



Thursday
25th February, 1954

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part I- Questions and Answers)

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THE
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357

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The House met at Two of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ACCIDENT ON CHUNAR-ROBERTSGANJ
LINE

*352. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri M. L. Agrawal:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a train carrying construction material fell down from a 50 feet high bridge on the 8th February, 1954, on the Chunar-Robertsganj line of the Northern Railway now under construction;

(b) if so, the causes of this accident; and

(c) how many persons were killed and injured in this accident?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes. At about 13-20 hours on 8th February, 1954, Construction Material Train No. 1, parted into two portions while running from Saktesgarh to Lusa station on the Chunar-Robertsganj line under construction on the Northern Railway. The parted rear portion rolled back down a gradient and, on reaching a gap in a bridge where a pair of rails had been removed for construction work, capsized into the gorge below, killing and injuring a number of

workmen engaged in the construction work on the bridge.

(b) The provisional Finding of the Government Inspector of Railways, who held an enquiry into this accident, is that it was caused by the breakage of draw-bar of a wagon.

(c) 33 persons died. Three received grievous and five others minor injuries.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the persons who received grievous injuries are still in hospital or they have gone out of the hospital?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Three of them are still in the Mirzapur hospital.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Since when were goods trains introduced on that line?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They were never permitted on that line. The line is still under construction, and only trains carrying construction material are allowed.

श्री रमेश सिंह : हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि उन के लिये जिम्मेदार कौन है, पटरी से पार होते हुये जो रेल गिर गई, उस के बास्ते कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खान : उसके लिये अभी तक जो गवर्नरमेंट इंस्पेक्टर आफ रेलवे जैसे हैं, उन की प्राविज़नल रिपोर्ट आई है, फाईनल रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : उस रिपोर्ट से क्या यह जाहिर होता है ? उसके लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राविज्ञनल रिपोर्ट आई है, काईनल रिपोर्ट अभी तक नहीं आई है, उसको आने वीजिये तब पता चलेगा ।

केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संघटन

*३५३. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) १९५३ के वर्षाकाल के पहले केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संघटन ने कितने एकड़ भूमि कृषि योग्य बनाई, कितने एकड़ से कांस साफ किया और कितने एकड़ पर अन्य प्रकार का काम किया;

(ख) ट्रैक्टरों, अन्य उपकरणों, भूमि तथा इमारतों पर क्रमशः कितनी पूँजी लगी है ; तथा

(ग) केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संघटन में कर्मचारियों के बेतन तथा अन्य विषयों पर क्रमशः कितना व्यय होता है ?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The acreage reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation before the monsoon of 1953 is 9,83,797. This includes 9,47,546 acres of kans land and 36,251 acres of Jungle land.

(b) The total capital outlay as on 1st April, 1953 is as follows:—

Tractors	Rs. 1,92,86,270
Other Equipment	Rs. 3,73,42,892
Land and Buildings	Rs. 23,92,135
TOTAL:	Rs. 5,90,21,297

(c) The average annual expenditure by way of salaries is Rs. 41,12,000 and on other items inclusive of depreciation is Rs. 1,71,51,000.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: How does the working cost of the C.T.O. compare with the income derived from reclamation work?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is not self-supporting; we are trying to make it so.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What is the working cost per acre, and what is the charge per acre levied from the cultivator?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We charge Rs. 60 per acre if the area is 200 acres; if the area is less, then a surcharge of 20 per cent. is made.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Have the Pashabhai implements been handed over to the C.T.O., and is the expenditure incurred thereon being charged to the cultivators?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: For about four years, i.e. during 1947 and 1951, we had to charge. Afterwards, it was felt that it was not right on our part to charge that amount. So, we are not charging subsequently.

Seth Govind Das: Is the reclaimed land under cultivation, or rather is the whole land under cultivation as yet? Also, are the tractors which have been used in order?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are reclaiming land on behalf of various State Governments. It is their duty to see that the reclaimed land is brought under cultivation. I might inform hon. Member that almost the whole of this land, as soon as it is reclaimed, is brought under cultivation; if it is not, we try to see that it is brought under cultivation under our Grow More Food scheme.

Seth Govind Das: What about the tractors? Are they all in order, or, are some of them out of order?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): All the tractors are in order, and are in use.

LEPROSY

***354. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether experiments are proposed to be conducted with B.C.G. Vaccination for immunisation from leprosy; and

(b) if so, whether the result of these experiments in other countries have been encouraging?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Investigation on the efficacy of B.C.G. vaccination as a prophylactic against leprosy, is contemplated in the Pilot Projects for the Control of Leprosy under the Five Year Plan.

(b) It is too early to assess, from available scientific evidence, the value of results of B.C.G. vaccination in the control of leprosy in other countries.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Dr. Muir, when he was in Madras, complained that there were a lot of tools but there was no staff available. May I know whether any attempt is being made to train some suitable staff?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Under this scheme, we have addressed all the State Governments and we are awaiting their reply which may come within the next month. Then, all the necessary things will be made available.

Sardar Hukam Singh: From the experiments that have been made so far, is it envisaged that we will be able to cure the deformity caused by leprosy altogether?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): It is not possible to talk about complete cures of deformities, but certainly orthopaedic surgery has made amazing advances, and a great deal of orthopaedic surgery is being done in certain centres with very beneficial effect.

ELECTRIC TRAINS

***355. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an agreement is proposed to be entered into with an Italian Firm for manufacturing electric trains for Indian Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): 50 Electric Multiple Unit Stock, intended for use in the Bombay Suburban Services, is being purchased from an Italian firm.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: What would be the cost of each train?

Shri Alagesan: The cost of coaches comes to £975,000.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: For each one of them, or for the entire lot?

Shri Alagesan: For the entire consignment.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if it is under the contemplation of Government to introduce electric trains in the industrial areas of Bihar?

Shri Alagesan: Yes. The House may be aware of the electrification schemes of industrial areas, and also of the suburban areas of Calcutta, but it will be taken up only in stages.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether it is to be introduced in the Eastern Railway beyond Mughal Sarai?

Shri Alagesan: A committee of railway officers is going into the question and we are awaiting its report.

Shri T. N. Singh: Was this order placed, or is it being placed, as a result of negotiation with an Italian firm, or as a result of global tenders?

Shri Alagesan: Global tenders were invited and various firms belonging to different countries tendered. Then there were negotiations too, and then this price was fixed and orders placed.

पटसन का काम देने वाली अन्य वस्तुएं

*356. सेठ गोविन्द दास : (क) क्या स्वास्थ्य तथा कृषि मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पटसन का काम देने वाली अन्य वस्तुओं के उत्पादन के सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

(ख) इस विषय में सरकार की क्या नीति है ?

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

(a) Research on jute substitute fibres is being done at the Jute Agricultural Research Institute, Barrackpore, but the work is yet in an experimental stage.

However, the Mesta and Bimli fibres are already being used as jute substitutes. They are grown extensively in Hyderabad, Madras, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar States. The production of these crops is as follows:

1952-53	1953-54
(Final Estimates)	(Second Estimates)
6,30,567 bales.	5,39,000 bales.

(b) It is not the policy of Government to encourage an increase in the area under these two substitutes. Their policy is to grow jute of better quality.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that in Madhya Pradesh, in Bastar District there is a lot of land still not under cultivation, and is it the opinion of the scientists of Madhya Pradesh that this variety of jute can be grown there profitably?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): I will communicate to the Madhya Pradesh Government the point made by the hon. Member, and I hope they will take advantage of the information supplied.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछता था कि अब तक इस

सम्बन्ध में मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार की कोई रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय सरकार को प्राप्त हुई है, और क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कोई सहायता मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने केन्द्र से चाही है ?

भी किंवद्दि : कम से कम मुझे इसका इलम नहीं है, लेकिन मैं दफ्तर में तहकीकात करूँगा कि इस तरह का कोई कागज आया है या नहीं ।

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the cost of production of the substitutes as compared with that of jute?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The cost of production of both the varieties is less than that of jute.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the percentage?

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What is the production per acre?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I would like notice.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: In view of the statement just now made by the hon. Minister that the policy of the Government is to encourage the production of quality jute, may I know, Sir, whether there is any reason to believe that the production of quality jute has gone down this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are trying to increase the production of quality jute. But the overall production of jute has gone down this year because of the low prices at the beginning of the sowing season. That has nothing to do with the production of quality jute. The overall production of jute itself has gone down.

IMPORT OF RICE FROM CEYLON

*357. Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government conducted negotiations with the Ceylon Government to purchase 30,000 tons of boiled rice;

(b) whether this step had been taken on account of shortage of rice; and

(c) the nature of agreement reached between the two Governments?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The Government of India arranged with the Ceylon Government an exchange of 30,000 tons of boiled rice with an equal quantity of Madhya Pradesh raw rice.

(b) and (c). No, Sir; there is no shortage of rice as such in the country. The requirements of deficit States can be met out of internal surpluses. It was to meet a temporary shortage of boiled rice in Travancore-Cochin, where the consumers prefer boiled rice, that an exchange arrangement with the Ceylon Government was made.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगलः क्या यह बात सच है कि गवर्नर्मेंट ने स्टेट सरकारों को यह हिदायत दी है, खास कर मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को, कि वे उसना चावल प्राप्त करें न कि जो मामूली चावल है उसे प्राप्त करें ?

स्वास्थ्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री किल्वर्वाई) यह बात मर्ही है।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगलः क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि इस हिदायत के कारण स्टेट की सरकार ने मिल मालिकों को इस बात के लिये आगाह किया है कि वे अपने अपने व्यायालर्स को बदल कर उमना चावल तैयार करने के ब्यायलर लगायें ?

श्री किल्वर्वाईः यह बात जब मान ली गई है कि हां, ऐसा कहा गया है, तो यह बात तो सही होनी ही चाहिये।

Kumari Annie Mascarenah: May I know whether there is any difference in the price of rice that is imported from Ceylon to Travancore-Cochin?

Shri Kidwai: The question of price does not arise because we are exchanging it with our rice. Therefore,

the price that the consumer will have to pay in Travancore-Cochin will be the price that we have to pay in Madhya Pradesh.

FREIGHT ON IMPORTED FOOD-STUFFS

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

(a) whether there is any difference in the rates of freight on food-stuffs imported into India, between ships owned by Indians and by others; and

(b) the total quantity of food-stuffs imported into India, in Indian and foreign ships and the total freight paid to them (separately) during the year 1952?

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

(a) Presumably information is required in respect of foodgrains imported on Government Account. There is no difference in the rates of freight for Indian owned vessels and foreign flag vessels.

(b) The quantity of foodgrains imported in India, in Indian owned and foreign flag ships, during 1952, and the freight paid thereon are as follows:

	Quantity (in '000 tons).	Freight (in lakhs of Rupees)
Indian vessels.	328.6	159.0
Foreign vessels.	3535.4	3629.0

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, if, in view of the desirability of encouraging transport by Indian vessels, Government consider it desirable to increase the quantum of Government subsidy to Indian-owned shipping companies?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Apart from the question of subsidy, we pay the freight and that is acceptable to both foreign and Indian firms.

FIRE-FIGHTERS AT AIRPORTS

*360. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the airports in India are equipped with fire-fighters; and

(b) in which of the airports the latest type of fire-fighters are provided and of what capacity?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) All the aerodromes through which scheduled air transport services are operating have been provided with essential fire-fighting equipment.

(b) I lay on the Table a statement giving the required information. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 1.]

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, when these airports were equipped with these fire-fighters?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot give the exact dates but the 'Pyrene' and 'Foamite' have been obtained recently; the others have been there for some time.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether these fire-fighters were imported from foreign countries?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir.

Shri Muniswamy: From which country?

Shri Raj Bahadur: 'Pyrene' comes from the United Kingdom, as far as I know.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Are Government satisfied that the equipment that is there now is up to the I.C.A.O. standards?

Shri Raj Bahadur: 'Pyrene' and 'Foamite', of course, are up to the I.C.A.O. standards. The latest fire-fighting equipment is always advantageous if we can get it.

CENTRAL SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

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

(a) the programme of work that the Central Soil Conservation Board has

decided to take up for the present; and

(b) the estimated recurring and non-recurring expenditure on this account?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The programme will be considered by the Board in consultation with State Governments.

(b) No estimates have yet been made.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the State Governments have been asked to submit their schemes to the Central Government, and whether any schemes have been received so far?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have sent a notification last month to all the State Governments asking them to submit their schemes regarding soil conservation. Some State Governments have responded and some others have written that they are framing their schemes and will send them very soon.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the names of the States which have submitted their schemes so far?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I want notice, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Central Board has considered the question of giving subsidies to the various State Governments for the purpose?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is the reason why we have asked the State Governments to submit their schemes to us. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that in the next two years of the Five Year Plan we intend to spend Rs. 1 crore for these schemes and that is why we have asked the State Governments to submit their schemes to the Centre.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Has the Uttar Pradesh Government submitted any scheme, and, if so, what is the nature of the work that is being done there?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I would require notice.

CENTRAL LOCUST CONTROL DEPARTMENT

*364. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the Central Locust Control Department during the year 1953, in Rajasthan; and

(b) the total expenditure on the staff during the same period?

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

(a) and (b). The total expenditure incurred in Rajasthan by the Central Anti-Locust Organisation from 1st April, 1953 to 31st December, 1953 is approximately Rs. 12 lakhs out of which Rs. 5,40,000 were on the maintenance of the staff.

Shri Gidwani: What is the work done by the staff from November to May, which is called the 'off-season'?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The staff has been divided into two categories. The first category is the staff which is employed in the main work and the second category is employed during the period. The first category staff will have to do other work also. It is not that they will not have any work during the off-season. They will have to do various other types of work such as surveying residuary locust population, taking stock of machines and poisons, examination and repair of vehicles and machines, preparation of reports, account checking, making general preparations for operation during the next season and all that.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that in the Western Circle, as the rainfall is heavy, all the staff become idle?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This is an extraordinary thing. This year, it so happened that in Rajasthan we had floods for the first time. It is on account of that that in the Western Circle the conditions were not good

for the breeding of locusts and they had to go without work for some time. We cannot expect floods every year in Rajasthan.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that a conference between the officials of Pakistan and India was held recently to control locusts, and, if so, what were the decisions arrived at?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Every year we hold conferences with all the countries which are concerned with locusts, for example, Pakistan, Syria, Arabia and other countries. With Pakistan, about three months ago we had a conference.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know how much amount, besides the Rs. 12 lakhs that is spent on the locust organisation, is spent on the additional staff that is employed?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I would require notice to answer the question as to how much has been spent on the temporary staff and how much on the permanent staff.

Shri Gidwani: Will Government consider the advisability of engaging the staff on community projects or education when they are absolutely idle?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

PRESERVED FOOD

*365. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries from which preserved food is imported; and

(b) the annual production of the Food Preservation Industry in India?

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

(a) Mainly from the United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark, Netherlands and the United States of America.

(b) The total production of preserved fruits in 1952, the latest year

for which figures have been compiled, was about 11,800 tons. Information in respect of other preserved foods is not available.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know to what extent the requirements of India are met by Indian production?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are importing preserved food to the extent we are in deficit.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know the total production of preserved food in India and how much of it is consumed?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The total production in 1952 was about 11,800 tons, equal to Rs. 1,71,00,000 in value.

Shri Radha Raman: In view of the fact that mangoes are produced in abundance in India and there is a good margin of profit if preserved mangoes are sent abroad, has any attempt been made by Government to have mangoes preserved....

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Not only mangoes but other fruits as well. I am myself a mango garden owner. If oranges and other fruits also are properly preserved during the time of the season and exported or preserved for the off-season, it will go a long way to relieve the food shortage in the country—preserved food gives proteins, for instance. We are trying to help as far as possible.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know where the fruit preservation factories are situated?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The hon. Member will have to refer to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, but I think wherever fruits are grown, as for instance, in Madhya Pradesh, Coorg and Kulu Valley, there are some small industries engaged on preservation work.

Shri Gidwani: I wish to know which fruits contain proteins.

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

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

*367. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from the State Governments for the *ad hoc* allotment of Rs. 10 crores on roads in order to relieve unemployment; and

(b) what is the State-wise break up of this allotment?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Proposals have been received from most of the States and are under examination. A decision regarding the State-wise allocation of funds under the Scheme is expected to be taken very shortly.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the circumstances which necessitated the sanction of the allotment and whether those circumstances still exist? This allotment was considered necessary in view of the acute unemployment conditions then. May I know why Government have taken such a long time in sanctioning this allotment to the various States?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know what the hon. Member is driving at. Does he state that there is no unemployment now?

Mr. Speaker: The question is why was it not allotted when the unemployment problem was acute then.

Shri Alagesan: Money cannot be just thrown away. We have decided to allot Rs. 10 crores and we have asked the States to integrate their schemes. Most of the States have submitted their proposals and we are now going into this question.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if the State highways and national highways are in this scheme or outside this scheme?

Shri Alagesan: The hon. Member puts it in a different way. From this fund schemes, which fall outside the

national highways plan and the State highways plan, will be financed.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the programmes with which this scheme is going to be integrated?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know the programmes.....

Shri N. M. Lingam: Every State has a programme of road development. May I know whether the present scheme is going to be integrated with the existing programmes of the States or whether works are selected at random in scarcity areas to relieve unemployment?

Shri Alagesan: All those things are taken into consideration by the States concerned when they make their proposals.

RIVER POLLUTION IN JUMNA

*368. **Sari Nand Lal Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to stop flowing of filthy gutters into Jumna river within the limit of Delhi and the progress made so far in this respect; and

(b) how much more time will be required to complete the job?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). There are in all four sewage pipes flowing into the Jumna river within the limit of Delhi and the following steps are being taken to stop them:

1. Sullage overflow from the Najafgarh drains: An independent sewage treatment plant which is intended to intercept industrial wastes from Industrial areas is going to be installed near Tehar on the Najafgarh Road. The scheme has already been sanctioned by the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board and will take about 18 months to complete.

2. Sullage overflow near the Qudsia garden: A larger sewer is to be laid to carry the increased flow. The Notified Area Committee, Civil Lines, have

taken in hand the work which is expected to be completed by August 1954.

3. Sullage overflow near the Kashmere Gate: This is at the crossing of the Bela Road and the Wall Road. Work on the outfall sewer from Wall Road to Nigambodh and on the Sewer from Monkey Point to Chandni Chowk as well as on the Pumping Main from Nigambodh to Monkey Point has been taken in hand. The pumping machinery is being received, and work on the pumping station at Nigambodh Ghat will be taken up shortly. All this work is expected to be completed by the end of this summer.

4. Sullage overflow near Rajghat: Detailed investigations on the work of augmentation of the sewers in this area are being carried out. This work is expected to be completed in 18 months to two years' time.

Dr. Rama Rao: Has any information been collected about the bacteriological content of the river water after it is polluted by the sewage?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have no information, Sir.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I take it that the Government will see at the earliest possible time that the sewage is not led into the river?

Mr. Speaker: That is what the reply has stated.

JUTE INQUIRY COMMITTEE

*369. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the recommendations of the Jute Inquiry Committee have been accepted by Government?

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

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, if the seed-producing farm under the Central Jute Committee has come into being?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The proposal is still under consideration, and will be executed soon.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to re-organise the Indian Central Jute Committee?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Though it does not arise out of this question, I may say there is a proposal to reorganise it.

RADIO FREQUENCIES

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

(a) the number of frequencies that are essential at present for India to maintain her most important wireless services;

(b) whether the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference (E.A.R.C.), Geneva, in 1951, outlawed a number of India's operations;

(c) if so, whether new frequencies were secured by India entirely through her own resources; and

(d) if so, how many?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The number of frequencies essential to maintain our most important wireless services is not constant as it varies depending among other factors on propagation conditions and operational exigencies both of which vary continually.

(b) The decisions of the E.A.R.C. have involved necessity of change of some of India's operations which do not conform to the Revised Table of Frequency Allocations to the different types of services. However, these decisions have affected similarly operations of all other countries in the world which were not in conformity with the Revised Frequency Allocations. So far as India is concerned 308 frequencies are affected till now.

(c) Yes. Securing new frequencies is, however, a prolonged and complicated process in which India, like many other countries is continuously engaged.

(d) 134, so far.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, what arrangements have been made by our Government to meet international harmful interference that happens now and then?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have established an organisation known as Wireless Planning and Coordination Organisation which on the one hand implements the obligations which we enter upon internationally as a result of the various conferences, and on the other hand safeguards our frequencies. Thirdly it also tries to detect new frequencies which are free in the atmosphere.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know when this Wireless Planning and Coordination Branch was constituted and how many technical persons are employed in it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was constituted some time about August 1953 or a little earlier than that, and it is headed by a very well qualified person, Dr. Sarwate as the Adviser, and there is one Deputy Director. We are suffering from paucity of experts for lower posts. We have not been able to man the Organisation properly because of lack of expert hands and we have signified our demand to the U.P.S.C.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what arrangements have been made to detect the frequencies that are disturbed by international disturbances?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There is the monitoring system for this purpose and these experts are engaged in monitoring also. Besides that the international obligations are there which make it incumbent upon other countries not to interfere with our frequencies.

MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN PUNJAB

*371. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the financial aid given by the Central Government to the State of Punjab for the development of its minor irrigation projects during the period 1951—53?

(b) How many minor irrigation schemes were served thereby?

(c) What is the approximate acreage that will be benefited by those schemes?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Rs. 213.6 lakhs during the period 1951—53.

(b) 4863 schemes.

(c) In 1951-52 an acreage of 388,531 was reported to have benefited from these schemes. In 1952-53, 484,135 acres were expected to be benefited but the actual achievement has not been reported.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government has received any scheme for the next year from the Punjab State?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, Sir. All the G.M.F. schemes for the next year ought to have been sent to our Ministry by this time.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the allocation of these minor irrigation schemes is left to the State or is done jointly by the States and the Centre?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is entirely left to the States. Only in special cases where we get some representation from the States concerned, we go into the matter.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any differentiation is made between those areas in a State which are surplus and those areas which are deficit?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Naturally, in surplus areas larger number of schemes will be taken up than in the scarce city areas.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if it should not be the policy of the Government to make deficit areas also self-sufficient by providing them with these minor irrigation schemes?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Punjab is not a deficit area.

Mr. Speaker: His point is whether it should not be the policy of the Government to prefer deficit areas to make them self-sufficient.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Just at present, the policy is that wherever there would be better results, there the investment is made because the country as a whole will be benefited.

AGRA EXPRESS

*372. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to extend after the Kumbha Mela the Agra Express in the North-Eastern Railway up to Bhatni or Chupra junction?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): It is proposed, from 1st April, 1954 to extend Nos. 213Up and 214Down Agra Express trains to and from Savana Station between Bhatni and Chupra.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether the stoppings and timings of the Agra Express will continue to be the same as they were during the Kumbh Mela days?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It will be continued as it was before the Mela days.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: Before the Mela days, the train used not to go to Allahabad; so there was no question of this extension. Now, after this Kumbh Mela, if it will go to Sivana, whether the timings will be the same or there will be some change?

Mr. Speaker: Is the question clear?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The question is not very clear, Sir.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): We can supply the information about the timings but I have not got it just now.

Mr. Speaker: His point is, now that there is an extension of the train, whether the timings will be the same or not.

Shri Alagesan: I can give that information.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Government has considered the convenience of the passengers going to north Bihar, Assam and north Bengal and extend this train from Lucknow up to Assam?

Shri Alagesan: That is the intention; to take it to Kathihar and then to Amlingaon.

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

*373. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientific experiments have been conducted on Government farms on the Japanese method of rice cultivation and the indigenous method of rice cultivation, simultaneously with equal quantities of manure and labour on each; and

(b) whether Government have received any report from any of the State Governments on similar experiments conducted on their farms?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes. Experiments financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research were conducted on Government farms during 1953-54 to test the merits of the Japanese method of rice cultivation *versus* the local method of cultivation. The experiments will be continued during 1954-55 also to have two years' data for drawing conclusive results.

(b) No. The information has been called for and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is it a fact that given equal care and manuring, the Indian method also will come to the standard of the Japanese method?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is also true—if we apply more manure and give proper spacing: that is the Japanese method also and there is nothing new in the Japanese method. Giving some more care to the Indian method also, there are some agriculturists who grow

the same quantity of rice one could grow under the Japanese method.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What is the use of propagating the Japanese method when the Indian method can do?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There are one or two important points in the Japanese method. It appeals to the commonsense of the agriculturist who is a practical man. Because, spacing is a new thing in India. We simply broadcast the seeds. Broadcasting is in vogue in many places. Only one-third is cultivated. It is only where there are irrigation facilities that people transplant. The rest is under broadcasting.

