and 5 represent Coconut oil industry and the very function of the Central Coconut Committee is "undertaking" assisting or encouraging agricultural, industrial and economic research, improving marketing of coconut and coconut products" and as such I do not understand why the Bill which deals with the industrial and manufacturing side of coir industry should give representation to growers of cocoanuts as well as persons employed by growers of coconuts. At the same time I have to point out that it is necessary that representation should be given not to growers of coconuts but to producers of husks both raw and retted. That is a very important suggestion as far as I should think because to control the industry we have to control it from the preliminary stages. The real problem begins with the problem of husks, both raw and retted, so that it is necessary to give representation to producers of



husks and also to the persons employed by producers of husks both raw and retted. That is certainly necessary if this legislation were to work satisfactorily. The supply of raw material is a primary factor to be taken into consideration. We have to exercise our control from the stage at which cocoanut husks are separated from the nuts. On certain occasions it has been experienced that the supply price and demand of husks, both raw and retted, bear no relationship to the demand and the price of coir and coir products. That is exactly the reason why the State Government has thought it fit to licence the spindle owners as well as control supply and marketing of husks. That is a very primary thing which we have to bear in mind when we are dealing with this Bill. The problems of the industry start with the retting process and extraction of fibre requires retting of raw husks for a period of six to ten months. There is need to lessen that duration. Besides, research on methods of retting, extraction of fibre, treatment of husk, etc. have to be carried on. I, therefore, in my amendments to this Bill suggested the inclusion of husks also within the purview of this Bill and the control of the same among the functions of Coir Board, that will come into existence, after the passing of this Bill.

With regard to the constitution of the Board, my hon. friend, Mr. Punnoose, has suggested certain amendments. That is, to give representation to the various organizations concerned in the manufacture and also to give representation to the labour concerned in this field. There cannot be any objection to that proposal. But, considering the fact that the rules may provide for constitution of the Board giving representation to manufacturers' representatives as well as labour representatives, I do not think it is necessary to indicate that provision in the very Act itself. Of course, it is desirable as I have submitted already to have a more democratic set-up but if this is not possible I think it is enough if the rules

provide for giving representation to the various organizations involved both of the manufacturers as well as the workmen employed in this industry. Mr. Punnoose has also suggested to give representation to the members of the Assembly both in the State of Travancore-Cochin as well as in the State of Madras. We should not lose sight of the fact that the principal States mostly concerned with the industry are Travancore-Cochin and Madras and I am sure the Government will bear in mind that representation has to be given to the members of the Legislature of both the States.

Several things have been left to be provided for by the Rules, and there too, very wide powers are given, and I hope that after the passing of this Bill, no delay will be caused in the framing of the rules and placing them before Parliament, because the very fact that we oppose the motion for Select Committee, though it is a suggestion well worth accepting, will show, and I am sure, that Government itself is aware of the fact that it is a very urgent measure, and as such there should be no delay in the framing of the rules. I understand that though the Tea Bill has been passed in the last session itself, the rules connected with that Act have not yet been framed and nothing has been done in pursuance of that Act. So, I hope such delay will not happen in the case of this Bill when it becomes law.

I do not want to take up the time of the House more. However, I wish to emphasize one fact. It has been estimated that about a million people are employed in this industry, and the export earnings even in the best of our times did not exceed Rs. 11 to 12 crores, so that, taking an average, the income of each person does not reach the figure of the income of an average Indian. Even in the best of times, if that was the state of affairs, we can more or less imagine the state of affairs obtaining at present. So, this matter should engage the attention of the Government, both

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at the Centre and in the State, and we must try to expand the industry as much as possible and to increase the income to such an extent as to make it our economic proposition.

I have referred to the article of the Secretary of the Central Coconut Committee. It is a very instructive article and he has made certain suggestions to be acted upon in this matter, and I would earnestly urge the Government to take into consideration the suggestions that he has offered and try to implement them. He stated that strong and effective liaison between the overseas markets and the home producers has to be established for the successful development of this industry. He has also stated that marketing-cum-liaison officers should be appointed in foreign countries to devote their full and undivided attention to this industry. They will have to study the changes in the pattern of foreign tastes, designs and demand for coir goods. Trade emporia and show rooms have to be opened in as many foreign countries as possible. We have to take into account that there are several fibres also coming into the market such as Manila and Sisal and other grass floor coverings also, so that we have always to be alert to face this competition from foreign countries, and we have to devote our attention to have cheaper and more attractive mats and mattings. Though our mats and mattings are noted for their exquisite patterns and designs, I would submit that there is a lot of room for improvement.

The hon. Minister, in his speech, referred to the quality of the products that we sell. I am glad to find the Commerce Ministry is now quite alive and enthusiastic to preserve the quality of the goods that we export from this country. Attention is now bestowed to assure the quality of products in the West Coast, such as Pepper and Lemon Grass oil. I hope the same enthusiasm will be displayed in the matter of the preservation of the

quality of the coir goods that we send, and standardized coir goods advertised in a proper way in foreign countries.

I am afraid that though the Government has stated in the House as well as in the journal referred to by me that steps are being taken to tap the internal market, Government has not succeeded to any substantial extent in that direction. I think more active measures have to be taken, and I believe that a lot of unemployment in my State can be avoided if, as a matter of fact, the internal market is tapped.

Having said so much, as I have stated at the outset, I give my enthusiastic support to this Bill and wish to see it passed as early as possible and the provisions implemented.

**Shri Velayudhan** (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Let me first of all congratulate the hon. Commerce Minister for introducing a Bill which will have a very large effect—I think a good effect—on the vast population inhabiting the West Coast.

Looking into the background of this Bill, it was, I think, about a year ago that the Government of India sent an officer to Travancore-Cochin State as well as Malabar to enquire into the condition of the coir industry. We were very glad that the Government had at that time responded to the request not only from the Members of this House, but also from the public of Travancore-Cochin State, I mean, the people of Kerala. And I thought that this Bill would come soon after the submission of the report, but, as usual, there has been a year's delay, and the industry has undergone many a crisis, and I think it is still undergoing the same condition. It is a very emergent measure, a measure which will have to be executed immediately, and I do not know why a Bill like this about which millions of people in our State are anxious is being delayed by going through the



process of a Select Committee. We can discuss it here. Even if a day more is taken, I do not mind even if the Bill is discussed for another day, I will support it, because we will get enough time to effect any changes in the Bill. But, I do not think that this Bill should be sent to the Select Committee or passed in the next session of Parliament. I know some Members are very anxious to send every Bill to Select Committees, and to sit in Select Committees, but this Bill vitally concerns the lives of the poor people who are the backbone of this industry in our State or in Kerala. They are the lower class people, the lower middle class and the poorest of the people in our State.

I do not say the Bill fully envisages measures of rehabilitating the industry, but, at the same time, it makes a beginning, and I think from this beginning a great step can be taken by the Government in the coming years. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons itself it is stated that the Union is taking up control of the coir industry. It is not a small thing. It is just like taking up any larger industry. But, the coir industry has got its own peculiar aspects. The special aspect of the coir industry is that millions of people are employed in their own homes working on the cottage industry. At the second stage, thousands of people are working for making coir, and in the third stage, we have the large scale industry, namely the big business engaged in coir mats and mattings.

My hon. friends here were telling us various stories regarding the depression that has taken place in the industry. There are so many reasons, and there may be further reasons too for the depression. But I must tell you that if only this industry had been organised on a cottage basis in our State, or in other places where coconut trees grown, then it

would not have suffered so badly, and the problem would have been solved easily.

I remember in Cochin State even as early as in 1940, there was a Coir Co-operative Organisation run by the State, and the Government had a plan to take over the whole of the coir as well as the fibre-making industry in that state. That was a magnificent plan, which was submitted to the Government of India by the Cochin Government. After we had achieved independence, the Chief Minister of that State had submitted a detailed plan in this regard, to the Government of India, and I might say that I also had a chance to see the detailed plan before it was submitted to the Central Government.

The Travancore-Cochin Government had already formed a Board for the purpose. In the Industries Department, an officer for the coir and fibre industry was appointed, and he is still functioning there. A very good scheme was there, but they lacked the necessary finance. I had a discussion with the State Government authorities on this and they said that if they had had enough finance, they would have taken over the whole industry under the State Government, and organised it on a wonderful cottage basis. But the Government of India did not go to its aid, and the industry had to suffer a lot. Personally, I am not very much willing to see that an industry which is working on a cottage basis, which requires more decentralisation, and which requires more socialisation is taken up by the Centre, and some officers who may not have the necessary experience in the field sent to the place to look after the business, and create a kind of bungling in the industry. We have had enough examples of such bungs. Therefore, when the Government of India are taking over this industry, the first thing they should do is that they must take into their confidence, the State Governments and also the people of the State. There was a scheme

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in our State to requisition the entire quantity of raw husk, and distribute it to the workers in their own homes, and then give them wages for their work. There was a scheme to organise the coir making industry on a cottage basis in the whole of the State. It was a very wonderful scheme which was accepted by the Cottage Industries organisations. It was accepted also by many of the small scale industrialists who believed in the constructive programme of Gandhiji. But now the industry is being taken over by the Government.

There is no plan of industrial development envisaged in this Bill. It envisages only a Board and nothing else. I do not know how this Board is going to function. It may function, but it will take years to organise it on a sound basis, if the Government are going to be satisfied with the mere forming of a Board alone. The coir industry will have to be taken over by the people on a co-operative basis. Otherwise, it will never thrive, and the people will not get any benefit from the Board.

As for the large scale industry, there are a number of big mill-owners in Alleppey, Quilon and other places, who are foreign industrialists. I heard a new story recently that because of labour troubles, in that part of the State, the European business magnates had stopped their business, and they wanted to have the mills in their own countries such as in Holland etc. They wanted to export cocoanut husk and fibre to their own countries, so that the mats and mattings could be made there. In these circumstances, I welcome the Government's proposal to introduce an export duty on coir and coir products. If we see the statistics of the Government of India, on the export of coir fibre, we can easily see that from 1946 up till now, a huge quantity of coir fibre alone has gone to various countries in Europe as well as America. But this fibre could easily be converted into coir in our own State, and that

was being done. And this coir used to be purchased by the business magnates, for making mats and mattings. Instead of that, now a large quantity of husk and coir fibre is being exported outside the country, and that is the reason why the poor people engaged in this industry have begun to suffer a lot, and the main depression started from the bottom itself. I believe the Government of India have got with them enough material and data regarding this industry, since a very good report had already been submitted to them by their own officers. Instead of merely forming a Board for the purpose, they should try to organise it on a cottage basis. Even in the Five year Plan, there is a reference to this industry, which is one of the most convenient and best industries which we can organise on a cottage basis.

The industry is well-organised almost in every house in the West Coast, where men, women and children are all engaged in coir making. Therefore, if only a little capital, a little finance is put in their hands, the industry can very easily be organised all over the State. The State Government should really be the masters for it. The organisation should be done on a state basis, and it must be run like the All India Spinners' Association, which is one of the biggest organisations in the world today run on a cottage basis. The same suggestion has been made by many hon. Members in this House.

While I welcome the introduction of this Bill, I would also humbly request the Government to take further measures to see that the industry is taken over by the State Government and organised as a state venture.

We are hearing harrowing tales from the West Coast, especially from Travancore-Cochin State, of the poverty and starvation of thousands of people. I know well the peculiar situation in the Travancore-Cochin

State, which is quite unlike that in other parts of India. There are no middle-classes as such there. The upper classes are there, who own large estates and large extents of land. Then we have only the lower classes that are under starvation and poverty. This peculiar position came about because of the fact that capital is now concentrated in the hands of a few sections only, leaving the others to suffer under dire poverty. For instance, when the coir industry got into the hands of the business magnates from those of the people, who were actually in the field the result was that poor people were thoroughly exploited, and they have become beggars in the streets. Only the other day, we heard that a father had to kill all his five children, and had himself to surrender to the police, under extreme poverty. In this way, terrible poverty is spread all over the State of Travancore-Cochin. I have not seen any part of India where such poverty is there, as in our State. The majority of the people there are living under well-nigh famine conditions.

This is a problem which not only the State Government but this Parliament also should look into very seriously. It is said that Travancore-Cochin is industrially advanced, but then along with the industry there developed poverty and starvation. Unless we integrate the economy of the State on a uniform basis so that a kind of socialisation can come, the gulf cannot be bridged and I do not think that the poverty of the people can be removed. Here there is an opportunity for the Government to take up this industry, and it will be carrying out the recommendations given in the Five Year Plan if the Government of India as well as the State Government take this up as a cottage industry owned by the State.

I do not want to say much on this Bill, but at the same time I must say that this Bill should be passed immediately and I hope that the Commerce Ministry will take immediate steps to see that this Bill when pas-

sed, is operated as a Board in the Travancore-Cochin State and at the same time, adequate measures are taken in consultation with the State Government, so that within a few years we will have a first-class industry organised on a State-wise basis.

**Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode):**

I rise to support the Motion for reference of this Bill to a Select Committee. I do so not because I do not feel the urgency of this measure or its importance. Mr. Velayudhan, in opposing this Motion for reference to a Select Committee, generated some heat and emotion...

**Shri Velayudhan:** No, not at all. You do not know when I am emotional.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** I am glad that he did not generate any heat or emotion...

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Coir is a non-conductor.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** ... but the fact is that he seems to think that this Motion is intended as delaying tactics. I can assure this House and also the hon. Minister that we have no such intention.

This is a very important Bill which affects the life of over a million people all over the west coast. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill, it is stated that this industry is of particular importance to Travancore-Cochin. That is true, but it must also be remembered that it is of equal importance to the whole of the west coast, particularly the Malabar district, where thousands of people live upon this industry. Therefore we realise the importance of this Bill and we are generally in agreement with the principles that underlie it. But we feel that greater care and attention ought to be paid to the different sections of this Bill and we want to do it as early as possible.

The Mover of the Motion for reference to a Select Committee fixed

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a period of about 7 days for consideration by the Select Committee. I am willing to make a suggestion to the hon. Minister—let it be even 3 days. Looking at the Order Paper I find, on the 10th, 11th and 12th Parliament is going to discuss the Estate Duty Bill. During those three days if the hon. Minister would only agree, the Select Committee could go into this Bill and make the necessary adjustments as also amendments to the provisions of the Bill.

My hon. friend, Mr. Thomas, in his speech, pointed out several defects in the Bill. But, I was surprised that he opposed the Motion for reference to a Select Committee. Now his very speech shows that there is room for considerable amendment which can be thrashed out in a select Committee. There is no necessity for us to be too hasty. There has been considerable lack of thought in drawing up the provisions of this Bill. It has been drawn up on the pattern of other Bills.

The hon. Minister in his introductory speech stated that he was not prepared to accept it before hearing the reasons from the Mover of the Motion for reference to the Select Committee. I hope that he will show a little more patience. Yesterday in answering a question on the floor of the House, he expressed some impatience and a little bit of annoyance at the fact that he is receiving a number of representations from the West coast. May I tell you that if you would only see the number of controls the Central Government are today exercising over the economic activities of the Kerala coast, you would find that there is nothing to be annoyed at the representations he is receiving? Now the main products of the Travancore-Cochin State and Malabar are tea which is under Central control—there is a Tea Board—, coffee—there is a Coffee Board—, coconut—all along the west coast we produce it and that is also under Central control—and then arecanut

which is one of our main products, is also controlled by a Central Board; and rubber, which is a very strategic material both for this country and outside, is controlled by a Central Board. Now coir is coming under Central control and so on. In the Planning Commission's Report we find it suggested, that black pepper which is earning us 20 crores of rupees—of foreign exchange, cashew nut which is earning us Rs. 9 crores foreign exchange and cardamoms and other spices which earn us about Rs. 1½ crores of foreign exchange should all be brought under some sort of unified Central control. I am not saying that it is not all good, but if you look at the products of this region, they are of great importance not only to that particular region but to the whole of India as foreign exchange-earning products having now come under Central control. Therefore, the people of Kerala have a claim upon the Central Government much more than any other part of India. It would be very sad indeed if the hon. Minister, of Commerce and Industry or any other Minister showed impatience at our claims or the representations which we make.

Coming to this particular measure itself, I find, as the hon. Minister said, that there are only two or three sections which require careful consideration. First, the constitution of the Board. Mr. Thomas himself pointed out that there were some defects in it. I do not see why producers of coconut should find representation there. In the fitness of things, people who are engaged in retting coir husks and also people who engage themselves in spinning coir yarn and allied activities must find representation, also workers who are engaged in the factories which produce coir products should find representation. These things will have to be discussed properly. Also I do not see why there must be such a big Board with 40 members. It is not at all necessary. After all, this in-

dustry is confined to a particular area and if we have such a very cumbersome Board, it will only mean that we are wasting much of the money we collect by way of cess on the travelling expenses of the members. When we are going to constitute an Executive Committee of this Board, all because the Board itself is cumbersome and very large, that point also requires consideration. It may be that the hon. Minister has some more points in support of his idea that the number must be 40. But all these things must be considered carefully. And then about the cess itself. I am glad that the hon. Minister in his introductory speech said that probably the cess of Re. 1 per cwt. of coir goods exported would be rather too heavy on this industry and he wanted to have it reduced probably in the initial stages to 8 annas. I would suggest that even 8 annas at this time of slump in the industry will be too heavy for the industry to bear. Our foreign markets are shrinking and we are now concentrating all our efforts upon seeing that our foreign markets are expanded. During that time, if you impose this levy of even 8 annas, I am afraid the price of our product will go up and it may have to face further difficulties in finding markets outside. Therefore, even in the matter of levy, we have to be very careful.

I understand that the Central Jute Committee has got a subsidy of 10 lakhs of rupees from the Central Government; today in answer to a question the hon. Minister for Agriculture said in the House that the Central Committee for Jute has got a subsidy of 10 lakhs of rupees.

Now, if any industry in this country deserves a subsidy for keeping it on its feet it is the coir industry. I feel that the Central Government should immediately give a subsidy to the Coir Board and make it possible for it to expand its activities and also help the persons who are employed in this trade and industry. I therefore appeal to the

hon. Minister not to oppose this motion for reference to the Select Committee. It will be possible for us to finish the work of the Select Committee in two or three days and then when the measure comes before the House we will be able to finish our deliberations in the course of one or two hours. We gain valuable time by that. Otherwise, it will be necessary for us to move amendments to many of the clauses in this Bill and considerable time will be taken up. If the hon. Minister, without previously discussing the matter with many of us, comes with a determination that many of these amendments must be opposed, it would be very unfortunate to the persons who are engaged in this industry.

The coir industry supports a million people on the Kerala coast and as has been very well explained by the previous speakers, the industry is today running through a slump. It is the concern, I agree, not only of the people of Kerala but of the people of the rest of India also to see that the products of Kerala which are of great importance to the economy of India are properly husbanded and enlarged, and therefore every Member in this House is equally concerned in this matter. I am sure the motion for Select Committee might be accepted and a few other members also might be included and our work may be finished in 3 days. I am making this suggestion to the hon. Minister in the hope that he will not be too adamant and be a little more accommodating.

**Shri Punnoose (Alleppey):** I welcome the idea of the Board.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury (Gauhati):** Sir, I want to know whether you are confining this discussion to Members of South India only because I wanted to point out certain facts about Assam which are not known to the hon. Members.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member will please wait and see.

**Shri Punnoose:** I generally welcome the idea of a Board. In fact the State Government of Travancore-Cochin is not in a position to handle this problem. I also submit that that Government has not shown any very great amount of alertness on this question. Therefore I would very much welcome every effort on the part of the Central Government to take up the whole responsibility and manage the industry in a healthy way.