SUGAR FACTORIES

*374. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications for the registration of sugar factories disposed of during the year 1953;

(b) the total number of applications for erection of new sugar factories disposed of during the same period; and

(c) the number of applications disposed of for the import of capital goods for sugar industry?

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

(a) 2.

(b) 8.

(c) 54 applications for import of capital goods were recommended for grant of import licences.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Arising out of (a), have all the sugar factories been registered?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Ten had applied and eight were registered, and two have been given permission this year to register.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Arising out of (b), how many applications have been received for new factories and how many for the extension of old factories?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Eight for the replacement of old factories, that is for shifting of old factories, and two for importing new machinery.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Arising out of (c), how much worth of capital goods was for new factories and how much worth for the extension of old factories?

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know how much for erection of new factories, much was given for extension and how

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It was stated that eight factories have applied for shifting from one place to another, and two for starting new factories.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know where the new factories are to be located?

Shri Kidwai: All the new factories will go to the South.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: How many factories have applied for transfer from one State to another?

Shri Kidwai: There are eight factories that have applied for shifting—some in the same State and some from one State to another.

RECRUITMENT TO R. M. S.

*375. **Shri Dhusiya:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons were recruited in the Railway Mail Service in 1953 in U.P. and Bihar respectively as clerks; and

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes among them of each State?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) U.P. Circle, 35; Bihar Circle, 21.

(b) U.P. Circle:

Scheduled Castes.....26

Scheduled Tribes.....Nil

Bihar Circle.

Scheduled Castes.....2

Scheduled Tribes.....1

Shri Dhusiya: The recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

people was less. May I know the reason for the same?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as U.P. Circle is concerned, the recruitment of Scheduled Castes is not less for the period about which the hon. Member has put the question.

Shri Dhusiya: About Bihar?

Shri Raj Bahadur: About Bihar there is a shortage of one in the case of the Scheduled Castes, and in the case of the Scheduled Tribes the number is what it should be according to the reservation.

Shri Dhusiya: Very often these people are not taken up to the reserved quota. May I know from the benign Government whether in such circumstances readvertisement of such posts will be made to fill the vacancies of the reserved quota?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are taking all possible steps to see that the required number of Scheduled Castes candidates are made available. We also approach institutions and M.P.s. and M.L.A.s. to help us in the matter. It is as a result of that that this year we have been able to make up some deficiency in U.P. In Bihar a suitably qualified candidate was not available for the third post. Therefore it is deficient by that number.

Shri Dhusiya: I wanted to know whether in circumstances where the reserved quota is not fulfilled, the Government will advertise to fulfil their quota?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The arrears left out of the quota of one year are taken over to next year for next year's examination.

Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether the posts will be re-advertised. He does not want the hon. Members to approach M.P.s. and M.L.A.s.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The examination is not held separately for Scheduled Castes. It can only be held once in a year and the advertisement will only be given when we hold any examination. The next examination comes in the next year and we carry the arrears, if any, of the preceding year to the next.

नई दिल्ली में सक्यात्यात का पर्यालोकन

*३७६. श्री एम० एल० अग्रवाल (श्री बालमोकि की ओर से) : क्या यातायात मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) जनवरी, १९५४ में नई दिल्ली में सड़क-यातायात का पर्यालोकन करने के लिये कितने व्यक्तियों को रखा गया ;

(ख) उन्होंने कितने व्यक्तियों से प्रश्न पूछे ; तथा

(ग) पर्यालोकन पर कुल कितना ध्यय हुआ ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The strength of the temporary staff recruited for the survey was 10. In addition, 127 field workers actually collected the data from various houses.

(b) Heads of families residing in 2,874 houses were interviewed by the field workers.

(c) About Rs. 14,000/-.

PLATFORMS ON NORTHERN RAILWAY

*३७७. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stations on the Northern Railway where raised platforms have not been provided; and

(b) whether Government propose to make up this deficiency?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Six hundred and thirty three.

(b) Yes, but gradually and over some years.

Shri Ram Dass: May I know whether the Government can give some time limit?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We cannot give any definite time limit.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Government is aware that

many stations on the N.E.R. between Chapra and Sonpur, have got plinths far below the platform level which causes great inconvenience to the travelling public?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The question is about Northern Railway. I require notice for that question.

JUTE FARMS

*३७९. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether State farms have been set up in jute growing areas; and

(b) if so, the names of States and number of such farms set up in each State?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). In Bihar the State Government have decided to establish one jute seed farm of an area of 200 acres during 1954-55.

In West Bengal there is already one farm of 250 acres for jute seed multiplication. The State Government are considering the proposal for the establishment of 3 more such farms.

U.P. has already one jute seed multiplication farm.

Orissa Government do not propose to set up any jute farm for the present. They have a number of departmental farms where they are *inter alia*, multiplying jute seeds.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the salient features of these State farms?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Well, they bring up improved varieties of jute and produce improved varieties of jute seeds.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether these State farms will be in addition to the existing farms that are in certain parts of Bihar and Bengal, or will they be different from those farms?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: These farms, as the hon. Member himself

knows, have been started on the recommendations of a special Jute Committee. The farms that exist by now are not so big as these. They are only of ten, twenty or thirty acres—very small farms which are under the Department. The State farms are entirely different. They will be entirely meant for jute cultivation with improved variety of jute seeds.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Who will finance, the Union Government or the State Government?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Partly the Union Government and partly the State Government—we have promised them loans.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, when is the target for additional production of jute, as fixed under the Five Year Plan, expected to be reached?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We hope to reach the target fixed in the Five Year Plan. They have fixed about 53.9 lac bales.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if the Orissa Government has refused to have a farm of this kind where experimental work will, as I understand, be taken up for improving the yield as well as the quality of jute?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They have not refused. They have already some farms under their departmental care. They want to see whether they will be able to produce the same results in the same farms instead of spending money on new farms. That is their view.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

*380. **Shri Thimmaiah:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the results of the sample survey made on the conditions of agricultural labour in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the results?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). The results of the first stage of the Agricultural Labour Enquiry were published in two volumes early in 1953 in a Monograph

entitled "Agricultural Wages in India". The report of the second stage is under print. As regards the results of the third and final stage, namely, the Intensive Family Survey, the report on States is under print, while the 'All-India' report is in the final stage of preparation. A statement giving the main results of the three stages of the Enquiry is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See Library Index No. S.-45/54.]

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether the Central Government has elicited the opinions of the State Governments?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir. I invite the hon. Member to read the statement placed on the Table of the House. It contains a lot of information

Shri Thimmaiah: It does not contain the opinions of the State Governments.

Shri V. V. Giri: It is also based on the opinions of the State Governments.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether the Government propose to bring comprehensive legislation to fix minimum wages for agricultural labourers?

Shri V. V. Giri: There is legislation.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to institute a Committee to go into the conditions of agricultural labour?

Shri V. V. Giri: There is nothing here. It may be in the contemplation of the States.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I would like to know whether there is any difference between the wages paid to agricultural men labour and women labour? Is there any average of wage for women labour which has been worked out by this enquiry?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know what it is?

Shri V. V. Giri: The hon. Member may refer to the statement; it is there.

RAILWAY ENGINEERS

***381. Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the pool of Temporary Class I Railway Engineers forms a separate cadre and that in the matter of promotion etc., the cases of these Engineers go by default and preference is shown to other Class I officers outside the pool?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take in this regard?

(c) Do Government propose to take early steps to absorb them permanently in Class I and fix their seniority in consideration of their length of service?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The temporary Engineers are not borne on the cadre of permanent Class I officers and are not eligible for promotion to higher posts along with the permanent officers; they are, however, considered for officiating promotion against temporary Senior Scale posts on constructions or other *ex-cadre* posts, provided they are otherwise suitable for such promotion.

(b) In view of the answer to part (a) of the question, no action is considered necessary.

(c) The Government are considering the question of permanent absorption of the Temporary Engineers as an *ex gratia* measure. The question of fixing seniority is to be decided later.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know how long it will take to bring about the absorption mentioned by the hon. Minister?

Shri Alagesan: It is under consideration even now. It would not take long, I may tell the hon. Member.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: That is very vague.

Shri K. K. Basu: Very slow like the Assam Railway.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is it likely to go beyond my life time?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

BIDI WORKERS' UNION

***382. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum was submitted to him by the Bidi Workers' Union of Mysore city when he visited that place recently; and

(b) what action Government have taken to redress their grievances?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). A Memorandum was presented by the Ramanagaram Bidi Mazdoor Association. The following four points were raised in the Memorandum:—

- (i) Application of the Employees' Provident Fund Act to *bidi* workers.
- (ii) Provision of housing facilities.
- (iii) Location of a Bench of the Labour Appellate Tribunal at Hyderabad or Bangalore.
- (iv) Appointment of a committee to inquire into the wages and living conditions of *bidi* workers.

Until the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme has been stabilised in its present form and sufficient experience gained of its working, it is not considered desirable to extend the Employees' Provident Funds Act to any industry other than the six industries now covered by it. The matters raised in items (ii) and (iv) are primarily the concern of the State Government. As regards item (iii), a Bench of the Labour Appellate Tribunal periodically visits Madras and sometimes Bangalore to hear appeals arising from the States of Madras, Mysore, Coorg, etc.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government has agreed to ask the State Governments to apply the Factories Acts to *bidi* workers?

Shri V. V. Giri: I do not think so.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that proprietors who are working these *bidi* factories have been starting new units just to avoid the Factories Acts?

Shri V. V. Giri: A complaint of this nature has been made and we are enquiring into it.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what action is going to be taken on the complaint?

Shri V. V. Giri: We are enquiring into the matter.

नौकरी दफ्तर

*३८३. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या अमंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) १९५३ में नौकरी दफ्तरों में कितने बेकार मेट्रिक्युलेट, प्रेजुएट और पोस्ट-ग्रेजुएटों ने अपना नाम रजिस्टर कराने की प्रार्थना की ;

(ख) इन में से कितने लोगों को नौकरी दफ्तर के प्रयास से नौकरी मिली ;

(ग) इस प्रकार दिलाई गई नौकरियों में सरकारी और गैर सरकारी नौकरियों का क्या अनुपात रहा है ; तथा

(घ) क्या यह सत्य है कि १९५४ के आरम्भ से रजिस्टर कराने वालों की संख्या में कमी हुई है ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

लाल्ह

*३८४. श्री आर० एन० सिंह : क्या लाल्ह तथा कृषि मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे

कि १९५२ और १९५३ में किन किन स्थानों में लाल्ह पाया गया और कितनी मात्रा में ?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Shellac is a manufactured product of Lac. A statement showing the important areas of lac production in India and the quantities produced is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 2.]

The exact figures of production of shellac State-wise are not available.

श्री आर० एन० सिंह : स्टेटमेंट के देखने से ऐसा जान पड़ता है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के मिर्जापुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में लाल्ह की पैदावार बहुत कम होती है । क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि सरकार इस के लिये इस प्रबन्ध कर रही है कि इस की पैदावार अधिक हो ?

लाल्ह तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री किशवर्धी) : लाल्ह का इस्तेमाल मुल्क के बाहर जितना होता था अब उतना नहीं होता, खरोदार कम हैं । लिहाजा ज्यादा पैदा करने में नुकसान रहेगा ।

Shri Muniswamy: What are the current rates of shellac in the market?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: He may ask the Commerce and Industry Minister.

UNANI SYSTEM

*385. **Shri Sivamurthi Swami:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any research is being conducted in Unani system of medicine?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): No. research is being conducted in this system of medicine, as far as information is available;

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I know whether it is under the consideration of Government to start such research centres to know the benefit of this system?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The scheme is under the consideration of the Ministry.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I know whether there are any hospitals where such medicine is used?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: At various places Unani medicine is used.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what the Health Ministers' Conference held at Rajkot recently had to say about this Unani research?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The question of Unani did not come up because there is no research being carried on in Unani in any of the States. Therefore, the Central Government has taken up the question, and we are contemplating some scheme in this regard.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I refer the hon. Minister to a report published in newspapers about this conference stating that research on Ayurved and Unani will be carried on as a result of the discussions that have taken place in the conference?

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly what she said.

KUMBH MELA TRAINS

***386. Shri L. Jogeswar Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of Shri Jaiprakash Narain that 3 passengers travelling on the roof of an overcrowded passenger train, carrying mostly Kumbh Mela pilgrims, were killed when it was entering the Sonepur Railway station on Sunday the 31st January, 1954?

(b) If so, why did the Railway authorities allow those passengers to go on the roof of the train?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Two passengers, who were travelling on the roof of train No. 321 were killed on 31st January, 1954 by coming in contact with the cover over the platform, when the train was entering Sonepur station.

(b) The Railway authorities did not allow these or other passengers to travel on the roof of the train. In the unprecedented rush, these passengers managed to travel on the roof despite all attempts by the railway to prevent passengers from doing so.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: What are the preventive measures taken to avoid recurrence of this kind in future?

Shri Alagesan: Generally passengers travel on foot-boards when there is rush. They are prevented by the Railway officials and they are removed from there, and if necessary police help also is taken. But this is the first occasion when there was such an unprecedented rush. The hon. Member can believe it only if he has seen the crowd. It was utterly impossible for the Railway authorities to do anything on this occasion.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know whether any compensation is to be paid to the families of the victims?

Mr. Speaker: I think that will follow in the ordinary course of law.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that in the Kumbh Mela, especially in the Northern Railway, ladders were freely used by the Watch and Ward Police and other authorities in co-operation with the Station authorities?

Mr. Speaker: For the purpose of helping passengers to go on the top?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: For going on the roof.

Shri Alagesan: Railway authorities do not help passengers to get over the roofs. I am hearing it for the first time.

Shri Nambiar: At least to get down from the roof.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether Government are considering the desirability of raising the coverage on the platforms to avoid such accidents?

Mr. Speaker: Raising the roofs or platforms to avoid such kinds of accidents?

Shri Alagesan: When it is a question of preventing roof travel, there is no question of raising the coverage on the platforms.

RECRUITMENT TO CLASS IV POSTS

*387. **Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitment to class IV posts was made for the New Coach Factory, Ayanavaram, Madras and the Golden Rock Workshop during the months of December 1953 and January 1954;

(b) if so, the total number of candidates recruited at each of these places; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Caste candidates recruited for each during these two months?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, except that no recruitment was made in the Golden Rock Workshop in January 1954.

(b) and (c).—

Integral Coach Factory: 7 of whom I belong to the Scheduled Castes.

Golden Book Workshops : 53 of whom 52 belong to the Scheduled Castes

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know the percentage of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes in these two workshops?

Shri Alagesan: The percentage is 12½. In the case of the Golden Rock Workshop, as the hon. Member would have noticed, 52 out of 53 recruited belong to Scheduled Castes, which is almost cent. per cent.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether the sons of railway employees are not given preference in the matter of recruitment to these workshops?

Shri Alagesan: The constitutional position is that no discrimination can be made.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any representation was made by the railway unions to give preference to the sons of railway employees, and if so, whether the same has been considered?

Mr. Speaker: I think this is covered by the answer given to the previous question. He has explained the constitutional position.

Shri Muniswamy: This is about the memorandum sent by the unions to the hon. Minister of Railways.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether all the Scheduled Caste workers recruited recently in the Golden Rock Workshop are treated as casual labour, while all the rest are treated as ordinary workers?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have any such information, but I can make enquiries.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I suggest that the hon. Minister may be pleased to answer Starred Question No. 402 along with Starred Question No. 388? Both deal with the same subject, and stand in my name.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Minister agreeable?

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

Mr. Speaker: But that will work to the disadvantage of the hon. Member. He will have no time to put supplementaries.

Shri Damodara Menon: I shall be putting only one or two supplementaries.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTES

*388. **Shri Damodara Menon:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of adult civilians who have so far received training in the various industrial training institutes run by the Central Government?

(b) How many of these trainees have secured employment and how many are still unemployed?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Gir): (a) 28,937

(b) The exact information is not available, as there is no machinery, at present, to follow up the careers of individual *ex*-trainees.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTES

***402. Shri Damodara Menon:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have not recognised the diplomas granted to the trainees in the various Industrial training institutes run by the Central Government;

(b) if so, which are those States and what reasons have they advanced for this; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Labour Ministry to get these diplomas recognised by all the States?

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

(b) Some States have recognized the diplomas freely, others have recognised in certain trades only, whilst some have not either recognized the diplomas or sent their reply. A statement showing the present position is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 3.]

(c) The State Governments are being pressed for the recognition of the diplomas. Simultaneously the setting up of a National Trades Certification Board whose certificates and diplomas would be recognized nationally is being considered.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether the State Governments that have not recognised these diplomas have given any reasons for the non-recognition?

Shri V. V. Gir: They have not given any reasons, excepting perhaps that they are not getting suitable candidates. But I can assure the hon. Member that the Centre is trying to induce and persuade the State Governments to do so.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXPORT OF WHEAT FROM RAJASTHAN

***358. Shri Gopala Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the *Jan Sangarsh Samiti*, requesting them to intervene and stop the export of wheat from Rajasthan?

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

I. L. O.

***362. Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Report of the I.L.O. Productivity Team?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Gir): The I.L.O. Team of Experts on Productivity is still at work and their final report will be available after they have completed their investigations. The Experts have, however, submitted an interim report, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See Library Index No. S-46/54.]

PORT TRUST EMPLOYEES

***363. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instances of extensions of service after superannuation of Port Trust employees in India have either been made by or recommended to Government for 1953-54; and

(b) if so, how many and for what reasons?

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

(b) Seven; All the cases related to technical personnel and the extensions were granted in the public interest.

SUGAR STOCKS

***366. Shri S. C. Singhal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the stock of sugar in the factories at present as compared with that during each of the last three years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwal): Stocks of sugar with the factories as on 31st January, were as follows:

(Figures in lakh tons).

1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
4.38	5.38	7.18	4.48

RAILWAY LINES

*378. **Shri R. N. S. Deo:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to starred question No. 730 asked on the 8th December, 1953 and state:

(a) the respective mileage and estimated cost of (i) the Sambalpur-Titilagarh and (ii) the Sambalpur-Kantabanji lines; and

(b) whether any decision regarding their construction has since been arrived at?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The length of the proposed line from Sambalpur to Kantabanji would be about 115 miles. In 1946-47 the line was estimated to cost about Rs. 4.47 crores but present day costs are expected to be of the order of 6 crores. The length and cost of the Sambalpur-Titilagarh line would be about the same.

(b) Not yet.

केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संघटन (कृषि उपयोगी मशीनों पर नुकसान)

*389. **Shri Hemchandra Dwivedi:** क्या कृषि मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या पाशा भाई पटेल एंड कम्पनी द्वारा बनाये हुये कृषि उपयोगी कलपत्रों के प्रयोग से हुआ नुकसान केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संघटन के मत्ये पड़ा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस वजह से किसानों को प्रति एकड़ कितना रुपया और देना पड़ता है ;

(ग) इस संघटन द्वारा जो जमीन जोती जाती है उसकी प्रति एकड़ लागत क्या आती है?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwal): (a) The extent of loss that may be sustained on Pashabhai implements will be known only after they have been disposed of. Depreciation charges on the Pashabhai equipments are borne by the Central Tractor Organisation as per details given below:

1946-50	Rs. 1,19,154.
1950-51	Rs. 1,30,902.

Annually, a sum of Rs. 1,27,230 on account of interest charges on the capital value of the Pashabhai implements are borne by the Central Tractor Organisation.

(b) The interest charges on the Pashabhai implements account for approximately 8 annas in the per acre rate charged by the Central Tractor Organisation and the depreciation charges on this equipment accounted for Re. 1/- per acre during the years 1947-51.

(c) No cultivation work has been carried out by C.T.O. Ordinarily the charges for reclamation by deep ploughing are @ Rs. 60/- per acre. Clearance work, if any, on the same land is charged separately @ Rs. 65/- per hour.

I. L. O.

*390. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Session of the Inland Transport Committee of the International Labour Organisation is to be held in Geneva during February 1954; and

(b) if so, whether India has chosen her delegation?

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

(b) Yes.

दिल्ली दूध वितरण योजना

*391. सेठ गोविंद वास : क्या स्थायी तथा कृषि मंत्री वताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) १९५३ में भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद द्वारा दिल्ली में कुल कितने दूध का वितरण किया गया ;

(ख) इस में कितना विशुद्ध दूध था, कितना जल मिश्रित था टोन्ड था, कितना गाय का था और कितना अन्य पशुओं का ;

(ग) कितना दूध सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रित रिडैयों से प्राप्त हुआ और कितना अन्य डेरियों तथा खालों से ; तथा

(घ) दिल्ली में दूध का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये क्या क्रम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 44,246 maunds (Forty-four thousand, two hundred and forty-six maunds).

(b) Only cow milk and mixed milk of cow and buffalo were distributed, the quantities being 12,127 maunds and 32,119 maunds respectively.

(c) 14,626 maunds of milk were obtained from Government institutions and 35,206 maunds from other sources.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Delhi State Government for increasing the production of milk in Delhi:

(i) 18 buffalo bulls and 17 cow bulls have been distributed in villages during the current year for improving the quality of cattle.

(ii) A Dairy Development Officer has been appointed for giving technical guidance to the producers.

In addition the I.C.A.R. introduced a pilot Key Village Scheme for Cattle development in the Borana area. Under this scheme an artificial insemination centre was started for the artifi-

cial breeding of cattle by superior bulls. Bulls were also distributed for natural Service, where the owners objected to artificial insemination. Other measures of improvement like Castration and disease control were also introduced.

AGRICULTURAL PUBLICATIONS

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

(a) the total income from and the expenditure on the publications of the Ministry, by sale or exchange thereof during the year 1952-53; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to discontinue any of the journals and periodicals, in view of the loss incurred in connection therewith?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The priced publications of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture are generally published and put on sale by the Manager of Publications, who *inter alia* controls the production and sale of all publications of the Government of India. It is, therefore, not possible to give separately precise figures of the total income from and the expenditure on the publications of the Ministry during the year 1952-53.

(b) No.

NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE

*393. **Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration the setting up of a National Productivity Centre in India;

(b) If so, where it will be located; and

(c) what will be its functions?

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

(b) The Centre is proposed to be located at Bombay.

(c) The Productivity Centre will—

(i) conduct productivity studies and assist in applying modern industrial engineering techniques in selected

plants, in co-operation with employers and workers concerned, with a view to raising productivity and workers' earnings and improving conditions of work in these plants;

- (ii) organise practical training courses for Management and Workers' representatives from these and other plants and for Government nominees in all phases of modern industrial engineering techniques; and
- (iii) follow up the work of the trainees in their own plants.

LOCUST CONTROL

*394. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the different methods employed by the Locust Department to control the breeding of locusts; and

(b) the cheapest and most effective method?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwal): (a) The following methods are employed in India to control the breeding of locusts:—

- (i) Dusting or spraying poisons on locust hoppers;
- (ii) dusting or spraying poisons on settled locust swarms, specially when the locusts are mating or egg-laying;
- (iii) driving locust hoppers into specially dug, long trenches and burying them underneath earth;
- (iv) burning locust hoppers or adult locusts by means of bamboo torches or flame throwers, specially when the pests have congregated in wild bushes or on trees;

(b) Poison baiting is the cheapest method of locust control but cheap bran is not available in India and transport is also difficult. Hence this

method is not easy to follow in India. The most effective method of locust control in this country is dusting or spraying poisons on locusts.

PLANTATION LABOUR

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

(a) the names of States where family budget enquiries were undertaken for plantation workers;

(b) whether cost of living index numbers have been published;

(c) if so, in which States; and

(d) where and when the Labour Bureau undertook the survey work?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giril): (a) According to information so far available, family budget enquiries were conducted in Assam, Coorg, Madras, Travancore-Cochin, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Mysore.

(b) Yes.

(c) Coorg, Madras, Assam and West Bengal.

(d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 4.]

RAILWAY ENGINES

*396. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Railway engines manufactured so far in the Chittaranjan Factory since 1950?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): 109 Broad Gauge engines upto 31st January, 1954.

P. AND T. WARDS IN T. B. SANATORIA

*397. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the selected T.B. Sanatoria in which Post and Telegraph

wards have been constructed during 1953-54;

- (b) the amount spent on each;
- (c) the capacity of each;
- (d) the monthly charges for a patient in these wards; and
- (e) whether any help is given by the Department to low-paid employees in this regard?