Before going into the merits of the Bill, may I make a submission? I quite well understand the anxiety on the part of the hon. Minister to rush through the Bill. We are having a very heavy Session. But, this morning I saw a telegram sent by the Chambers of Commerce, Mats and Matings Association and another Association which are the main leading associations of Alleppey who can deliver the goods on the side of the industrialists. On the side of the workers we have not been able to bestow any great amount of thought over it. If now we pass this legislation and subsequently find big flaws in it, loopholes and mistakes, will it not be very difficult for us to correct them? The hon. Minister, I am sure, is in a mood to say, 'We will subsequently correct it'. But, how can we hope that the Parliament will have the leisure to do it in the near future. Therefore, to my mind it appears that discussing the Bill in the Select Committee for two or three days is not only necessary but that it will also quicken the process. Because when the discussion is over and we have finally made the report, as my predecessor said, we will be able to pass the Bill straightaway when it comes here. Therefore I will very strongly appeal to the hon. Minister to consider the proposition.

The other day I was a little agitated over the remark made by the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry that it has become the order of the day to raise complaints. Not

that, I say, I was taunted by that remark, but there is a strong feeling in me and also among many people in our parts that the Central Government has not understood our problem. We are a people mainly dependent on commercial crops. The hon. Minister is exercised over the question of edible oil. Of course, this edible coconut oil is largely consumed as food in our own State. The fact is that our producers range from growers of 5 coconut trees to people who have a yield of 1 lakh and one lakh and fifty thousand nuts once in every 45 days. But the large majority of the Malayalees, whether it be in Malabar or in Travancore-Cochin are persons having 50, 100 or 500 coconut trees. The whole family is dependent on them. The children have to be sent to school; they have to purchase their clothing and other things. In this general picture, the portion consumed as food by the people is so small—one or two ounces a day. So we are more interested in getting good prices, no matter how high those prices are because it is to our advantage—both rich and poor—though the rich get more. By reducing the price or keeping it down or by reducing the import of Ceylon copra our people suffer. The hon. Minister has not understood and much less appreciated this.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is said that this industry mainly affects the economy of Travancore-Cochin. What about Malabar? Malabar is as much dependent on coconut and coir as Travancore-Cochin is. That is why all of us say that the whole of Kerala should be considered as one and dealt with accordingly; the boundaries should be so re-drawn that these problems may be considered as a whole and not piecemeal. Malabar is a district in the big Madras province with the result that the voice of Malabar is not heard and their problems are not properly attended to. Therefore I would request the Ministry and the Government to bestow more attention on the



problems of Malabar and Travancore-Cochin.

Before coming to the clauses, as I said I will have to deal a little with the nature of the industry. Among the sections that are to be represented on the Board are the coconut growers and the persons employed by the growers of coconuts. The coconut husk is taken for the industry. But the fact is that only a small percentage is used. Mr. Thomas put it at 50 per cent. I think the statistics are not correct. It will be about 25 to 30 per cent. of the total husk that is being used for the industry. They are gathered by merchants, and there the part played by the agriculturists stops. The cultivator has nothing to do thereafter. It is taken away by merchants and then soaked in water and kept there for 9 or 10 months in the backwaters and then taken up and fibre is produced, and they are converted into yarn. All this is done on a cottage industry basis. Then they are taken to the industrial area in Alleppey. While speaking of such an industry we should be conscious of the fact that it supports at least a million people in Kerala. Generally the small coconut cultivator does not sell his husk; he uses it for fuel purposes. Even the more important cultivator.....

**Mr. Chairman:** It is now 10-45 A.M. and we have to take up other business which is before the House, that is, Private Members' Resolutions. The hon. Member may resume his speech when this Bill is taken up next.

#### RESOLUTION RE COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING OF STUDENTS

**Mr. Chairman:** The House will now take up Private Members' Resolutions. The Mover of the Resolution will have thirty minutes, or more, if required; The others will have fifteen minutes.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh** (Shahabad South): I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that immediate steps be taken to impart compulsory military training to all High School and College students."

The resolution, as the House will see, is quite an innocuous one. It has not been brought forward with the object of militarising the country; rather, it has been suggested with the sole purpose of arousing interest among the youth to lead an active, cooperative and disciplined life for better serving the needs of the country. I firmly believe that by introducing compulsory military training the imagination of the youth could be sufficiently stirred up in a right direction and their health and physical vigour, which are keys to intellectual growth, could be properly developed. Such developments will enable them to be worthy citizens, and then and then alone they could be expected to continuously replenish the leadership of the nation and advance the country's growth.

The idea of imparting military training to the youth is not new to this world. It has been there since early history. During Roman period it came to be recognised that personal valour was imperfect without skill and practice. The idea of imparting to youth military training in leadership attained a fillip during the early years of the French Revolution and in 1794 that idea was given a practical shape. But it lasted only for a few years. However, during modern times this idea has made tremendous advance and every nation of the world has come to realise that along with intellectual training its youth should be given military training as well, because military training offers to youth opportunities of valuable physical and character training. It also teaches them obedience to and respect for law and other qualities of good citizenship.

Here in India the virtues of good citizenship are all the more needed. Human qualities like decent be-

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

haviour, fair dealings and regard for others' rights are fast disappearing. Stagnation has set in everywhere. The nation's life has become somewhat bleak and insipid. Most of the Government machineries which should have acted as engines of advancement, have not shown any signs of being active, efficient and above reproach. This has resulted in the spreading of a sense of frustration in the country, particularly among the youth and more especially among the educated youth. Their number is multiplying each year, because of the annual out-turn of thousands and thousands of graduates most of whom cannot stand on their own because of the faults of our educational system.

This is happening at a time when the country is about to enter into the seventh year of its freedom and when almost half of the Five Year Plan is through.

So, the question that naturally faces us is how to extricate the country from its present quandary.

In this situation and having regard to all the efforts made by the Government and the huge amounts spent during the past five or six years on eradicating economic and social evils, I deeply feel that without getting the youth properly trained, the desired results could hardly be achieved.

Here, I would like to say a word of praise for our army. Because of its military quality, we have all seen how of all the parts of the Government machinery, the armed forces have got themselves quickly and marvellously adjusted to the new situation and have shown remarkable courage and efficiency on all the fronts they were sent to. They have shown a remarkable sense of duty, efficiency and responsibility. Similar qualities are noticeable among the youth of the National Cadet Corps, which though a young organisation has endeared itself to the public and is, therefore, much in demand where dignity of labour, social service and team spirit are required.

This itself is proof positive of the fact that the country is in need of military training. People want that they should be imparted such training which will inculcate in them the qualities of decent behaviour, team spirit and social service. But the target fixed for even N.C.C. training is too meagre. For junior cadets, in which school students are taken, the target is 30,000, and for senior cadets of college students it is 15,000. In all it is only 45,000 in a country having an overall population of about 360 million, of which about 70 million are youths.

I may well mention here that the N.C.C. training is neither very difficult, nor does it take much of the time of the students. We all know that out of 52 weeks of the year an Indian student has to attend classes only for about 25 weeks. In terms of hours it is only 550 hours, out of some 2,900 hours at his disposal on the basis of 8 hours a day. The N.C.C. training is given only for four hours in a week. Apart from that the school students are required to attend camps for about ten days and college students for about 15 days. In all it comes to about 200 hours in a year, which comes to only about 9 per cent. of their leisure hours. It is thus obvious that students, time factor is no bar to introducing military training in schools and colleges.

It might be argued that it will not be possible to introduce it throughout the country. I have, therefore, confined my resolution only to schools and colleges. We should in the first instance introduce military training in schools and colleges and from there we should spread it throughout the country. We have to inculcate this idea among the students, and if we make it voluntary and leave it to the choice of staff and students, it will be possible to get that idea propagated among the people of the country. We have during the past one or two years seen, that wherever the N.C.C. cadets have gone to



do social service like digging trenches, or constructing roads, they have given an excellent account of themselves. I want that these youths should be given first class military training.

My proposal may perhaps be objected to on financial grounds. But I think that the sum involved will not be a very big one, especially for a Government which sometimes spends crores and crores of rupees without much justification. To start with the work may be entrusted to the physical training sections of the educational institutions. In every high school and college there is a unit for physical training. But these persons may not be well trained and they should be supervised by the Defence Ministry machinery. But that machinery should be improved to suit the new set-up. Because, this will be a bigger set-up than the N.C.C. and so some improvements must be effected. Besides, we are having our regular Army staff spread throughout the country, and some of them are also posted to N.C.C. units in schools and colleges. The services of those persons can be very easily utilised to train instructors for schools and colleges, and thus we can prepare a cadre for imparting military training in our schools and colleges.

As regards the uniforms, today the N.C.C. cadets are getting uniforms at government cost. It is a little bit costly. We might introduce a very simple and cheap uniform. If Government say "we are poor"—as Maulana Saheb said the other day.

जेब में कश नहीं है दिमाग में सब कुछ है—

they spend at times huge amounts of money on unnecessary things. If they are keen, they can easily implement what they are having in their mind, in our schools and colleges. They can send those regular Army staff and the staff which is even now posted to N.C.C. units to train school and college instructors, so that they may be efficient enough to train the students of schools and colleges. If it is a simple and cheap uniform, the

students also can be encouraged to buy it if the finances with the Government do not permit them to provide the uniforms at government cost. It will not be much costly and the scheme will involve very little expenditure.

Thus I find that this scheme of compulsory military training in our schools and colleges cannot be convincingly opposed on any ground. Rather, the introduction of this scheme will make the students and the public feel that one of the major needs of the country has been recognized and given effect to because it will not only help in character building and developing the physical fitness and consequently the intellectual fitness of the students, but will also promote discipline, dignity of labour and organised social service among the students. And if we once train the students in that line, then that idea might spread throughout the country very easily. Because, the students are elements who can spread discontent as well as satisfaction. If they are not properly trained, they can kill the government. But if they are trained properly, they can bring satisfaction to the country and they can train the public to support the Government and thus raise the standard of the people and remove poverty from this country. If we inculcate that idea and promote this scheme, then everybody will be satisfied and the country will be led towards peace, prosperity and progress.

Mr. Chairman: Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that immediate steps be taken to impart compulsory military training to all High School and College students."

I have received notice of many amendments. Several of them seem to be out of order. The amendment by Mr. Jhulan Sinha is very much outside the scope. And similarly the one by Shri A. K. Gopalan is outside the scope of the Resolution. Similarly the one on behalf of Mr. Anthony is late as well as outside the

[Mr. Chairman]

scope of the Resolution. They enlarge the scope of the Resolution itself, and I hold them out of order.

11 A.M.

In regard to the rest of the amendments I would like that all those who want to move amendments may move them and, after that, we may have a discussion.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik** (Ghumsur): I beg to move:

(i) That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that immediate steps be taken to provide for an attractive system of military training for all High School and College students so as to equip them for all-round nation building activities in times of peace as well as for all-out national defence in war emergencies."

(ii) That for the original resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that while imparting military training to all High School and College students, advantage should be taken not only of an expanded National Cadet Corps but also of other military and semi-military organisations in this regard."

**Mr. Chairman:** Amendments moved:

(i) That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that immediate steps be taken to provide for an attractive system of military training for all High School and College students so as to equip them for all-round nation building activities in times of peace as well as for all-out national defence in war emergencies."

(ii) That for the original resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that while imparting military training to all High School and College students, advantage should be taken not only of and expanded National Cadet Corps but also of other military and semi-military organisations in this regard."

**Shri A. K. Gopalan** (Cannanore): I beg to move:

In the Resolution, for the words "compulsory military training" the words "voluntary military training" be substituted.

**Mr. Chairman:** Amendment moved:

In the Resolution, for the words "compulsory military training" the words "voluntary military training" be substituted.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** In moving these two amendments I may state straightway that I am not opposed to the original resolution. The original resolution is not only non-controversial but it is one which I am sure will have the fullest support from both sides of this House. I have sought by these amendments only to emphasize upon certain aspects of the subject which were not covered by the original resolution. I seek to drop the word "compulsory" before "military training" and seek to replace it by the words "attractive system of" and seek to try to solve two problems that arise in this connection, namely, the necessity of creating enthusiasm and having attractive conditions for this proposed military training, and, secondly, to meet the objection relating to finance, because that must be the only objection which the Ministry could raise.

This resolution deals with a very important, urgent and necessary subject, namely that military training

should be imparted to our young men, particularly to those in schools and colleges, and, may I add, according to another amendment tabled by Mr. Dwivedi, to the trainees of all the teachers training institutions. (An Hon. Member: That has not been moved). Well, it is not before the House, but I would also press that aspect of the question. It is the policy of reorganisation all the world over today that for reorganisation of manpower, for reorganisation of material resources, it is no use that a department should work in an exclusive air-tight or water-tight compartment, but various departments have to combine together in order to give the desired results. Military efforts and civilian efforts should be combined in the matter of mobilisation and training of man-power, in the matter of organising and developing our material resources. Modern nation-building effort presupposes perfect and harmonious co-ordination of different activities and the present Resolution deals with one aspect of co-ordination viz. between the Defence and the Education Departments.

That is, as I submitted, one of the trends of modern nation-building viz. to co-ordinate some of these departments. Defence services all the world over are now being utilised for educative purposes, for general education, technical education, industrial education and so on. It is an admitted fact that today in every advanced country defence services are given the best training in general education and technical education. That is one aspect.

The other aspect is that educational institutions, youth movements, youth organisations etc. are being utilised for giving military training, a sort of defence bias to the youngmen. These are two aspects of a combined approach to this subject viz. combination of education and military efforts. I do not want to tell you, because every one of you know, that in this country work is going on in an exclu-

sive water-tight compartment. There is no connection between this activity and that activity and there is no contact between the Education Department and other Departments and so on. Even in Planning we have seen that there is no co-ordination to plan for all the requirements of the country. It applies to every kind of planning. Therefore we are grateful to the mover of the Resolution that he has brought one aspect of this harmonious co-ordination which is going on in other countries viz. the utilisation of the educational institutions for giving military training. Therefore we on this side of the House—not some of us—but I think every Member of this House would give his whole-hearted support to the basic principle of the Resolution that military training should be imparted to all High School and College students, of course, if funds permit.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Both male and female.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: We have therefore, to examine certain aspects so as to evolve the best system possible to surmount the difficulties in our way. On the first point whether it is to be voluntary or compulsory, I would like to point out that it is more a theoretical thing. I have chosen to drop both the words and to use "an attractive system of training". In any case, the difference between compulsory and voluntary training is more or less a sentimental one and has no practical value. We have to remember that it is not a question of compulsory military service or a conscription for military service or a conscription for industries as is going on in the world today. It is a question of adding one important subject to the curriculum both of the High Schools and Colleges and training institutions. Whether that subject should be made compulsory or voluntary is all the question that we have to answer today.

It is not a question of conscription, rather this difference in word tends

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to make us feel that there is some sort of a conscription behind the resolution. I do not agree with my hon. friends who think that there is any sort of conscription envisaged here. I would go a step further and say that today the trend of the world everywhere is conscription. It is conscription not merely for military service as was the case during the last century but it is conscription for military service as well as for industries, agriculture, essential services and others. You know, Sir, that during the last few years there has been a change in approach. At first people thought that it was necessary to have conscription for military services because it gives a larger number of men at a cheaper cost and your military expenditure is reduced to the minimum. That was the time when conscription was in vogue for military service but during the last few decades a new approach has been made and it is now conscription not merely for military service but also for industrial work, for essential services, for communications and so on. You have conscription not merely in countries like Russia and Germany and other countries where the State was all powerful but even in democracies—so-called democracies of the day. Till very recently, till the first world war you had voluntary recruitment for military service but then under the Selective Service system or under the National Service or National Security Acts even those countries accepted conscription for the purpose of military service as well as for industrial development so that in the whole world today the order is conscription. So it is not merely the compulsory military training which is the scope of the non. Member Dr. Ram Subhag Singh's resolution. It is conscription today which is the order of the day everywhere for military service as well as for industrial organisation and other essential services.

I am not going into that question because that is not the scope of the

present Resolution. The present resolution is a very small one. There is no conscription envisaged here. That is for the Government or for the country at a later stage or in some other proceedings to decide. Ram Subhag Singh simply wants that there should be compulsory military training. The question of voluntary or compulsory service does not come in and it is a question of utilising educational institutions for imparting military training to the pupils. This is so everywhere. In addition to the National Cadet Corps there are joint cadet corps, army cadet corps, navy cadet corps, air force cadet corps. You have also got in the educational system everywhere a sort of military training. Even in countries like America in educational institutions military training has been a compulsory subject in a number of universities and colleges and in a number of High Schools. In some others it is optional.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru): You mean combined training.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: My hon. friend Dr. Ram Subhag Singh has explained various aspects; I am trying to explain one of two aspects where there has been a difference as to the amendments tabled. So I am submitting that it does not make any difference if the word "compulsory" is allowed to remain there. That is the first point. I, therefore, suggest that instead of compulsion or voluntary training we should have military training but it should be on attractive terms, attractive conditions so that people would like to join with enthusiasm. I have already said that it should be made attractive by following various methods. In other countries they are using a number of methods in order to make this training for youths very attractive. It is not merely training in squad drill, not merely arms drill but various organisations taken together for rifle-training, scouting, gliding, Aero clubs and various other types of youth institutions are being utilised

to make youngmen enthusiastic about the military training. From that point of view I suggest that we should also try to make military training interesting and attractive for our students.

There is another point. In the National Cadet Corps Act, there is no provision that the people who get military training should be given preference in recruitment for jobs and other things. I should say that one who has got military training should be given preference, not because he has had military training, but because military training makes a man have a disciplined outlook, and a disciplined outlook helps the cause of production, helps the cause of efficient work, so that a man who has had military training and a military bias can work better and more efficiently. While we make other provisions, we should also see that a provision is made by which military training may be made attractive by giving preference to these trained people, people who have certificates of proficiency in military training, in recruitment.

**Dr. M. M. Das** (Burdwan-Reserved Schedule Castes): Is that the experience of the hon. Member so far as the Public Accounts Committee is concerned?

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** There is another point which I should like to touch upon. While making this military training interesting, we should, at the same time, look to the financial interests of the country. We cannot straightaway say that there must be compulsory military training for all students or for all young men, without any regard for the financial side. It is there that imagination comes in. It is there that you have to take into account the various possibilities of coordinating the various efforts that are being made to have the best possible results without spending large sums of money. I have to congratulate the Ministry that in the matter of the

Territorial army, they have now introduced or are now introducing what is called the Auxiliary Territorial force. By spending the minimum amount, they have a number of mobile training camps moving throughout the country from one place to another. That would be very helpful.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** He is our expert Member in this line, Sir.

**Some Hon. Members:** He is an authority.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** It is a matter for congratulation that they are having a sort of a miniature Territorial army training throughout the country with a number of mobile camps.

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi):** Two more minutes may be given to the hon. Member. He is saying something complimentary.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** The work will go on throughout the whole year. There is no upper age limit so that many of our friends can go there and join. There is no compulsion for military service. It is going to be a very attractive institution. That institution can be coordinated with the schools and colleges. The Scouts organisation could be co-ordinated. The Rifle clubs, Flying clubs, Yachting clubs and Rowing clubs, Aero-clubs, etc. should be encouraged and assisted. My hon. friend the Minister should give attention to utilising all the young men there and utilising these clubs and institutions for the purpose of giving this training.

I do not wish to say that there must be a full unit of the National Cadet Corps for each school or college. But, I have to make one or two suggestions. Instead of training these people through Havildars—I do not say that they should not be there; they should be there—every effort should be made to train the teachers of these institutions, and train the civilian public so that they also may be helpful. What is happening now

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is, when the N.C.C. Commanding officer leaves the place, he leaves charge of the institution to a Havildar or a Jemadar. I think he should give the charge to the professor there. Our professors and teachers should be given every facility to have this training and experience. We have to evolve all these things. The Government have got to see how other countries have been utilising all these institutions and how they have a number of semi-military organisations which are integrated with this important machinery and how young men are being built up for the armed forces. We are told that 79 per cent. of the cadets of other countries are being recruited to the Defence services and to the Defence Academies. If that is the position in other countries, we should also have something which would make military training attractive and interesting. As soon as they go into civilian life, they should have the option of having military training and civilian avocations should be thrown open to people who have had military training. I do not want to take the time of the House. I would suggest that these two aspects should be combined and integrated with the scheme.

**Shri Raghubir Sahai** (Etah Distt.—North East cum Budaun Distt.—East): I rise to give my wholehearted support to the Resolution which has been so ably moved by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh. Before I give my reasons for supporting this Resolution, I want to dispel one notion which might be troubling some of the hon. Members at the present moment. That notion is that the passing of this Resolution on compulsory military training may not be consistent with our well known and professed ideal of Non-violence. I think we adhere fully to the ideal of non-violence so long as our country is not attacked by foreign countries. I suppose this is the policy of our Prime Minister, the Government of India and the Congress party. In international dealings also, we stand

by persuasion, mediation and arbitration. We have got no intention to attack any other country. But, it would be prudent on our part to be prepared for all emergencies and it would not be a stroke of wisdom or statesmanship if we give up all our defences and adhere to the principle of non-violence to the very letter. I am reminded of a small personal anecdote. My father used to tell me, whenever you go to bed, place a big stick below cot, as a safeguard against a snake or a thief. I beg to assure, Mr. Chairman, that my father was the most non-violent man living on the earth. He would not hurt even a fly. But, that was just the advice of an old man that one ought to take all sorts of precautions for emergencies. I think the present policy of the Government of India is like that. Even Mahatma Gandhi, who was the greatest exponent of non-violence used to say that it is better to take to violence to protect one's honour than to show cowardice. These are my observations with regard to the notion that the passing of this Resolution may not be consistent with the ideal of non-violence.

One of my main reasons for supporting this Resolution is that if this Resolution is passed and accepted by the Government and translated into action, it would help towards the formation of character of our young men. I believe that at the present moment character is woefully lacking in our young men, and, to be frank enough, in the whole nation. In my humble opinion every young man should be taught to honour his country, more especially to honour himself, to have self-respect and confidence. But, at the present moment we do not find those feelings in the young men of our country. What we find is greed, selfishness, absence of love for one's country and most of all disrespect towards national leaders and heroes. That I beg to say is not a good and salutary tendency. I believe that military education will make them love their country and in our hour of need they



would sacrifice their personal good for the good of the country.

My second reason for supporting this resolution is that if military training were to be imparted in our high schools and colleges, that would go to make our students more disciplined. At the present moment we find that discipline is lacking woefully in the student community and we have all witnessed it from one end of the country to the other.

My third reason for supporting this resolution is that it would go a long way in producing young men with a good physique. At the present moment most of them look slim, short sighted like myself. I came across a book written by Prof. Adarkar in the year 1939 entitled "If the War Comes" and I am quoting one or two sentences from the book in which he has written:—

"At present the physique of most of our students is of the C-3 variety. Thanks to a highly literary education and unhealthy surroundings and emaciated diet, our younger generation of students is growing up in a physical degeneracy which would appear appalling were it not so universal as to escape notice."

I believe that those remarks written in the year 1939 hold good in the year 1953 as well. I am told, at one time Japan was no better than India. But today they have built up a great nation which in vitality and endurance is second to none in the world.

I beg to submit that if this resolution is accepted and is acted upon we can do the same which Japan has done so very splendidly. Take the case of England, Germany, Russia and Japan, when they used to give military education to all their adult boys in high schools and colleges. That is why after the appalling ravages of the last war they have been able to reconstruct their countries so soon. Because that spirit of discipline and love for their country was there.

On the other hand, we find here in India that after the attainment of independence and after the production of the Five Year Plan we find forth-enough cooperation is not forthcoming. If we had brought up our young men in that military atmosphere, they would have given a very good response to the call of the nation and lent their support to making the Five Year Plan a great success.

I also believe that if military training is given to our students the problem of law and order would be solved to a great extent. That is one of the live problems of our country and life in rural areas is regarded as unsafe. The present licence holders,—I know how they use their guns. They keep them for the sake of dignity and for show. The ex-military personnel, I also believe, are no good because they were not brought up in a patriotic atmosphere. Now if these young men who would be given military education when they return to their villages will take all possible precautions to oppose the menace of dacoits and robbers, and the problem of law and order in the villages would be solved to a very great extent.

The passing of this resolution would go to reduce the budget expenditure also. The present tendency in all other countries all over the world is to reduce their military expenditure. Only today I read in the papers that in Russia their military expenditure is only 20.8 per cent. of their total expenditure. But I believe that in our country it is almost 50 per cent. That is a big problem. I do not think that merely after passing this resolution and merely after it has been acted upon by the Government, the military expenditure would be reduced. In course of time, say after five or six years, I think the Government would be in a position to reduce their military expenditure to a very great extent because young men who would be brought up in that atmosphere, would be patriotically inclined and



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could safely be called upon at any time of emergency to the aid of the country. It has been done in other countries as well.

I would close my remarks with the request that this resolution be accepted and I hope it would be accepted. Government should also bear in mind that while giving this military education we should not turn our young men into 'militarists.' We should not try to imitate Germany, Italy and Russia in every point and I do not wish that after military education was given to our young men we should produce Hitlers, Mossolinis or even Stalinis because from whatever I read about Stalin I think he was a ruthless man so far as his opponents were concerned. I think our military education should inculcate the spirit of patriotism, a spirit of service which should produce good young men with good physique who would relegate their everything for the good of their country. I hope Government would see its way to accept this resolution.

**Shri Gadgil (Poona Central):** I am in entire sympathy with the mover of the Resolution as well as the movers of the amendments. This is not the first time a resolution of this kind has been tabled in this House. I am here for the last 20 years, and at least, according to me, more than 10 times resolutions of this type have been moved. In the good old days, before independence, it was a different matter, but after independence, in view of what the Government has done in the matter of the Territorial Army, the National Cadet Corps and the Junior Cadet Corps, there is no doubt left in the mind of anybody that the Government does intend to proceed on some such lines. I can very well realize the difficulties of the Government so far as the financial aspect of the question is concerned. The number of persons that will be brought under the scheme as proposed in the resolution will be about two million and a half and the cost of training would come to approximately Rs. 250 per person.

Just imagine what would be the cost. At the same time, it is possible that the area of compulsion may be limited to only college students, and probably, the additional cost that will be necessary may not exceed more than a crore and a half. Whether the Government can today afford to spend Rs. 1½ crores for this purpose is also a matter of great concern. I would, therefore, really wish the Government should agree and say that the principle embodied in this Resolution is acceptable to them, and should take time to consider at what time and through what stages this can be implemented at some future date. The desirability of this is absolutely accepted by every one in the House.

In the good old days there was a distinction between the martial classes and non-martial classes. Speaking of my personal experience, in 1914 when the first World War started, I offered myself for enrolment at the Neemuch Cantonment, and the recruiting officer asked my caste. In the good old days it was not a fashion to say one did not belong to any caste; so naturally I said that I was a Brahmin. He said: "You are a N.M.", and he elaborated: "You belong to the non-martial class". After three years, in 1917 when the British Government thought that more cannon fodder was necessary from India, I was accepted as a recruit in the Maharatta Regiment, and later on transferred to the Indian Defence Force as one of the non-commissioned officers. Here, in India, although on paper the distinction between martial and non-martial classes does not figure, yet, in actual practice, I have received a number of complaints that this does work. In order to create certain traditions in certain communities or certain areas, it is necessary that some start must be made somewhere at some stage. I, therefore, suggest that so far as that part of the Resolution which deals with the college students is concerned—not today, I am not urging it straightaway—Government should consider whether they

should not accept it and give training to round about two lakhs of students. Everybody complains that in India we have not got what is called "subaltern leadership". We have got very big leaders, and very faithful followers. They would not even raise their heads although they know very well that the leadership has gone all wrong. So, between the two, there is a necessity of clearly evolving a pattern of leadership which will have some initiative, some discipline, and which will have courage, both intellectual and physical. For that purpose, it is eminently desirable that every year a group in the society in that particular age group should be trained so that when they leave schools or colleges, they will be able to discharge their social duties in a better manner.

Today, we are thinking—in fact, we have started to some extent—of what we may call a planned economy. In this it is absolutely necessary that we must have good leadership, good management, and people with ample aptitude for initiative. All these virtues are normally associated with military life. I, therefore, suggest that the Government, as I said, may be justified on financial grounds in saying that nothing can be done immediately, but as I understand it—as I said in the beginning of my short speech—the way in which the Government has been doing things would naturally make them accept the policy suggested in this resolution. I do not want the Government to give here and now an assurance that they have accepted, and they will do this this year and that that year. Nothing of the kind. But, I do beseech them, not merely for the purpose of making our defence line more effective, but for the far more important aspect which I have just enunciated, viz., that in the next three years and thereafter we want our people to be more disciplined. A planned economy *ex-hypothesi* means an economy in which discipline has a definite and important part. That being the case, it is for the Government to consider whether, just as they are planning the creation, produc-

tion and disposition of material things, the time has not now come for, so to say, organizing the manpower in the country. Organization does not merely mean bringing the people together. Organization along with a scheme of division of labour also contemplates division of authority, and proper exercise of that authority. That proper exercise of authority is only possible if you have the men with the necessary background of training, men who have ample opportunity in those formative years of their life so that they may, when they enter actually in the life of the community either as soldiers or as leaders, be able to discharge their duties efficiently and honestly. I am sure if you go about in a college, we feel absolutely as if we are in a bazar from the way the students talk and from the way they walk. But introduce this little element of discipline and training, immediately you find something like a different and very attractive atmosphere. I have not the slightest doubt that, as a result of military education, the fat will become a little less. So those who are lean will put on some flesh; both of them will have a better and a dignified gait, and a better and dignified way of behaving in society. Therefore, psychologically, apart from the physical aspect, I feel that some such experiment, if at all it is to be called an experiment, ought to be made. It does not mean that we are out for some future war. A friend of mine just saw me and said: "Does it not cut right across the philosophy of the Congress, right across their programme?" I said: "Nothing of the kind." We are against nobody. Our foreign policy has been that in this world all are our friends though they act inimically. We always consider them friends; unilaterally we have called them friends. Therefore, it is not for that purpose that we are doing it, but for the specific purpose which I have enunciated a few minutes ago. I do not want to take up the time of the House with more than this.

**Shri Namdhari (Fazilka-Sirsa):** In the present days it is very difficult to trust anybody because God has made

[Shri Namdhari]

these four Yugs, and out of that this is the *Kal Yug* which is the worst of all. Everybody is a friend and relation only of power. There is nobody in this world who is a friend of a weak person. Even weak persons' daughters' betrothal is unacceptable. I have seen from my own experience. From that point of view, the policy of our elders was that of peace-making which is very good; but to avoid war, the best way is be prepared for war and keep the balance. If we are strong, nobody will dare to fight against us. I submit that we have got nearly 2000 miles of border line, and I am myself elected from a border constituency. I have visited the border regions, which are just open fields, with no Siegfried or Maginot line. If troubles start, and one has only to cross the border fields you will know what it will mean. You know our policies are the best, and we are the well-wishers of the whole world, but yet in times of trouble, unless the border line is quite strong the procedural orders and other wireless messages etc. will not be carried to the military on the spot in time. Besides giving military training to the high school and college students, we should also see that the people within a radius of 50 miles from the border should be given mass military training, so that we have a moving Siegfried or Maginot line. It does not mean that we are out for offensive acts. If the people know that we are strong, then all will become our dearest and nearest kith, kin and friends. In the same way, around all the big cities like Delhi, I want that the villagers should be trained up. What for? Not to fight a war, for it is not that everybody has to fight on the front. In the previous war, the enemy was throwing paratroops by parachutes, specially to create panic among the civil people, so that they can be thrown into a lot of confusion. I do not want that if anybody throws parachutes near Delhi or any other big city. I do not want the army should be called from the cantonment to destroy them. The people of Delhi, and the villagers roundabout Delhi should themselves

be in a position to destroy them right in the air. I feel therefore that if we are powerful, everybody will become our friend, and the peace movements in the world, can be strengthened if we could work as a religious police. When a doctor is performing a surgery, he has no intention of killing a patient, his only intention is to cure the patient. In the same way we should be physicians and surgeons both, and at the sametime we should be well-wishers of the whole world, but we should be so strong that if we have to send an army to Korea today, we can yet look after all our people with a powerful military force, if circumstances require it.

It is not merely the military training that can make us powerful, but the spirit also is required. You will remember that in the last war, when the two great British ships were destroyed by the Japanese, there were two suicide squads, volunteers who went right into the inside of the ship, through its chimney by small planes and blew them away. So, for military training, we should have the proper persons to be trained. If the raw material is good, then very fine stuff can come out of it. If the training is given to the wrong persons then we cannot expect the same results to be achieved.

We have got certain traditionally martial communities in India, just like the Mahrattas, the Jats, the Rajputs, the Gurkhas, the Sikhs and the South Madras people and Beharis. So, we should not waste our money on other people, who sing the song:

चाचा दौड़ियो रे, बुहिया काटने को आई

To waste money on such people is not a wise thing to be done. The training should be given to those who have bold and powerful minds. If others have not developed that power, then it is no fault of ours. We read in our history how Shivaji with his Mahrattas fought Aurangzeb in a number of smaller or bigger battles. Similarly in the history of Guru Govind Singh, we find that after his first three sons got kill-

ed his 9 year old last son was leaving, and he came to Guru Saheb, and asked him. 'I am going to the front, will you kindly advise me as to what I should do, give me your last lesson'. And the poet has stated in Hindi what Guru Govind Singh told his last son. That is the spirit which I want every young Indian to develop. Guru Govind Singh said:

बेटा तुम्हीं हो मुल्क के बड़े के खिबया,  
सर मेंट करो ताकि चले देश की नैया,  
ले दे के तुम्हीं हो मेरे गुलशन के बकैया,  
स्वाहिश है तुम्हें तेग चलाते हुए देखें,  
हम भ्रात से बरछी तुम्हें खाते हुए देखें।

Every Indian youth should become a peace-lover and strictly follow the policy of our elders, as well-wishers of the whole universe, but like the strong physician and surgeon both, who wants to cure the patient of his disease. We should develop that spirit, so that if our services are required in any emergency, we could explode like an atom bomb, just as the Japanese did.

I submit that this is the time when this kind of military training is essential, for dearest and nearest friends change in no time, and unless we rise to the occasion, we shall be caught in the fire, and the devil will not spare anybody. So, we should see that we are strong like the *sur deva* armies, with best wishes for all and like Shiva-ji, get the blessings of Chamundi Mata.

**Shrimati Sushama Sen (Bhagalpur South):** Sir, I am thankful to you for giving this opportunity for saying a few words on this Resolution, because I think I was amongst those who first broached the subject in this House in the form of a question, in December last year, that military training should be imparted to the youth of this country. But I regret to say that that suggestion was turned down by the Defence Ministry on the ground that there was no hurry about it, and there was financial difficulty.

I support the substance of Dr. Ram Subhag Singh's Resolution, but at the same time, I think that there seems to be some confusion in his Resolution which seeks to urge compulsory military training to be given to our high school and college students. This might mean conscription, which is undesirable I would rather support Shri U.C. Patnaik's amendment which reads:

"This House is of opinion that while imparting military training to all high school and college students, advantage should be taken not only of an expanded National Cadet Corps but also of other military and semi-military organisations in this regard."

I think it is highly desirable that there should be military training for the youth of our country. A question was put by an hon. Member whether women also should be trained. I do not see why the girls in our high schools and colleges should not have that training, because it teaches discipline, and as has been pointed out by Shri Gadgil, that kind of military training and discipline is essential not only to our boys in the high schools and colleges, but also to the girl students.

As regards the excuse of lack of money etc., I would only say that our Defence Ministry will be able to find the necessary means, if they could utilise the National Cadet Corps and other military and semi-military organisations to help for this purpose, feel therefore that military training could very well be given to the students in our high schools and colleges.

With these few words, I support the amendment moved by my hon. friend Shri Uma Charan Patnaik.

**Prof. Mathew (Kottayam):** At the very outset, I would frankly say that I am against the Resolution as it stands. I find myself in a rather unenviable, or is it enviable, position, in being so far the solitary figure to oppose the motion. But still I do so.

[Prof. Mathew]

Attempts have been made to explain away real distinctions, as if those distinctions did not exist. I could not follow such sophisticated arguments. There is a very real distinction between the terms 'compulsory', and 'not compulsory', which you cannot explain away. The question is not whether the word 'compulsory' is there or not, but what is it that is contemplated? The words "attractive military training" have been substituted in an amendment. No doubt, the advocates of military training will say that it must be and it will be attractive. But that is not the point. Is it the idea that military training should be given for all our boys and girls in the high schools and colleges? Therein comes the rub or is it only for those students that want to avail themselves of it? In the former case it is compulsory, whether you say it or not? If what is meant is that all high school pupils and college students, irrespective of sex by the way, should undergo military training, then I say I am opposed to that. In passing, I may refer to a minor point. It may be that the Mover of the Resolution did not want to go into details, but still there are certain questions which are not mere unimportant details. Though I do not want to stress it, I am afraid what is contemplated is a rather long and thorough course in the colleges and high schools, if the scheme is brought into effect. For in the high schools they will have a fairly long course, but it will not end there. In the colleges it is further continued. So it is a long and thorough course. I do not mind for if there is military training, let it be long enough, let it be thorough enough. But, to go back to my main point, the distinction between compulsory and voluntary is a very obvious distinction which you cannot explain away by any sophistry of words or any disguising of the real points at issue.

Now I want to stress a question of deep principle. A Gandhian Seminar was conducted in this city last January when some select representatives

of several nations of the world assembled here to study the Gandhian philosophy. Some of our foremost men were also present there. They are all disciples of Gandhiji. Acharya Kripalani, whose personal acquaintance I have not been able to cultivate so far, was present there unlike him. I am not an absolute disciple of Gandhiji with regard to the doctrine of non-violence. I am quite prepared to take up the position—and I believe that our nation has taken up the position—that the implications of the doctrine of non-violence as propagated by Gandhiji are so deep and the ramifications are so large that when these are worked out, no nation may be able to agree to them. I admit that no nation on the face of the earth is now prepared to live up to these very deep implications. But then let us put it frankly like that, that we are too weak—and I say that we are too weak—to follow that great principle in all its depth, in all its amplifications. But that is not what was said here.

It was said that Gandhiji himself would have agreed to this proposal; that, I am afraid, is not true. I know fairly well what Gandhiji said on this point. He said that he preferred violence to cowardice. Very often people who want to advocate or tolerate violence, just quote Gandhiji at this point, that he said that violence is better than cowardice. There is no one who advocates cowardice here. But do you mean to say that people who are not militarily trained are necessarily cowardly people? The alternative to violence is not cowardice. He held up a far higher method. He expounded a far deeper and more sacred philosophy which as a people we are not able to follow. That I admit. But it is one question whether we try to live up to a certain ideal and fail, whether we try to approximate to that, and other whether we work in the opposite direction. Now you cannot work in contrary directions. A great Hebrew prophet long centuries ago once asked his people to choose between Jehovah and Baal and at a much later period a far grea-

ter One said: 'You cannot serve God and Mammon'. You cannot work in contrary directions. We may not be able to live up to Gandhiji's ideal; we may be able only to gradually approximate to that. But to work in an exactly contrary direction is a different proposition.