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

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

(e) Yes, they are reimbursed the charges incurred in receiving treatment in a Government hospital or recognised sanatoria. Those whose pay is less than Rs. 100/- are also allowed the cost of diet.

निर्यात व्यापार के लिये रेल के डिव्हे

*398. श्री बाल्मीकि : क्या रेल मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सत्य है कि निर्यात व्यापार के लिये रेल के डिव्हे प्राप्त करने की कठिनाइयां बढ़ती जा रही हैं ;

(ख) इस के क्या कारण हैं ; तथा

(ग) १९५३-५४ में पाकिस्तान को माल निर्यात करने के लिये कितने डिव्हे नियत किये गये ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir, this is not our information.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information available to Government is that during the financial year, 1953-54, upto the end of January, 1954, 29,019 B.G. and 879 M.G. loaded wagons were despatched to Pakistan.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO KASHMIR

*399. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the Centre have received any representation from the

Kashmir State Government to supply more rice and wheat for the year 1954; and

(b) if so, the quantity of rice and wheat proposed to be supplied to the State Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The Jammu and Kashmir Government wanted 18,000 tons of rice to cover their requirements upto the end of September and this quantity has been allotted from Punjab.

No demand for wheat has so far been received for 1954.

अहमदाबाद के निकट विमान दुर्घटना

*400. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या संचरण मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सत्य है कि बम्बई फ्लाइंग क्लब का एक विमान २९ जनवरी १९५४ को अहमदाबाद से २० मील दूर एक स्थान पर उतरते समय टकरा गया था और उसे बहुत नुकसान पहुंचा था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस दुर्घटना के सम्बन्ध में कोई जांच की गई थी ; तथा

(ग) क्या यह सत्य है कि विमान चालक को मार्ग का ज्ञान न होने के कारण यह दुर्घटना हुई है ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There was an accident to a Bombay Flying Club aircraft about 20 miles from Ahmedabad on the 21st January.

(b) & (c). The accident is under investigation.

AGMARK GHEE LABELS

*401. Shri L. Jageswar Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how many cases of counterfeit "Agmark" ghee labels have so far been detected in the country?

(b) How long have these counterfeit labels been in use?

(c) What steps have so far been taken to avoid recurrence of such cases?

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

(b) The first case was detected in the year 1940.

(c) The more important steps taken to prevent counterfeit labels being used are (i) to print Agmark Labels under security conditions on Government of India water-marked paper with a micro-tint background, which is difficult to imitate, (ii) to indicate the net weight of the tin on the label, (iii) to use adhesive of improved quality for pasting the labels, (iv) to depute Inspectors to visit grading stations and consuming markets more frequently to check the quality of ghee and (v) to give necessary publicity for enabling the public to distinguish between the genuine Agmark label and its imitation.

An amendment to the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 to make counterfeiting a cognisable offence is also under consideration.

INDIGENOUS WAGONS AND COACHES

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

(a) whether the capacity of the indigenous manufacturers of wagons and passenger coaches is being fully utilised;

(b) if not, what percentage is being utilised;

(c) whether Government are taking steps to fully utilise this capacity;

(d) if so, what they are; and

(e) what are the difficulties, if any, of the manufacturers and whether any solution has been or is being found?

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

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

(e) The main difficulty is reported to be the timely supply of steel in adequate quantities. This is now being met by supplementing indigenous supplies by imports.

EVACUEE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS

***404. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1147 asked on the 21st December, 1953 regarding Evacuees Savings Bank Accounts and Saving Certificates Claims, and state whether the Liaison Officers have since been appointed?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Two Liaison officers have been selected for appointment and they are expected to take up their work shortly.

म्यूनिसिपेलिटी के मजदूर

***405. श्री बालमीकि :** क्या अम मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सत्य है कि म्यूनिसिपेलिटी के मजदूरों के सम्बन्ध में एक व्यापक विधान बनाने के बारे में राज्य सरकारों से परामर्श किया गया था; तथा

(ख) इस परामर्श का क्या परिणाम निकला ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) State Governments were consulted in respect of only sweepers employed by municipalities, District Boards and other Local Bodies.

(b) The consensus of opinion of the State Governments was that special legislation was not necessary. Further consideration of the proposal was, therefore, dropped.

LOCOMOTIVES

43. Shrimati Kamla Mati Shah: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the cost of an Indian manufactured locomotive;
- (b) whether Government have fixed any target of production for the year 1953-54; and
- (c) the total annual requirements of the Indian Railways for these locomotives?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 5.35 lakhs for a broad gauge locomotive and Rs. 3.35 to Rs. 3.50 lakhs, according to the type, for a metre gauge locomotive, excluding development costs.

(b) Yes.

(c) The total annual replacement requirements of the Indian Railways based on present holdings are 125 broad gauge locomotives and 57 metre-gauge locomotives. Narrow gauge locomotives and additional engines of all gauges required for traffic increases are not included in these figures.

IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN RAJASTHAN

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

- (a) the financial aid given for minor irrigation schemes to Rajasthan from 1949-50 to 1952-53;
- (b) whether the aid given each year was fully utilised;
- (c) the extent of area brought under irrigation due to completion of the new schemes; and
- (d) the additional production in tons of cereals as a result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 5.]

WASTE LANDS IN RAJASTHAN

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

- (a) the extent of cultivable waste land in Rajasthan in the year 1953;
- (b) the area of cultivable waste land brought under cultivation year-wise, from 1949 up to date; and
- (c) the proportion which the land so brought under cultivation bears to cultivated land in 1948?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The required information for 1953 is not available. In 1950-51, the latest year for which Land Utilization Statistics are available culturable waste amounted to 18.64 million acres.

(b) The required information is given below:

Year	Amount of fresh land reclaimed or brought under cultivation
	(Acres)
1949	46,070
1950	128,969
1951	94,389
1952	138,128
1953	33,860
	(incomplete)

(c) The area reporting for Land Utilisation Statistics in Rajasthan has increased from 20.7 million acres in 1947-48 to 76.3 million acres in 1950-51. Out of the reporting area of 20.7 million acres in 1947-48, the net sown area was 8.4 million acres. As the figure of net sown area for 1947-48 does not relate to the entire State, any comparison of the additional land reclaimed with the net sown area in 1947-48 may not lead to any valid conclusions.

TELEPHONES IN BOMBAY

46. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a door-to-door survey has been carried out

regarding the demand for telephone connections in the city of Bombay;

(b) the number of telephone lines installed annually during the last three years in Bombay;

(c) whether Government have approved of any scheme for the expansion of the Bombay telephone system; and

(d) if so, the total expenditure involved?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes; in 1946.

(b) 1951	...	3670
1952		1200
1953		2335

(c) Yes.

(d) Rs. 3,17 lakhs.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

47. Shri N. M. Lingam: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the mileage of National Highways constructed since the Centre assumed responsibility for the National Highways in India as outlined in the Nagpur Plan;

(b) the target fixed in the Five Year Plan for the extension of National Highways and the outlay; and

(c) the progress achieved so far in respect of opening of roads, bridges and surfacing and the cost under each?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 11,800 miles of National Highways existed when liability was assumed by the Centre and 375 miles have been constructed thereafter.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 6.]

STUDENT AGITATION

48. Shri N. M. Lingam: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to answer to starred question No. 739 on 8th December, 1953 and state:

(a) whether owners of private buildings in which Post Offices were housed have claimed compensation for damages caused to the buildings by student disturbances in Lucknow; and

(b) if so, the amount of compensation claimed?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Only the owner of one Post Office building has preferred a claim.

(b) Rs. 788/- only.

"GROW MORE FOOD" SCHEMES IN PUNJAB

49. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the assistance given by the Centre to the Punjab Government for "Grow More Food" Schemes during the last five years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The following amounts have been given to the Punjab Government during the last five years:—

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Loan	Grant
1949-50	17.58	14.11 (Actual)
1950-51	1.99	14.06 (Actual)
1951-52	..	13.65 (Actual)
1952-53	107.94	12.96 (Sanctioned)
1953-54	133.58	10.32 (Sanctioned)

इन्हीं तक रेलवे लाइन

50. श्री रावेलाल व्यात : क्या रेल मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) इन्हीं तक बड़ी लाइन ले जाने के उद्देश्य से किन किन लोंगों का परिमाप किया गया है ;

(ख) इस के लिये कौनसा मार्ग चुना गया है ; तथा

(ग) बड़ी लाइन बनाने का काम कब तक आरम्भ हो जायेगा ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Three alternative alignments, viz.:

- (i) Indore-Dewas-Ujjain.
- (ii) Indore-Dewas-Maksi and
- (iii) Indore-Dewas-Taranga Road have been investigated.

(b) The results of the investigations are still under examination and a final decision has not been taken.

(c) It is too early to say.

FIRST CLASS WAITING ROOMS

51. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert the First Class waiting rooms into 2nd Class waiting rooms and make 2nd Class ones available for Inter Class passengers, as First Class has been abolished in most trains; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Government will consider this question when First Class accommodation has been completely withdrawn.

कृत्रिम गर्भाधान केन्द्र

५२. } श्री आर० एन० सिंह :
} श्री एल० एन० विश्व :

क्या ज्ञात तथा कृत्रिम मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) पशुओं की नस्ल सुधारने के लिये किन किन राज्यों में कृत्रिम गर्भाधान का प्रयोग किया जाता है ;

(ख) प्रत्येक राज्य में कितने केन्द्र खोले गये हैं ; तथा

(ग) प्रत्येक राज्य में क्या सफलता मिली है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). So far as the Central Government is concerned, experiments on the technique of artificial insemination are being carried on only at the two Centres at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, in Uttar Pradesh and the Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore, in Mysore.

(c) The results achieved have shown that the technique of artificial insemination can be successfully applied to Indian cows and buffaloes.

CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

53. Shri Gadilingana Gowd: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the average monthly expenditure on the staff of the Central Tractor Organisation;

(b) the number of tractors, bulldozers and other machinery purchased by that organisation and the amount spent so far on such purchases; and

(c) the number in working order under each category ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The average monthly expenditure on the staff of the Central Tractor Organisation is Rs. 3,65,000/-.

(b) and (c). The total amount spent so far by the organisation on the purchase of tractors etc is Rs. 5,48,29,057/- The statement below furnishes information in regard to the number of tractors, bulldozers and other machinery purchased and the number in working order.

Description	Number purchased			Number in working order	
	from Disposals	New	Total		Total
Tractors (including tractors fitted with Dozer Blades)	219	402	621		387
Cranes	5	9	14		13
Plow, Harrows etc.	127	2122	2249		965
Vehicles	59	122	181		118
Lubricators	24	17	41		17
Graders, Fork lifter, Scrapers etc.	60	5	65		33
Trailors etc.	43	225	268		245
Land Clearing Equipment.	Nil	897	897		871
Workshop Machinery	77	93	170		170

Contents

Thursday, 25th February, 1954

	Columns
Air crash near Delhi	671—673
Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways)	673—713
Appropriation (Railways) Bill—Introduced and passed	713—715
Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Amendment Bill—Passed	715—782

Acc. No. 25248
THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES Dated 25.1.1954
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

671

672

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 25th February, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3 P.M.

AIR CRASH NEAR DELHI

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah-Jhalawar): Will you kindly permit me, Mr. Speaker, to mention a small matter? News has just reached the House of the crash of Dakota near the Jamuna bridge at Delhi. Will the hon. Minister kindly make a statement?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is not the way to raise or mention a matter, unless it happened in the House itself after 2 o'clock and the commencement of question-hour. The hon. Member may see me in the Chamber and state the matter. I will then consider whether he may be permitted to mention the matter. I believe he has the remedy of a short notice question; he can table one.

We shall now take up the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Railways for 1953-54. The time set apart for these Supplementary Demands is from 3 P.M. to 4-30 P.M.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): A mention has been made just now about the crash. Naturally, it will cause anxiety in the House. Therefore, may I say a few words with your permission?

739 P.S.D.

Mr. Speaker: It is very irregular to put a question like that at the last moment or on the spur of the moment. The moment anything is flashed across, a question is put. That is not, I believe, a proper method to follow. Some time—whether a little or more—must elapse before you can get definite facts, and it is no use getting panicky about a thing the moment one hears something. So, I would recommend that hon. Members may restrain themselves to some extent.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am entirely in your hands.

Mr. Speaker: They need not be in an anxiety that a crash has taken place. If it has at all taken place, then what has happened is a fact by now; it cannot be remedied by merely raising the question and hearing from the hon. Minister some information. For that purpose, they might refer to the evening edition of the newspapers or make enquiries from newspaper agencies, or later on elicit information by questions in the House.

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): We regret the irregularity, but since the point has now been raised by the hon. Minister... (Interruption.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not want to encourage in this House that kind of practice of allowing questions to be put in that manner and answers being given to them. Hon. Members must treat the proceedings here not so lightly as that. They can get the information from any newspaper office

[Mr. Speaker]

or from any news agency. If they like, they can contact the Minister in private and get the information, and after they have ascertained the facts, then they may come to the House. But the present attempt is such a very queer way of raising a point or "mentioning" a matter.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS)*

Mr. Speaker: We shall now take up the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Railways. The time is from 3 P.M. to 4-30 P.M., but in view of the five minutes that have been taken up in this discussion, the time will now be up to 4-35 P.M.

[**PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA** in the Chair]

DEMAND No. 1—RAILWAY BOARD

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1954, in respect of 'Railway Board'".

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): In this connection, I want to move my cut motion No. 9.

Mr. Chairman: There are several cut motions, but so far as No. 9 is concerned, I am afraid it is out of order as it relates to policy. In relation to supplementary demands for grants, the point was made clear yesterday that the question of policy cannot be discussed unless it relates to a new service. As it relates to a question of policy, I am afraid it is out of order.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): It is not exactly a question of policy here. The point is: more staff is required, etc. So, more money has to be spent. More staff is required by the Railway Board which does not implement the Government decisions. That is a particular issue.

Mr. Chairman: When the indications are clear in the note in regard to specific matters, only those specific matters can be discussed and not a question of policy. This is a question of policy. The words are: "Inefficiency of the Railway Board in implementing Government decisions." It is exactly a matter of policy. What else can it be? It is not a composite matter. It is clearly a question of policy. I am sorry. It is out of order in my opinion.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): There is my cut-motion No. 1, under Demand No. 1.

Mr. Chairman: In regard to cut motion No. 1, it relates to "Discrimination in the refusal of payment of Railway Board allowance to officers deputed to Railway Board from the various Railway administrations." The question at issue is whether, in the notes given, under this Demand, there is any such matter as can be directly related to this particular and specific point. I understand that no such point arises as has been indicated by the hon. Member's cut-motion. Therefore, I am inclined to think that this is also out of order.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The point is, some additional posts have been created in the Board. In the Railway Board, whenever an officer is deputed to work in the Board, he is paid a certain amount of allowance. In the case of some officers who have been recently deputed to the Railway Board from the various railway administrations, the allowances have not been given to them. There was a decision, I believe, by the Member (Staff) of the Railway Board that these officers should be paid the allowances, but again it went to the Financial Commissioner and he disallowed it. So, under this Demand, additional posts are created, and unless the names and other details are given, we cannot say whether that particular officer or officers have been affected or not. I want to say that such sort of discrimination should be removed. That is my point.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Mr. Chairman: It is a question which is not covered by these notes. The explanatory note says specifically: "creation of additional posts." So far as the question of allowance is concerned, the question whether it is to be paid to one class of officers and not to another class of officers, does not arise. Therefore, I am inclined to think that this cut motion also is not in order.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It is discrimination between one class of officers and another.

Mr. Chairman: It is a question of policy. It is not a question of rupees, annas and pies. It is a question purely of policy,—whether allowances should be paid to one class of officers and not to another class of officers.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: On a point of clarification. If today, an officer is deputed to the Railway Board, according to the previous practice, such an officer will draw some allowance. But subsequently, the Railway Board thinks it is not necessary and disallows it for the new recruit. The present case is one of an additional post. They have disallowed the allowance in this case. Then, under these circumstances, what can we do? Can we not discuss this issue?

Mr. Chairman: I am not prepared to answer any hypothetical question. But I would say that it is not a question of whether it is relevant or not. The question is whether, in the supplementary demands for grants, this question can be raised or not.

Shri Nambiar: It can be raised. It is said:

"house rent and other allowances due partly to merger of dearness allowance with pay," etc.

So, the question of paying allowance is there. The question is whether certain officers are properly paid allowances as per the rules. Therefore, it can come in here for discussion.

Mr. Chairman: No question of every kind of merger of dearness allowance

can come here. That is a separate matter. I know the hon. Member is reading it from the notes. He probably refers to "house rent and other allowances due partly to merger of dearness allowance with pay and adjustment of debits for printing charges relating to previous years." Here, the question of allowances is being raised: whether allowance is to be paid. The hon. Member has raised the point whether an allowance is payable to a certain class of officers and not payable to another class of officers. This is more or less a question of policy. It is not a question of 'merger' at all. I am inclined to think that it is out of order.

Then there is cut motion No. 8 by Mr. N. B. Chowdhury. This, again, is a question of refusal of supplies. I gave a ruling in respect of cut motion No. 9 and in respect of cut motion No. 8 the ruling is the same. So I will put Demand No. 1 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1954, in respect of 'Railway Board'".

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 4—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Chairman. Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration'".

Shri Nambiar: Sir, I am moving cut motion No. 13.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I am moving cut motion No. 14.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj (Sholapur—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I want to move cut motions Nos. 11 and 12.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Sir, I wish to move cut motions Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

Mr. Chairman: These are the only cut motions sought to be moved, i.e. Nos. 13, 14, 11, 12, 2, 3 and 4.

In relation to cut motion No. 2, I think it is in order; also No. 4. About the rest, I would like to hear the hon. Members as to how they are in order.

Delay in providing leave reserve

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000 in respect of Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration be reduced by Rs. 100."

"Dearness pay" of employees in Hyderabad Railway sector.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000/- in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What about cut motion No. 3, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: It looks to be out of order, because it is not covered by the Demand. This particular matter is not covered by any of the matters mentioned in the note.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Here in the note it is stated, Sir, at the fag-end of page No. 3:

".....provision for New Service Commissions at Allahabad and Madras etc.... and other miscellaneous variations as a result of reclassification of cities, variations in leave salary etc..."

So this reclassification comes there. That is what I am moving in my cut motion No. 3.

Mr. Chairman: What has the hon. Minister to say to that?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): As to the admissibility or.....

Mr. Chairman: The point is in regard to cut motion No. 3. My reaction was that it is not covered by the heads under the Demand. The hon. Member says that so far as this aspect is concerned, it is covered by these words, "other miscellaneous variations in allowances as a result of reclassification of cities, variations in leave salary etc".

Shri Alagesan: I have nothing to say, Sir.

Reclassification of cities like Rajahmundry, Warangal and Tanjore.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the Demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Rs. 100."

It is six years since the adjudicator's award has been received and it was examined by the Railway Board on several occasions. There are several sections in several railways where this leave reserve has not been provided for. In the former Nizam State Railway, even though six years have elapsed, they have not yet been implemented. I will come to that later on. This was before the Central Pay Commission, as long ago as 1946. They recommended that this question of leave reserve should be gone into by the Government. The Government instead of straightway accepting that recommendation and having leave reserve provided for the employees, referred this matter to the adjudicator. The adjudicator said that this leave reserve is a legitimate right of the workers and it should be provided for. But, so far, they have not provided anything, after integration. Had it not been integrated, I am sure, they would have been provided for as long ago as 1950, because they were already working and they could have provided it. But, because of the integration of this Railway with the State Railways, they said the whole thing has gone to the Government of India

and it is for them to provide it and it is hanging fire for two years. I am bringing it to the notice of the House that on this very question, of the non-implementation of the assurances given by the Railway Board, on the 22nd they would have gone on an one-hour token strike. Not only that, from March they are taking a poll for strike because of the non-implementation of the assurances given by the Board.

Then, coming to the next cut motion regarding re-classification of cities like Rajahmundry, Warangal and Tanjore, this matter again falls under the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. The Central Pay Commission laid down certain principles for granting city compensatory allowances. It recommended that those cities where the population was over one lakh should be classified as 'C' class cities and house rent and compensatory allowances should be given. The population of these cities, Rajahmundry, Warangal and Tanjore, is more than one lakh. After the report was accepted by the Government that cities having a population of over one lakh should be treated as 'C' class cities and should be given house rent and compensatory allowance, in 1953, an agitation was going on for treating these cities as 'C' class cities. Finally, the Railway Minister gave an assurance to the railway workers stating that the whole question of reclassification of cities would be considered after the census was taken in 1951. The final figures of the census were given about June 1951. Instead of reclassifying these cities as 'C' class cities and also such of those cities as had to be upgraded on account of the increase in population and paying them these allowances from 1st April, 1951, an arbitrary decision was taken by the Government and they paid these allowances from 1st October, 1952. Eighteen months' allowances were not given.

The second point is that cities which had a population of one lakh have not been re-classified yet for the purpose of grant of house rent allowance. I don't know how the Cabinet gave their arbitrary decision. Actually it has increased from one lakh to 1,15,000.

Why do you appoint a committee, get its recommendations, accept the recommendations and then scrap them? Is this the way the Government should go on? In fact, definite assurances were given in this respect. For example, regarding the upgrading of Poona, the question of cantonment was taken and the population of the municipal area was also taken, and they were upgraded as 'B'. When, however, the question of Agra came up, this was not done. The Railway Board has no respect for its own report. So, I strongly urge that these three cities—Rajahmundry, Warangal and Tanjore—should be classified as 'C' for purposes of grant of house rent allowance.

Coming to my third cut motion on Demand No. 4, there were certain anomalies when the Central Pay Commission's recommendations were implemented. The workers or the employees then demanded that they should have some weightage for seniority. After a long time, a ballot was taken in 1949 and after that an assurance was given that the whole question regarding the increase in the number of increments in relation to the length of service would be considered by the Joint Advisory Committee. On the basis of this assurance, the strike notice was withdrawn. After a very long time, the Joint Advisory Committee gave their recommendations that those who have put in 25 years of service and are in the initial grade of recruitment should be given one increment, and those who were in service on the 1st January 1952 and have put in 30 years of service should be given one additional increment. These recommendations should have been applied to the Nizam State Railway employees. They have been refused to about 2,500 or 3,000 railway employees of the former Nizam State Railway, and the reason given is that they have opted for the Nizam State Railway Service conditions. What is the difference between the two? The only difference is that those people can serve upto sixty years of age. No doubt it is an advantage, but, it has got nothing to do with their demand. This point was considered by the Joint Advisory Committee irrespective of

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

the salary conditions and their award was given. Instead of applying it, Government have denied it and say that the employees cannot claim the best of both Services. Actually, Government are giving them the worst of both the Service conditions, and all sorts of restrictions are being put on them. They are not considered eligible for promotion because they can serve till 60 years of age. Thus, they are denied promotion to the higher grade. How can you retire them at the 55th year? No Government can alter that service condition because it is a fundamental right. They can opt for any kind of service and they can change it at any time. The Joint Advisory Committee's recommendations of giving one increment for those who have put in 25 years of service and two increments for those who have put in 30 years of service have not been implemented. I, therefore, strongly urge that the cases of these 2,500 or 3,000 employees should be considered and that Government should implement the Advisory Committee's recommendations in respect of these employees.

Shri Nambiar: I am moving cut motion No. 13 which says something about the Railway Service Commission at Madras and its work.

Mr. Chairman: There are two points in this cut motion. One is the unsatisfactory way the Railway Service Commission at Madras is organised and functioning. The other relates to the way in which the portion of Dearness Allowance is merged with pay. The second portion, I should think, is in order, but the first portion is out of order as it relates to a question of policy.

Merger of Dearness Allowance with pay

Shri Nambiar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Explanatory Note on page three makes a provision of Rs. 6 lakhs for

the new Service Commissions at Allahabad and Madras. Therefore, even the first part is in order.

Sir, people of the South have welcomed the establishment of this Railway Service Commission. But unfortunately it is constituted of old and retired railway officers. For instance, I understand—I am sure the hon. Minister will correct me if I am wrong—that the Chairman of the Railway Service Commission in Madras is Mr. Ramanujam, the retired General Manager of the Southern Railway. I do not know why Service Commissions should be specially chosen for the appointment of retired officers. In fact, a Service Commission should be constituted of persons in active service. Ministers can be of any age—102, or 103! But that does not mean that the Service Commission Chairman should be a retired man. I have strong objections to this person, because he is a retired official and he has no business to come and meddle with the appointments to the railways, when he himself belonged to that organisation.