Then, I am not against national self-defence. I am not against maintaining an army for India. I accept the compromise that at present we are not able to live up to Gandhiji's ideal. We must have an army, and if we are to have an army, we must have a fairly well-equipped army. But to introduce compulsory military training in high schools and colleges, where the pupils are educated, to make them military-minded is a different thing. Someone was uneasily aware of this and said: 'Well, I am for the proposition before the House, but I do not want to make our people military-minded'. Now, you cannot combine opposites. It is to give far too high an importance to military education if you say that it is to be compulsory for all students. Then some one said 'Let us just incorporate it in the curriculum'. Well, you are disguising difficulties and objections. Every student need not study history every student need not study physics, but you say every student must undergo this military training. Now, I shall be brief as I know that my time is limited. I am all for physical training. I am still more for manly games. An argument was brought forward that intellectual training must be supplemented by physical training. Who ever questions that? Intellectual training must be supplemented by physical training, but physical training cannot be equated with military training. From my own experience in colleges, I can say that even physical training is rather unpopular; it is manly games that are popular.

Then it was said that if we have this scheme of military training, it will solve the problem of law and order in the country. I do not quite see how that is so. In fact, in cer-

tain circumstances, the problem of law and order may be made more difficult. If in villages and towns those who have undergone military training range themselves in opposite camps, the problem will be more acute. Therefore, I am all for manly games as I am even for physical training. But to bring in military training surreptitiously as if it were almost the same as mere physical training is something which I cannot leave unchallenged.

12 Noon

I do not know how much time I have taken up; I have one point more. I was rather impressed by one ominous feature. The Education Ministry is not represented here; from the very start there was nobody representing the Education Ministry. Only the Defence Ministry is represented. That almost suggests that it is simply a question of military defence and that the Education Ministry has nothing to say on this matter. If in the very discussion of this question, this dangerous position has been assumed, what will happen if at any time we are to act on it? I think that education, in the genuine sense of the term, would be then entirely subordinated. The academic atmosphere would be thoroughly vitiated. Some precedents and analogies were taken and somebody said that in the Roman days it was so; I wondered why Sparata was not mentioned! One speaker said that in Germany it was so, but he was later good enough to slightly correct the natural suggestion and say 'We do not want to be military-minded like Germany'.

Therefore from the academic point of view this is a thoroughly unsound extremist proposition and I oppose it.

श्रीमती उमा नेहरू (जिला सीतापुर व जिला खेरी-पश्चिम) : जब से मैं ने यह प्रस्ताव देखा तब से मैं बराबर सोच में हूँ और मुझे इस मोर्के पर गालिब का एक शेर



[श्रीमती उमा नेहरू]

याद आ रहा है और वह यह है कि :

इस सादगी पर क्यों न मर जाय या खुदा,  
लड़ते हैं पर हाथ में तलवार भी नहीं ।

यह शेर मुझे बराबर याद आता गया और उस का कारण क्या है ? कारण यह है कि हालत हमारी इस समय क्या है, इंसान को असल में प्रैक्टिकल होना चाहिए और संग संग उस को अपने देश की स्थिति को भी समझना चाहिए । एक भाई ने कहा कि कम्पलसरी मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग (अनिवार्य सैनिक प्रशिक्षण) होनी चाहिए और इस विषय का प्रस्ताव भी रक्खा गया है, दूसरे ने कहा कि उस में से कम्पलसरी लफ्ज हटा दें और अट्रैक्टिव (आकर्षक) रख दें, अब अट्रैक्टिव बड़ा बेग (असुगट) लफ्ज है, अट्रैक्टिव वर्दी, अट्रैक्टिव बन्दूक, या क्या चीज अट्रैक्टिव होगी । अभी मेरे एक दूसरे भाई ने महात्मा गांधी की मिसाल दी और उस को सुनने के बाद मैं ने ऐसा अनुभव किया कि मुझे इस अवसर पर खड़ा होकर जरूर कुछ कहना चाहिए ।

वायलेंस (हिंसा) और नानवायलेंस (अहिंसा) का प्रश्न जिस समय इस हाउस में आया, तो उस के सम्बन्ध में मुझे आप से यही कहना है कि मैं तो समझती हूँ कि हमारे हाथों में कहिए, कमर में, दिमागों में या दिल में जो हथियार है वह नानवायलेंस का है और उसी नानवायलेंस के हथियार से हम ने अपनी आजादी को भी हासिल किया है, और इसलिए आज मैं कोई वजह नहीं देखती कि इस देश में हम हर एक बच्चे को कम्पलसरी मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग दें, इस बात की तालीम दें कि वह बन्दूक लेकर चलें, क्योंकि एक तो मैं देखती हूँ कि रोज रोज मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग की टेक्नीक बदलती जाती है और

महज एक इंसान के बन्दूक चलाना सीखने से कोई फायदा नहीं है, दूसरे सिर्फ बन्दूक हाथ में लेने से कोई फायदा नहीं जब हम देखते हैं कि देश में कोई चरित्र अथवा कैरेक्टर रहा नहीं है ।

सारे मुल्क की हालत तो कैम्पस और कम्प्यूजन (गड़बड़ की अवस्था) में है । हमारे मुल्क की बैकबोन तो मजबूत ही नहीं हम बड़ी गड़बड़ी में पड़े हैं । हर कदम पर हम सिर उठा कर आगे नहीं जा रहे हैं । ऐसे कम्प्यूजन में, ऐसी गड़बड़ी में अगर बन्दूक भी हमें मिल गई तो उस से क्या होगा ? आज विद्यार्थियों की जो हालत है उस से बदतर और क्या होगी । इस लिये मैं तो समझती हूँ कि फिजिकल ट्रेनिंग (शारीरिक प्रशिक्षण) पर ज्यादा विचार हम को करना है । जब तक हम में डिसिप्लिन (अनुशासन) नहीं आयेगी, हमारे शरीर में, कुल देश के शरीर में जब तक शक्ति नहीं होगी, तब तक बन्दूक हाथ में लेना बेकार है । इसलिये मेरा तो ऐसा विचार है कि इस की ओर हमें पहले ध्यान देना चाहिए ।

संग संग मैं यह भी कहूँ कि यह जो यहां पर बार बार कहा गया है वह अच्छा तो बहुत लगता है कि मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग दी जाय पश्चिमी देशों की कितायें यहां पढ़ाई जाती हैं, हर एक इतिहास हमारे सामने लाये जाते हैं, कोई जापान की चर्चा करता है, कोई जर्मनी की चर्चा करता है, लेकिन कोई भी यहां पर ऐसा नहीं है जो अपने घर की हालत देखे कि क्या हालत है । आज हमारे देश की हालत यह है कि हम रोज ब रोज गिरते जाते हैं, हमारे स्टूडेंट्स (विद्यार्थियों) के चरित्र गिरते चले जाते हैं, हमारे टीचर्स (शिक्षक) जो उन को पढ़ाने वाले हैं वह मजबूर हो गये क्योंकि विश्व



धियों में डिसिप्लिन नहीं है। ऐसी हालत में मैं समझती हूँ कि पहले यहां पर यह प्रस्ताव आना चाहिये था कि यहां पर प्राइमरी बेसिक एजुकेशन (बुनियादी शिक्षा) कम्पलसरी होनी चाहिये जिस से कि विद्यार्थियों के चरित्र बन जायें। वह तो नहीं हुआ, पर बन्दूक की तरफ ऐंट्रेंक्शन है। अभी मैं अपनी कान्स्टिट्यूएन्सी में गई थी वहां मैं ने एक महात्मा गांधी के चेले को देखा जो इस वक्त एम० एल० ए० हैं। मैं तो हैरत में आ गई क्योंकि मैं ने देखा जो महात्मा गांधी के नानवायोलेंस के चेले थे उन को तमंचे का लाइसेन्स मिला है। और उन को तमंचे का इतना ऐंट्रेंक्शन था कि वह उसे घर में नहीं रखते हैं बल्कि अपनी कमर में उस को बांधते हैं। मैं ने अपने उन भाई से कहा कि तमंचा कमर में है लेकिन मैं आप को यकीन दिलाती हूँ कि तमंचा आसानी से छिन भी सकता है। जब तक इन्सान में ताकत और शक्ति नहीं है उस को इन चीजों की ओर नहीं आना चाहिये। विचार या खयाल को तो ऊंचा करना ठीक ही है, लेकिन संग संग इन बातों की ओर भी ध्यान जाना जरूरी है। मैं आनरेबल मेम्बर से कहूँ कि आप को अपने मुल्क को देखना है और अपने डिफेन्स को भी देखना है। डिफेन्स डिपार्टमेन्ट में रुपया नहीं है, प्लैनिंग के लिये हमें हमेशा रुपये की परेशानी रहती है। हम इस की वजह से डिफेन्स में तरक्की नहीं कर सकते, एजुकेशन में तरक्की नहीं कर सकते। मैं कम्पलसरी मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग देने के विरुद्ध हूँ। मैं जरूरी समझती हूँ कि अपने घर की हालत को देख कर, अपने देश की स्थिति को देख कर काम करना चाहिये। वह जबर्दस्त सबक जो नानवायोलेंस का था और जिस की वजह से आज हम आजाद हुए हैं उस को आज हम भूले हुए हैं और भूलने की वजह से

हम रोज ब रोज गिरते चले जाते हैं। फिर से हमें उस ओर ध्यान करना चाहिये और फिर से हमें उस हथियार को इस्तेमाल करना चाहिये, तभी देश की उन्नति होगी।

**Shri Raghuramaiah (Tenali):** I am very happy that this resolution has at last come before this House. I am afraid we are really a century backward. This is a motion which should have been adopted and implemented in this country long ago. And, I must congratulate the mover of the motion for having brought it at least today.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Is it being implemented in any other country?

**Shri Raguramaiah:** Well, then we shall be a century in advance.

I am not one of those who have got any confused ideas on a subject like this. (*Interruption.*) Just because the word compulsory is there no great havoc is going to be wrought. I am not one of those who can persuade myself to think so. We have had some kind of voluntary training in this country for many years. We have had the University Corps. How far that scheme has worked is well-known. The percentage of young men who have been able to offer themselves and who have been able to find time in view of the busy curricula and who have been able to receive training, I think, is very negligible considering the total population of this country. I do not think that anybody can seriously dispute that a compulsory scheme is the only kind of scheme that can really help the people. Voluntary effort has got its own limits. There must be the time and there must be the inclination to do it which is very much lacking. As a matter of fact, even the ordinary sports and drawing classes are not really taken advantage of by many. I am not therefore one of those who say that compulsory military training is not necessary and that it can be left to the voluntary effort of the people. As to the need for military training, I do not think it needs

[Shri Raghuramaiah]

much argument, especially being the neighbour of a great country like China and having seen the debacle of France during the last war. You will all remember that during the last war, in spite of the greatness of France it was her unpreparedness that actually caused the collapse of her armies. The German armies almost crossed overnight because France remained technically undeveloped. She did not have first-rate tanks, she did not have first-rate air power. We are much more backward than many others. We have not got regularly trained military personnel. It can be said, 'What is there, if and when a war comes we can have conscription of all adults'. There is a time in every man's life when he can learn things and learn them effectively. I submit that the best time when a man can learn this art and learn it well is the school and college age. And, if China today is one of the great and powerful nations of the world, let us realise why it is so. It was not a case of compulsory military training but, in a way, it was compulsory because they had long years of civil war in China. That very thing compelled her people to undergo military training and the People's Army in China, I understand, is the Army built out of the guerilla bands which trained themselves in this century old civil war. Of course, we have had not a civil war nor do we want one just because we want our people to be trained. The way in which a peaceful democracy can train its citizens effectively is compulsory military training.

As for the financial aspect of it, our friend Mr. Gadgil has been rather hesitant. He was reluctant to urge that there should be military training for high schools. He wanted it to be confined at the moment only to college students and he was making an appeal to the Ministry to somehow find the money for it and see whether it cannot be implemented if not now at least at a later stage. I would like that we should not take it in such a leisurely way. The time has come; it may be

that there is no prospect of war but so long as the forces of war are so arraigned and there are so many differences in political philosophies and so many alliances, regional pacts and so much of bellicose spirit in the world, we never know what would happen. And, we should not be one day too late. I would therefore urge with all the force at my command that it is already late and that if we neglect it even by one day it may be dangerous. I would, therefore, say that the time has come to revise our notions. We have spent crores and crores on Kashmir; we are spending so much money every year. Why should we be afraid to spend on military education? The expenditure is really part of the Defence expenditure. It is a long-term investment. Instead of calling a few odd people in times of emergency, you train the youth of the country so that at any time you have a citizens' army ready to take over which professionals may not be able to do with the same amount of efficiency.

I would, therefore, urge, that the training that we impart should be immediate; it should not be confined to college students, that considerations of finance of one crore or two crores of rupees should not stand in the way. If there is any case for including any item which is not already there in the Five-Year Plan, I would say it is military training. We are spending several crores on the development of the country. In a matter like this, which is of vital importance to the building of the nation, finances should not stand in our way. There is really no conflict between this and the spirit of non-violence. What we want is the passivity of the strong man and not the loquacity of the weakling. It is no use giving lectures about our greatness in inter-national conferences and this and that. The real strength comes from the fact that you are prepared to defend yourself. Today we have attained a certain status. If we add to it the military strength of this nation, we will really be a first-rate power in the world, a power which politicians

like Dr. Malan, indulging in all sorts of loose talk cannot dare insult. If we are at any moment ready to defend ourselves, our status in international circles will be really first-rate.

I would, therefore, urge on the Ministry to treat this as a very vital and immediate problem, one that is requiring a priority which is perhaps as deserving as any item in the Five Year Plan.

**प्रो० अग्रवाल (वर्धा) :** इस विषय पर बोलने की मुझे आवश्यकता नहीं थी लेकिन मुझे यह देख कर थोड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ कि अधिकतर जो व्याख्यान हुए वे इस प्रस्ताव के पक्ष में थे।

यह तो हम सभी समझते हैं कि शारीरिक शिक्षण या फिजिकल ट्रेनिंग हमारे देश के लिए बहुत आवश्यक है और आज जो हमारे नवयुवकों की ओर हमारे विद्यार्थियों की हालत है उस से सभी को दुःख है। लेकिन फिजिकल ट्रेनिंग एक बात है और कम्पलसरी मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग दूसरी बात है। फिजिकल ट्रेनिंग का अर्थ यह है कि विद्यार्थियों में समाज सेवा का शिक्षण हो, कम्पलसरी सोशल सर्विस (अनिवार्य समाज सेवा) हो और हर एक विद्यार्थी डिग्री लेने के पहले गांवों में जाय या शहरों में परिश्रम करे, अपने देश को बनाने के लिए, उठाने के लिए। इस प्रकार उस के चरित्र का निर्माण हो, कैरेक्टर बिल्डिंग हो, इस के लिए हम सब एक मत हैं। लेकिन डिसिप्लिन आना, शारीरिक शिक्षण होना, समाज सेवा करना, परिश्रम करना एक बात है, लेकिन देश में एक मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग का फीजी वातावरण बनाना बिल्कुल दूसरी बात है। इस में गांधीजी का नाम लेना या हिंसा और अहिंसा का नाम लेना भी मैं बहुत उचित नहीं समझता। गांधीजी ही क्या, आज अगर हम मानव दृष्टि से देखें, हमेनिज्म

की दृष्टि से देखें तो कोई देश मिलिटरिज्म या मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग को लाकर लड़ाई का वातावरण बढ़ाने के लिए नहीं कहेगा, कोई नहीं कहेगा कि हम को उसे प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए। हमारे देश में भी आज डिफेंस (प्रतिरक्षा) पर काफी रुपये खर्च होता है। खैर हम उस के विरुद्ध कुछ नहीं कहना चाहते। कितना भी हम अहिंसा में विश्वास करें जब तक हम उनके एवज में धीरे धीरे दूसरी चीज नहीं लाते तब तक हम अचानक उसके खिलाफ नहीं बोल सकते। लेकिन यह तो हमारी नीति है और किसी भी देश की होगी कि डिफेंस पर हम धीरे-धीरे कम खर्च करें। आज हम देखते हैं कि रूस जैसा देश भी अपना डिफेंस पर खर्च कम कर रहा है और अमरीका जैसा देश भी डिफेंस पर अपना खर्च कम करने की कोशिश कर रहा है। फिर आज हम यह कोशिश करें कि इस पर खर्च बढ़ायें, क्योंकि मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग बढ़ेगी तो उस पर खर्च बढ़ेगा ही। इस में बन्दूक चलाने पर और दूसरी चीजों पर जैसे कि एन० सी० सी० में होता है, खर्च करना पड़ेगा। तो यह खर्च बढ़ाने की चीज है और इस से बजाय शारीरिक शिक्षण के, और मजबूती और श्रम का वातावरण बढ़ाने के, हम अपने देश में एक लड़ाई की फिजा (वातावरण) पैदा करेंगे। मेरा निवेदन है कि यह उचित नहीं है। इसलिए मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा कि जिस तरह से यह प्रस्ताव रखा गया है उस का हम समर्थन नहीं कर सकते। उस के एवज में अगर फिजिकल ट्रेनिंग पर आप जोर दें सोशल कान्सक्रिप्शन (समाज सेवा के लिए अनिवार्य भर्ती) पर जोर दें तो हम जरूर एक राय से उस का समर्थन कर सकते हैं। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इसी दृष्टि इस प्रस्ताव पर विचार होगा।

M. Chairman: Dr. S. N. Sinha.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee** (Hooghly): There is a feeling, Sir, that your eyes are not turning this side.

**Mr. Chairman:** They are not turning to any particular side. I am only seeing that people having different views speak. It is necessary for all sides to be represented. It is not a question of this side or that side. It is entirely wrong to accuse the Chair of partiality to this side or that side.

**Dr. S. N. Sinha** (Saran East): The present resolution before the House has come out as a natural demand of the martial constituency which our esteemed friend has the honour to represent. The timing is also an ideal one. Today is the 7th of August. We are on the eve of the Eleventh Anniversary of our August Revolution.

Secondly, many new developments have taken place during the last few weeks in the world, and a great many changes are taking place. One of the changes has started on the 17th of June and a new type of revolution is going to take place in Eastern Europe. In Korea, the representatives of our army, are going on a peace mission. Here in our country also we have many new problems. At this stage, it is just unthinkable that the youth will not demand some sort of expression or the natural wish which he has. When he compares himself to his counterparts in other countries he finds himself a bit inferior. Our country is inferior in no way. There is plenty of wealth in the form of human material. But something is lacking in this human material. If there is no enthusiasm for work in the youth he is not to be blamed, because we have done nothing for him. We have not trained him. We are afraid that if he gets some physical strength he will become a militarist. It is a thing to be laughed at! Militarism has nothing to do with military training. There is no man in the world more disciplined than a soldier. He is always disciplined and behaves in a disciplined way.

I will give you two illustrations, Mr. Chairman. Only a few weeks ago when I was in East Berlin, a youth, a young student impressed me most. What was the matter? I am telling you only the technique of what he was doing. The gates of a slaughter house were broken. Many workers were coming out. Tanks were chasing them. A high school student jumped upon the front tank and destroyed the aerial and the radio apparatus of the tank. What happened? All those workers who were running for their life got time and none of them was shot. Suppose, at that time there was no youth who had some military training. They would have been helpless, as we were here in Calcutta. I was in Calcutta at the time of the disturbances recently, and I saw how our young men were behaving. Some party, or some people wanted to create disturbances were just throwing crackers and some primitive sort of bombs and everybody was looking on in a helpless condition. Why should we remain helpless when there is a technique which we can adopt? This technique is the military training. This is the soul of all education. It is something which kindles youth's enthusiasm and inspiration.

Youths energies are something like a mountain torrent. Today we are harnessing the Damodar. We are spending crores of rupees on river valley projects. Why can we not harness the energies of our youth and put them to some productive and useful work? What do we see in youth's energy? A mountain torrent coming. If nothing is done with it, that is not the fault of the torrent. You have to harness it; you have to generate electricity. With that electricity you can light your houses; you can build your factories; you can do all sorts of useful things. In the same way if you harness the potential energies of the youth, you can do something very good about your Five Year Plan also.