They bring in all sorts of persons on the Service Commissions. I do not know what is the criteria for the Selection of Service Commissioners. In fact, I for one would like a Commission to be composed of persons of integrity and honesty—not only that, persons who will not meddle with the appointments, who will not claim any quota in the matter of appointments. I hope I will not be charged as being rash in stating this, that in Service Commissions there is a sort of a quota system. Suppose there are two hundred vacancies of clerks and the Commission consists of five members, each member has a quota of 40 appointments, and persons approaching that member with their paraphernalia will get priority in selection. As soon as the Commission calls applications for two hundred vacancies of clerks, as many as ten thousand persons apply, paying a fee of Re. 1 each. In fact, these two hundred vacancies are divided among four Commissioners, each getting a quota. The nine thousand eight hundred other applicants do

not even get a reply, much less know what has happened to their applications. This has become a scandal. Several persons came to me with a request that this should be set right. I told them that this is a matter which can only be tackled by Parliament. If we begin to say anything about a particular Member or the Chairman, we are told that we are attacking individuals. A Service Commission if it is to command the confidence of the public must be composed of members who have no selfish interest, persons of integrity and honesty. There are sufficient numbers of such persons available in our country that we need not resort to the appointment of a retired General Manager. In this matter communalism is also brought in. I do not wish to enter into this aspect, except to say that it prevails. The greatest safeguard against communalism in services is to constitute the Commission without any colour.

I want to say something about the merger of dearness allowance. We wanted the entire dearness allowance to be merged. Unfortunately, the Gadgil Committee did not recommend it, they recommended that only 50 per cent. can be merged. This 50 per cent. merger should not do any harm to the railway employee; it should not be detrimental to the interest of the worker or staff. But I do not understand how it is going to benefit them. I would say this with regard to house rent. In the Southern Railway where the house rent charged was nominal previously, now, when the dearness allowance merger came, the whole house rent proportion has been changed and a different level has been brought in whereby a person who was previously paying two rupees is now called to pay seven rupees; one who was paying three rupees is asked to pay nine rupees. This is a thing which we cannot understand. They may say that according to the house rent rules, this has to be paid. The whole question is put in such a way that it appears that the servant gets a benefit whereas the net effect is a loss to him. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to

reconsider this question of merger of dearness allowance because it should not affect adversely the interest of Railway men. Especially, I have in mind the house rent problem on the Southern Railway and I hope he will clarify that point.

Coming to the cut motions moved by my hon. friend, Shri Vittal Rao, I may say that this question of upgrading certain cities for calculation of house rent is fully justified. I know of Tanjore because there the population is 1,02,000 according to the Census figures available with the Tanjore municipal authorities and the workers had represented the matter to the Railway Board. The reply will be given after six months, if not later!—I can understand the Railway men having no grievance for not getting a reply within six months as the usual time required is more. Then there can be no grievance for two years even on urgent matters.....

An. Hon. Member: Sometimes for three years also!

Shri Nambiar: What I submit is this. This question of Tanjore, which I had occasion to know requires upgrading immediately, with retrospective effect; there is no question of arrears being calculated from the date of the decision. The Railway Board may decide after so many years; that does not matter but the workers must get it with retrospective effect.

With regard to the implementation of the adjudicator's award, I have to submit that this award also is made to appear as if to benefit the railway men but I have instances to show that it is not so. After the adjudicator's award many posts which were previously classified as "continuous duties", have been "upgraded" now as "intermittent duties" by the implementation of the award. Here is a specific case. In Tanjore Railway station the rolling stock staff were previously working eight hours; after this award they work twelve hours because the adjudicator has given that award! That is the way in which the award is being implemented. This is a particular case with regard to Tanjore. I can quote

[Shri Nambiar]

another case from Trivandrum Central. There the "intermittent duty" is very nicely implemented under the adjudicator's award! The electrical fitter starts working at 5 A.M. in the morning and goes on working till 10 P.M. in the night; he is said to work on 12 hours duty—that is intermittent duty. It is split into three batches: after six hours' continuous work he will have a break of one hour; then he is asked to go home and after an hour he is asked to work; and again another four hours' continuous duty. All this is termed as "Intermittent duty." I cannot understand how "intermittent duty" can be split into so many continuous duties. This is the way in which the adjudicator's award is implemented.

I am giving specific cases. If I generalize, they will say that this is only a generalization. I am saying that in Trivandrum Central, the electrical fitter is given so-called "intermittent duty" whereby he is made to come at five in the morning and work till ten in the night with certain breaks, even against the accepted provisions of the Indian Railways Act. Section 71 says that "intermittent duty" means only twelve hours; but in practice it is increased to seventeen hours. This is absurd. Therefore, in the implementation of the provisions regarding "intermittent duties, this sort of things should not be there.

Coming to the question of the Central Pay Commission Scales, I have information that in the Kanchrapara Workshop three thousand workers, who were serving in 2-Civil Maintenance Unit during war time, were not given the benefit of that service for that period in continuity with their subsequent service; whereas this ought to have been calculated in the implementation of the Central Pay Commission scales and increments, and all the service in that period should have been taken into account. And this was done on technical reasons saying: "this is 2-C.M.U., this is only Maintenance Unit, it has nothing to do with Railway work." That is the answer given.

With regard to the same sort of employees on the S. I Railway at Golden Rock their services were calculated and taken into account, except in a few cases which are represented to the Railway Board. These three thousand workers in Kanchrapara Workshop should have the advantage of their service in 2-C.M.U. for the purpose of continuous service as well as for the calculation of increments when the C. P. C. scales are implemented, as was done at Golden Rock.

There is one more point that I wish to drive home, and that is that in the implementation of the C. P. C. scales the question of the pre-1931 staff is also there. It is there for so many years. The Railway Board want to solve this problem by seeing that the last of the pre-1931 staff gets out of the Railways! Thus they will solve problem. The Railway Ministry have got their own solution—not by understanding or satisfactorily dealing with the problem, but by exhausting this particular category of staff! Because, pre-1931 means that by this time they would have put in not less than twentyfour years of service, and there are only a few more years of service left for them and at fiftyfive years of age they will get out. They are waiting till that date for the solution of this problem! This is something fantastic which we cannot understand. Some commonsense point of view must be brought to bear on this problem. I do not want that big political considerations should be taken in these cases, in the implementation of the C. P. C. scales, the Adjudicator's award and such other awards by which Government have promised to do something to the railwaymen. But something of that human touch, about which we were talking yesterday and day before yesterday, should be here. The hon. the Railway Minister is not here, but I hope the Deputy Railway Minister will consider all these matters in this light. And I do not want to be called once more to criticise the Madras

Service Commission affairs in this Parliament I hope it will be corrected. I request the hon. Minister here and now to consider all these matters.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I wish to move my cut motion No. 14.

Mr. Chairman: This clearly refers to policy, again.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: It is about the working of the Railway Protection Police.

Mr. Chairman: The words in the cut motion are "Failure to protect life and property on the Railway".

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: It is the duty of the Railway.....

Mr. Chairman: It is certainly relevant, but it clearly relates to policy. I am sorry I cannot allow it. I rule out this cut motion (No. 14).

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: I wish to move cut motions Nos. 11 and 12.

Mr. Chairman: They clearly relate to policy

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : मैं अपनी पोक्षिशन किलार करना चाहता हूँ। जिस तरह से दूसरे बोल रहे हैं उस तरह से न बोल कर मैं बहुत थोड़ा बोलूँगा।

Mr. Chairman: There is no question of बहुत ज्यादा OR थोड़ा. If it relates to policy I am helpless, I cannot allow it.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: Others are speaking.....

Mr. Chairman: Others are speaking and the hon. Member is also entitled to speak. And I am most anxious that the rights of the Scheduled Caste people should be fully safeguarded. But I am helpless.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: I have no right to speak anything? And others can speak?

Mr. Chairman: There is no question of speaking anything or everything. If it relates to policy, I and the

hon. Member are both helpless in spite of our anxiety to protect the rights of the Scheduled Castes.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : पालिसी गलत है, इसी लिये मैं कहता हूँ.....

Mr. Chairman: I am very sorry. Not that it is not relevant, but it is not relevant, here. It relates to policy. I cannot waive this rule.

Shri Rajabhoj: I am requesting—let the Minister reply, because in the Public Service Commission there is no representation of Scheduled Castes.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member is still making a speech. I have ruled them (cut motions 11 and 12) out of order.

Shri Rajabhoj: I am very sorry, Sir.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): I wish to make a few observations with regard to charges in respect of Order Police and the Railway Protection Police.

Mr. Chairman: May I know on what particular cut motion the hon. Member wants to make his observations?

Shri Frank Anthony: I have not tabled any cut motion. I only wanted to make a few observations in respect of Rs. 7 lakhs for variations in police charges based on the latest information from the State Governments. I wish to make a few observations on that and I want some clarification on those observations.

Mr. Chairman: Have they any relevance whatsoever to Note 2 on this Demand?

Shri Frank Anthony: Yes, directly. I want to know a specific point. In pages 2 and 3, the first explanatory note says "cost of Order Police and Railway Protection Police required for the protection of Railways".

Mr. Chairman: Police charges, Rs. 7 lakhs, based on latest information from the State Governments. Is that the one?

Shri Frank Anthony: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: All right, I agree.

Shri Alagesan: It is not a new service.

Shri Frank Anthony: I know it is not a new service.

Mr. Chairman: Then I am very sorry, I cannot allow the hon. Member to make remarks of a general nature not related to the particular grant.

Shri Frank Anthony: I am not going to touch on policy at all.

Mr. Chairman: Then what is it? If there is no new service I do not see how any remarks relating to an old service will be anything but a matter of policy.

Shri Frank Anthony: It is not a question of policy, but a question of administration, why these progressively increasing demands in respect of Police are made? That is the point which I wish to make. I want to know from the hon. Minister why we are asked to give progressively increasing grants to the Police? Why do they go on increasing the police force? They have already three categories of Police on the Railway. Now there is a fourth category of Order Police. We have the Railway Police, the Railway Protection Police, the Watch and Ward, and now you want the Order Police

Mr. Chairman: Here the point is about the variation in police charges. It is not a question of having a new Order Police or a new kind of service. The only question is about variation in charges. If the hon. Member wants to speak, he can speak as to why there is a variation.

Shri Frank Anthony: That is what I wanted to do.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member did not speak of variation at all. He wanted to know why there is a new

kind of police force, a fourth category. The hon. Member wants to bring in the question why another service has been created.

Shri Frank Anthony: Because that is something quite new to me.

Mr. Chairman: The point is not whether it is new to the hon. Member. The question is whether the services are the same and whether there is variation in charges. The hon. Member can restrict his remarks so far as variation in charges is concerned. I have no objection to that.

Shri Frank Anthony: I only wish to make three observations. I want to know from the hon. Minister, what is the reason for these increasing demands in respect of the Police. My own estimate is that the demand in respect of various categories of Police has been increasing from year to year. I want to know the reason for this.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any variation in categories?

Shri Frank Anthony: Yes. Here, for the first time, I see a new category suddenly sprung on us.

Mr. Chairman: That is exactly the point of objection. The hon. Minister says that there is no new category.

Shri Frank Anthony: Then, what is this Order Police?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may seek information as to what the words "variation in Police charges" imply.

Shri Frank Anthony: I shall not take more than two minutes.

Mr. Chairman: No question of two minutes—he can take any amount of time. The point is, if any variation is as regards category, certainly the hon. Member is within his rights to speak on that point. But, there is no variation in category, but only variation in charges. He may ask information on that, but he cannot at the same time make any remarks assuming that there are new categories.

Shri Nambiar: Why should there be an increase?

Mr. Chairman: This question is quite relevant. I am allowing this question. I am not allowing any question of the hon. Member assuming that there is a new category.

- **Shri Frank Anthony:** I want a clarification with regard to the Order Police. How does it vary in functions and duties from the Railway Protection police, Government Railway police, etc.? Since when has this new category been brought into existence?

Shri Alagesan: Again the hon. Member is assuming that a new category has been created.

Mr. Chairman: Even assuming that a new category has been created, this question is quite relevant as to why the variation has been made. This information may be given to the hon. Members.

Shri Frank Anthony: A further question on which I seek clarification is this. While they ask us to meet this increasing expenditure in respect of police, what kind of control do they exercise over the various categories of police? The House wants to know that before we meet these increasingly inflated bills. What, for instance, are the precise functions of the Railway Protection police? Are they there to protect Railway property? Are they there to protect the Railway staff? In this respect, I want to underline a complaint from the Railway staff. I do not know under which category it falls: Railway Police or GRP or Watch and Ward. Recently, on account of unrest in certain parts, certain police escort was granted. My information from the Railway men was that instead of being a source of protection these Policemen were a source of insecurity to the Railway staff.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry the hon. Member is taking this opportunity to make a speech which is not relevant in this connection. The question relates to variation in police charges. So far as that aspect is concerned, he

can ask any question he likes. Apart from that, to assume that there is a new category and ask what their duties are, etc., is not justifiable. Now, the question has been put. The hon. Minister may reply with regard to the variation in police charges.

Shri Nambiar: There has been an increase in regard to Order police. Was this increase to spy on the active trade unionists; trade union workers and Railway workers? I want a categorical reply.

Mr. Chairman: The same question is being raised. It is not allowable. The hon. Minister has said that there is no new category at all.

Shri Nambiar: The increase is due to that.

Mr. Chairman: The only words are variation in police charges. Let us hear the hon. Minister. The question has been put by Shri Frank Anthony. Let us hear what these variations are. If it is in respect of a new category, if the hon. Minister admits that, I will certainly request him to justify it.

Shri Frank Anthony: My question is very much in point, I respectfully submit. We have not got all the figures here. Every time more and more money is being spent on the police and this House, without knowing it, is asked to vote that.

Mr. Chairman: Certainly, the House should know.

Shri Frank Anthony: I want to know this categorically from the hon. Minister. There is the Railway Protection police. Whom does it protect? Does it protect Railway property? Does it protect the men? If it is to protect the men, how does it protect your staff? The staff say that it does not protect them, but involves them falsely in cases. I want to know this. I want to have some idea of the expenditure on it during the last six years.

Shri Alagesan: Is the hon. Member entitled to go into the merits of the

[Shri Alagesan]

case? He will have ample opportunities to discuss these matters when the Budget Demands are discussed.

Mr. Chairman: So far as this question is concerned, objection has been raised that this does not relate to a new category. Therefore, the hon. Member is not within his rights to assume that it is a new category and then expatiate on it and ask, if it is a new category, what are the duties, etc. We will assume that there is no new category. There is variation in police charges. With respect to that question, the hon. Minister will reply as to why there is variation and whether the variation is justified. This question has been raised in various forms. I will not allow the hon. Member to assume things and then argue.

Shri Frank Anthony: I am not assuming. My information is that the functions and duties of the police are being changed and are being amplified. We are asked to foot the bill.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has said that. Let us hear the hon. Minister.

Shri Frank Anthony: Unless he knows what is in my mind, how can he allay my doubts?

Mr. Chairman: The argument has gone on for a long time. The hon. Member has given all the questions that he wanted to give. It is not that he does not know. Shri Nambiar has also put the same question. Let us hear the reply. I will not allow the hon. Member to make a speech assuming that there is a new category and criticising whether that category is justifiable.

Shri Frank Anthony: One question, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: The question has been asked.

Shri Frank Anthony: May I know, within the past three years what has been the amount of increase in expenditure on the Railway police of

different categories, which are supposed to look after Railway property, what has been the increase on the police on the one hand and what has been the increase in respect of claims from the public in respect of property which the police are supposed to protect.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: May I ask one clarification from the hon. Minister regarding my Cut Motion?

Mr. Chairman: I am very sorry. The hon. Member will resume his seat.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: I want to ask a question.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. This is not fair. I have already ruled his cut motion out of order. Yet the hon. Member persists in putting the same question.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: This is an injustice to the whole community of the Scheduled Castes people.

Mr. Chairman: He need not make any such remark.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: I am going out of the House.

Mr. Chairman: He can go if he likes.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: This is an injustice.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. This is not fair. That is not the way the hon. Member should behave.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: I am going, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member is persisting. If he is going, he can go. I am asking him to resume his seat or go away. The hon. Member need not make a row.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: I take it as an insult to my community.

Shri Alagesan: I shall briefly reply to the points that have been raised by the speakers.

The question of delay in the implementation of leave reserves forming part of the adjudicator's award was raised by Shri Vittal Rao. The award was accepted in June 1948. Even the Adjudicator envisaged that it would take some time. In fact, he put it at 2½ to 3 years for the implementation. It involved the classification of staff into intensive, continuous, essentially intermittent, excluded etc., and it involved a thorough job analysis of posts, putting them into one category or the other. Also it had to be ascertained whether additional posts were there and if so, how to absorb the additional posts in the various categories. So, all this took time and it was finalised in August, 1951.

The House is aware that even before that the Indian State Railways had been integrated with the Indian Railway system, and then the award had to be implemented on those portions of the State Railways which were amalgamated with the Government Railways. The rate of implementation has fairly advanced, and the figures which I shall presently place before the House will show how far the award in this respect has been implemented.

Taking all the Railways together, leaving the ex-State Railways, the number of Class III posts sanctioned were 7,003 and those that have been filled come to 6,185. Only 808 posts have to be filled. Taking Class IV posts, the number of posts sanctioned was 13,397 of which 12,538 have been filled, and only 859 remain. Coming to the ex-State Railways, additional Class III posts sanctioned were 598, and those filled 405. Class IV additional posts sanctioned were 1,064 and posts filled 904, leaving 160 to be filled. My friend Shri Vittal Rao may be anxious to know as to what happened on his Railway, viz., the ex-N.S. Railway. There, out of 306 additional posts sanctioned, 204 have been filled and 102 remain to be filled under Class III. Under Class IV, out of 439 additional posts, 371 have been filled, and only 68 remain to be filled. These figures will show that the pace of

implementation cannot be called tardy; on the other hand, there has been good progress. With regard to the former Nizam's State Railway, the recommendations with regard to hours of work, periodic rest etc. will have been completely implemented by the end of March 1954. I think this disposes of the question relating to the implementation of the leave reserves under the adjudicator's award.

Both Shri Nambiar and Shri T. B. Vittal Rao referred to the question of classification of cities. My hon. friend Shri Nambiar gave certain figures with regard to Tanjore. If I remember right, he said that the population of Tanjore was 1,20,000. My figures show that it is barely 1,00,680.

Shri Nambiar: That means more than a lakh.

Shri Alagesan: As far as this question is concerned, a committee went into it, and the census figures of 1951 were taken into consideration. I may inform the House that the cities have been classified into three categories. Bombay and Calcutta are a category by themselves, viz., category 'A'. Cities having a population of over five lakhs come under category 'B', while those with a population of over one lakh come under category 'C'. The cities of Lucknow and Nagpur have been retained in category 'B', though according to the census figures of 1951, their populations have gone down below the stipulated figure of five lakhs. Similarly, the cities of Ambala and Asansol have been retained in category 'C', though their populations have gone down below the stipulated figure of one lakh, according to the 1951 census. Likewise, the city of Poona has been included in category 'B'; though the city population is less than five lakhs, the population of the cantonment has been added to it and it has been included in category 'B'.

With reference to the cities coming under category 'C', a committee went into this question. The House would appreciate the fact that it is not only

[**Shri Alagesan**]

the Railway Ministry that is concerned with this question, but also the other Ministries. It was decided by the committee that there should be some limit at which the population should stabilise itself, in order that it may be treated as being above one lakh. Accordingly, they fixed a small limit of 15,000 above one lakh. If the population can stabilise itself at 1,15,000, then those cities can be included under category 'C'. Otherwise, as in the case of Tanjore referred to just now, it may vary this way or that way. So, a limit of 15,000 over and above one lakh has got to be necessary, for the cities to qualify themselves for inclusion in category 'C'. The cities that have been added to this category in this manner are Alleppey, Rajkot, Kohlapur, Kharagpur, Kolar Gold Fields, Rampur, Ujjain and Warangal. My hon. friend Shri T. B. Vittal Rao referred to the cities of Rajahmundry, Warangal and Tanjore. According to the 1951 census, Warangal happens to have a population of 1,33,130.

4 P.M.

So, it is clearly beyond the limit of 15,000 and has therefore been included in category C.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: When was the classification made and from what date were these people paid?

Shri Alagesan: House rent as per this classification has been paid with effect from 1st October, 1952. As regards the date on which this decision was taken, the hon. Member need not be particular about that date, because the benefit is given from 1st October 1952. That should satisfy him.

As regards Rajahmundry, it is not qualified to come under category C, because its population is something like 1,05,000.

Shri Nambiar: If the actual limit is 15,000 then say so plainly. Why do you say that the limit is 1,00,000 but there is an addition of 15,000 for some

reasons? This point requires clarification. In the minds of the people, the limit is 1,00,000 but you are enforcing 1,15,000.

Shri Alagesan: I have already given the reasons as to why this additional 15,000 above 1,00,000 is considered necessary.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: You go on changing the C. F. C. recommendations.

Shri Alagesan: They are changed to your advantage also.

Shri Nambiar: Is there any case where a town below 1,00,000 say 95,000, has been included?

Shri Alagesan: Two cities, Ambala and Asansol, with less than 1,00,000 population are being retained because originally they were under this category. We have not removed them. I hope I would not be bothered with this running commentary.

Another point was raised with reference to weightage to ex-N.S. Railway staff. The weightage formula evolved in 1949 was applied to that staff, but the weightage given to pre-1931 staff applied only to ex-Government Railways staff and did not apply to the ex-N.S. Railway staff.

Some other points were also raised, and I am sorry my hon. friend walked out of the House.

Mr. Chairman: That cut motion has not been allowed. So, how can any reply be given in respect of the subject matter of such motion.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What are the reasons for not giving the ex-N.S. Railway staff with twenty-five and thirty years' service respectively one or two increments as the case may be? If the hon. Deputy Minister does not reply to this point, what is the use?

Shri Alagesan: I have already stated that the formula evolved in 1949 applied to the ex-N.S. Railway staff;

only the weightage formula for pre-1931 staff was confined to ex-Government Railways staff and did not apply to States Railways.

With reference to Railway Service Commissions, I thought Mr. Nambiar is usually well-informed on facts, but I was sorry to note that even on facts he has begun to slip. The employment of retired General Managers to head the Service Commissions is not a new practice. The Bombay Service Commission was headed by a retired General Manager of the Southern Railway. Mr. Nambiar should have known it. As regards the chairmanship of the Madras Service Commission it is not the gentleman he mentioned who is the chairman; it is an Anglo-Indian gentleman. He is, of course, a retired railway officer.

Shri Nambiar: Why should you employ retired officers?

Shri Alagesan: Because they have a knowledge of the work they have to do, having spent their whole life on the Railways. Just as Mr. Nambiar is supposed to be an expert on railway labour problems, so the retired General Managers have been associated with the working of our Railways for their whole lifetime and they naturally know the inner workings and intricacies. Apart from this retired railway officer, there is another member who is not a retired railway officer, but a retired government officer. These people are there and I should have thought that Mr. Nambiar would congratulate me, now that the difficulty that the people of the South had been facing has been obviated. This has been done to facilitate a regional bias being given to recruitment. I would like Mr. Nambiar to appreciate these points, instead of criticising each and everything.

I do not think I should go into the question raised with reference to communalism. There is absolutely no communalism. There is only reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Anglo-Indians. The recruitment to the posts reserved for

Scheduled Castes has been very satisfactory and out of 1673 posts reserved for them during 1952-53, 903 posts have been filled by candidates selected by the Commission. Of course, the recruitment figures are not so satisfactory with regard to Scheduled Tribes and Anglo-Indians.

I do not know whether I should deal with the points raised by Mr. Anthony. So far as variation is concerned, it has occurred in some Railways but in other Railways some savings have been effected. The net charges come to Rs. 6.95 lakhs. This is a routine thing. There is no new category.

Shri Nambiar: The hon. Deputy Minister has not replied to two of my points: the employees of Kancharapara not getting continuous service for a certain period, and intermittent duty being split up so as to cover a longer period.

Shri Alagesan: I have nothing to say with respect to them.

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member want me to put his cut motions?

Shri Nambiar: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: So, cut motion Nos. 2, 3.....

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I don't press cut motion 3.

Mr. Chairman: So, cut motion Nos. 2, 4 and 13 are to be put.

The question is:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion No. 3 is not pressed. The question is:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negative.

Mr. Chairman: I will now put the demand to the vote. The question is:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 68,54,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 5—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,31,30,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

Expenditure in connection with Kumbh Mela

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,31,30,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I rise to make one or two short observations on this demand. I see from the explanatory note that a sum of Rs. 87 lakhs has been spent on temporary works in connection with Kumbh Mela and repairs to bridges, track, etc. Many good things on many good occasions come often as a cover to conceal many bad things. Here,

Kumbh Mela has come as a good excuse for the Railway Ministry to cover up their squandermania. If you look into the explanatory note, you will see that the money is spent only for temporary works in connection with Kumbh Mela and repairs to bridges and track, etc. Normally, all these tracks, bridges, etc., ought to be maintained by the railway administration intact, and usually, repairs and such other things will not arise immediately and suddenly. They have to be normally maintained. I do not see any reason why these repairs and the necessity for expenditure for these repairs arose only at the time of the Kumbh Mela. They are normal things, and they have to be maintained normally. More traffic or less traffic, more trains or less trains do not in any way matter, because, if the track is bad, it is bad for even one train to pass through. If the bridge is bad, it is bad for even one train to pass on, and if the bridge can withstand the passing of one train, it can withstand the passing of many trains. So, I cannot see any justification for this expenditure. So I say that these good occasions, auspicious occasions, have been put forward as a cover, as a means to justify the excess, unnecessary expenditure. The reason given is not at all a good reason, and we suspect that—there is something bad in it. I want the Minister to come forward and say why this amount was at all needed, absolutely needed, and why these bridges and tracks were not maintained properly and why so much of necessity for this expenditure at the time of the Kumbh Mela arose.

Bad maintenance of Ways and Works in Southern Railway and Golden Rock Works

Shri Nambiar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,31,30,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I want to submit a few words first with regard to the maintenance of tracks. I know from my own personal experience that the maintenance is very poor on the Southern Railway and even today, between Madras and Vijayawada, which is considered to be one of the most congested lines, there is speed restriction due to bad track. The Government may say that it is due to the worn-out condition of the track, but anyhow, it is very bad. So also, on many parts of the Southern Railway, I know the maintenance is very bad. One reason is due to the harassment meted out to the staff. Recently, they have increased the mileage of the gang from three to four. A set of workers hitherto were allowed to do the maintenance of three miles, and now they have increased it to four miles, though the number of men remains the same. The result is that the track has gone very poor. The matter has been referred to the authorities and they were requested to improve the situation, but they continuously say that this cannot be done.

Another point I would submit is that there is a sort of bureaucratic tendency even in the maintenance work. Suppose the track concerned is of four miles, the tools are kept in the nearest railway station which will be at the other end of the gangmen's place. So, the gangmen will have to walk four miles to take the tools and after taking them, they will have to come back another four miles with the tools. After the work, they will have to deposit the tools at the railway station, so that they will have to walk four miles and come back to their place, which means another four miles. Thus, the gangmen will have to walk 16 miles apart from doing eight hours' work. From this, one can understand what kind of work he can do. This has already been referred to the authorities and the gangmen requested to put the tool box in the middle of the gang. Then the reply comes: "These tool boxes cannot be put in the middle of the gang, because tools are likely to be stolen, and therefore they must be

kept in the railway station." If it is so, put a watchman. But they say it means additional expenditure. The gangmen have to walk 16 miles, and the employment of a watchman would incur additional expenditure! This is how they maintain the railway tracks. This is a specific case, and I do not want to go into generalizations. If they could understand this, they can do something to improve the situation.

Similarly, take night patrol. They are making one gangman walk about 20 miles during the night, to patrol the track. We asked that these watchmen may be given boots so that it will be possible to patrol long distances. There are instances of snake-bites and elephant attacks on the ghat section. There are serious dangers on the track for the gangmen. These facts were brought to the notice of the authorities, and it was suggested that two patrolmen could be allowed to patrol the track in the night so that one may assist the other. Further, what the gangman has to do is to get the signature from the nearest railway station. With the lamp, he simply runs to the other station to get the signature. What is happening on the track, he cannot see, because he is worried about his own life and security and getting the signature. So, including the ghat sections, there must be two patrolmen so that they can carefully see through the track. Also, these tool boxes should be put in the middle of the gang, and if necessary, one man may be posted to watch over. The gang mileage should also be reduced from four to three. If these improvements are made, the track will improve. We can pass Bills and we can give crores of rupees, but that will not improve the matters, and it will not improve the track.

With regard to the maintenance in workshops also I have got specific cases, but I do not want to deal with generalizations.

I have got complaints from one workshop in the Southern Railway, the Golden Rock workshop, that they

[**Shri Nambiar**]

don't give enough grinding machines for the workshop. The grinding machine is required to improve the tools. So for 200 workmen, there is hardly one grinding machine. There will be other big machines, very huge costly machines, but one grinder will not be available there! So also with regard to certain files. Recently they supplied certain files which are good-for-nothing ones. Pilferage is there and in the stores purchase section, there is so much corruption—that is a different issue. But the files given are useless; that is the point. And with those files they will have to work! Then they are supplied certain bolts and nuts which will never fit in. There they will have to manufacture new bolts and new nuts. All these bolts and nuts supplied will be kept in cold storage and something will be done to them afterwards. This is the way, the callous way, in which the management is working. I do not want to go into the administration side, but the attention paid by the management is so callous that in the workshop the position is always very serious. There are several instances of breakage of machines due to increase of workload, of workmen being harassed, teased and charge-sheets issued; whenever there is any failure in the machines, the workmen are asked to explain and they are terrorised. Thereby the work has gone bad, and this sort of thing is continuing. Therefore, I would specifically request them to see that attention be paid to better maintenance of the workshops. This applies also with regard to supply of stores, maintenance and also to the track.

With regard to rolling stock also, I can say, Sir, that the axle boxes will be breaking as the wheels move. When the carriage runs, the wheels will be going off! Have you heard of anything like this happening in the history of any other railway? In our railway, while the carriage will be running, the wheels will be going

off. There are instances on the Southern Railway of wheels running off while the carriage moves. (*Interruption*). There was one such instance near Srirangam involving a goods train. So what I submit is that it is all very badly managed.

Mr. Chairman: It is already 4-22 now. At 4-35 guillotine will be applied.

Shri Nambiar: Therefore, we want a better management on the part of the administration; we want that better attention should be paid, and not the old bureaucratic methods.

Shri Bogawat (Ahmednagar South): As regards repairs to machinery, I want to say one word. On the Central Railway, on the Dhond-Manmad line, the engines always fail and trains are detained or are very late on many occasions and hundreds of passengers from and to Bombay are put to inconvenience. So I bring it to the notice of the Railway Minister that on this Dhon-Manmad line, the engines should be properly repaired or some new engines should be put.

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I am sorry for the remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Gurupadaswamy. He has gone away.

Shri Nambiar: He will come.

Shri Alagesan: I thought he would be here to hear my reply to what he has said. Under this Demand, there is only an amount of Rs. 45 lakhs that has been asked for the Kumbh Mela arrangements. You know, Sir, that Allahabad is the junction for three important railway systems—two broad gauge and one metre gauge—and the normal traffic used to be only about 7,000. As a result of the Kumbh Mela festival, it was in lakhs and lakhs and the railway had to cope with this. They had to provide all facilities, like opening of new crossing stations, provision of additional booking windows, lengthening of platforms, provision of necessary sanitary arrangements and all those things. I

thought, the House would congratulate the Railway Ministry for having provided all these arrangements, instead of accusing us that behind the cover of making some arrangements for the Kumbh Mela we were trying to get some other expenditure sanctioned in this House.

About the rest, they are usual works that are taken in the course of the year, e.g. replacement of rails on the Eastern Railway takes away Rs. 10 lakhs, then restoration of storm and flood damages. People who have come from the south know what a havoc storm wrought. A provision of Rs. 3 lakhs has been made to effect repairs to quarters etc. So also in the Eastern Railway, a provision of 2.55 lakhs has been made.

Sir, the other repairs to bridges were not in any way connected with the Kumbh Mela. It was in connection with a bridge called Balki bridge which had to be repaired.

Then, my hon. friend was talking of patrolling. In fact, on the Central Railway we are incurring additional expenditure for extra patrolling because we have to guard against organised thefts of track material and it costs us quite a big amount. Again on the Southern Railway, we had to provide for extra patrolling because of unfortunate disturbances with reference to the agitation for the creation of Andhra and Karnatak States. All these things are clubbed under this Demand, and the expenditure with reference to the Kumbh Mela comes only to Rs. 45 lakhs.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,31,30,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,31,30,000 in respect of

'Ordinary Working expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,31,30,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 6—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATING STAFF.

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 59,32,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating staff'".

The time is very short and if the hon. Members want to consider any other Demand, I will take it up. Otherwise, the guillotine will be applied at 4-35.

Effects of treating dearness allowance as pay for certain purposes

Shri Frank Anthony: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,32,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating Staff' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I wish to move cut motion No. 18.

Mr. Chairman: That relates to demand No. 7. It will come later.

Mr. Frank Anthony: I shall be very brief in what I have to say. You

will notice, Sir, from the explanatory note that Government have incurred an additional expenditure of about Rs. 35 lakhs in respect of this amount of dearness allowance now merged with pay. I do not wish to question Government's motive, but I only want to point this out to the Railway Ministry, that they should not preen themselves on this expenditure as being a boon conferred on the workers. With the actual working out of the Gadgil Committee recommendation, the workers have found that its actual operation has been little less than a fraud on them. What was the intention of the Gadgil Committee recommendation? My own estimate was that it was meant to give an immediate relief, in view of the increasing inflationary spiral. But what, in fact, has happened? I want a categorical answer from the Deputy Minister. Is it not a fact that the Gadgil Committee recommendation, by a process of jugglery, has resulted in the majority of railwaymen getting less in emoluments than they were getting before? That is the exact consequence. I shall be glad to have a re-assurance to the contrary. The Central Pay Commission report said that for every 20-point increase in the cost of living index above 200—taking 1939 as the basis—there would be an automatic increase in dearness allowance. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it was the intention, by implementing the Gadgil Committee report, to stultify and neutralise the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, that for every 20-point increase in the cost of living index over 200 there would be an automatic increase in dearness allowance. They have reported that through the implementation of the Gadgil Committee report some kind of financial boon is conferred on the railway workers. What has been the consequence? Because they have to pay increased income-tax and increased house rent, in nine cases out of ten, your subordinate railway workers are getting less than what they used to get before the Gadgil Committee's recommendations

were implemented. From a long-term point of view, from the point of view of pension, from the point of view of provident fund benefits, they may be getting relief. But, I fear the implementation of the Gadgil Committee's report has resulted only in loss of emoluments to the subordinate staff.

Shri Alagesan: Mr. Anthony has made a point, which is very preposterous in my opinion, that the implementation of the Gadgil Committee's report is a jugglery. In fact, about half the net amount which the House is voting today is covered by the liability which is incurred by the railways in implementing the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee. In each demand that occupies the first place and it is for that purpose that we have come before the House. The extra net amount that is being voted today is about Rs. 6½ crores and about half of it is as a result of implementing the Gadgil Committee's recommendations. If my hon. friend prefers to characterise it as jugglery I do not know what to say about it.

I am glad that he himself has admitted one aspect, namely, the extra provident fund and pension benefits accruing to the employees. This applies to all whose emoluments are up to Rs. 750 per month. For calculating the house rent allowance only 5 percent. of the merged dearness allowance is taken into account instead of 10 per cent. In certain cases, the house rent works to a little disadvantage. Even in those cases where they are affected, it has been protected as personal allowances that will be absorbed in increments and there is no case where hardship exists. In fact, I do not want to call it a boon but it has certainly conferred benefits on the workers.

Shri Nambiar: I want to know one point, Sir. Is it not a fact that, by the implementation of the Gadgil Committee's recommendation, the total emoluments of the worker are less

than what he was drawing previously? That is a point we want to know. Ultimately, he may get a benefit, say, after twenty years; that is a different point. Today, he loses by it. Is it a fact or not?

Shri Alagesan: I referred only to the amount that the House is voting today.

Mr. Chairman: This does not arise here; this can be discussed during the general discussion of the budget.

The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,32,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating Staff' be reduced by 'Rs. 100.'"

The motion was negative.

Mr. Chairman: Now, it is 4-35 P.M. I have to put all the Demands.

Shri Nambari: Is any extension possible—ten minutes?

Mr. Chairman: There is other work also. I have already said that they have to be placed before the House at 4-35 and it is only for that I have been asking hon. Members to cut short their discussion. I am sorry time cannot be extended.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, in the case of Demands Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1954, in respect of the corresponding heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

The motions for Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways) which were adopted by the House are reproduced below.—Ed. of P.P.]

DEMAND NO. 6—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATING STAFF

"That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 59,32,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating Staff'."

DEMAND NO. 7—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 41,29,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'."

DEMAND NO. 8—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN STAFF AND FUEL

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,58,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel'."

DEMAND NO. 9—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,68,37,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

DEMAND NO. 10—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,30,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March,

1954, in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

DEMAND No. 16—OPEN LINE WORKS—ADDITIONS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,47,03,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions'."

DEMAND No. 17—OPEN LINE WORKS—REPLACEMENTS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,66,81,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Replacements'."

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
BILL**

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54 for the purposes of Railways.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Alagesan: I introduce* the Bill.

I beg to move**:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

Shri Nambiar rose—

Mr. Chairman: It is unusual to have a discussion on this motion.

Shri Nambiar: I do not want to have a discussion. I want to make an observation. Here, in a particular Demand, it is stated that khadi purchases are made for the supply of clothing for the railway staff. I have got one request to make. Instead of khadi handloom cloth may be used. In the South we have got a great problem of handloom cloth; we do not find ways and means to exhaust the stocks with the co-operative societies and the handloom industry is in a crisis. Therefore, Government can purchase handloom cloth for the railway staff; it will be suitable. I do not think khadi will be satisfactory for persons like guards. Handloom cloth will be suitable. I would request that handloom cloth may be purchased instead of khadi as that will give great relief to the industry as well and would be suitable for the employees such as guards and station masters who have to be clothed by the railway administration.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao rose—

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member already knows that I have allowed

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Moved with the recommendation of the President.

this as a matter of exception: though as a matter of convention, speeches should not be made on this occasion.

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I should define khadi for the benefit of the hon. Member. It is hand-spun and hand-woven. It includes handloom cloth also. I may tell him that we do purchase handloom cloth also; we purchase khadi, wherever it is suitable.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

.The Schedule was added to the Bill.

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

Shri Alagesan: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

ABDUCTED PERSONS (RECOVERY AND RESTORATION) AMENDMENT BILL

Mr. Chairman: Let us now proceed to legislative business further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Anil K. Chanda yesterday about the recovery of abducted persons.

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guru): Before we proceed further, let me say this. We were promised yesterday that certain figures regarding children of the abducted women would be circulated to hon. Members. No figures have yet been circulated to them and I request that further discussion on the Bill be held up till these figures are supplied.

Mr. Chairman: So far as I remember, this is what happened yesterday.

If there was any further information to be given, apart from the information already given yesterday, then it was to be supplied. I understand that no further information was supplied.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I have got the figures here collected, and if you will permit me, I will give the same.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): You were in the Chair yesterday, and as a matter of fact, I raised a point that in order to enable us to appreciate the problem, the gravity and the human aspect of it, we demanded that certain figures regarding women who are supposed to have been abducted from Pakistan, the period that they have been here, whether they are married, whether they have got children, etc. should be given to us so that we could appreciate for ourselves the human aspect of the problem. You were kind enough to support my suggestion. Since they have our separate investigation departments for this purpose, we assume that they must have all these figures on their own files. Why can, the Government not make these figures available to us, so that we can come to a proper conclusion on the problem?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The figures relating to children recovered in 1953 are as follows. 859 were recovered in India, out of which 340 were taken by mothers to Pakistan and 519 were left in India. In Pakistan, during the same period, 132 children were recovered, out of which 92 were brought by mothers to India and 40 were left in Pakistan.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: These are not the figures that we asked for. We asked for the figures relating to the number of women that were abducted, the number of children born after abduction; we wanted the information because we should know what is to happen to those children.

Sardar Swaran Singh: We have not got the break-up of those figures.

Mr. Chairman: If the information is not available, it cannot be manufactured.

Shri S. S. More: I wish to make a submission. We have allotted large sums of money and the investigation department is working on such matters. If the department is working, it must have collected such figures—it is a natural assumption. If the assumption is correct, where is the harm in supplying the figures to us? As a matter of fact, so many women were moved from India to Pakistan and so many were brought from Pakistan to India. We want to know what has happened during these seven years. Were they married again? Even assuming that the marriage was illegal, we would like to know if it has resulted in the procreation of some children and if so, what is going to happen to those children. If the women have been acclimatised to the new ties, even under duress, what is going to happen? Are you going to tear as under those new ties? That is the problem I am addressing for your consideration and information.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The problem that the hon. Member has raised is a very important and basic problem, which has not much to do with numbers. They, of course, help us to understand the extent of the problem, but the real problem is—it is a very unusual and extraordinary problem—when certain new relationships have been created, whatever the conditions might have been, should they be sundered or broken up, or should they be allowed to continue? In general, an answer to that problem would be exceedingly difficult to give, because it really is a question of individual cases, the state of the relationship, how it is subsisting, whether it is stable or unstable, whether it is happy or unhappy. So many factors come in, so that a general answer would really not cover the ground, but generally speaking, the approach has been,

first of all, to find out where such cases have occurred. The process of finding out itself is not too easy. When such complaints are received, enquiry is made, and sometimes it leads to results and at other times it does not. Strictly speaking, the cases referred to, to begin with, contain—if you divide them into categories—probable cases where, of course, there should be some effort *prima facie* even to begin with, others doubtful cases, others unlikely cases and so on. You can divide them into half a dozen categories, and in the enquiry, the doubtful cases would become probable cases if you get more facts. In the course of these years, we received from Pakistan and we also gave to Pakistan, long lists of cases—we could not guarantee nor could even Pakistan guarantee to the truth of them. If any person comes to us and says, his relative or daughter, or whoever it is, was abducted in Pakistan, it will be taken as truth as for the moment we have no means of checking it. We sent the name to Pakistan, and similarly they do. It is possible that there is no such abduction: it is possible that the person died long ago in the troubles, and because she was not there, it does not mean she was abducted: it is possible that she did not die, she was not abducted, but went to some other area. These things have happened and they can only be traced after due enquiry. The original lists prepared were entirely based on any vague allegation that somebody was abducted either in India or in the other place. Sometimes, the same names appear several times in the lists and it is very confusing to take these names without due enquiry. As the hon. Member himself hinted, the problem is not a political problem, but it is essentially a human problem affecting the individual lives of a large number of persons—affecting it originally—that part is over—and, subsequently, because of the relationship, affecting it in another way, and children are born. What is to be done with the children? If I may say so, perhaps one of the most important factors to be borne in mind in dealing with this matter is

the future of the children—I do not minimise the other factors, the women concerned—and I think, on the whole, the future of the children is even more important, because they are to be the future citizens and should be given an opportunity to grow up in the normal surroundings. All these are very difficult factors. Therefore, right from the beginning, it has not been a question purely of governmental machinery working, although that machinery has to work, but an element, which normally is not supplied by Government, has also to be brought in, that is to say, an informal element of dealing with these unfortunate women in a friendly way and in an understanding way. Then again, the question arises: how is one to make an approach? The basic approach was that there should be agreement or consent of the woman concerned. How is that to be obtained? How are we to create conditions in which she really gives her opinion and does not give it under duress, or fear of consequences? This example, in an entirely different way of course, was referred to by me in connection with the Korean prisoners of war. When we put to them the question "Do you want to go back?", they gave an answer which had really little meaning, because they had been told so much, probably that their heads would be cut off, or something like that. Their answer was not a fair answer until they were given some chances of explanation or understanding that they would be properly treated. Ultimately the decision has to be theirs. First of all the woman concerned should be traced. Then we know that it is a solid case. Secondly she should be given a period of calm and friendly surroundings where she can possibly see her relatives, etc., find out how she is likely to be treated and then decide. I have no doubt in my mind—I had never had at any time about this matter—that no one should be sent across, if she is unwilling to be sent across. I am quite clear about that. But the difficulty comes about her being given full opportunities to make up her mind without any doubt about it.

That has been the general approach. But in applying that approach so many other points have to be taken into consideration. It is easy enough to say that, but every case has to be judged on its merits. We had a tribunal to decide it. Whether it went deeply into the matter in regard to each case, I have no personal knowledge. But that was the idea behind it. Lately we have been trying to understand this problem in its details, apart from its general nature, so as to lay greater stress on that major aspect which I have just mentioned. The future of the children should be very much taken into consideration and in regard to the woman, in the final analysis nothing should be done which is in the nature of a compulsion. In the early stage you may take her away and put her in a home, but in the final analysis I have no doubt that there can be and should be no compulsion.

Sometimes people compare the figures of recoveries from Pakistan and recoveries from India. The comparison can be made and should be made. But it has really no relevance in this matter. If there is, let us say, a single woman in Pakistan who wants to come to India and whose life may be happier by coming to India, to her own original home, we ought to do our best to get her and vice versa, regardless of other considerations, because each individual case, if properly handled and settled is that much of human gain. They are not chattel to be measured, as to how many women have been recovered that side and how many here. That I submit is not the right approach.

Then again there is this fact that all these matters can only be carried through by a measure of co-operation between the two Governments. It is obvious. One Government cannot do it, unless there is co-operation forthcoming from the other side. Therefore a co-operative machinery has developed. Occasionally an individual officer may not have functioned as he ought to have, but the machinery has

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

been a co-operative one in this matter and it has functioned tolerably well.

Take this piece of legislation whose period is sought to be extended. Even apart from other considerations it is right and proper that we should extend it, so as to fit in with the general scheme. Any change that we make could be done only mutually and not unilaterally, because some types of legislation apply to both sides. That itself is an adequate reason for extending it. Obviously this way of dealing with the problem cannot be continued indefinitely. At some time or other it has to end, because passage of every year makes further difficulties. But taking everything into consideration we do feel strongly that we should carry on for another year or so. Of course, we have asked for extension by another quarter, because extension by a year comes at an awkward time in the middle of the Budget session and the House would be inconvenienced. Practically, it is for a year and we shall, in this period, in a sense, revise our method of approach, where it is considered necessary, and try, if possible, to finalise the problem.

I do submit, Sir, that in the circumstances, the right thing for the House to do is to extend the life of this measure and not to go into details, and meanwhile for the Ministry and others responsible to consider all the aspects—many of the aspects have no doubt been mentioned by hon. Members here—and deal with the problem as humanly and as rapidly as possible.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): In view of the statement that the hon. the Prime Minister has made I do not wish to take up the time of the House that I wanted to say on the Bill. The Hon. Prime Minister has said them all. He has rightly pointed out that there should be no compulsion, or human beings being transferred against their will.

The other point I wish to make is about children. The law provides that an abducted person would also in-

clude a child born from a female. In definition of abducted person it is given that an abducted person would mean "a male child under the age of sixteen years or a female of whatever age who is, or immediately before the 1st day of March 1947 was, a Muslim and who, on or after that day and before the 1st day of January 1949 has become separated from his or her family and is found to be living with or under the control of any other individual or family, and in the latter case includes a child born to any such female after the said date." So, any child born after 1949 to any such abducted female is liable to be taken away, with its mother. Whereas a child born in India is an Indian citizen as provided by Art. 5 of the Constitution. According to article 5 of the Constitution—

"At the commencement of this Constitution, every person who has his domicile in the territory of India and—

(a) who was born in the territory of India; or

(b) either of whose parents was born in the territory of India; or

(c) who has been ordinarily resident in the territory of India for not less than five years immediately preceding such commencement;

shall be a citizen of India."

As the figures quoted by the hon. Minister show that many of the children have not been sent, so, I suggest that the matter may be examined by the Ministry and if advised the Law be suitably amended.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Gauhati): Sir, I wish to say a few words. If I may.