We are afraid of expenses. In this connection also why not take a lesson

### *Training of Students*

om what other countries are doing? or example, the best system which up ll now I have seen and which I have udied myself is the Swiss system. here they have the militia system. he whole defence of the country deends upon the militia system. Here we give training to our high school ildren and students, then we will ave at our disposal something like a militia army. The State has nothing spend on it. In Switzerland, the aining is compulsory, and there are ry few exceptions. Those who do ot take part in the compulsory mili-ry education have to pay a certain x. Why can we not do the same in r schools and colleges? What right as a boy from a normal family to ll ill? What right has he to remain eak? He has no right to do so. If e does so and does not take part in is compulsory military education, he ust pay some sort of tax. That tax ust be imposed. Such a tax exists i Switzerland. It is not a matter Rs. 1 crore or anything like that: hat matters is the total waste of ergies of the youth, which we can-ot stand. Because we have no mili-ry training, we do not have even a ear thinking power. I feel in this ociety we are moving as if in a chaos anarchy; people do not know where ey have to go. It is something like iving in a street where a person es not know which side he has to o, whether to the right or to the ft, and a collision takes place at very step.

Therefore, it is high time that our untry thought about this matter nd if we have to be a great country, hich we are going to be, I must say at the Resolution which is before e House must be supported by every oup, and even by the Government.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene** (Trivani-um): The resolution presented to is House by the hon. Member is ost well advised, opportune and ex-remely necessary to shape the na-

tional character of the country. We are not accepting this resolution to train up venerable ancestors. We are accepting this resolution to train the youth of the country in order to have an organised and disciplined society who could handle the administration of the country and lead it towards peace and prosperity.

Compulsory military training should be the fundamental basis of our education. I am extremely sorry to note that a person of such experience in education like the hon. Member opposite had opposed the resolution. Perhaps he may be under a misunderstanding that the students in his college, if given the training, may rise against him. If I remember aright years ago, during the days of hectic agitation I happened to visit this very peaceful hon. Member who was at the head of the college, in the college itself. And the first complaint he levelled against the students, about their strike, was that the revolution which Gandhiji had launched had affected the students too.

I do not understand that this resolution is on the basis that we are preparing the youth of this country for subversive activities. Certainly not. I view this resolution as a principle, accepted in almost all the countries of Europe, to train up the youth of the country as an ideal citizen with character, physical and moral culture, who will be able to lead or to steer the ship of state when necessity occurs. It is a resolution that has to be accepted on its merits and not from the financial point of view. If you consult the Finance Minister he may object on the ground of scarcity of finance, on which question we have always noticed that it is more or less a besetting sin with the Finance Ministry that there should be scarcity of finance whenever a necessary scheme came on the scene.

So, apart from the financial side, is it not the duty of every Member of

[Kumari Annie Mascarene]

this House to train up the future citizens of this country, not to handle weapons for subversive activities, but to handle weapons if necessary when an emergency arises—one of a national character—to defend the nation? Should we ask the youth of this country to take hurried recruitment and training and defend the country? Should they not be given a training early enough which will discipline their character, which will make them behave like gentlemen and ladies?

I am also of the view that this resolution should be carried irrespective of sex—that is not only to boys in high schools and colleges but also to girls in high schools and colleges the training should be given. And I can assure you that if you give them separate training, the girls will surely prove better than the boys.

If you want in future an Indian nation, a society where there is character, respect for truth and respect for one another, if you want a nation in the future which will shape the destinies of this country on the most advanced lines, you have to accept this resolution as the fundamental basis of training, both educational and physical.

I support this resolution and I am only sorry that some elderly Members opposed it. I can assure them that by the time these people are ready, it will be more than half a century, and they need not be frightened about them. I give my full support to the resolution.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury (Gauhati):** I oppose this resolution, because if it is accepted there is a risk of having also female students for this training. I consider that there has already been enough martial spirit in our Indian women and that a further encouragement of martial training given to them in the schools would lead to disastrous results. We have still in our Defence Minister enough of hair. But if mili-

tary training is started in our schools and colleges and if female students are also given such training God knows.....

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** I resent this remark.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** I seriously oppose this Resolution. I consider it as an echo of the past which you want to forget. In those days when our youths were not allowed to go near a rifle or a gun, it was necessary for us to consider how we should defend ourselves. Those days are long past. I say our popular Government is functioning and the popular Government will certainly look to the defence of the country in the best ways possible. I do not want Rani of Jhansis now. I consider in India we have enough of men-folk, enough of manhood and I cannot think of sending out our women-folk for the battle. As you are laughing on it may I ask you to think for a moment what would be the implications of this resolution. I would ask you to think for a moment of our middle class people today—how hard it has become for them to give education to their children. Formerly, they were thinking of only of their boys. Even that was sufficient strain on them. Now you have got to give training both to boys and girls. How heavily indebted they have become! I may particularly refer to those employees of the Government of India, those clerks and Assistants and others who find it difficult to give education, ordinary education to their children in the schools. I submit that if you are really considering about giving compulsory military training to students in colleges and schools, I should like to ask my hon. friend what provision does he make for giving them sufficient food for the purpose. As it is today, the middle-class people have to pay for the bus; they hardly can afford a four anna bit to each of the boys so that they may take something in the schools. Over and above that, with empty stomach if you com-



pel them to undergo military training I do not know what sort of military training that will be.

In days gone-by wars were fought with bamboo poles instead of guns. Even in the year 1915-16 bamboo poles were used instead of guns. Only sometimes rifle was allowed to be used. Do you want to have again bamboo poles in our schools and colleges? There are billions of students who are to be provided sufficient lunch or something before military training is resorted to. I do not for a moment believe what my friend here says that the Government is wasting huge sums of money and a portion of that amount could be utilised for military training. I understand the Government is not having enough funds to carry out all the projects that they have in view. To spend some money on military training will be sheer tom-foolery and nothing else.

We have already started the Territorial Army. Sufficient money should be found for carrying on that Territorial Army effectively. Sometimes good suggestions come from unexpected quarters. I saw in the papers this morning that Shri Ram Manohar Lohia was suggesting that in order to remove unemployment Territorial Army should be expanded. I entirely agree with him. Territorial Army should be expanded so as to give employment to youths. If you begin to give military training in schools and colleges I submit that more unemployment will be the result.

Now my friend, the Mover of the Resolution has adopted a very clever method. He has not mentioned in his resolution what will be the age of the students. So far as I am concerned I will be perfectly safe. But what do you think of young girls whose parents should be thinking of giving them suitable matches? If they are busy in this sort of military training unemployment will be the result. I do not really understand what is there to laugh at. I am objecting to this 'compulsory'. I would rather welcome

the other amendment of Mr. Jhulan Sinha which says.....

**Some Hon. Members:** It is out of order.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** Out of order! But not so far as this amendment is concerned. I think it is more laudable, more practicable than what has been set forth in the previous one. You can give military training to those who want to receive it. Why do you compel the girl of a college who may have been married already? What is the age limit? There should be some age-limit. Make it a practical proposition. After a certain age military training should be given or should not be given. The whole idea is so impracticable and, in my opinion, so rotten that it would be only destructive. You try to give more money for the defence budget so that you can have a regular fully-equipped and scientific army. Last war showed that we want mechanized warfare. If you give some sort of a training to prepare students for mechanized war then that is a different thing. If you can spend more money to invest something like an atom bomb or counter atom bomb that is understandable. Do not do it simply by show of the physical prowess of our women-folk.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member has already taken more than ten minutes.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Our Party has not been given a chance, Sir.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, order

श्री भगवत झा (पूनिया बसन्धाल परगना) : मैं हिन्दुस्तान के स्कूल और कालेजों में पढ़ने वाले करीब करीब ५४ लाख विद्यार्थियों की ओर से इस प्रस्ताव को इस हाउस में लाने वाले डाक्टर राम सुभग सिंह को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस प्रस्ताव को रखा।

अभी अभी मेरे बोलने से पहले ही हाउस के एक बहुत बुजुर्ग मेम्बर बोल चुके हैं। पर



[श्री भगवत झा]

उच्च के विचार को सुनने के बाद मैं इस बात को नहीं समझ पाया कि वह सचमुच इस प्रस्ताव के विरोध में है या सिर्फ इस प्रस्ताव के उस भाग के विरोध में है जिस का सम्बन्ध लड़कियों को मिलिटरी (सैनिक) शिक्षा देने से है। अगर इस हाउस के इतने बुजुर्ग मेम्बर इस प्रस्ताव के विरुद्ध हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान के विद्यार्थियों को जो स्कूल और कालेज में पढ़ते हैं उन को मिलिटरी शिक्षा न दी जाय, तो भगवान ही इस देश का कल्याण करे। क्योंकि आज स्कूलों और कालेजों में विद्यार्थियों की जो अवस्था है उस की ओर अगर हम देखें तो हम इसी सिद्धान्त पर पहुँच जायेंगे कि उन लोगों को यह शिक्षा देनी ही चाहिये। मैं इस सदन में यह बात मान कर आया था कि इस प्रस्ताव के सिद्धान्त के सम्बन्ध में तो किसी को भी आपत्ति नहीं होगी, हाँ, आपत्ति अगर होगी तो इस पर होगा कि इस को किस तरह से काम में लाया जाय। शायद इस के आर्थिक प्रश्न को ले कर कठिनाई अनुभव की जाय और सरकार इस प्रस्ताव का विरोध करते हुए कहे कि उस के पास पैसा नहीं है, और यह कि इस के लिये पैसा कहां से लाया जाय। लेकिन इस हाउस में आ कर के इतने बड़े बुजुर्ग मेम्बर, इतने बड़े पार्लियामेन्टेरियन अगर इस की सोचें और इस को चुनौती दें तो मैं उन से कहूंगा कि आप फिर जरा अपने पुराने स्कूल और कालेज में चलिए। मैं आज से दो साल पहले अपने कालेज से निकला हूँ। उस वक्त जब मैं स्टूडेंट्स आर्गेनाइजेशन (विद्यार्थी संघ) का समापति था तो हम लोगों का काम यह था कि हम विद्यार्थियों की मुस्तलिफ पार्टियों के राइट्स को सेफगार्ड

करें। (अधिकारों का संरक्षण करें)। लेकिन आज स्टूडेंट्स की संस्थाओं का काम यह रह गया है कि वह शिक्षकों और प्रोफेसर्स के राइट्स को सेफगार्ड करें। आज हालात यह है कि अगर स्कूल और कालेजों में कोई अनुचित काम किया जाय और विद्यार्थियों पर उस के लिये अनुशासन की कार्रवाई की जाय तो प्रोफेसरों पर डंडे पड़ते हैं। अगर कोई गलत कदम उठाया जाता है तो स्ट्राइक (हड़ताल) किया जाता है और प्रोसेशन (जलूस) निकाले जाते हैं। मैं स्वयं स्ट्राइक और प्रोसेशनों के विरुद्ध नहीं हूँ। मैं और मेरे साथियों ने भी सी सवा सी स्ट्राइक्स लीड किये (हड़तालों का नृत्व किया) हैं। लेकिन आज की स्थिति में यह रोकना पड़ेगा और उन के अन्दर ऐसी शिक्षा का प्रसार करना पड़ेगा जिस शिक्षा के जरिये हम उन के अन्दर सन्तुलन ला सक और अनुशासन ला सकें, जिस को फैला कर हम उन के दिमाग को उस रास्ते पर ले जा सकें जो कन्स्ट्रक्टिव (रचनात्मक) हो। जो उन के विकास में सहायक हो। आज हर स्कूल और कालेज में अवस्था यह है कि कहीं पर कोई रचनात्मक प्रोग्राम नहीं है। आप कहते हैं कि यह शिक्षा कम्पलसरी क्यों की जाय, आप कहते हैं कि इस को वालेंटरी कर दिया जाय। मैं कहता हूँ कि न यहाँ कम्पलसरी का प्रश्न है और न वालेंटरी का प्रश्न है। मैं कहता हूँ कि आप स्कूलों में विद्यार्थियों को भूगोल पढ़ाते हैं, आप ज्योमेट्री पढ़ाते हैं, लेकिन बाहर निकल कर वह उस से क्या लाभ उठाते हैं। आप इतिहास पढ़ाते हैं, शेरशाह, अकबर और औरंगजेब की कहानी पढ़ कर प्रैक्टिकल लाइफ में वह इस से क्या लाभ उठाते हैं? आप उसे ज्योमेट्री पढ़ाते

हैं, अरिथमेटिक पढ़ाते हैं, उस की प्रैक्टिकल लाइफ में इस से क्या लाभ होता है। आपने भिन्न भिन्न विषय इस लिये रखे हैं कि वह उन को पढ़ कर एक ऐसी जगह पहुँच जाय कि विद्यार्थी जीवन से निकल कर वह अपने जीवन का विकास कर सके। मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग को इन्ट्रोड्यूस (जारी) कर के आप सिर्फ एक आपशनल (ऐच्छिक) विषय नहीं बल्कि कम्पल्सरी अर्थात् अनिवार्य विषय और जोड़ रहे हैं। जिस प्रकार से आप विद्यार्थियों को भूगोल, इतिहास, ज्योमैट्री, अरिथमेटिक का पढ़ाना जरूरी समझते हैं उसी प्रकार से उन के विकास के लिये आप को उन को मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग भी देनी चाहिये। यह प्रश्न कहां उठता है: सिद्धान्त के नाम पर, कि मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग कम्पल्सरी हो, आपशनल हो या वालेंटरी हो। प्रश्न तो सिर्फ यह आता है कि क्या विद्यार्थियों के सवीगीण विकास के लिये जिस प्रकार आप उन को और सब्जेक्ट्स की शिक्षा देते हैं, उस प्रकार क्या उन को मिलिटरी शिक्षा दी जाय। अगर इस का विरोध किया जाय डिफेन्स के नाम पर, तो यह बात स्पष्ट है कि आज की लड़ाई रामायण और महाभारत की लड़ाई नहीं है, सिकन्दर और पुरु की लड़ाई नहीं है कि बगल में लड़ाई हो रही है और बगल ही में किसान अपना खेत जोत रहा है और फसल काट रहा है। आज की लड़ाई में दुश्मन सब से पहले यह कोशिश करता है कि देश का मोरेल (धैर्य) गिरा दिया जाय, उस के स्तर को गिरा दिया जाय। उस की फौज के आने के पहले वहां के आदमियों का मोरेल गिराने के लिये फिफथ कालम आता है। कलकत्ते में बम गिराने का मतलब सिर्फ यह नहीं है कि उस को नष्ट कर दिया जाय, बल्कि उम्ह का मतलब यह भी है कि वहां की स्थिति में इस प्रकार

उलट पुलट हो जाय कि समूचे देश का मोरेल गिर जाय। नेपोलियन ने एक बार अपनी स्पीच में कहा था :

"Moral is to the physical as three to one."

(धैर्य का मूल्य शौर्य से तिगुना है)

यानी अगर आप देश को उन्नति के पथ पर ले जाना चाहते हैं तो आप को देश के अन्दर लोगों के मोरेल को ऊपर उठाना होगा। क्योंकि युद्ध के आने के पहले, हवाई जहाज आने के पहले, बम आने के पहले, दुश्मन सबसे पहले जो काम करता है वह यह कि देश के मोरेल को गिराता है। इस लिये अगर आप के पास इतना पैसा नहीं है कि आप सम्पूर्ण देश के नौजवानों को मिलिटरी शिक्षा दे सकें तो कम से कम आप यह तो कर सकते हैं कि स्कूल के पढ़ने वाले लगभग ४४ लाख विद्यार्थियों को और कालेज के पढ़ने वाले लगभग १० लाख विद्यार्थियों को मिलिटरी की शिक्षा दी जा सके। ताकि उपयुक्त अवसर पर आप उन को फील्ड (रणक्षेत्र) में ला सकें। मैं उन को फील्ड में अनिवार्य रूप से लाने के लिये नहीं कह रहा हूं, मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे डिफेन्स मिनिस्टर के पास मजबूत फौज है और मुझे विश्वास है कि यदि युद्ध का अवसर आ ही गया तो वह अपनी आर्मी भेजेंगे, लेकिन साथ साथ जब फौज लड़ती हो तो आप को और आदमियों की आवश्यकता होती है। अगर आप हर एक स्कूल और कालेज के पढ़ने वाले लड़के को मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग देते हैं, तो आप जब चाहें उन को फौज में भर्ती कर सकते हैं। अभी अभी डिफेन्स आर्गनाइजेशन के मिनिस्टर ने एअर फोर्स के रिक्रूटिंग आफिसर से कहा है :

"We go by the measurement of the chest and not by what is inside the person."

[श्री भगवत झा]

मैं उन से कहूंगा कि चलिये स्कूल और कालेज में वही आप को दोनों मिल जायेंगे। चेस्ट (छाती) भी मिल जायेगा और बूजम (हृदय) भी। अगर आप इन विद्यार्थियों को शिक्षा देते हैं, तो आप को इस की दिक्कत नहीं होगी। आज अपने देश में विद्यार्थियों की भिन्न भिन्न संस्थाएँ हैं, जब मैं स्टूडेंट्स फेडरेशन में काम करता था तब एक संस्था थी, लेकिन अब तो करीब पच्चीस संस्थाएँ हैं। अगर आप चाहें तो उन को एक स्थान पर ला सकते हैं। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि आप को विद्यार्थियों को मिलिटरी शिक्षा देनी ही चाहिये, जिस से कि उन में एकता पैदा हो जाय। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस सिद्धान्त के विरोध में किसी को नहीं होना चाहिये। अगर मेरे पास भवसर होता तो मैं यहाँ पर इस के फाइनैन्शल इम्प्लीकेशन (वित्तीय परिणामों) पर भी कुछ कहता। पर इस समय इतना ही कहता हूँ कि हमें इस के सिद्धान्त को तो तुरन्त ही मान लेना चाहिये। अब तो इस को कार्यान्वित करने की ही जरूरत है और यह देखा जाय कि वह कैसे हो।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ।

**Shri Khardekar** (Kolhapur cum Satara): I had no idea that I would speak today but the atmosphere has been so persuasive that I cannot resist the temptation. These are days of high floods and today we found the House flooded with militant eloquence of the Amazon. Our Kaka Saheb talked about the necessity of physical excellence. Here, I feel like telling a very interesting story about physical excellence minus the 'top'. George Bernard Shaw published a theory of his own on 'Eugenics'. He said if by select breeding, from the old plough-horse and the old rotten dog we could

produce the modern marvel of a race horse and the Alsatian dog, why not by proper selection and by bringing together proper men and women improve the bread of men. Now, it is very easy to come out with a theory, but if you have to practice it, it becomes very difficult. There is an interesting anecdote in this connection. Once a very beautiful lady met George Bernard Shaw. When Shaw saw this lovely and very interesting personality, he said: "Young lady, why have you come?" "I have come to see you because I was interested in your theory" and she immediately began putting very interesting questions. "Mr. Bernard Shaw, do you not think you are the best brain in the world?" Shaw said: "Well, anyone having brains can be convinced about it". Then she asked: "Do you not think that I am the loveliest woman in the world?" Bernard Shaw said: "Anyone who has eyes can be convinced about that." Then she said: "If that is so, if by putting these two together—your intellectual excellence and my physical excellence—we were to give the world an offspring for the benefit of humanity, would not the world get superman?" Shaw was an honourably married man in spite of his eccentricities, and he did not want to be outwitted, after all, by a dancer. So, Shaw said after scratching his beard for some time: "Yes, my lady, you have thought about something intriguing, but may I ask you one or two questions, just as you have been very kind to ask me?" He said: "Do you know how I look?" Shaw always described himself as something of a monkey, a tall, lanky, lean fellow with a beard and so on, certainly an ugly specimen of mankind. And then Shaw said: "That means, that is the physical side of Shaw". And he said: "May I describe your brains, the brains of a dancer? It is better that I do not describe. So, you have seen only one side of the picture. If Shaw's ugliness and Isadora Duncan's brains, i.e., lack of brains, were to be

put together, the outcome would be something horrible".