When I saw my hon. friend, Sardar Swaran Singh taking notes on this Bill with assiduity and enthusiasm I was rather surprised. It was not normally his business to take part in a discussion on a Bill of this kind. But then I was reminded that he is the Minister of Housing and Supply and therefore he

had every right to take part in this important measure. But I would ask him, Sir, in the course of his reply to avoid any suggestion that may be interpreted to mean his zeal for meeting the housing needs not only of this country but also of Pakistan. Have we detached ourselves from this point of view? We consider that the speech which has been just delivered by the hon. Prime Minister should meet the situation very well and ease our anxiety and feelings. My doubt is whether we have a clear provision in the main parent Act to the effect that if a particular abducted person who, *sui juris*, is unwilling to leave India, whether the law entitles her to exercise that choice: that is what I wanted to know. If the present law does not entitle her to exercise that choice, then I submit that in the amendment of this Bill, we cannot make any provision to that effect and the result is that we should merely extend the Bill as it is; to that. I think majority of our people will most seriously object but if such a provision could be enacted in this Bill that if an abducted person does not wish to go back to Pakistan, she should not be compelled to do so.....

Mr. Chairman: May I just call the attention of the hon. Member to Section 6 of the parent Act? It says that first of all the question has to be decided whether a person is an abducted person or not; after that decision is taken, then discretion is given to the authorities. Section 6, reads thus:

"If any question arises whether a person detained in a camp is or is not an abducted person or whether such person should be restored to his or her relatives or handed over to any other person or conveyed out of India or allowed to leave the camp, it shall be referred to, and decided by, a tribunal constituted for the purpose by the Central Government."

Sardar Swaran Singh: And then sub-section (2) also.

Mr. Chairman: Section 6 (2) reads:

"The decision of the tribunal constituted under sub-section (1) shall be final."

Provided that the Central Government may, either of its own motion or on the application of any party interested in the matter, review or revise any such decision."

So, the power is there with the tribunal and while deciding the tribunal can take into consideration the wishes of the person abducted but they are not obliged to agree to the decision made by the abducted person; it is in their discretion and, finally, Government has got discretion. But before such a decision is taken or orders are issued by the Government, ordinarily the wishes or the final decision of the person abducted should be given preference and adequately taken into consideration. I do not know if that would not meet the needs of the point the hon. Member has raised.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: If that is the position of law, there should not be very serious objection; but an instance was brought to the notice of this House by Mr. Trivedi yesterday that a particular girl was abducted and she had a Muslim husband. The Muslim husband died and she was re-converted into Hindu religion and she married a Hindu. Afterwards she was compelled even in spite of the decision of the High Court, and she was arrested, and she was I think, as my friend said, sent back to Pakistan. That is not one instance; that is an instance to show that this law is treated as a dead letter.

Mrs. Joshi: who was talking on a very high plane yesterday talked about morality and that kind of things. I ask my hon. friend, the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply to tell us this. A woman has married here; she has been living with her husband for five years; and she has been having children. What will happen to those children if she was compelled to leave this husband again and go back to Pakistan? She lost one husband in India; she has got one husband in India; and she goes back to Pakistan leaving her Indian husband behind and she marries another husband in Pakistan. Is it morality? Can it be supported by any sense of morality?

[Shri R. K. Chaudhuri]

that you are compelling a woman who has a husband here whom she has taken as husband? You compel her to give up that husband and send her to Pakistan where normally she will get another husband. Is it morality?

Then again, I am asking about the children. What about the children if the woman does not want to take the children with her? What would happen to those children? If she takes those children with her what is the position of those children? Are you allowing those children to be taken away because the mother is generally entitled to the custody of the children up to a certain age? The father of those "illegitimate" children would not be entitled to the custody of those children and you are sending those children to become potential soldiers of Pakistan, to become potential *kala pahar*. They will always consider this base because they were compelled by the Government of India to leave their parents and go back to Pakistan and they will all have a feeling of animosity against India. I am afraid they may turn out to be the potential *kala pahar* of India.

So, I say this question should be carefully gone into. The Bill looks small and inoffensive. I want to make it clear: in the terms of what the hon. Prime Minister has said, whatever methods you may want to adopt, no woman should be compelled to leave India, or her husband, or her children, unless she voluntarily seeks to do so. That should be made clear. If this is clear, we can have no objection.

At the same time, I think it is a pertinent question to consider whether you should deprive these so-called abducted women of their right of citizenship of India. If any woman has attained the age of eighteen and has been living peacefully here without making any complaint—if anybody has made a complaint, it is a different thing—and she has been living here as an Indian, should we not take immediate steps to give them citizenship rights to make her children feel that they are

really citizens of India and not of Pakistan, whatever may have been the origin of their mother? They have the pure Indian blood and if we do so they would be good citizens of India and stand by India and would not have their allegiance towards Pakistan.

Shrimati Maydeo (Poona South): Mr. Chairman, I have been listening to the speeches on this Bill yesterday and today and I am really grieved to listen to these debates and discussions and the way in which this question is treated by the House as if women can be discussed anyhow in such a House. I feel that we must first consider how the society treats the unfortunate women and we must find out some method by which they should be treated better. I know of an example—leave aside this abducted woman—there are a great number of such examples—where one woman who was sent to a lunatic asylum for two or three months, when she became quite well, her father-in-law's people or the people on her mother's side, would not take her in the house and she was left stranded. This sort of treatment is given to women and now we are just discussing abducted women. We are discussing this question like anything. They are treated just as the Prime Minister said, as if they are some commodity or vegetable. We are discussing what will happen if she has one husband here and another there. Before that I feel that I should ask my hon. friends one question: just now, the hon. Minister told us that something like 500 children are left here. We are nearly 500 Members of this House. Is every Member ready to bring up one child among their children?

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): Many of them have already too many.

Shrimati Maydeo: Are they doing anything constructive? Are they going to just tell the widowers to marry one recovered abducted woman each? Then only, I will think that they have some feeling and that they are going to solve this problem really, and that is how this should be solved.

Otherwise what is the use of discussing this?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I suggest that childless Members of Parliament...

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Let the hon. Member proceed.

Shrimati Maydeo: The question before us is only to prolong the period or not to do so. And I do not think that two days' discussion is going to make any difference to it. So what I feel is that instead of discussing this the Chairman should apply guillotine and take votes.

An Hon. Member: It won't be possible.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury (Nabadwip): Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I put before the House certain points that occur to me, although I have no working knowledge of the legal aspects of the matter. That there should be two opinions about the question of extension of the period of this Act seems very surprising to me! If a boat capsizes and people are helpless and drowning, would you take away the rescue boats, put up your lifelines and leave them to their fate just because a few people were not able to avail themselves of the help extended? If even one life was saved, would it not be good enough reason to continue the work of rescue? If by the extension of the period of this Act we can only help a comparatively small number, let us by all means try our utmost to do so. In fact, I would go further and say, let the Tribunals and Committees that work in connection with this Act function for some time to come so that women give children who are restored to their families can feel, that they have somebody to back them, to whom they can turn to from whom there will be help and co-operation, if they find that they have not found their rightful place in their families or in society after their return.

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair:** These problems must be dealt with sympathetically and with a human outlook. As the hon. Prime Minister has

said, it is not a problem to be settled politically in any way. It is a very human and delicate problem and it must be looked at in that light.

Surely the choice of whether they will go back to where they came from must be left to the women and girls concerned. The children, I suppose, have to put up with the opinions of others to a certain extent. They must get protection and a calm friendly atmosphere, where they can decide for themselves, and surely children, must get all the consideration that is their right. Let every child feel that it will have security and love. That should be our first duty, in handling this difficult task. The machinery must work with a humanitarian outlook and it must work efficiently. On the other hand, the women concerned must be quite free to do what they wish, for their suffering does not bear speaking about, their misery is shared and held in the hearts of all women, and their claim on the sympathy of society and the legislatures must have priority.

That social conscience is changing and these women and children can find the security and affection that they deserve, is to be expected from the civilized world today. I would therefore plead, Sir, for the consideration of this House that we draw the veil of understanding and sympathy over their suffering, and, while accepting the inevitability of things as expressed in the beautiful couplet of Omar Khayyam—

"Oh, Thou, who man of baser Earth didst make,

And who with Eden didst devise the Snake.

For all the sin, wherewith the face of man,

Is blackened, man's forgiveness give-and-take!"—

let us not decide to withdraw the life-line of practical help through the extension of the period of this Act, to those who wish to avail themselves of it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now call upon Shri Rajabhoj. But this ought not to be a precedent that if an hon. Member walks out in anger he will be called upon to speak later.

श्री पौ. एन. राजभोज (शोला-पुर—रक्षित—अनुसूचित जातियां): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस हाउस में हम अछूत समाजदों की संस्था बहुत है और कभी कभी जब मैं अपने सभावाल के लिये पूछता हूँ तो मेरे ऊपर बर्लर अन्याय होता है। उस अन्याय के प्रति, चाहे मुझे आप की कृपा से बोलने को मिले या न मिले, लेकिन उस के लिये कथन करना तो मेरा धर्म है, फर्ज है।

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Sir, I rise to a point of order. When the hon. Member was in the House before his return he wanted to move a cut motion which according to me was out of order. To that he took exception and in anger he walked out. He did as it suited him. But now he is commenting upon that incident and saying that it was unjust for the Chair not to have allowed him to move his cut motions. I submit that either I should be given an opportunity to say why he was not allowed to move the cut motion, or he should withdraw these words. He should not make these remarks in contempt of the Chair.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no question of asking, or giving an opportunity to, the hon. Member Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava to explain. It is my duty to support whatever rulings have been given by the Chair. The hon. Member Shri Rajabhoj came and requested the Speaker, saying that he was not given an opportunity. We did not know the circumstances. I thought this was a matter where he also wanted to speak. It is not that in every matter every Member can have a right to speak. But he had gone away in anger. That is why I started by saying that merely going away against the rulings of the Chair in protest would not entitle the same Member to come back and take advantage of another person occupying the Chair and not knowing the background.

I am exceedingly sorry. This is only a continuing Bill, and if Pandit

Thakur Das Bhargava had said from the Chair that something was not allowable under the rules.....

An Hon. Member: It was on a cut motion under the Railway Demands.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I see. The hon. Member ought not to refer to all that now. Even with respect to this Bill itself if he had said anything the hon. Member ought not to criticise any ruling that was given by the Chair. If I had known that the hon. Member wanted to refer only to this I would not have called him at all. Let him go to the subject matter before the House. And I would ask him to withdraw what he said.

Some Hon. Members: Yes, he must withdraw it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Sometimes hon. Members make it delicate for me to carry on. The hon. Member ought not to have said so against the Chair.

श्री पौ. एन. राजभोज: मैं तो जनरल बात कह रहा हूँ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He must not cast aspersions on the Chair.

श्री पौ. एन. राजभोज : चैयर के लिये तो मेरी रिसेप्ट है। मैं तो शिड्यूल कास्ट की बेहतरी के लिये कह रहा हूँ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Likewise he must say 'I am sorry, I withdraw the remarks that I made'.

श्री पौ. एन. राजभोज : मैं ने चैयर के लिये कुछ नहीं कहा है, अगर उन्होंने ऐसा समझा है कि उन के लिये कहा है तो फिर मैं उस को वापिस लेता हूँ। जो ऐसा समझा है तो मेरा वैसा कहने का मतलब नहीं था। मैं ने तो हरिजनों के लिये कहा था।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: ठीक है। All right. He withdraws.

श्री धौ० एन० राजभोज : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय जी, दलितों का सवाल बहुत बड़ा है और पाकिस्तान में जो हमारी मंगी लोगों की औरतें हैं, अधिक जो हैं, जिन को कोई बाल्मीकी भी बोलते हैं, उन को वहां पाकिस्तान में काम करने के लिये रखा है। वह औरतें वहां अधिक जो हैं, जिन को काम है वह फिर वहां उधर नहीं होगा, इसी लिये उधर हमारे अधिक लोगों की महिलायें वहां हैं। जो आज यह सवाल इस बिल का यहां आया है, जिस को चन्दा साहब ने हाउस में रखा है, उस के बारे में जो मशीनरी है, वह मेरे स्थाल से ठीक नहीं है। उस मशीनरी का काम करने का ढंग ठीक नहीं है, क्योंकि यह जो सवाल है, इस के लिये कोई इंडिपेंडेंट संस्था होनी चाहिये। हमारे अध्यूतों के बारे में और सवर्ण हिन्दुओं के बारे में जो हमारी महिलायें दूसरे देश में रह गयी हैं, उनके लिये अभी बहुत कम कोशिश हो रही है। खाली यहां पर बोलते हैं, लेकिन काम नहीं हो रहा है। कल जो फिर्स और आंकड़े बताये गये, वह मेरे स्थाल से बहुत कम थे। मैं समझता हूँ कि वहां पाकिस्तान में हमारी हिन्दू महिलायें बहुत हैं और उन को लाने के लिये हमारी गवर्नरेंट की मशीनरी की तरफ से जो कोशिश होती है वह ठीक तरह से नहीं होती। हमें तो शक है कि जो आजकल मशीनरी बनी है वह जो कुछ काम कर रही है उस से मालूम होता है कि वह तो पाकिस्तान से मिलती है और कभी कभी पाकिस्तान बालों से मोहब्बत भी रखती है। हम नो चाहते हैं कि इस के लिये कोई सोशियल बैलफैयर एसोशियेशन जैसा इंडिपेंडेंट इंस्टी-ट्यूशन हो। हिन्दुस्तान में ऐसे कई प्रकार के इंस्टीट्यूशन हैं, हमारे पूना में भी है, जिन्होंने महिलाओं में काम करने के लिये अपना सारा जीवन दे दिया है। इस लिये किसी

इंडिपेंडेंट इंस्टीट्यूशन की यह काम देनी चाहिये। यह काम इस तरह का है जो वही लोग कर सकते हैं जो गवर्नरेंट को मानने वाले हैं, और गवर्नरेंट को सोरेंट करने वाले हैं, यह काम हमारे अन्दर जो फिर्स कालिमनस्टेस हैं, ऐसे लोगों के हाथ में यह काम नहीं सौंपना चाहिये। यह बात भी सच है कि कोई भी स्त्री हिन्दू हो मुसलमान हो जिस का अपहरण हुआ है और सत्तीत्व लूटा गया है, उस के लिये हमारे हृदय में बड़ा दुःख और क्षोभ है और जिस ने यह बुरा कार्य किया चाहे वह पुरुष हिन्दू रहा हो या मुसलमान उसको हम अच्छा नहीं समझते। मैं अभी पिछले हफ्ते काश्मीर गया था और वहां मुझे कई भारत की हिन्दू महिलायें मिलीं और उन में मुझे मालूम हुआ कि वहां पर ठीक तरह से जैसा होना चाहिये वह नहीं हो पा रहा है, और मैं समझता हूँ कि इसका कारण यही है जो कि उन के साथ उन की काम करने की मशीनरी है वह ठीक नहीं है और हमारी कोशिश मशीनरी में सुधार लाने की होनी चाहिये। अभी परसों मेंने अखजार में पढ़ा था कि पाकिस्तान में अभी भी दो सौ के करीब हरिजन मर्द और औरतें रह गयी हैं, पाकिस्तान उन को वापिस नहीं करना चाहता क्योंकि उनमें से बहुत ज्यादा तादाद में स्वीपर्स हैं और मुसलमान यह काम कर नहीं सकते हैं, इस बास्ते वह उन को अगले यहां रोके रखते हैं। हमारी गवर्नरेंट को इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये और पाकिस्तान सरकार से उन को भारत वापिस लाने के लिये कोशिश करनी चाहिये और कोशिश लूब अच्छी तरह से होनी चाहिये। और इस सम्बन्ध में हम सरकार को हर तरह का सहयोग देने को तैयार हैं। सरकार के

[श्री पी० एन० राजभोज]

बलावा इस काम को दूसरे जो इंडियैंडेंट महिलाओं के हंटरीट्यून्स हैं उन को भी इसे अपने हाथ में लेना चाहिये ।

दूसरी ओर में यह अर्ज करना चाहता है कि हमारे देश में यह जाति पांत का अगड़ा बहुत है, कोई बाह्यण है तो कोई क्षत्रिय और क्षत्रियों में भी अलग क्षत्री हैं, या तो कोई वनिया है, यह बंधन मेरी समझ में ठीक नहीं है और हमें इंटरकास्ट मैरिज को बढ़ावा देना चाहिये । हमारे जो शड्यूल्ड कास्ट के भाई हैं आज उन की आर्थिक अवस्था बड़ी दयनीय है, हमें उनकी आर्थिक दशा में सुधार करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये । यह जाति पांत का चक्कर हमारे देश में बहुत है और यह जातिपांत के भेदभाव यहां हाउस में भी देखने में आता है, में चाहता हूं कि वह जल्दी से जल्दी सत्त्व हो....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is saying that even now there is untouchability here in the Parliament. जातिपांत क्या होता है ?

The hon. Member ought not have passed such remarks.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : जातिपांत के भेदभाव के कारण पाकिस्तान से जो हमारी बहिनें आती हैं, उन की शादी होनी मुश्किल हो जाती है और इस ओर हमारे कांग्रेस में जो बड़े बड़े रिकार्मिस्ट्स नेता लोग हैं उन को ध्यान देना चाहिये और उनका जीवन सुधारने और सुखमय बनाने के लिये सच्चे दिल से कोशिश करनी चाहिये और यह तभी सम्भव हो सकेगा जब हम लोग इस देश में इस जातिपांत को सदा के लिये मिटा दें । वहां से आई हुई बहिनों के प्रति हमें सहदयता का बत्तिय करना चाहिये, उन के लिये एजी-टेशन करना चाहिये और उन को हर प्रकार की सहायता और सबूलियत पहुँचाने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये । इस काम के लिये

जो हमारी मशीनरी वह दोपूर्ण है और उसे हमें सुधारना चाहिये । हमारे चन्दा साहब ने हमें पूरे फैक्ट्रस और फिगर्स नहीं बतलाये और वह जल्दी में यह बिल पास करा लेना चाहते हैं । मेरे स्थाल से ५५ बिल इतनी जल्दी पास नहीं होना चाहिये क्योंकि हमारे सामने पूरे पूरे फैक्ट्रस और फिगर्स नहीं रखवे गये । आप की मैजारिटी है और गवर्नरमेंट के पास बाइड पावर है, वह प्रेसीडेंट से आर्डर निकलवा कर कानून बना सकती है, ऐसी हालत में यह चार लाइन का बिल लाने की जरूरत ही क्या थी ? लेकिन अगर आप एक बिल यहां पर लाते हैं तो हाउस के सामने सारे फैक्ट्रस और फिगर्स रखने चाहियें, वैसे तो आप की मैजारिटी है आप दस लाई मंजूर करा सकते हो, जो चाहे करवा सकते हैं, लेकिन मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूं कि काम करने का यह बंग उचित नहीं है और जब कि हाउस के सामने पैक्ट्रस और फिगर्स मौजूद नहीं हैं, मैं दस लालू रूपये की रकम मंजूर करना ठीक नहीं समझता हूं । इस के अलावा यह जो मशीनरी बनी है, वह ठीक नहीं है, उस में भी सुधार करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये ।

अन्त में, डिप्टी स्पीकर महोदय, आप ने मुझे जो बोलने का अवसर दिया, उसके लिये मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं ।

श्रीमती उमा नैहरु (जिला सीतापुर के जिला स्लेरी—पश्चिम) : जनाब डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, कल से इस समय तक न मालूम कितनी बातें इस बिल में पेश आई हैं कि मैं बरावर यह सोच रही हूं कि इस बिल में अगर किसी को कुछ भी कहना है तो हम यहां की हाउस की बहिनों को कहना चाहिए । आज यह पुरुष और यह मर्द यह भाई लोग जो हमारे संरस्वाह बने हैं, उन की एक एक बात छिपी हुई नहीं है और जाहिर है कि अगर दुनिया में अन्याय

स्त्री के संग होता है तो दूसरी सरफ उसमें
मुरुष भी होने हैं, तो मैं यह कैसे कहूँ कि इस
वक्त यह बिल जो हमारे सामने आया है,
उस की जरूरत नहीं है। मैं आप को बताऊँ
कि जिस वक्त पकिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान का
सवाल था और जब यह मुसीबत देश में
आई थी और उस समय एक तरह का युद्ध था
और युद्ध में हमेशा स्त्रियों पर वार होता है
और जिस वक्त इन स्त्रियों के ऊपर वार
हुआ, उस वक्त यह बिल जो आया है इस बिल
के चलाने वालों ने निहायत बहादुरी और
सच्चाई से और निहायत ईमानदारी से काम
किया और उस समय वे इधर की जो औरतें
उधर थीं जहां तक हो सका उनको बड़ी
बहादुरी से इधर वापिस लाये लेकिन इस
सम्बन्ध में लोगों को एक आम शिकायत
है कि हम उन औरतों को जो इधर की हैं
उनको बजबूर करके उधर भेजते हैं या
वहां से स्त्रियों को उसी तरह इधर लाते
हैं, मैं नहीं जानती कि अभी तक ऐसा हुआ
है मुमकिन है कि एक आध ऐसे केस हुए
हों, लेकिन जो भी हो यह शिकायत बाक़ई
बाजिब है और मैं इसे इंसानियत के लिलाफ़
समझती हूँ कि अगर कोई हमारी लड़की
मा बहिन जो अपने अजीजों या घर वालों
में आना चाहे उसको हम न लायें जो चाहें
अपने घर जाना या अपने रिश्तेदारों में
जाना वह अपने घर वापिस न भेजी जाय।
मुझे अपनी सरकार से सिर्फ़ इतना ही कहना
है कि इस मामले में जबरदस्ती न बर्ती
जाय। मैं चाहती हूँ गोकि इस बिल के
लाने में और इस को चालू करने में हमने
मजिस्ट्रेट और पुलिस की मदद ली और
वह मदद लेता ज़रूरी भी हो गया था, लेकिन
मैं इतना ज़रूर कहूँगी कि अब पांच वर्ष
हो गये, हम वहां से लायें और यहां से भेजने
का काम जारी रखें, लेकिन इस काम को
कामयाब इनाने के लिये हमारी पुलिस
और गवर्नरेंट की जो सशीलियती है, उसमें

हृयूमन टच का होना बहुत ज़रूरी है
यह समझना चाहिये कि अगर पांच साल
से कोई औरत किसी की वहां रह गयी हो
या रिहैबिलिटेट हो गयी है चाहे इधर हो
या उधर अगर उसकी इच्छा नहीं है, उसके
इस बीच में दो, चार औलाद भी हो गयी
हों और उसकी इच्छा नहीं है कि वह इधर
जाय या उधर जाय, तो उसको पूरा हक्क
होना चाहिये कि वह जहां उसका जी चाहे
रहे।

मैं उन में से हूँ जिन को बहुत ही
तकलीफ़देह यह बात मालूम होती है
कि बालिग होने पर भी स्त्रियां यह
फैसला नहीं कर सकतीं कि वह क्या
करें। उस का फैसला है कि वह खुद
इस बात का निश्चय करें। बालिग
होने के बाद वह नहीं मुन्नी सी बच्चों
नहीं है कि उसके बास्ते गवर्नरेन्ट मशीनरी
या और कोई इस बात का निश्चय करे।
वह खुद अपने हालात की मालिक है और
वह खुद ही निश्चय करेगी, यह मैं अपनी
गवर्नरेन्ट से कहूँगी। लेकिन मैं यह भी
कहूँगी कि हमें इस काम को बन्द नहीं करना
चाहिये। यह बिल ऐसा नहीं है जिस को
देख कर यहां पर लोग परेशान हों।

अभी मेरे एक आनेवाल भाई ने कुछ
वहां की महत्वानियों का जिक्र किया कि
पाकिस्तान में बहुत सी हैं, लेकिन यह
मुकदमा दूसरा है। यहां पर इस का
कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। इस लिये इस
को वह इस में न मिलायें।

मैं नहीं चाहती हूँ कि मैं हाउस का
बहुत ज्यादा वक्त लूँ क्योंकि इस में कोई
ऐसी बात नहीं है। लेकिन मैं यह ज़रूर
कहना चाहती हूँ कि हम औरतें अपनी
किस्मत की बालिक हैं और अपनी किस्मत
का फैला करना चाहती हैं। यहां पर

[श्रीमती उमा नहरू]

पुरुष लोग, जिन की कि मैजारिटी है, हम पर मेहरबानी रखें, इनायत रखें, हमारे ऊपर दया रखें। हम नहीं चाहतीं कि वह इस मामले में दखल दें हम जानती हैं कि हमारा कदम किधर जाना चाहिये। अगर मर्द लोग यह समझते हैं कि वह हमारे मालिक हैं, हमारे सरदार हैं, तो हमें रंज और अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जब इन्सान दूसरों को सम्भालने चलता है तो उसको अपनी तरफ खुद भी देखना चाहिये कि वह कैसा है, क्या वह इस काबिल है कि दूसरों को शिक्षा दे। इस लिये मैं ज्यादा न कह कर यह उम्मीद करूँगी कि जो कुछ मैं ने कहा है उस पर गवर्नरेंसेन्ट गौर करेगी और सारा हाउस इस बिल को पास करेगा।

Shri Gadgil: This is a question in which the approach should be both moral and human. What I honestly feel is that in this particular matter, sometimes there is a tie between the moral aspect and the human aspect. Since the first Act was passed in 1948, there have been two occasions in which extension was sought in this House and one Ordinance was passed. There are cases of abduction which must have taken place long before September, 1947. To bring a motion of this kind every year or every alternate year is to embarrass many of us who are honestly inclined to approach this problem from the correct point of view. Yet, it seems that the figures of abducted women not still recovered from both sides of the border, with all the qualifications which were referred to by my hon. friend, make out a case for avoiding this hasty annual and placing this law permanently on the statute book. Morally speaking that is quite correct. If there is a single woman who is kept here against her will and who is anxious to go back, then it is the moral duty of this Government to provide

that it should be done. But, the question arises how long this will go on. If by merely acting on sentiments, we are to continue this, we have also to insist, not in any spirit of bargaining, but in the same moral atmosphere, on the recovery of at least those 2,000 abducted Hindu women who are still with the Pakistani officials. That was the statement made by Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar when first extension was sought.

An Hon. Member: In 1949.

Shri Gadgil: That is not the correct approach. What I would suggest to this Government is this. They may have 15 months' time if they so wish. But, let them assure this House that every effort will be made to finish this business, this very sorry, unpalatable business which creates conflict in the minds of most of us and some of us who are not accustomed to control their tongue say things or use expressions which not only embitter feelings here, but also feelings elsewhere. I am prepared to give another 10 lakhs of rupees. But, by the time this period of 15 months is over, let this special organisation be liquidated. I do not suggest that there should be no further efforts and the life line should be cut off as was suggested by one of the speakers. What I would propose to the Government is that this work should be transferred from the special machinery to the ordinary administration with necessary directions, and if necessary with additional finance.

There is one point. This Act has to be extended by another 15 months. As has been suggested by many hon. Members, the women concerned should not be transferred to Pakistan without their consent. Here, as I said, lies the conflict between the moral aspect and human aspect. There is no law of limitation in politics. There is no law of limitation in pure morals. Therefore, you cannot say that, because 7 years have gone, we must not do a certain thing. Not that. At the same time, the

other aspect, namely the human aspect, becomes much more emphatic and prominent. The initial thing was bad. It was a crime; it was a revolting thing. All that is admitted. But, time is the best healer. People get themselves reconciled to the situation as it develops and some other matters also occur, with the result that as time passes on, more and more, the original revulsion or original feeling gradually disappears. If children are born, there is an additional interest which binds the woman to a particular man. Then, the question really is not moral; it is human. Are we going again to disturb the course of life which was already disturbed once? I know what happened when we were dealing with the rehabilitation of refugees here. Many of them came to Delhi and somehow or other, they erected houses here and there, although almost in slum situations. When they were taken out to some other places, the plea that was always taken by some of the Members here was, you are again transferring them and practically uprooting them for a second time. There was great force in that. The same is the case here. There has been one uprooting. This will be another. Therefore, as was suggested by the hon. Prime Minister and also by other Lady Members, who are really concerned,—we cannot appreciate what they must be feeling—and I support this suggestion—no woman *sui generis*, when she is a major, when she has lived here for six or seven years, whether she has entitled herself to the citizenship of India or not, because the Indian Citizenship Act is still in the Law Ministry and is yet to be born,—this is another argument for expediting that matter which has been pending all these years—will it be wise, will it be in the best interests of the happiness of the lady concerned, whether the lady be willing or not, whatever be her wishes, to uproot her, to take her to the camp and then transfer her? Nobody knows what future awaits her. It may be that in Pakistan she may be received well. But, our experience here is that in many cases she is not well received, in some cases she is tolerated and in many cases, instead of being fixed up anywhere, she is thrown to find her way

by some means which it may not be very proper for me to say. The point is, while this Act remains in operation, I hope my hon. friend will assure us that whatever be the section,—the Chairman was good enough to say that there is power,—, whether there is power or not, whatever is good is justified by the law which is higher than the law passed by this House or any House for the matter of that. If the hon. Minister gives us an assurance that no lady, if she is not willing to go away, will be transferred, that is good enough, and I do hope that this will be the last occasion when Government will put some of us in very great mental embarrassment and in fact will find out some way out of the dilemma where the moral consideration is opposed to the human.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): It is a delicate subject of course, and some hon. Members—lady Members particularly, have taken exception to our taking part in the debate. I am not aware of any male hon. Member having indulged in anything that can be taken objection to. One lady Member has also said that she wants that the other Members should keep away, they should not discuss it and leave them alone. But it is not a question which concerns them alone. If we have our daughters or sisters there, we are equally concerned about their recovery, and it is with no sense...

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Children and boys under sixteen.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Certainly, boys and girls. We are equally interested, if not more. That particular girl might be interested in herself or one or two children, but we are interested in more than that. Therefore, we feel that it is our duty that we should take it seriously and discuss all aspects of it.

We have been assured in the preliminary remarks by the hon. Minister who sponsored this Bill as well as by the hon. Prime Minister that it would be seen that no woman is sent to Pakistan against her wishes. This is quite good, and after a lapse of seven years it does not stand to reason now that

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

the woman should be sent away, snatched away from that family to which she has reconciled herself and where she is now living. But the question is whether that wish of hers is always taken heed of and that wish is given due respect.

Last time when this Bill was brought here I raised certain objections and I cited a particular instance. I gave all the details about that. It was printed in the debates. Our Prime Minister intervened in that debate and told the House that particulars of that case would be circulated to the Members. Now, that was a case where enquiry was pending and it was mentioned that it was conveyed to the hon. Prime Minister that enquiry was being made. But, while the enquiry was being made—we have got so many guarantees that there is a Tribunal which looks into the cases, that we have got our respected Members there whose veracity cannot be doubted, that unless both agree the girl cannot be sent—and before the enquiry could be concluded and the Tribunal could come to a finding, the girl was rushed to Pakistan and she remains there in spite of all protest. And even last time I was assured. Our Prime Minister said:

"I do not know the facts. Therefore I cannot say. If the House is interested, I shall arrange to place a statement on this case on the Table of the House, or, as the House will not be meeting for some time, it can be circulated. It can be sent to those Members who are interested."

Neither were the particulars circulated, nor were the papers placed on the Table of the House, and the fact remains that before the Tribunal could come to a finding whether that girl was an abducted one or not, she was taken away to Pakistan, and our recovery organisation helped in that abduction. And therefore it was that a famous Congress Member in the Council of States last time had to make this observation—that hon. Member has since

passed away—that this was a department not for the recovery of abducted persons, but for abducting persons. And actually we have these complaints.

Some hon. Members come up with canons of morality and they teach us that morality wants it. We also agree that this is a humanitarian work, that morality demands it. Nobody is against it. We all want that every woman who has been abducted and wants to come away must be given all facilities. We are not against it.

And then we are reminded that numbers do not count. Even if we have given three times as many as we have got, that should not stand in our way. I agree there. That should be no consideration. But we have to consider why we are getting so few. I do not say that we should not recover as many as we can, but at least we should go deeper into the facts. What are the reasons?

The hon. Minister made observations in his opening speech that Pakistan had been giving all co-operation. Very good. Then he gave the reason also that while the High Court of Punjab had declared this Act to be ultra vires and our work came to a standstill, even then Pakistan carried on work. It is unfortunate that he did not give us those figures of the persons who could be recovered during that period, but that was a short period and he says that numbers do not matter. It is a fact that we have given three times as many as they have returned. It was not a question of chattels. They were not goods, and I do not complain on that account. But why was it that in the beginning when these numbers were asked for we said we had left 33,000 in Pakistan? Then there was a large number of persons who were abducted in Kashmir. They were more than 20,000. Pakistan made a tall claim even in the beginning that about 50,000 persons had been abducted in India. Everybody said that that was a claim to lay the foundations for larger recovery and that it was not true. But even if that was true, if Pakistan had

been giving proper co-operation and if our recovery staff had been doing very well as we say when we praise our recovery staff, what reasons were there that we were getting so few. Either it must be admitted that the co-operation was not there from Pakistan, or that our recovery staff was not efficient and had not been acting according to the standard that was that demanded of them. It was just mentioned by Mr. Gadgil—and I repeat it—that there is instance of the want of co-operation from Pakistan, because Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar told us in Parliament that there were at least 2,000 abducted women that were in the possession of public servants of the Karachi Secretariat. But though the question has been asked many a time, nobody has given us any information as to whether any of those women have been given back. Our recovery staff has been acting well, and the statement of Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar was to the effect that we had supplied all the particulars about those public servants who had 2,000 women of ours, but even then, they did not return any of those women. Was this co-operation from the Pakistan Government, or was it the efficiency of our recovery staff? I have it with me, and I can prove it with facts even, that when a few girls were taken out of the possession of those public servants, our recovery staff returned them and said, that those public servants were not willing—and this I want to bring to your notice,—not that the girls were not willing, but that the public servant, that great man or this big lord, was not willing to part with the girl. This was what the recovery staff have been doing.

I have other facts also in my possession. I had been to Kashmir last summer, and there I met a gentleman who had gone to Pakistan and who had been going to Pakistan for the recovery of two girls, and it is on his authority I have it—and I have no reasons to doubt him—that there were some Pakistan officials who were earnest that those girls should be found. They happened to lay their hands on one girl, and found her, and the police officer of Pakistan was anxious that these Indian

staff of ours should hurry up in taking the girl, otherwise if some official—I need not name that official of our recovery staff—came to know of it, she would not permit that girl to go to India.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: She?

Sardar Hukam Singh: Yes, she. I complained even last time, that Shrimati Mridula Sarabhai had not been conducting herself honestly. I was confronted then by Pandit Fotedar—I wish he had been here now, and he would certainly have supported me now. Last time, the hon. Prime Minister came to her rescue. I gave the instance then of one or two girls who had been so treated. Their families have been broken up here. I have got with me two dozen cases, where the girls were married here, some ten years before Partition and some others five years before Partition were living peacefully here, but were taken away from their homes. I wish the hon. Minister could give us those figures.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahabad South): What is her position at present?

Sardar Hukam Singh: I do not know. I am told that she had been removed from that position, but I apprehend whether she might not come again. That is always my fear, and the fear of those who have lost their daughters and sisters. But there are certain indications—and some people are afraid of it—that she might come again and be entrusted with the same job.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is her position now?

Sardar Hukam Singh: I have no further knowledge.

Shri S. S. More: He does not know her whereabouts.

Sardar Hukam Singh: But our recovery organisation has been acting and conducting itself in this manner. It is a matter of shame to us. Nobody has taken care to know these facts, and our Government were justified in taking up their cudgels against us, whenever we cried, because they did

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

not know the facts. We tried to provide the facts. I have got with me two dozen cases relating to women who are in the custody of those Government servants in Karachi. Here is an application from one खानचन्द बल्द

गंगाराम, छावनी मुहल्ला लुधियाला।

The male member of the family was killed; and there were five ladies left. All of them were kept in Pakistan. And that poor man has given the name of the person, गुला रसुल के

पास, पाकपत्न, ज़िला मांटगुमरी में।

He has supplied that information; his wife accompanied the recovery staff, but when she was just near the house where these girls were, and asking for at least one girl of hers, she was removed back, and so she could not get those girls of hers. Such are the facts. I do not know whether the House would bear with me, if I would read out the two dozen cases with me, because that would be a pathetic story showing how our people have been over-enthusiastic. I have already made it clear that if there is a Muslim girl here, who wants to go back to Pakistan, she should certainly have the full freedom to go. But circumstances are being created that she might be compelled to go, even if she does not want to do so. When she is taken to the camp, all kinds of pressure are brought to bear upon her.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: That is true.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Our recovery staff has been telling those Indian girls who want to come back, that they would not be accepted even if they come to India, and that no parent would be prepared to take his daughter back. Though my hon. friend has made that statement, I differ from him. There is no Indian parent who is not prepared to accept his daughter or his wife, if she comes back. All of those that came have been accepted, and if any have been refused, let us have the figures of such cases. Every one has accepted them gladly. The Indian parents are anxious to get them back.

but that lady has been doing propaganda there and telling those girls that they would not be accepted in India, if they came here. Should this conclusion be accepted? Is it a fact that in spite of the efficiency of our recovery staff, and the fact that the Pakistan Government are really co-operating with us—as we are asked to believe—our girls are reluctant to come over to this side? Do they find better conditions there? Even when the people here are prepared to accept them, can it stand to reason that they would not be willing to come? I lay this charge on the recovery staff, that they have been deliberately putting pressure on them, that they should not come here. What the reasons are, I need not disclose...

Several Hon. Members: Why not disclose the reasons? (Interruptions).

Sardar Hukam Singh:...because that would not be a happy story.

Shri Bogawat: Let us have them on the floor of the House. (Interruptions).

Sardar Hukam Singh: Certain workers of this recovery organisation had to resign on account of this lady, because she was not working honestly. Their resignations were accepted, but nobody asked her to behave properly. Their resignations were accepted, and they had to go. That is an open secret, and everybody knows it, that those honest workers in this recovery organisation had to leave the department, because this lady would not allow them to work honestly.

An Hon. Member: Is it a fact?

Sardar Hukam Singh: Yes, it is a fact.

ज्ञा: राम सुमण सिंह : क्या पोजीशन है, सरदारजी, जरा बताइये।

Sardar Hukam Singh: I am not against the recovery of these abducted girls. They must be recovered. But as has been stressed by more than one hon. Member, we shall have to come to some point when we can say

that there were mistakes committed, heinous crimes committed, that they were compelled to commit them at that hour, and to submit to certain forces which they did not like themselves, yet, because they have lived now for seven long years, there should be an end of the matter. I am not against it. If there are honest cases, where the women want to go let us send them—we should not keep them. But the experience of the recovery organisation for the past few years has been unfortunate. I cannot comment on the working of the organisation since that lady has left, because the period is a short one. How they have fared, I cannot say. But it is no secret that so long as such a girl remained there every attempt was made to force her and compel her, even though she had married a Sikh or Hindu fifteen years earlier, to go away. When she found that there was no escape, then perhaps she might have expressed her intention to a superior officer, but my point is that circumstances were created where she was made to give her consent to go away.

6 P.M.

The hon. Minister stated that everything was going on smoothly, because he did not hear from them. This was a very strange and queer statement. Surely, when they had gone, they could not be expected to conduct correspondence with the hon. Minister. They left with bitterness. They felt that India had forced them to go away. Another argument was that they have not returned. Now, how can they return when you forced them to go away? It was not possible at all.

Shri S. S. More: Even if they returned, they might have been forced to go back.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Another point is about the problem of children. This is certainly important. We should have obtained facts as to how many children were taken to the camps along with the girls and how many were left behind in the homes. What do Government propose to do with those who

were left behind or have been brought here? Is this process to continue indefinitely?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the provision in the Bill regarding children born here?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: They are treated, according to the definition, as abducted persons.

Sardar Hukam Singh: All children born here are treated as abducted persons. This is a very complicated question. We should call a halt to the present process and allow them to settle down. This sword of Damocles should not hang eternally over their heads. Even if they want to, these girls are not allowed to settle down. They have to run from one place to another even if they have been living with the abductor-husbands for several years. The moment a man makes a complaint that such and such a man has a Muslim girl in his house, the trouble begins. The Prime Minister stated that there should be some *prima facie* enquiry as to whether the case is really doubtful, but no care is taken to conduct an enquiry. These police officers want to continue, and if this Bill is continued, their life also will continue. So, they want to show results, and for that purpose, in their over-enthusiasm, they say that there are so many more abducted girls remaining to be recovered. In fact, some of the recoveries made by them during the last six months have been found to be not genuine cases, and if two hundred have been recovered, at least some four hundred or five hundred have been harassed unnecessarily. Sometimes, the police force has to pay something and sometimes the neighbour gets a chance of wreaking vengeance. This cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely. So, my humble submission is that we should call a halt to this. It is not serving the purpose. From what we have seen of this recovery organisation, we are fed up with this. The sooner it is wound up, the better would it be for the country and for those who were abducted and for the children also.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव: जनाब
डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it in respect
of West Pakistan only, or East Pakis-
tan also?

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव: Only
West Pakistan. जनाब, जब यह बिल
रेनुअल के बास्ते हाउस में आया तो
दोनों मौजूदों पर मुझे इसके मुतालिक बोलने
का इतिहास था और इस बक्त भी
गोकि देर हो चुकी है, मैं हाउस का थोड़ा
सा बक्त अन्दर जरूरी बातों की तरफ व्यान
दिलाने के लिए लेना चाहता हूँ।

सबसे पहली बात जिसके बारे में मैं
चिक्क करना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि जो
सार्टिफिकेट हमारे आनरेक्युल मिनिस्टर ने
दूसरी तरफ (पाकिस्तान) के काम
करने वालों को दिया है, मैं उसके साथ
होलहाटेंडली शामिल नहीं हो सकता।
मैं जानता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान में भी ऐसे असहाय
मौजूद हैं जो हमारी तरह सोचते हैं और
हमारी तरह से स्वाहिशमंद हैं कि यहाँ
की जो हिन्दू, सिक्ख लड़कियां व औरतें
और बच्चे वहाँ रह गये हैं, उनको यहाँ
बापिस लाया जाय, लेकिन मैं यह भी
अच्छी तरह जानता हूँ कि ऐसे लोगों की
तादाद वहाँ बहुत ज्यादा नहीं है और
जो फ़ौगर्स हमें स्प्लाई किये गये हैं और जो
तरीका और रवैया आज तक पाकिस्तान
गवर्नमेन्ट का रहा है, उससे यही नरीजा
निकलता है कि यह कहना क़तई ग़लत
है कि जिस तरह हमारे यहाँ के लोग इसके
अन्दर काम करते हैं उसी तरह से
वहाँ बाले भी काम कर रहे हैं। यह फ़ैक्ट है
कि पाकिस्तान गवर्नमेन्ट और उसके अधिकारी
उस हृद तक कोआपरेट नहीं करते हैं।
पिछली दफ़ा जब यह बिल आया था तो

हमारे श्री गोपालस्वामी आयंगर ने
यहाँ पर बयान दिया कि मुसलमान
आफ़िश्यल्स के पास दो हजार के क़रीब
हिन्दू व सिक्ख औरतें मौजूद हैं, तो वह
औरतें यहाँ क्यों नहीं बापिस की जातीं।
मुझ को मालूम है कि दूसरे मौके पर इस
स्टेटमेंट को पाकिस्तान की तरफ से बाटर
डाउन करने की कोशिश की गयी और कहा
गया कि हिन्दुस्तान में यह बात गलत तौर
पर समझी गयी, उनके कहने का यह मतलब
नहीं था। मैं ने वर्ड रीडिंग पर पिछली
दफ़ा अर्ज किया था कि अगर हिन्दुस्तान
में एक भी ऐसा गवर्नमेन्ट आफ़िश्यल है
जिसके बारे में कोई मुसलमान औरत एबडक्टेड
मौजूद है तो गवर्नमेन्ट को उस अफ़सर
को फ़ौरन बरखास्त कर देना चाहिए।
मैं ने उस मौके पर यह बात कही थी और
कहा था कि पाकिस्तान गवर्नमेन्ट को भी
यही करना चाहिए। मैं अदब से पूछना
चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेन्ट के पास क्या कोई
ऐसी इतिला मौजूद है कि पाकिस्तान में
कितने मुसलमान अफ़सर इस बिना पर
वहाँ की सरकार द्वारा बरखास्त किये
गये? वहाँ की गवर्नमेन्ट ने कितने अपने
अफ़सरों को बरखास्त किया इस बिना
पर कि वह हिन्दू औरतों को अपने घरों
में रखते हुए हैं? मैं समझता हूँ कि एक
भी मिसाल शायद ऐसी नहीं है और शायद
हमारी गवर्नमेन्ट ने इस बारे में पाकिस्तान
सरकार से दर्तियाफ़ूत भी नहीं किया है।
मैं जनाबबाला इस बिल का मुखालिफ़
नहीं हूँ, जैसा कि मैं ने हर मौके पर जाहिर
किया, मेरी समझ में इस हाउस में एक भी
मेम्बर ऐसा नहीं होगा जो इस बिल के
उत्तुल के लिलाक़ हो। जिस मूल्क की रवायतें
हैं हैं कि एक औरत के पीछे, एक जानकी
की के पीछे सारा हिन्दुस्तान सीलोन पर

बच्चे को तैयार है, जहां पर हमने यह देखा कि विलायत से आई हुई एक औरत मिसेज एलिस जो अफगानिस्तान में ले जायी गयी, उस एक औरत के पीछे सारी अंग्रेज हुक्मत हरकत में आ गयी, उस देश के रहने वाले हम हिन्दुस्तानी एक मिनट के वास्ते भी यह नहीं चाहते कि हमारे देश के अन्दर एक भी मुसलमान बहिन पर अत्याचार हो अथवा उसके साथ जबर्दस्ती वर्ती जाय, हम उसको उसकी मर्जी के बाहर यहां पर नहीं रोकना चाहते, हम इस बात के खालिशमन्द हैं कि दूंड दूंड कर एक एक मुसलमान औरत को वहां भेज दिया जाय जिसके साथ यहां पर जुल्म हुआ हो या जो वहां जाना चाहती हो, लेकिन जैसी कि तरमीम भी आई है और हमारी बहिन श्रीमती उमा नेहरू ने भी कहा और जिसे भी हर साल कहता रहा हूं कि एक ऐसी औरत जो यहां पर इतने बर्ब रह चुकी है और उसके बच्चे यहां हो चुके हैं और वह यहां से वापिस नहीं जाना चाहती, हम यह नहीं चाहते कि ऐसी औरत को वापिस भेजा जाय। सरदार हुक्म सिंह ने इस क्रिस्म के कई एक दर्जन केसेज आपके सामने रखे और जब पिछली दफ़ा यह बिल रेनुअल के लिए आया तो मैं ने सन् १९५१ में हाउस के सामने एक मिसाल रखकी थी और मैं ने एक चिट्ठी हाउस के सामने पढ़ कर सुनायी थी जो जालन्धर कैम्प से एक औरत ने अपने खालिन्द के पास भेजी थी। उस के बाद क्या हुआ? उस के खालिन्द ने एक दरखास्त दी थी, उस के पकड़े जाने के बाद, हैबियस कार्पस की पंजाब हाई कोर्ट में और जब पंजाब हाई कोर्ट में दरखास्त मौजूद थी तभी उस औरत को रिहा कर दिया गया। रिहा करने के कुछ अरसे के बाद उस औरत को एक नया बच्चा पैदा हुआ। जब इस का पता चला

कि उस औरत के बच्चा पैदा हुआ है तो बच्चा थोड़े ही दिन का था कि उस औरत को पकड़ लिया गया। वह औरत जाना नहीं चाहती थी, उस का खालिन्द भी नहीं चाहता था कि वह जाय, लेकिन उस औरत की मर्जी के खिलाफ उस को जबर्दस्ती भेज दिया गया। यह जो मैशीनरी बनी हुई है, यह नाकिस है। इस मैशीनरी के अन्दर कोई औरत इतनी मजबूत नहीं रह सकती कि वह जबाब दे कि मैं पाकिस्तान नहीं जाना चाहती। इस एक्ट के अन्दर अगर आप ने एक औरत को पकड़ा और उस को जालन्धर ले गये। जालन्धर में एनवारनमेन्ट बहुत अच्छे नहीं हैं। यह दुहस्त है कि औरत को पकड़ने के बाद आप उस से पूछेंगे कि वह पाकिस्तान जाना चाहती है या नहीं। लेकिन अगर वह जाना भी चाहती होगी तो भी नहीं कह सकेगी कि मैं जाना चाहती हूं। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस से बेटर मैशीनरी हो। जिस वक्त औरत पकड़ी जाय उसी वक्त उस से न पूछा जाय। वह वक्त ऐसा नहीं होता है कि हिन्दू मर्द के साथ रहने के कारण वह सही सच्ची दिल की बात बता सके और आप उसकी रजामन्दी को सच्ची रजामन्दी समझ सकें। दूसरी तरफ मैं देखता हूं कि जब औरत को पकड़ा जाता है और उस को महीनों जालन्धर में रखा जाता है तो वह समझती है कि वह इस दुनिया से कट गई और अब उस के पास कोई चारा नहीं है सिवा इसके कि वह पाकिस्तान चली जाय। उस वक्त उस की जो मर्जी होती है वह असली मर्जी नहीं होती है। मैं देखता हूं कि उकी खालिश जानने के लिये जो मैशीनरी आप ने रखी है उस से असली खालिश नहीं मालूम होती है। असली खालिश तभी मालूम हो सकेगी