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Now, my point was whether by a sort of regimented military training we are going to produce more or less "dum driven" cattle in this country where education itself is so very deficient. When standards are going lower and lower, is it proper for us to try doing so many things—apart from the other objections that I have for military training? I am even opposed to compulsory physical training. I would rather go in for sports and games. They will not only improve your physique. They add beauty to your body, and your mind considerably improves; that spirit of co-operation, the spirit of camaraderie, and what is more, the sense of justice and fairplay are developed. Let us not give up all these moral qualities which we have inherited from the past. Let us try to improve all these, and let us not be a nation that is rotten, but that which is physically, intellectually and morally strong.

Now you know that if you look into the political history of the world, you will find there are two currents of political thought. One is the Roman political thought, and the other is the Greek political thought. The Roman political thought always tried for solidarity, discipline, organization, military strength and so on. What has it led to?—dictatorship, wars, militarism and all that. As against that, you have the Greek political thought which laid emphasis on individual freedom which has led to democracy. We have been a nation that is peace-loving. Is it proper for us to give it up and completely change? When you think of military training, compulsory or otherwise, in schools and colleges, you are going to bring the type of mentality which will produce we do not know, what sort of trouble in this country. At a time when we are likely to lead the world towards peace from madness and lunacy, is it proper for us to think of copying others?

Let us build on the solid foundations of the past, and let us be a nation that would spread the gospel of peace, love and co-operation.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shri Satish Chandra.

**Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara):** May I know, Sir, whether you propose to extend this debate, for, I may draw your attention to the fact that this subject is of more interest than even the defence estimates? This question of military training must be disposed of once and for all, and I would like you to give not one, but even two hours, for the debate.

**Shri Tyagi:** I thought perhaps the relevant closure of the debate would come from the Education Ministry. Our Deputy Minister is only intervening.

1 P.M.

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** I have heard with respect and attention, the speeches delivered in the House today. In fact, I had not expected that this debate will be so lively and arouse so much interest among the hon. Members.

First of all, let us be clear about the object of this Resolution. The Mover has laid emphasis mainly on the character-building aspect of military training. He has drawn the attention to the fact that military training helps character-building, and enables one to improve his physique. It helps in inculcating among the trainees a sense of discipline, in developing self reliance by teaching them the dignity of labour and so on. Some other hon. Members have spoken about the development of martial qualities among the youth of the country. They think that military training is essential from the defence point of view. There is a great deal of difference between these two approaches.

The Mover of the Resolution does not appear to be very keen about the development of martial qualities as a

[Shri Satish Chandra]

result of compulsory military training. His object and approach is entirely different. I am in full sympathy with the object which he has in view. It is absolutely essential that our young men must receive today a training which will make them more disciplined citizens, and develop in them a constructive outlook. They will thereby learn to do things with their own hands and their physique will also improve. This is something to which nobody can have any objection, because it is an absolutely non-controversial approach. Keeping this object in view, I feel that increasing assistance and greater facilities should be provided for imparting military training to the youth of our country.

But as far as the defence aspect is concerned, I would say that it is entirely a different matter. Many hon. Members have opposed the introduction of military training on a compulsory basis. They feel on various grounds that it is not proper to impart regular military training to all young men and women. I do not wish to go into this controversy, because in the context of the present resolution, it is not very relevant. If I touch that subject, I will raise a discussion about the role of our army, navy and air force, about our defence requirements; to what extent we are prepared to meet an aggression, and to what extent we should further prepare ourselves. I think that such a discussion is neither within the scope of the present Resolution, nor does it appear to be the intention of the Mover to raise it here. Military training is being imparted in various ways. Some hon. Members may rightly feel that the facilities should be extended to enable more and more boys and girls to receive it in future. But when we talk of compulsory military education, I will request hon. Members to realise the Magnitude of the problem. Some Members have said that we should not hold up this scheme by saving one crore or two crores of rupees. Well, to convince them that

it is not a question of a crore or two, I think I should give some facts and figures. The National Cadet Corps at present has on its rolls about 82,000 boys and girls and the total expenditure on the NCC, which is shared between the Central and the State Governments, is about Rs. 1 crore and 90 lakhs. For the training of 82,000 boys and girls we are already spending 1 crore and 90 lakhs of rupees. From the figures that I have been able to gather from the Ministry of Education, the number of students above 15 years of age on a rough calculations is between 2 and 2½ millions, i.e. about 30 times more than the number which is receiving the benefit of NCC training today. Even if we confine military training to boys and girls over 15 years of age, it is going to cost us an additional 60 to 70 crores of rupees per year. NCC training is not the complete military training; only elementary type of training is given. Can we afford to spend an additional sum of 70 crores of rupees, if we decide to expand the NCC scheme to include all the boys and girls above 15 years of age in our schools and colleges? Sir, that is a colossal figure. It is easy for an hon. Member to say that we are spending 100 crores of rupees on the Damodar Valley and why not spend money over this? But the hundred crores which we spend on the Damodar Valley are going to last. It is not a recurring expenditure; it is a productive capital expenditure.....

**Shri Sarangadhar Das** (Dhenkanal—West Cuttack): The Damodar Valley will bring in a thousand crores.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** So I say. You are only supporting me.

**Shri Tyagi:** You always support him.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The total number of boys and girls in our Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges, if we also include those below 15 years of age, is about 4 millions. This does not include primary schools, vocational

and technical institutions etc. If the Resolution is accepted and is to be implemented, it will require an expenditure of over a hundred crores of rupees per year.

Again some hon. friends have spoken about the necessity for the expansion of the Territorial Army and about imparting military training to adults. I just tried to see the latest census report and found that the population between 13 and 26 years of age is about 95 millions. By the figures that I have given above the House will realize that the entire Government of India Budget will not be sufficient to provide military training to all of them.

Apart from the financial difficulties, the hon. Members who have supported this resolution have not realised the difficulty about the availability of equipment. If military training is given on such a vast scale, probably the entire military equipment that we have or that we may have to replace each year will easily have to be multiplied many times over.

**Several Hon. Members:** Have bamboo poles.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** There is the difficulty of equipment; there is not sufficient personnel to undertake the task, there is the difficulty of finances. What I mean to say, is that being in the fullest sympathy with the objects which the mover of this resolution has in view, let us dispassionately examine as to what extent it is possible to extend the present facilities for military training and in what manner it can possibly be done.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** May I know what will be the return which the hon. Minister expects supposing we spend this 95 or 100 crores.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I do not agree with Mr. Chaudhury that the money spent on various schemes of military training does not give any return. Every hon. Member who spoke today has laid emphasis on character-build-

ing, on improving the physique of our boys and girls and the need of developing in them a sense of social responsibility etc. etc. Those are very essential qualities if we really want to re-construct this vast country.

Now the point is as to how we can impart to as great an extent as possible the military training to boys and girls. Because it is found difficult at present to obtain further funds for the development of the National Cadet Corps in order to impart instruction to more than 82,000 students we are trying to evolve a new scheme called the Auxiliary Cadet Corps. The experiment was tried last year in a few schools and we are satisfied that it has got potentialities of development. So, from this school session we are extending that experiment which is now taking shape in the form of the Auxiliary Cadet Corps. This Corps will provide training in citizenship, first aid, social sciences through some form of manual labour, route marches, physical exercises and mass drill etc. If hon. Members give further suggestions the syllabus can be improved upon to include other subjects, for instance, fire-fighting etc. Training in these subjects will help a great deal in building up the personality and character of the boy. All these subjects form part of full military training. In a way, the Auxiliary Cadet Corps will provide training in civil defence and transform students into better citizens without giving weapon training, which is very costly.

I am glad to say that the Baroda State has recently agreed to provide compulsory A.C.C. training to all its under-graduates.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is the hon. Minister likely to take a long time?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then he may continue on another day. The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 5 P.M. today.

*The House then adjourned till Five of the clock.*

*The House reassembled at Five of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### DISCUSSION ON CALLING OF TROOPS IN CALCUTTA.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Mr. A. K. Gopalan will raise the discussion now. The discussion will close at 6-30. There are a number of members who are anxious to speak here. They have given me notice and so 10 minutes will be the maximum for a speech. If they cut it down to less than 10 minutes it is all the better so that all the people can take part. I will call the hon. Minister at 6-15.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore):** I first of all thank you for the kind opportunity that you have given to the Members of this House for discussing a very important issue that has happened during the last month. After the last session of the Parliament from Calcutta to Tuticorin several things have happened, which require the serious consideration of the Government and the Members of this House. The lives of people, I do not know how many, have been lost and if we shut our eyes to the serious situation on technical grounds I am sure that we will be doing injustice to the country and to the people. The agitation in Calcutta began in the first week of July. It was against the enhancement of the tramway fares. It was a struggle for one pice but really the people were not able to pay even that one pice and that was the reason why the agitation rallied round itself all the sections in Calcutta and also the whole masses. All sections of people in Calcutta rallied round this agitation. That shows that it was really because the condition of the country was such that the people were not even able to pay one pice more. The first agitation started with the people who refused to pay the enhanced rate and

then there was firing, there was lathi charge and then it went to the extent of calling military aid. The *Hindustan Times* of 17th July, 1953 in its editorial had said: "Troops had been called out at Calcutta at last in dealing with the situation created by the Tramway Enhancement Resistance Committee." What was the justification for the calling of the troops, firing and other things. To put it in the words of Dr. B. C. Roy, the economic situation of the country was largely responsible for the agitation against the Government and the situation was further aggravated by the ever increasing unemployment. He also stated that unless the menace of economic distress is fought, there was no solution for it. I will not go into the details about it. I have only read the report in papers. I leave it to the hon. Members of this House who had been there in Bengal and who know the situation better. The agitation was against British capital and its exploitation. The report says that according to the Company's accounts for 51 there was a net earning of Rs. 10 lakhs after allocating funds to the new accounts. A dividend of 6 per cent. was declared. So what has happened within the last so many months to justify the enhancement of fares? It would be difficult to say. It would be difficult for me to cite another instance where a British capitalist business is nursed so well and made remunerative. Tram cars certainly are essentially a poor man's means of conveyance and even the slightest enhancement of the fare is bound to cause undue hardship to the poorer classes.

It is unfortunate that even the slightest trouble anywhere in the country develops and catches like wild fire. The reason is obvious. We read in the papers every day that industries are closing and unemployment is increasing. For the last three days the House has been discussing the silk industry and the coir industry and in the course of their speeches hon. Members have pointed out how the small industries like, silk, coir and handloom are closing



down one after the other. On account of this situation and the growing unemployment, people are frustrated, and their discontent gives rise to unrest in the country. I ask the Government when there is discontent in the country, instead of dealing with the situation tactfully and patiently, is it proper to call the aid of the military?

Another important matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that the Security Control Police, which, I understand, is directly under the control of the Central Government, were used to deal with the disturbances. I have got photographs with me showing the Security Control Police going into the crowd and attacking people. The other day Mr. N. C. Ghosh of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* when he came to Delhi gave a talk to the Delhi Journalists' Association in the course of which he said that for the attack on the pressmen in Calcutta it was the Security Control Police that was primarily responsible. The attack on the pressmen is not only a challenge to the Press.....

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh** (Murshidabad): On a point of order, Sir, the subject before the House, is the calling of troops in Calcutta. The matter that is now being referred to—the alleged assault on the pressmen—happened subsequently. Is it in order for the hon. Member to discuss what happened subsequently? I may also point out that the alleged assault on the pressmen is *sub-judice*.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member will kindly confine himself to the subject before the House.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** The Security Control Police, who are directly under the control of the Central Government, were mainly responsible for the attack on the pressmen, and in my opinion responsibility for this naturally devolves on the Central Government.

As I was pointing out the attack on the pressmen is not only a challenge to the press, but also a challenge to democracy. It is a

challenge to civilisation; it is a challenge to justice and fairplay. I have heard ever so many things; but I do not wish to go into details, nor do I wish to sit in judgment over them. But I would like to say this much that the attack by the police on the pressmen has brought discredit on the Government, not only inside our country, but even outside. It has been said that such a thing has never happened in the history of the press in any democratic country in the world. Even our Prime Minister had said that he was sorry about it. Everyone felt sorry about the attack on pressmen. There was not an instance where they were not sorry about the attack on pressmen, because it was certainly unwarranted. And see the way in which it was done. It was reported in the papers that the Security Police understood that they were pressmen and after understanding that they were pressmen attacked them. So it was a deliberate pre-planned attack on them. That is why I have brought up this matter. It is a very serious matter. The Prime Minister has said he was sorry about it. Everyone would be sorry because pressmen are there to report what is happening; they are there to make people understand what is happening. Certain things are happening, it may be on the part of the Government, it may be on the part of the people, what the Government is doing, what the people are doing it is the pressman who has to report. And any attack on pressmen made by those who are responsible under the Central Government is a thing which must be looked into. This is a very serious matter which has provoked all sections of people in this country and about which the Prime Minister as well as the Chief Minister there have said they were sorry. Who was responsible for this action? I request that those who were responsible for this may be punished so that such things may not happen again.

I conclude by saying that things like this will happen in the future

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

also unless matters are set right. The economic situation is such that any day, anywhere such things may happen. I would request the Central Government to take serious steps and advise the State Governments that whenever a small situation, just like the tramfare agitation in Calcutta, arises they may deal with the situation tactfully so that extreme steps like firing, lathi-charges and calling out military may not be taken and so that things may not happen about which Government themselves may have to protest afterwards. Under the present economic policy of protecting and patronising British capital the economic condition in our country will remain as it is. And if the economic condition of our country remains as it is, certainly there will be discontent and unrest among the people and that may lead to all these things. So I give a warning to the Government that it is high time that the Government changed the economic and repressive policy it follows at present so that 'Calcuttas' may not be repeated. Let them also learn a lesson from what has happened in Calcutta so that those who had been responsible for bringing discredit to the Government may be punished and the officials who had been responsible for it dismissed.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly):** I was in Calcutta when the troops were called out, and it will not be true to say that the military were not really called out. You know, Sir, there is a paper called *Statesman* which is generally a champion of law and order and it is usually critical of the Opposition parties. That paper said on the 17th July, that the troops were called at the request of the West Bengal Government, and that the military afforded limited aid to the police in Calcutta on Thursday in the maintenance of law and order. It goes on:

"This help took the shape of route marches by troops, fully equipped for internal security patrol, through several main

thoroughfares in the northern and southern parts of the city in morning and afternoon. The marching columns were accompanied by police officers and wireless vans".

But one thing is very important. That responsible paper which maintains certain standards in Indian journalism said that their press correspondent had gone to see some of the Ministers after the West Bengal Cabinet meeting; and this is the report: After the meeting of the West Bengal Cabinet, a Minister told the press correspondents "This Government is determined to meet force with force". The military was brought out and everything about it was wrong.

**An Hon. Member:** What is wrong?

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** The declaration was taken to mean that the troops were being brought out to terrorise the people. There was no mass uprising up to that point in the city. As a matter of fact all that happened was that there were sporadic acts of violence.

**Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik—Central):** Did the Communists deprecate that?

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** You know that I am not speaking for the Communists. You are a better friend of the Communists than myself.

**Shri Syed Ahmed (Hoshangabad):** Did you deprecate it?

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** I did issue a statement.

**Shri Syed Ahmed:** But how many days later?

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** Immediately. What I wanted to say is this that there was some staging of frightfulness by the Government which did not do any good at all to the city. (Interruptions).

**Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna):** There should not be any interruptions.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** I wish that there would be no interruption. I refuse to yield.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There should not be any interruptions.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** I know that the hon. Member who had never been to Calcutta during this critical period wants to contradict me. I know my city; I know my province better and the ex-Governor of the West Bengal, who happens to be the Home Minister, knew something of Calcutta some years back. I want to tell my hon. friend here that there was a very bombastic declaration by the Congress Chief on the eve of the *hartal* that the Congress is going to break the general strike and that unfortunate declaration led to a good deal of calamity. As a matter of fact the leftists have told me that they are thankful to the Bengal Congress Chief for that kind of declaration which led to the success of the *hartal*. Possibly the *hartal* would not have been half successful but for this declaration. After that they brought out 500 men for the purpose of breaking the strike and that led to a bitter situation.

My hon. friend Mr. Gopalan has read a portion of the editorial from the *Hindustan Standard* of the 17th July. It is said in that Editorial that the success of this *hartal* and the general strike was a slap on the face of the Congress and the Congress Government. May I know whether the troops were called out and the military were ordered to parade the streets of Calcutta because of this feeling that both the Congress and the Congress Government had sustained a defeat and a miserable discomfiture by the success of this unique *hartal*?

My hon. friend has referred to the very ugly incident which took place in my city on the 22nd July for which all sections in the country are sorry, namely the attack on the press men. But I would like to take the House into confidence and tell my hon. friends that, it seems to me that there

was something little more deep and sinister than it strikes one *prima facie*.

What happened? Dr. Radha Banod? Pal, a former Judge of the Calcutta High Court was the Chairman of the Citizens' Committee. He along with other members of the Citizens' Committee appealed to the Resistance Committee: "For Heaven's sake, in the interests of millions of citizens and to redress the sufferings of the poorer people, do help us in restoring normal conditions and allow the resumption of the transport services". After talking to them we found that the Resistance Committee was not unwilling to have a joint conference with the Government. Dr. Paul, myself, Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, Mr. Hemendra Prasad Ghosh and Mr. Santosh Kumar Bose saw the Acting Chief Minister Mr. Sen as well as the Home Minister and appealed to them "For Heaven's sake, let us have a joint conference on the 22nd and finish the whole thing". We found that there was a possibility of settlement provided prestige was not thought of. We appealed to them: do not think of prestige; have a joint conference; our services are at your disposal. After half an hour's talk and appeal, the Acting Chief Minister and the Home Minister accepted the suggestion of a joint conference. I was sure that if that joint conference had taken place with the Acting Chief Minister, Home Minister and other Ministers, the whole thing would have been settled. I should say Mr. Sen and the Home Minister ultimately agreed to our suggestion. Dr. Paul and I appealed; not for our sake, but for the sake of millions of suffering people that the tension should ease and something should be done to restore normal conditions in my city. Then, Mr. Sen said, 'what about our position and prestige; kindly write a letter to us saying that it is at your request that I am calling for the representatives of the Resistance Committee.' To ease the situation, we immediately wrote out the letter.

**Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara):** May I know if this was an off the record chat and whether the hon. Member could come to this House and mention this portion of it?

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** This is on the record of the Government of Bengal. The Government of Bengal will never deny that. I publicly issued a statement. There has been no denial of that. It has been commented upon in the Press. It was arranged that at 6 o'clock representatives of the Resistance Committee, the leftist groups who were in charge of this strike business, should meet the representatives of the Government and we offered our services to mediate. We found that they were so near and with a little beating down of prestige and notions, and, what should I say, misplaced importance, things would have improved. Mr. Sen also asked Mr. Basu, the convener of the Committee and also Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose to inform the Resistance Committee, and specially requested us to be free that night. A couple of hours later, a telephone came to Dr. Paul from the Acting Chief Minister or the Presiding Minister saying, 'we call off this conference.' I do not know what happened within the two hours. Something had been done. If there had been a conference as arranged at 6 o'clock, there would have been no violation of section 144 because the Resistance Committee Members had to go to the Writers' Building and there would have been no trouble. Somebody had decided in the mean time that the Press should be taught a lesson, and that the Press was behaving badly. The meeting was therefore called off. Slowly and steadily, the public feeling was rallying in favour of the Government after the announcement of a Tribunal to enquire into the increase of Tramfare. It is this unprovoked and cowardly attack on the Press, which we all deplore, which has led to greater cleavage, greater misunderstanding and accentuated the situation. I am sorry that Dr. Roy had to go away.

If he had been there, possibly things would have been better. But, the men who were in charge were not equal to the occasion, were not big enough to face the situation with courage and with vision and with statesmanship.

I want to know from the hon. Minister why was the requisition for the military made. Who made the requisition? What were the grounds? Did they ever say that the civil authorities had completely failed to keep law and order in the city of Calcutta? Did the Congress Government say that they wanted to create some impression on the people because the strike had been a success in spite of the bloated declaration of the President and Chief of the Bengal Congress? What had happened? Was the situation so bad? I am sorry to say that there has been firing. We all deplore the acts of violence committed on either side. But, what is more regrettable is that for days and for nights, the refugee colonies were being rounded up by the agents of law and order. Men were beaten. There was firing in the refugee colonies. That is not good. Our Government are spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees for the purpose of so-called rehabilitation. Mrs. Leela Roy one of the prominent social workers in the city of Calcutta, told me and the other Members of the Citizens committee that for hours and hours, day in and day out, for 10 or 12 hours, searches were made and men and women were being assaulted and tortured and molested. This kind of thing is most regrettable, and I wish the hon. Minister will do something. If the Government of India could possibly have intervened at an earlier stage, possibly some of these disagreeable episodes would not have happened.

**The Minister of Defence Organization (Shri Tyagi):** As two hon. Members have mixed up the incidents of Calcutta with the coming out of the Army and shooting and doing

Injury to women and refugees etc., I want to make it quite clear that the Army only had a route march, morning and evening.

**Shri S. S. More (Sholapur):** What is the time for that?

**Shri Tyagi:** I want to make it quite plain that in this shooting, if at all it had taken place in any corner of Calcutta, it was not the Army which shot. The Army did not fire even one cartridge. There was no occasion for the Army to shoot. If there was any shooting resorted to, it must have been from some other quarters, not from the Army. I want to make this clear.

The position of the Army is difficult in such circumstances. It is likely that my friend knows it, but for the benefit of the House, I will read Section 130 of the Criminal Procedure Code which says:

"(1) When a Magistrate determines to disperse any such assembly by military force, he may require any commissioned or non-commissioned officer in command of any soldiers in the Army or of any volunteers enrolled under the Indian Volunteers Act, 1869, to disperse such an assembly by military force, and to arrest and confine such persons forming part of it as the Magistrate may direct, or as it may be necessary to arrest and confine in order to disperse the assembly or to have them punished according to law."

"(2) Every such officer shall obey such requisition in such manner as he thinks fit, but in so doing he shall use as little force, and do as little injury to person and property, as may be consistent with dispersing the assembly and arresting and detaining such persons."

Section 131 says:

"When the public security is manifestly endangered by any such assembly, and when no

Magistrate can be communicated with, any commissioned officer of the Army may disperse such assembly by military force, and may arrest and confine any persons forming part of it, in order to disperse such Assembly or that they may be punished according to law; but if, while he is acting under this section, it becomes practicable for him to communicate with a Magistrate, he shall do so, and shall thenceforward obey the instructions of the Magistrate as to whether he shall or shall not continue such action."

These are the two Sections of the Indian Criminal Procedure Code. Here, the question is whosoever the officer available of the Army, any Magistrate can, according to law, summon him and his force for his help; and that officer has no other go except to obey the Magistrate. This is the position of the Army.

In the present case, the Army was called for not to disperse the crowds. They just called for the Army for their help. The situation was not really so bad as my friend says. The whole of Calcutta was not in such a commotion as to create any violent situation. It must have been only a few who were committing any violence, if there was any violence. I have not seen things, and I have no personal knowledge. The source of my knowledge is the same as that of many of the friends who have read reports in the press. I am sure the whole of the population was not violent. Naturally, quite a large number must be peace-abiding people. Those people were also alarmed because if they find everywhere that a tram is in danger, their going out is in danger, naturally they deserve to get some sort of protection from the State. And the Army only just had a smooth flag march round the streets of Calcutta. I am sure that that brought some confidence in the minds of the law-abiding people.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** Just the reverse!

**Shri Tyagi:** There should have been no cause for alarm, and these persons simply wanted peace. They wanted peace not for one day, two days, for some time; they were just starving to have peace, and those people were only given the guarantee, the security. So, it was only with a view to restore confidence among the law-abiding people that Army had a smooth flag march. They were never asked to take any action. If the army had taken even the slightest action by using force in any manner, then I could see why I, on behalf of the army, could perhaps be asked by this House to explain as to why force was used, what amount of force was used etc. Since the army only had a march, and did not take to any action, I do not think the army or the Minister in charge of the army has anything to explain to the House. If there were any excesses committed by any other force, either local or otherwise, I wish that at least the army should not be attributed these faults. The army did nothing except marching, and I can assure the House the army's march was enjoyed by the people who saw it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shri Ashim Dutt.

**Shri Meghnad Saha** (Calcutta—North-West): Sir, may I request you to call Shri Atulya Ghosh, the heroic leader of the Bengal Congress volunteers, to address this House?

**Dr. M. M. Das** (Burdwan—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I protest against the insinuatory remarks of the hon. Member, namely 'heroic leader'.

**Shri A. Ghosh** (Burdwan): Sir, I would not be able to satisfy anybody excepting the Deputy-Speaker, but yet I can try, if he could very kindly permit me.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am really surprised at the manner in which hon. Members take it into their own hands to regulate the business, in this House. It is very wrong to do

so. If any hon. Member wanted that he should contribute to the debate, then he must have sent me a note in advance. All these suggestions embarrass me. Shall I call this side of the House and then go on asking Members from the other side to speak one after the other? It would be better if suggestions of this nature are not made.

**Shri A. K. Dutt** (Calcutta South-West): I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak a few words on the subject that is under consideration now. Our hon. friend Shri Gopalan has given a description of the situation in Calcutta. But as is usual with his party he has spoken some untruths and half-truths, and distorted the real facts. He has exaggerated the number of people who were injured, and he has also exaggerated the atrocities of the police lathi-charges etc. But he has not stated the real situation. The fact was that there was an organised violence on Government property. A number of buses were destroyed, numbering about 62. Tram-cars and railway coaches were attacked, and some of them burnt. A lady teacher, whose only fault was that she wanted to go to her school, and tried to go by a second class tram car was attacked with acid bombs, and was severely injured and she is now in a serious condition.

Almost all the passengers who tried to travel by second class were seriously injured, terrorised and brick-bats and acid bulbs were thrown at them. I am coming from a constituency which comprises a part of Calcutta and some of the suburbs, and I was present at the time when these things were happening.

Before I say anything about the calling of the troops, I want to give some background as to why the troops were called. There was for days together a serious agitation in Calcutta on account of the death of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. It was rumoured that he had died under



mysterious circumstances and the people were very much agitated on that point. Then there was acute unemployment in Calcutta. Lots of educated middle class people were going about for service, but without getting services they gradually became frustrated and, naturally, they thought that the cause of all their trouble was the Government in power, and they became anti-Government.

**Shri S. S. More:** It is a fact.

**Shri Syed Ahmed:** It has nothing to do with the subject.

**Shri A. K. Dutt:** Then there were the Bengali vernacular papers which started an anti-Government agitation. Their editorial staff were infiltrated with Communist and persons in league with anti-Congress parties.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** They are mostly Congress.

**Shri A. K. Dutt:** They terrorised their proprietors and from day to day started publishing various false rumours. They said that the Government was tottering and the Government had lost all control over the police. That way they created panic in Calcutta. All true facts have been distorted, by these papers. The authorities at first thought that the movement would die off naturally because their information was that the opposite groups were short of funds. But the leaders of the resistance movement, with a view to bring the matter to a head, thought of starting some action on the model of the 'Direct Action' of August 16, 1946. With that aim they held a meeting near the Ochterloney monument, and after the meeting was over, as we saw in 1946, they attempted to loot the shops and commit arson. But the police took vigilant and prompt action and saved the shops from being looted. This infuriated some of those people and they attacked Dr. B. C. Roy's house and caused serious damage, though he was away from Calcutta. Being unable due to police action to loot and commit

arson, they thought of taking other steps and at night time they started cutting and removing the tramway lines, damaging the street lamps and putting barricades on the streets. This way they created a rather complicated situation. At this stage the Government had only two options left—either to order the police to take strong steps or to bring confidence in the minds of the people. They thought the second course would be safer and better. There was route march of military in the city of Calcutta to impress people that Government has sufficient strength even if police fails and as a result of this action confidence came back and almost every citizen of Calcutta thought that it was a very good step that was taken by the Government. They congratulated the Government for taking that step and I hope the House will join with them.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta North-East): Speaking today particularly as a representative of the city of Calcutta, a city whose traditions it is not for me to enlarge upon, a city perhaps as volatile, if not more volatile than the Prime Minister and great-hearted in spite of its faults, I beg of you and of the House, Sir, to take a very serious note of the gravity of the situation which arose in Calcutta last month, to shed to all ideas of rigid adherence to dead technicalities which were in the beginning of this meeting sought to be raised and to take a human and understanding view of the crisis which showed its face to the people of Calcutta, and to the people of India with such stupendous force during the events of last month. I beg of you to remember that it was the very great gravity of the situation in Calcutta and the most unashamedly inept handling of the situation by the West Bengal Government which led me to send a cable to the Prime Minister asking, him in all decency to intervene in the situation and to retrieve if he possibly could an impossible situation. I do not make a grievance of the fact, Sir, that I



[Shri H. N. Mukerjee.]

did not have the privilege of a reply. But it was not me alone who tried to ask the Central Government to take a serious note of what was happening in Calcutta. Apart from myself, there were many other persons, many other hon. Members of this House as well as others and later on, the representatives of all journalists' associations in Calcutta who told our Prime Minister that an impossible situation had arisen in Calcutta on account of the callous handling of a very popular demand by the State Government in power. What happened in Calcutta was, therefore not a small local incident. It has a significance about which this House, and our Government at the Centre—if it is to be worth its salt—must take note and cannot take shelter behind technicalities and ignore the happenings in my city.

Purely technically, law and order is a State subject but the calling out of troops in aid of the civil power is directly within the ambit of the Centre. I have heard my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi trying to distinguish between the manoeuvrings and deployment of the military force for purposes of shooting down people and for the purpose of merely parading through the streets. But what was the impression that we in Calcutta who were there on the spot at the time got when the military was called out? That impression is brought forth by the banner headlines which you can see in a non-communist Bengali paper under the Caption. 'The Military summoned in Calcutta'. The kind of headlines which were put up showed how the people were concerned by the way in which the Government was behaving. What was the Government doing at that time? The demand that the tram fare should not be increased without a reference to a Tribunal, without a further judicial adjudication of the matter, was so popular that ultimately the Government has had to come down. Ultimately the whole matter has had to be referred for judicial determination

and yet because the Government of West Bengal wanted to boost the interests of a British Company which has been fattening on our soil for so many years,.....

**Dr. M. M. Das:** On a point of order, Sir.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** ...because this Government is trying to shelter all those who have been fattening on our soil and sucking the life-blood of our men.....

**Dr. M. M. Das:** On a point of order, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What is the point of order?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Sir, my point of order is this. My hon. friend from North-East Calcutta under the garb of discussing the calling of troops in Calcutta is discussing the action that has been taken or that has not been taken by the West Bengal Government and he is entering into the details of the case, which is outside the jurisdiction of this House. As he himself mentioned it, it is a State subject.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I admitted this motion merely on the ground that troops were called in. To that extent it is central; though in a way the troops belong to the Centre, the calling of the troops is a State subject. I however allowed it so that hon. Members may have a frank talk about this matter. The hon. Member will therefore kindly come back to the point that is on the Order Paper.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** I submit it is quite relevant for us to refer to the situation which led to the calling in of the troops. Under the Constitution the State list excludes very definitely the calling of armed forces in aid of the civil power. Rightly or wrongly, the aid of the armed forces was evoked.....

**Some Hon. Members:** No, no.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes, yes.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** The Constitution, besides, makes very ample provision for the Central Government directly to ensure that under the cloak of the autonomous powers of the States the condition of the people as a whole is not permitted to be in jeopardy, and the Union has an inescapable responsibility laid on it. I refer the House to Articles 256, 257 and 356 of the Constitution, where the President acts on information received from the Governor or the Rajpramukh, or from anybody, including the Members of this House. I, therefore, submit that it is certainly within the ambit of the jurisdiction of the Centre and what happened in Calcutta can be discussed with validity in this House.

I shall not go into the details of the July incidents, because certain of the essential points have already been referred to. But I would like to point out that the whole thing hangs together. The calling out of the military who paraded the streets of Calcutta on the 16th and 17th of last month was merely a symbolic demonstration of all that was happening in Calcutta throughout the month of July. That is why you have already permitted Members of this House to refer to what happened after the 17th when members of the Press were beaten and manhandled in such a fashion as is without parallel in the history of democracy.

**Shri Tyagi:** Not by the Army, I believe.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Not by the army. But I do say that the Central Government has a responsibility for the manner in which law and order is enforced in the States, if the manner in which law and order is enforced goes against the very foundations of democratic Government.

**Shri G. H. Deshpande:** I want to raise an important point of order. On matters which are under judicial enquiry judgments after judgments are being passed by individual

Members on that side. Is it desirable?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This matter has not been brought to my notice. What is the judicial enquiry?

**Shri G. H. Deshpande:** The question whether there was an attack on the pressmen or not is a matter under enquiry and judgments are being passed here that they were beaten very severely. It is not known at all whether they were at all beaten or not and it is the subject of an enquiry. Even such an eminent lawyer as my hon. friend Mr. Chatterjee, has passed a judgment on a matter which is the subject of a judicial enquiry.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** It was never denied that there was an assault for which both the Government as well as the Prime Minister apologised. The only question was who was responsible for the beating—that is the subject matter of the enquiry.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** The enquiry has been ordered on publication in the press of photographs which I am prepared to place on the Table of the House. I have also got with me photographs of some wounded journalists taken of them in hospital. It was because of the publication of these things that investigation has been ordered.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Inasmuch as the point raised about the beating of the journalists is the subject matter of a judicial enquiry I would ask hon. Members not to refer to that matter.

**Shri S. S. More:** On a point of information. Does the enquiry ordered become a judicial enquiry, simply because of the fact that a judge happens to be in charge of it?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What exactly is the position: has any case been launched in any court of law?

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh (Murshidabad):** If I may be permitted to inform the House, the matter has been referred to the Chief Presidency Magistrate and he has ordered a

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judicial enquiry into the whole thing.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): My hon. friend on the other side is confusing two issues. The matter which has been referred to the Chief Presidency Magistrate is the assault on the Council of State Member, Shri Satyapriya Bannerjee. There is a judicial enquiry on that matter. So far as the assault on pressmen is concerned, there is no judicial enquiry; no complaint has been lodged. Government has appointed a one man committee. Mr. Ghosh had been appointed; now in his place Mr. Justice Mukerjee has been appointed. That is not a court.

Shri Syed Ahmed: Are these matters related to the calling of the army?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid we are straying from the original motion. So far as this matter of alleged assault on the journalists is concerned, it seems to have happened sometime after the military was called. Therefore let us confine ourselves to that and not go beyond, because hon. Members on any side must have notice of what the motion is. This refers to the calling in of troops.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I shall not take much more of the time of the House, but this refers to the attack on the press representatives because it was only part of....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This refers only to the calling in of troops. Including there what happened after that will not be relevant.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: As has already been propounded by previous speakers, the whole thing is hanging together, and it is difficult for us to express ourselves and ask Government's views on the matter unless we can at least generally refer to these things.

Therefore I submit that the press came in for so much trouble because it tried to represent the true facts of the situation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That incident must stand by itself. I am sorry, it cannot arise out of this. Let the hon. Member confine himself to anything that happened before and during the calling in of troops.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Before and during the calling in of the armed forces the Government was as good as abdicating from the scene in favour of police rowdiness and we find that the behaviour of the Government was such that all sections of the press were driven to register their protest in such a fashion that for one day they stopped publication altogether.

There is one other point which has been raised in the course of the discussion, and Government may give an answer to this. (*Interruption*). The point raised was in reference to violence. An hon. Member on the other side said that it was the Communists who have been practising violence. I would say here and now that as far as violence was concerned, look up the records of what happened. Violence was on the side of the Government of the State. Find out the casualties. (*Interruption*). I ask the Home Minister. Three men killed—it is not a large number perhaps in a country like ours—but three men killed in the course of the disturbances and many seriously injured. How many were killed and seriously injured on the Government side? Not one man killed on the Government side, not one man seriously injured, nor of the military.

Things happened in Calcutta on such a scale and in such a fashion that even the press had to say that it was a slap in the face of the Government, that Government had proved itself entirely inept and inadequate to deal with the situation. We in Calcutta were reminded of what Euripides had said two thousand years ago: "Those whom the Gods want to

destroy, they first make mad". That is why the President of the West Bengal Congress had the gumption to issue a challenging statement opposing the strike which was to be held on the 15th July, a statement which was interpreted by papers friendly to the Congress, like the *Jugantar* of Calcutta, as provoking a civil war. Violence was practised on the Congress side, by the West Bengal Government, and the answer of the people was a widespread popular movement, so popular that every single paper in Calcutta had to register its support for the demands of the popular movement.

These are the points to which I wanted to draw the attention of the Government.

**Shri A. Ghosh:** With your kind permission, I want to offer my thanks to some of the Members on the Opposite side for very kindly mentioning my name. My statement has been referred to several times. So I think it proper to place it before you. In my statement, I said that the people of Calcutta should resist all violence. I never asked anybody to work against *hartal*. I only appealed to the people. I shall read some portions of my statement. I said:

"For the last 12 days, Calcutta is passing through disturbance which has jeopardised the life and peace of the common men of Calcutta. Some anti-social elements have started violent *goondaism* under the garb of so-called resistance movement against increase of tramway fare.

I urge all Congress workers and public in general to organise themselves to resist all kinds of anti-social activities. The Congress workers of Calcutta, 24-Parganas, and Howrah have decided to maintain peace and order in the city of Calcutta and to resist all kinds of violent activities and for that procession and group meetings are being organised.

I am sure that the citizens of Calcutta along with Congress wor-

kers will rise to the occasion and give a befitting reply to the miscreants who are trying to paralyse the peaceful life of the great city of Calcutta.

Public and trades people are to be assured that they will get all kinds of protection from *goondaism* if they are forced to make *hartal*."

I am very much pained to hear from a learned lawyer and my great friend Mr. N. C. Chatterjee what he said referring to my name. I also feel honoured at that. So far as I remember, we discussed with some of our friends, some of whom are present today in this great Parliament, and we condemned hooliganism. We condemned that portion of the work of the Resistance Committee which was related to violence. I have been ridiculed. The Press has condemned me. I have been condemned on the public platform. But I stated and I insist on stating that so long as I am a Member of Parliament, so long as I am a free citizen of free India, I will go on insisting that violence has to be checked, violence has to be opposed in the interests of this big nation.

You will find from the Calcutta newspapers *Amrita Bazaar Patrika*, *Ananda Bazaar Patrika*, *Jugantar*, *Hindustan Standard* of the 15th, 16th and 17th July statements to the effect that one square mile was in the hands of a Government which had nothing to do with civil administration. You will find that some portions of Northern Calcutta were in complete darkness. Laxmi Bhandar, a prominent shop in Calcutta was to be looted. You will find that streets were barricaded as they were barricaded at the time of the Paris Revolution. The same things as were done in the French Revolution were tried to be staged. You will find from reports of the Calcutta papers and from *Swadhinata* an organ of the communist party that in some portions of Calcutta, on the night of the 17th and on the 18th, and also on the 15th and 16th, all traffic was blocked by barri-

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cading, by bringing dust bins and other things and by spreading the refuse in the streets.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** What were the casualties? How many were killed?

**Shri A. Ghosh:** You will find from the newspapers that lights were broken and a portion of the City of Calcutta was in complete darkness. You will find from the newspaper reports that cars were not allowed to go through these areas. People were asked not to come to that area and if they did come, they came at the risk of their life. You will get all these details from the papers.

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** Did the Press condemn all this action?

6 P.M.

**Shri A. Ghosh:** I am not here to say what the Government did, whether they were right or wrong, whether the Resistance Committee was right or wrong. As a free citizen of Calcutta and as a free citizen of free India. I want to impress upon the House that on the nights of the 15th, 16th and 17th, some portions of Calcutta were completely in the hands of persons who resorted to violence. I do not know whether the Regulations permitted the calling of troops. But, according to our common sense, we apprehended a breach of the peace and we apprehended serious conditions in this great city of Calcutta. It reminded us of the 1946 Direct Action Day. It reminded us of other revolutionary days which we have read in some of the books. It reminded us of our friends; some of the political parties, taking advantage of the call of the Resistance Committee, were trying to paralyse the life of the great city of Calcutta. Shall I congratulate the Government of India, if they permitted this patrolling by military, for their action? As a citizen of Calcutta, I think that the Government did its best to stand by the side of the peace-loving citizens. We met some Members of this distinguish-

ed House, and they were of the opinion that Government should be far more strong and firm to check hooliganism. I am only quoting from a newspaper. The newspaper has supported this Resistance movement, written against the announcement of enhanced tramway fare; supported, I think, for all practical purposes, the lawful and constitutional agitation against the enhancement of tramway fares. I am not here to blame anybody. I am only here to explain our stand to which several of the Members have referred. Our stand was to resist violence; our stand is to resist violence; and our stand will always be to resist violence.

I request the Members sitting in the opposite side to go through *Amrita Bazaar Patrika*, *Hindustan Standard*, *Jugantar*, *Ananda Bazaar* and other papers, and see how many persons were wounded, how a child of ten months was wounded while travelling in second class tram how Mrs. Uma Roy, a leading Professor of Brabourne College, was hit hard by an acid bulb and bomb; how trains were stopped and even children were not given the milk and were not taken care of. In our lives, we have also conducted *hartals*. But we also tried to make arrangements for sick people, for children, for distressed people and we wanted to give them comfort, but this time without such arrangements we found that trains were banned. I do not know what relation the trains have with the enhancement of the tramway fare. I do not know why 92 State buses were gutted. What relation the State-run buses had with the enhancement of tramway fare, I do not know but I know that 92 State buses were set on fire. At the junction of Rasa and Hazara roads, where the house of the late Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee is situated, you will find.....

**Shri Sarangadhar Das (Dhen Kanak West Cuttack):** Sir, on a point of order.....(Interruptions).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. A point of order was raised. All that

let to the calling in of troops. That is how it arose. The hon. Member may kindly refer to *Yugantar*, before that.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** I have got with me a copy of the *Yugantar*, which I will present to the hon. Member. (*Interruptions*).

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** I would request the hon. Member to look at this picture, which shows how a pressman was attacked.

**Shri A. Ghosh:** The role of the newspaper is one of strict impartiality. I think the newspapers, *Yugantar*, or *Amrit Bazar*, or *Hindustan Standard* were all supporting this side as well as that side. As Members of the Opposition have the privilege and right to cite newspapers, I have also the privilege to quote these newspapers. You will find a statement in the *Yugantar*, showing how buildings in Hazara and Rasa roads were completely in darkness. The streets of the great city of Calcutta remained in forcible darkness for two, three, and five hours at a stretch. Whether that is a reason to call the military or not, this great House has to discuss and decide. I place all these facts before you for your very kind consideration.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani** (New Delhi): Quite a lot has been said on this subject. So I would not like to take much time of the House. But I am anxious to say a few words, because as it happened, I was in Calcutta for quite a few days during July, and what I saw in Calcutta and the way the Government were carrying on their work there made my heart very heavy, and made me feel that if this is the way we are going to conduct our affairs in any part of India, I do not know how long we shall be in a position to carry on the administration of this country. This is not a matter of any levity; it is a very serious matter.

What I saw in Calcutta disturbed me very greatly. We are here discussing the calling in of the troops. I know that the scope of discussion is limited and it is difficult to confine my-

self strictly within those limits. But let us take a wider view of the subject. Let us understand what the situation is. The tramway fares were raised by one pice. Over the issue of the raising of the tram-fares, there was a tremendous agitation in Calcutta. Why was there such a tremendous agitation? It arose, because there was tremendous discontent in the whole of the city of Calcutta. The people were dissatisfied, as they had innumerable grievances against the Government. This long standing resentment found an opportunity to express itself. Some hon. Member on the other side said that the newspapers were all managed by the Communists and others of similar view. I am really very surprised to hear that. As far as I know, most of the newspapers are supported by the capitalists, and they in their turn are supporters of the Government. How is that most of the newspapers then supported this agitation? The papers have on the whole given us the true and correct facts. If there was violence on the part of the people, that was reported, and if there was violence on the part of the Government, that too was reported. What is the over all impression you get from the study of these facts. If you go through the editorials, you will see that the average assessment was that there was greater violence on the part of the Government. I could quote to you from innumerable newspapers, but I shall not take up the time of the House by doing so; I would just quote you a few lines from one newspaper, namely the *Amrit Bazar*. Why? Because, the son of the proprietor of this newspaper is a Deputy Minister in the Bengal Cabinet.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi** (Pratapgarh Distt.—West-cum-Rae Bareilly Distt.—East): It is very unjust.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** This paper says:

"It is inconceivable that the police, particularly in the Congress regime, can run amuck and behave in the manner they have done during the last twenty-two days and specially yesterday even-



[Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani]

ing. Is it to be concluded that the Congress Ministry has given its imprimatur to such high-handedness? Or is it to be surmised that all these have been done by the police in total defiance of the wishes and definite orders of the Ministry, particularly the Home Minister?"

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** What is the date?

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** 23rd July. Then there is a similar quotation dated 17th July:

"What however would be surprising is the seeming self-complacency of the Congress and the Congress Government and the evident mentality on their part to turn a blind eye to their own weak spots and persuade the public to orderly behaviour by emphasising the destructive tactics of the Leftist groups".

I would under no circumstances support violence on the part of the people. I know responsible members of the Resistance Committee again and again issued statements asking the people not to resort to violence. I have seen reports in the papers where again and again they have said that those who were resorting to violence did not belong to any organised political party. Therefore it would not be correct to say that this political party or that political party sponsored violence. We all know that in Calcutta there is a tradition for this kind of throwing acid bombs etc. etc. Who sponsored it and who built up this tradition is a long history and is very well known to Mr. Atulya Ghosh and other people.

**Shri G. H. Deshpande:** Don't you know the Communists?

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Whatever it is. What I would say is that the violence on the part of the Government provoked the people into indulging in violence and ultimately the position was such that you had to call in troops.

Now, it is very interesting that our Minister of Defence, Mr. Tyagi, made one statement which is quite contradictory to the statement made by the President of the Congress in Bengal. Tyagiji said that there was a little violence, a little disturbance, a very moderate disturbance, and the troops were sent out to help the peace-loving people.

**Shri Tyagi:** On a point of explanation, Sir, I said that generally the masses would not be violent. That was my expectation. The violence, if at all, was committed not by many; the majority must be peaceful, and it was for the purpose of bringing confidence to those people who were afraid of their shops being looted or violence being committed that troops were called in. I did not say that there was no violence.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** I did not say that you said there was no violence. All I said was that you gave an impression that there was very little violence. The troops came out to support peace-loving people. And what is the size of the troops? One thousand troops in full military kit with radio equipment with the map of the City of Calcutta marching up and down!

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi (Hamirpur Distt):** The hon. Member may be requested to address the Chair.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Why did you do it? To my mind, it was done to intimidate the people.

**Shri Tyagi:** To intimidate the rowdy elements.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** This is what we object to. You should be able to carry on the administration without bringing in the troops every now and then. You demoralise the troops when you bring them in for civilian purposes. Our objection is to that. The Bengal Government should know how to carry on its business.

Then there was this Press affair which was referred to. How was it done? The most atrocious part of it



was that lathi-charge, was done by police who were not in their uniform. Let the police at least go about their business in their uniform. Here if I wanted I myself could have joined in and wreaked my private vengeance against anybody in the crowd. Who was there to prevent it? It is wrong on principle to have lathis charges conducted by people in plain clothes.

Papers reported that Government had hired goondas for the purpose. These goondas had the sign of Ashoka Chakra stamped on their hands for identification. We should be ashamed and hang our heads in shame. They had the symbol of the Ashoka Chakra in their hands! What does the Ashoka Chakra stand for? It stands for the law of piety that Ashoka started in this country. With the stamp of Ashoka Chakra what did these people do? They beat up the people. This is the administration. The administration in Bengal did not know their mind; they did not know how to carry on the Government. They could not arrive at any decision and win if they did they did not abide by them. It was due to there bungling that a serious situation was created which culminated in the calling of troops. We lent our troops for a purpose for which they are not meant. That is why we want to register our protest on this occasion.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Minister will now reply.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Sir, there are only two or three questions.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have heard sufficient on this subject. I have called upon the hon. Minister. I cannot allow. I have allowed as many as seven people. They took seventy minutes. The questions will take time. There are other hon. Members who have also given notice of questions. Shri Joachim Alva has given notice of 10 questions. There is Dr. Krishnaswami who has also got some questions. I cannot allow this.

**Dr. Katju:** I naturally agree with the last speaker that we should not

deal with the question that we are discussing this afternoon in a spirit of levity. I naturally agree that it is a very important matter. So far as Calcutta is concerned, it was undoubtedly a situation of great gravity, it was a crisis and that was the phrase used by my hon. friend Prof. Hiren Mukerjee. That was the telegram he said he had sent to the Prime Minister asking him to come and intervene because the situation was getting out of hand. I wish also to draw attention to a sentence or two which were uttered—and which I consider to be extremely significant—by my hon. friend who has initiated this debate. He said that what happened in Calcutta was a challenge to democracy. He further said that he is anxious because if the matters are not set right in the way in which he wants them to be set right, this thing will occur again and again. Now, I wish the House to ponder over the significance of these words. Because, as my hon. friend, Mr. N. C. Chatterjee said, I have some experience of Bengal, I have some experience as to what happened in 1950 in the streets of Bengal. Acid bulbs, bombs, crackers and other things were thrown, setting fire to trams, police vans and public property; all that happened, it went on and on, day after day. Today, of course I blame no political party or political group—the matter is much too serious for it—but the situation is that there are groups in this House—not in this House—I withdraw that—let me say outside this House—there are groups, political groups, who are anxious—I use these word deliberately—to exploit every opportunity to incite people to violence and to invite them to murder, to loot, to cut throats and to do all sorts of pranks and then shed crocodile tears in eloquent language; that is the misfortune of it. They are all eloquent people.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** May I ask, Sir, whether these parties were responsible for the assault on press men.

**Dr. Katju:** I have got experience of this matter in Telangana, in Calcutta,

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in Sunderbans and other areas and this is an example.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will you give us your experience in Calcutta?

**Dr. Katju:** Mr. Gopalan knows the facts. What is the good of asking me? Go back to Travancore-Cochin, go back to PEPSU, go back anywhere. I am only speaking the truth.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister will kindly stretch his hands towards me.

**Dr. Katju:** I know my fault, Sir, but they are so attractive. Now picture to yourself what happened. I do not want to go into the merits of this one pice controversy. There is a good deal to be said. I quite realise it. People are poor; there is unemployment. I agree that naturally an increase of a quarter anna means half an anna a day and it means twelve annas a month and for a family of four or five that may increase to two or three rupees.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** But it means 60 lakhs of rupees to the British Company.

**Dr. Katju:** I would ask through you, Sir, my friend Dr. Meghnad Saha to better confine himself to the Physics Laboratory.

**Shri V. G. Deshpande:** On a point of order, Sir....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let there be some order. There is too much of noise in the House.

**Shri V. G. Deshpande:** My point of order is whether it is parliamentary to call upon any Member of this House to restrict himself only to physics and not to politics and law and order?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am afraid even physics involves handling of acid bulbs. Either way it may be dangerous.

**Dr. Katju:** I do not want to go into the merits of that. There will be an investigation into the pros and cons

of the enhancement of fares and the misdeeds of that British company. The increase was sanctioned by a great patriot like Dr. B. C. Roy. But what happened? Please remember there is a Civil Resistance Committee consisting of many many hon. people, very many friends of mine. What did they do? There were two days of ticketless ride—free completely; anybody could go from anywhere to anywhere. That is of course breeding.....

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** It was non-violent.

**An Hon. Member:** Of communist type.

**Dr. Katju:**..... inculcating disrespect for law and order. On the third day, when the company said, let us have tickets, there were enormous number of volunteers ready to pull people out from the second class compartment and asking people not to travel. The situation was—that was what Mr. Mukerjee said to the Premier—deteriorating. The day was day, but literally—it may not be all over Calcutta, but in certain quarters of Calcutta—night became nightmare, bulbs, acid bulbs, bombs, crackers, looting, burning, burning of tram cars, burning of stage coaches. Nobody could travel.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Please give us instances.

**Dr. Katju:** You will not make me sit down in this fashion.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan rose—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister did not interrupt the hon. Member when he was speaking.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** If the hon. Minister can give us instances, it will be useful; mere generalisation is not going to help us.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** All hon. Members must be allowed to have their say. There was an accusation from

this side; there is defence from the other side. Let us hear both.

**Dr. Katju:** As I said this is very curious logic. The police commit excesses in the day; the crowds commit excesses in the night—very funny. I can understand—if a policeman commits excesses, beats or manhandles anyone, tear him to pieces: take off his helmet, beat him, manhandle him, embrace him, kiss him, do what you like with him. But let him go. But in the night what do you do—barricading public streets. The House may take it from me that for three or four nights, in different parts of Calcutta there was no order at all.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh** (Hazari-bagh West): Very good!

**Dr. Katju:** I am astonished that an ex-Judge of the Calcutta High Court is laughing!

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** I am laughing not at your remarks. I am laughing at the interjection of Babu Ramnarayan Singh.

**Dr. Katju:** These are the facts with which we are familiar. Let me tell you what happened on the 15th, the day before the troops were called. According to the reports barricades were erected in many places on Lower Circular Road, College Street, Wellington Street, Dharamtalla Street, Wellesley Street and other places. Attempts were made after midnight, that is in the early hours of the morning on the 16th July, to dig up tram lines at various places. This is only on one day. This has been going on at many places.

**Shri Meghnad Saha** rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. No interruption please. Nobody says the hon. Member is responsible for it. The other person does not give way. Let us hear him. Nothing is going to happen. Are we going to have Calcutta incidents here?

**Dr. Katju:** Miscreants collected pieces of wood and other inflammable things  
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and set fire to them in a number of places, specially in Central Calcutta. Electric lights of streets were put out by breaking switches and removing fuses, and parts of Central Calcutta were plunged into darkness. The worst affected areas were College Street market, Amherst Street, Bow Bazar Street, Harrison Road, Circular Road, Mirzapur Street and Shashi-bhushan Dey Street. A big crowd collected and set fire to the Sealdah tram goomty. The hon. lady is laughing. With great difficulty heavy reinforcements were brought and the fire was put out by the fire brigade. A large crowd assembled at Muchipara police outpost on Harrison Road and Circular Road crossing, but was cleared away by the timely arrival of the police. A crowd broke open a shop at Harrison Road and College Street crossing and attempted to loot it. All that was going on.

I submit that the Government—it has nothing to do with the Central Government—the State Government—would have been guilty—I repeat deliberately—would have been guilty of a gross dereliction of duty if they had not taken proper steps. Please remember that the Calcutta police—they may be the villains of the piece—but they have been continuously on duty for 14 days, 20 hours a day. And this thing was going on. This city, glorious city with glorious traditions, was entirely passing into the hands of hooligans. And what did the State Government do? The State Government wrote to Fort William Brigade area: please keep yourselves in readiness, we may have to call you in for maintaining law and order. As a matter of show they just asked them to pass on the streets. The street is an open fare, anybody can go. The Army did not handle even a stick; they just marched on. And it brought some sanity.

The House would recollect that again and again all my hon. friends, finding the ground very delicate for them, gradually jump on to the 22nd, namely the very touchy subject of press gal-

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lery, pressmen, reporters—they are all very good—and therefore it was tackled on. What has it got to do with this? And if you talk about press—I do not want to throw any blame on anybody—take the editorials of the Calcutta newspapers. There are great newspapers there with large circulations, the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, *Jugantar*, the *Hindustan Standard* with a lakh and half in circulation, the great *Patrika*, and goodness knows how many. They were all out for sales because it is business. They want advertisement. Otherwise, what is the good of editing and publishing a newspaper if it does not attract readers? No income. I say this. Let the hon. Members of this House collect together the editorial articles, short comments, from these Calcutta papers, let us say, up to the 17th July, because 22nd is far off, 5 days ahead. I cannot really understand why my hon. friend Mr. N. C. Chatterjee gave all this description of the very confidential conversation which he had with the Minister on the 22nd. I say let them collect these things together up to the 18th or 19th and let the Calcutta Press itself sit down and decide for itself whether they were doing justice with the public. The two questions are entirely different. One question is, was the Government right or wrong in increasing the fare? The other question, a bigger question of tremendous importance, going to the very root of our democratic structure is whether the crowds were justified in taking the law into their own hands, breaking trams, killing, shooting, throwing bombs.....

**Some Hon. Members:** No killing.

**Dr. Katju:**.....—all right, no killing—throwing bombs, crackers, dragging women from tram cars—were they justified in doing this? Was it not the duty, I say, of the Calcutta Press, the Press of entire India to say that this was a damned thing and should never be done? We are in a democratic Government. In a democratic

Government the law must be kept. If the Government goes wrong, there are methods. You may agitate, you may hold meetings.

**An Hon. Member:** Appeal.

**Dr. Katju:** As an hon. Member says, you may appeal. If this House were sitting, you may bring up the subject and do anything you like. My hon. friends are laughing. I can understand laughter on this side because that is what they hope for—I am referring to my left—namely chaos, chaotic conditions (*Interruption*).

**Shri Punnoose (Alleppey):** On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. Minister entitled to say referring to a certain section of the House that they are looking forward for chaos? Is he right in doing that?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I think all that was meant was with respect to this kind of laughter. Nothing more. I hope the hon. Minister did not mean that our Members have come here to create chaos.

**Dr. Katju:** Nothing of the kind. With your permission, I should say one thing. My friends opposite are in the habit of.....

**Shri Joachim Alva:** May I ask one question, Sir? May I know whether the Government of Bengal called upon the Calcutta Papers and demanded their assistance in restoring law and order? Whatever the Home Minister may say, the attack on the Calcutta journalists was unwarranted and abominable.

**Dr. Katju:** I am glad to be corrected by a journalist. Of course he has his own standards. I do not know what his standards are.

Coming to my hon. friends, they ought to know the rule of the game. My friends hit very hard. If anybody even rises on a point of order, there is great indignation. But, they are not accustomed to take it back.

I want to draw this debate to a close. It is already half past six. I want to close it upon a serious note. Now the country is situated in a very difficult position. There are all sorts of problems in different parts of the country. My hon. friend Mr. Gopalan referred to the challenge to democracy. I take it that democracy means the rule of the majority, so long as that majority is not overturned by the electorate at the general elections.

**Shri Gadgil** (Poona Central): That is not the Communist thesis!

**Dr. Katju:** It does not mean that if you are not satisfied with a particular measure of Government, or a particular law enacted by Government, you go and break the law, and commit violence, and ask people to follow, not to obey the law, and do everything that you like.

That is all that I wish to say. I do not want to detain the House any more.

*The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Monday the 10th August, 1953.*

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