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भागव]

जब किसी तरह का प्रेशर उस के ऊपर न हो ।

कल मेरी बहन सुभद्रा जोशी ने कहा था कि जो औरतें बरसों तक एक हालत बहुरेहवाई में रहीं वह नहीं चाहतीं कि वह दूसरे हालात व कुरेहवाई में जा कर रहे । मैं यह मानने को तैयार हूं कि ऐसा हो सकता है कि तीन चार बरस तक औरत किसी घर में जबर्दस्ती रहे और उस के बाद वह अपने रिस्तेदारों से अपना रिस्ता कट करना न चाहे । लेकिन साथ ही मैं यह भी मानने को तैयार नहीं हूं कि अगर उसी सात साल के बाद कोई औरत ऐसी है जो इस इन्वायरनमेंट में जिस में कि वह पहले जबर्दस्ती रखती रही है, अब खुश हो और किसी अनसीन बल्ड में भेजना उस के सूद के लिये अच्छा नहीं है, तो उस को वहां जबर्दस्ती भेजने की बात को हम सपोर्ट करें । इस बास्ते दूपारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो फार्मूला रखता है, मैं समझता हूं कि यह ऐवान उस को कुबूल करेगा । गोकि हम इस कानून को आज तरमीम नहीं कर सकते, लेकिन इस बारे में सभी मुत्तकिक होंगे । इस लिये अगर द्वियूनल की निगाह में यह बात साफ हो कि कोई औरत अपनी रजामन्दी से जाना नहीं चाहती तो उस को जबर्दस्ती न भेजा जाय और द्वियूनल उस के खिलाफ फैसला न करे । अगर हमारी मिनिस्ट्री इस तरह का कोई कानून पेश करे तो मैं समझता हूं कि हाउस के तमाम मेम्बरों की सपोर्ट उसे होगी और उस पर हमें अमल करना चाहिये जिस पर कि हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने और बहन उमा नेहरू जी ने अपनी रजामन्दी की मुहर लगाई है ।

बच्चों का सवाल मैं जानता हूं कि निहायत मुश्किल सवाल है । कई वर्ष हुए मैं ने इस सवाल को उठाते हुए इस पर तबसरा किया था । मैं जानना चाहता था कि किस कानून के मातहत जो बच्चा हिन्दुस्तान में पैदा हुआ उसे जबर्दस्ती किसी दूसरी जगह भेजा जा सकता है । चाहे उस ऐडक्टेड ही करार दिया जाय लेकिन वह नैशनल आफ इंडिया है, वह यहां का रहने वाला है । इस के इस ऐस्प्रेक्ट को छोड़ कर भी मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि अगर एक स्त्री के बच्चा पैदा हुआ त्रिस के लिये उस की जायज शादी की कोई कानूनी शहादत मौजूद नहीं है, और उस औरत को जबर्दस्ती रक़वा हुआ था अगर अब वह जाना चाहती है तो उन की जो ओलाद है उस को साथ लेजाना चाहती है सिवा इस के कि उसके रिस्तेदार उस को हराम का बच्चा कहें दूसरी बात नहीं हो सकती । यहां पर भी इस तरह से जो औरतें वापस आती हैं, उन के स्वाविन्द्र उनको वापिस लेने को तैयार हैं । लेकिन मैं इस बारे में अपने आनरेबूल मिनिस्टर चन्दा साहब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि शायद बंगाल और पंजाब की कन्डिशन्स यकसां नहीं हैं । पंजाब के अन्दर मुझे एक भी केस ऐसा मालूम नहीं जिस के अन्दर ऐडक्टेड औरत आई हो और उस को लेने से किसी ने इन्कार किया हो, यहां पर इन्कार नहीं हुआ और न होगा । यहां पर कई ऐसी सोसायटियां मौजूद हैं जो ऐसी औरतों की मदद करेंगी, लेकिन मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यहां पर भी अगर कोई औरत मुसलमान का बच्चा ले कर आये तो उसे हम कैसे रख सकेंगे । उस औरत को हम खुशी से अपन यहां रख सकेंगे लेकिन उस बच्चे को कैसे हम अपना बच्चा कबूल कर सकेंगे ? मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि उन बच्चों को जिन को

कानून ने हराम का करार दे दिया है अगर वह यहां आयें तो कैसे हम उन को लेजिटिमेट मान सकते हैं। मान लें कि कोई औरत यहां से पाकिस्तान जाती है, उस की रजामन्दी भी ले ली गई है, उस का बच्चा है जो कि सुद उसके साविन्द का है, उसका लेजिटिमेट बच्चा है, लेकिन आप इस कानून की रू से उसे लेजिटिमेट करार देते हैं, उस बच्चे का क्या होगा?

मैं अब वे अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इस बारे में ज्यादा तवज्ज्वल से काम लिया जाय और जो इस तरह के बच्चे हैं उन के बास्ते गवर्नमेन्ट कोई इन्स्टिट्यूशन कायम करे, कोई ऐसी चीज़ बनाये जिस से कि ऐसे बच्चों को ऐसी दिक्कत न रहे जिस तरह कि ऐसे बच्चों के साथ रहती है जिन के साथ इल्लेजिटिमेसी (illegitimacy) का स्टिग्मा रहता है। जनाब वाला, मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि कल एक सवाल मेरे दोस्त त्रिवेदी साहब ने आनरेबुल मिनिस्टर से पूछा था कि आया वापिस हुई औरतों में कितनी कशमीरित हैं। मैं नहीं जानता कि उस के सिलसिले में क्या असली वाक्यात हैं। क्या वह कशमीरी औरतें शामिल हैं जिनके मध्य रिश्तेदार पहले भेजे जा चुके हैं अगर ऐसा है तो सरीहन यह घोकेबाजी की सराब मिसाल है—मिनिस्टर साहब ने फरमाया था कि यहां से करीब दो हजार औरतें पाकिस्तान भेजी गई थीं और पाकिस्तान से यहां पर सिर्फ ३२४ औरतें लाई गईं। जनाब वाला, मिनिस्टर साहब ने नहीं फरमाया कि कितनी औरतें वहां पर हैं, और शायद दुरुस्त तौर पर नहीं बतलाया है, क्योंकि हम इस काविल नहीं हैं कि इस को बतला सकें कि कितनी औरतें हिन्दुस्तान की पाकिस्तान में रह गई या पाकिस्तान की हिन्दुस्तान में रह गई। लेकिन मुझे इस के मानने में कोई ताम्मुल नहीं कि

जब हम काश्मीर की तरफ नजर छोड़ते हैं, जब हम वहां की कहानियां मुनते हैं तो हम को पता लगता है कि कशमीर से ही हजारों औरतें रेडस पकड़ कर ले गये। और मुझे कोई शुब्द नहीं है कि हिन्दुस्तान की बेशुमार कशमीरी औरतें पाकिस्तान के अन्दर हैं और जो पाकिस्तान की औरतें यहां थीं उन से कहीं ज्यादा थीं, लेकिन हम फिरास में क्या देखते हैं। फिरास से देखते हैं कि यहां से इस साल में २०४० औरतें जाती हैं और वहां से यहां को सिर्फ ३२४ औरतें आती हैं। इस से साफ नतीजा निकलता है कि पाकिस्तान में अब तक पूरा कोआपरेशन नहीं मिल रहा है। उस तरह से काम नहीं हो रहा है जिस तरह से कि हम चाहते थे और हमें इत्मीनान नहीं है कि जिस तरह से हम काम करते हैं उस तरह से वहां पर काम हो रहा है। मैं तो कहता हूं कि हमारा काम और भी जोरों से हो। हम नहीं चाहते, हमारा यह कल्लचर नहीं है, हमारा यह मंशा नहीं है कि हम एक भी औरत को जो कि यहां से जाना चाहे उस को जबर्दस्ती अपने यहां रखते। राइबुअसनेस हमारा उसूल है, हम हर्गिंज नहीं चाहते कि हमारे यहां इस तरह का अत्याचार हो, लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि गवर्नमेन्ट आफ इंडिया ने पाकिस्तान गवर्नमेन्ट पर क्या प्रेशर डाला, क्या इन दो हजार औरतों के बारे में जो आफिशीयल्स (officials) के कबजे में थीं बात हुई? मान लीजिये कि दो हजार नहीं भी थीं, पांच सौ थीं, चार सौ थीं, दो सौ थीं, उन के साथ पाकिस्तान गवर्नमेन्ट ने क्या किया? अगर वह हमारे साथ कोआपरेट करते हैं तो उन को एक कलम ऐसे लोगों को बखास्त कर देना चाहिये जो कि अगर वह यह सुनूत देना चाहते हैं कि वह हमसे कोआपरेट करते हैं। मैं तो इस हद तक जाने को तैयार हूं कि

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

अगर वह अपना फर्ज अदा नहीं करते तो भी हम अपना फर्ज अदा करते चले जायेंगे लेकिन मैं चन्दा साहब से दर्शावित करता हूँ जिन को कि ज्यादा हालात मालूम है कि आप यह करार तो न दें कि दरबसल पाकिस्तान वालों ने कोआपरेशन किया है। जो कुछ उन्होंने किया है मैं उस में जाने के लिये तैयार नहीं हूँ लेकिन मुझे मालूम है कि कई ऐसे पाकिस्तान के इलाके थे जहां कि हमारे आदमियों को जाने की भी इजाजत नहीं थी। पोलिटिकल रीजन्स के मातहत कहा जाता था कि वहां हमारे लोग जा नहीं सकते और औरतों को रिक्विर नहीं कर सकते। मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि छः बरस जो यह काम किया गया उस में यह था कि जितने लोगों के कल्ज हम को मिल जाते थे और वह इन्कामेंशन हम दे देते थे, लेकिन यह बात शुरू के मरहले पर ही दोनों गवर्नमेन्टों को मदद देती थी। क्या वजह है कि पिछले साल हमारे यहां से ११६२ औरतें गई थीं और इस बार नम्बर दो हजार से ज्यादा हो गया और क्या वजह है कि वहां से ४७४ औरतें पिछले साल आईं और इस साल यह नम्बर ३२४ रह गया। मुझे इन किंगर्स से मालूम होता है कि दरबसल कोई रियल कोशिश पाकिस्तान में नहीं की जाती है कि यहां की औरतें वहां से लाई जायें। जनाब वाला, मुझे कहने की ज़रूरत नहीं है, हर एक मेम्बर का इस हाउस में यह फर्ज है और वह यह चाहता है कि एक औरत भी पाकिस्तान में ऐसी न रहे जो कि हिन्दुस्तान आना चाहती हो और जिस के रास्ते में ऐडक्ट्स ने रुकावटें डाली हैं। लेकिन यह चीज, जैसे कि हम चाहते हैं, उस तरफ से नहीं हो रही है, हम इस को छिपाना नहीं चाहते। हमारे दिल

मज़रह हैं, हमें कभी तसली नहीं होगी, हमारी जेनरेशन्स कभी भी माफ नहीं करेंगी ऐसे लोगों को जिन्होंने हिन्दुस्तान के साथ यह सलूक किया है।

मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर मिनिस्ट्री हमारा दिली कोआपरेशन चाहती है तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि उसके अन्दर जितना जोर है वह उसको पाकिस्तान की गवर्नमेन्ट पर उन औरतों को वापस लाने के लिए डालें। जहां तक हमारी मुसलमान बहिनों का सवाल है हम चाहते हैं, और हममें से हर एक का यह फर्ज है कि हम उनको वापिस कर दें। हम नहीं चाहते कि हम इस बिल को सिर्फ १५ महीने के वास्ते ही और रखते। हम तो यह चाहते हैं कि जब तक एक भी औरत वापस लाने को है तब तक के लिए यह इन्तिजाम परमानेंट कर दिया जाय। यह डिपार्टमेंट, हम जानते हैं, बहुत अरमे तक नहीं चल सकता। ज्यों ज्यों वक्त गुजरता जायगा इसकी अहमियत कम होती जायगी। लेकिन जो औरतें वहां रह गई हैं उनको वापस लाने के लिये कोई परमानेंट इन्तिजाम होना चाहिए। कौन नहीं जानता कि काश्मीरी औरतों के साथ उन बूट्स ने क्या क्या सलूक किया और उनको किस तरह से ले जाकर बेचा गया इसको हर एक शख्स जानता है। इन पुरानी बातों को याद करके हमारे रोंगटे खड़े हो जाते हैं। अगर आप हमारा दिली कोआपरेशन चाहते हैं तो हम चाहते हैं कि हमारी गवर्नमेन्ट पाकिस्तान की गवर्नमेन्ट पर पूरा प्रेशर डाले कि जितना उनके अस्तियार में है वह कोशिश करें और उन तमाम औरतों को वापस करने में कोई तरीका बाकी न रहें। इन

अल्काज़ के साथ में इस बिल को सपोर्ट करता हूँ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would request hon. Members to be as brief as possible, as I intend calling upon the hon. Minister at about 6-30 or 6-35 P.M. so that we may finish the Bill today.

Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla): I submit that some of those who have some experience and intimate knowledge of this matter may be given the opportunity of making their contribution to the discussion on the Bill.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I suggest that the reply may be given tomorrow.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): I hesitate to speak on this particular Bill, because it is a very intricate and complex problem. We have not only to bring to bear the human aspect when we discuss the Bill, but we should remember the political implications behind it. It is not just an ordinary case of abduction. The political frenzy in which the abduction took place has to be taken into consideration. It is not a thing of the past, but even today, the political relations between Pakistan and India determine the rate at which we can succeed in getting back our women from Pakistan and send back their women from here. The political feelings underlying many of the speeches have been quite clear and we cannot get away from the political implications of the Bill. At the same time, it raises a very serious human problem also. In the course of the debate very serious charges have been made about the machinery of Government and many of us know how Governmental machinery functions. We have seen cases of persons disappearing after they have been taken to jail. Here in the two thousand odd cases of women who have been recovered, there have been 24 cases cited by Sardar Hukam Singh in which actually force has been used and that is certainly a thing which we must look into. When there have been such a large number recovered, certainly there is a case for continuing

the recovery work, but at the same time I must say that there is something wrong in the Government machinery. Member after Member has got up here and cited case after case of women having been taken away forcibly and uprooted from their surroundings. The question is what are we to do in the circumstances? The main deciding factor is the woman's volition, and how are we to do that? The question that arises is—can she utilise to the full her volition within the surroundings she lives? Even in ordinary cases of abduction, this is not possible. Therefore, we should bring her to a camp, and in this way she may be enabled to utilise her volition to a fuller extent. But I think there must be a time limit during which the explanations will take place. The woman must know that she is going to a camp for a limited time and it must be explained to her that she will be given every opportunity to meet her people on the other side, and after this is done, she will be in a position to make her choice between going back to her old surroundings or remaining in the new home that she has built up. This is the only basis on which the whole thing can function.

Now there is the question of the children. As a mother I have naturally thought over this matter very deeply. It is true that many of these women had children. Now they had other children earlier to abduction too. Now, why is it, as could be gathered from the figures given by the hon. Minister, that a large percentage of these women prefer to leave their children behind? Certainly I can understand it. It is because they are afraid of society. Secondly, which man will not be prepared to bear the burden of another man's children? Therefore, the children often remain back. But if as Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava pointed out, the children also automatically come under the purview of the Act, and are termed "abducted" it is a matter that has to be reviewed. These children are automatically snatched away from their father. The mother is unwilling to

[Shrimati Renu Chakravarty]

take them with her. The result is that the children are neither with their father nor with their mother. That, I think, is a very unfortunate position. The worst of it is that the child is left an orphan in a camp although it has a father living.

Lastly, Sir, I do feel that the whole system in which this matter is working should be reviewed. I do not deny for a moment the necessity of having some kind of a machinery for the recovery of women. But the machinery has come under fire again and again. Many of the charges made against it are very serious with the result that I think the whole thing has to be really reviewed. I would in this connection bring to the notice of the House the constitution of the tribunal. It is composed of two Superintendents of Police, one from Pakistan and the other from India. Now, Sir, I for one can never believe that such a Tribunal can do justice. A tribunal of this nature has to be constituted of people who have experience of dealing with human and psychological cases, with cases that need sympathy, and the police are the last persons who can do it. It is absolutely necessary that we must bring in a few women, and even men, who have experience in social matters and associate them with the work of the Tribunal, not leave it to the final verdict of two Superintendents of Police on either side.

In regard to these camps, we must see that the atmosphere there is healthy and homely. No compulsion should be thought of. It is a fantastic position. Member after Member has pointed out instances of compulsion in these camps. I myself have not visited any of these camps, though I would certainly like to do so. It is this compulsion against which we are fighting. I do not want any decision to be taken in an atmosphere of compulsion. What is the sense of uprooting them from their new homes, if they are going to be subjected to compulsion even in camps?

On principle no one can object to this Bill. But we must very seriously review the working of this measure, especially the anomalies that are brought about in the matter of the separation of the children. Of course, this contingency was not foreseen at the time the original measure was passed. So, though I would not object to the life of this measure being extended, I definitely think that the whole thing has to be reviewed. Without that, I think any further extension will not be desirable.

Shri Tek Chand: Mr. Chairman, I am willing to concede that no lapse or passage of time can obliterate from the tablet of human memory the gory spectacle that was witnessed and suffered seven years ago. I am also aware of the important human tendency that time is a great healer and the wounds howsoever severe, are healed by passage of time. These wounds take a long time for obliteration. In these circumstances, people who are uprooted once, if they have struck roots for the second time, do not like to be uprooted for the second time. In the case of these women who were unfortunately abducted or who fell a victim to certain temptations and whose relations are on the other side of the country, they have stayed here; they have found homes and in most cases happy homes;—they have borne children and it is not morality to tear them from the new homes; it is not morality to snatch away these children, bundle them together and send them across the border. I have known an instance personally and professionally where I have seen the father is crying; the mother is crying; the children are crying; they are all begging to remain together: yet the police, unfeeling and unmoved, is simply tearing them away. Is this morality? I have known instances where they beg and implore in the High Court but after the judgment of the Punjab High Court was reversed, the High Court is wringing its hands helplessly. The High Court has been made impotent even to declare whether

a person, falls within the category of abducted person or not. What is the nature, what is the conduct of the enquiry? I do not doubt the motives of the high officers; I am even willing to pay compliments to the deserving personnel who had gone in the remote parts of Pakistan and brought them back; all honour to them; all credit to them. But, I do not subscribe to the method, the policy and the procedure that goes on. Informers are engaged; out of temptation or out of hostility or party factions they lodge the information. I know of at least one case in my constituency, about the facts of which I am aware personally as well as professionally where there was a Muslim lady—elderly lady. She had a young daughter and she has a son and they were the local Muslims who had remained in this part. Because some non-Muslim had an improper eye on the young lady and wanted her, and the brother declined and refused, to give his sister away. It was stated that she was an abducted person and a curious thing happened. The mother was taken away from the home of her grown up son, the mother and the daughter and the small children were whisked away as if they had been abducted; as if the Muslim mother had been abducted by the Muslim son, they were whisked away and sent to Jullundur. We went to the Punjab High Court and said: You should look at the definition of an "abducted person"; how can a mother be treated as an abducted person in the house of her own Muslim son? The High Court said that because of the rigours of the law, because of the rigours of the interpretation of this Act, they have been made incompetent to sit in judgment over that matter and held it was for the officials to decide whether she was an "abducted person" or not; it was not within the ambit of their jurisdiction. The case was so shocking: the Muslim son wanted his Muslim mother, they had no relations in Pakistan; they were Muslims of this place. I had to interest some of the distinguished and hon. Members and it was after considerable difficulty that the Muslim mother was restored to her Muslim

child here and was not thrown away across the border. This is only one instance where things have been happening regardless of the motives and the objectives of the spirit of the Act. They are relying upon informers. You know very well, Sir, what class of people these informers are and what impels them to lodge informations.

On both sides they talk of morality. And what is morality? Pray, examine it. Morality in the case of a grown-up woman who is married is what is her independent, uninfluenced, unintimidated wish in the matter. Remove coercion, remove pressure, do not frighten the poor woman by your uniformed police, by your bayonets, by your concentration camps. Get her independent opinion. And in the case of a woman who has been living in this country for the last seven years, who has been bearing children to her husband, the only legal presumption—almost conclusive presumption—should be that she is living voluntarily and wants to live among her family, with her flesh and blood, in this country. That should be the presumption with which they ought to start. But what is it that you find? There are the children, there is the husband, there is everybody. They want to live together. You tear them asunder in the name of morality.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may kindly state the point.

Shri Tek Chand: My point is this, that two formulae I wish to place for the kind consideration of those who are called upon to administer this very delicate and difficult task. In the case of majors the yardstick should be their express wish; in the case of minors the yardstick should be their welfare. Therefore you have got to ascertain in such a case what are the wishes of that woman. And in assisting her to express her wishes let her come into contact with her relations in Pakistan, let her come into contact with her relations here, and let her consider her position coolly, calmly and dispassionately without the arm of the law being there in the concen-

[Shri Tek Chand]

tration camp. That is one suggestion I wish to make.

In the case of a woman with children the presumption should be that her wish is to stay in the place where the children had been born; and therefore make certain that though she has been bearing the children to the man, she really wants to leave him.

Then the question arises where the children should go. I would ask the Government, ransack all books on private international law and you will find that nationality goes with the birth in the territory. They are, according to our Constitution, the citizens of this country. What right have you to throw them beyond our borders? They are your citizens and they have a right to stay here. If they have committed any crime or offence, the only place to house them is the jails in this country. You cannot throw them across your borders—which you have been doing. That is not international law. That is unconstitutional. My suggestion with regard to the children is therefore this. I can understand a suckling baby, a small child in arms, needing the protection of the mother going along with the mother who after cool, dispassionate and deliberate consideration has come to the conclusion that she would rather stay with her relations in Pakistan. But so far as children of the Indian father are concerned, they are also his flesh and blood, and if they are not of suckling age but are, say, five years, then the father can look after them. This is a curious law containing a most artificial definition that the children who were unborn, who were un-conceived at the time of the abduction of the mother, are to be deemed as if they had been abducted. One can even understand a child in its mother's womb being regarded as having been abducted. But I cannot consider a child born some years after the alleged abduction to be treated as an abducted child. This, I submit, is a violation of the language, violation of the law, violation both of the letter of the law

and of the spirit of the law. Everybody has been talking of human approach. Human approach, I submit, is the wish of the major and the welfare of the minor. With this yardstick apply the law and you will find that a vast majority of those whom you are treating as abducted persons and whom you are thinking of transferring as if they were transferable chattel, in their heart of hearts they want to stay in the country, with the people with whom they have created ties of blood, ties of affection, ties of protection and ties of shelter.

Therefore, I pray let this law remain on the Statute Book, if it must, for a year, but remember, it should be treated in the case of those who have borne children and who are grown up, as if it were a dead letter. It is only to be utilised in those very rare and exceptional cases where, as a result of some intimidation, coercion or some diabolical influence, a woman, against her wishes, against her will, is being kept and in no other case should this law be enforced.

I am grateful to you, Sir, for this opportunity given to me.

Shri Gidwani (Thana) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary to speak any more on this, unless the hon. Member has got some very important points?

Shri Gidwani: Sir, I do not want to repeat what has been already said. I only want to suggest something. Just as the Government has recently appointed a committee which is to inquire into the working of infirmaries and widow-homes, so there should be a committee attached to this Department, composed of members who have been doing social work, because it has been conclusively proved from every section of this House—people who are wedded to the Congress, who are loyal to the Congress, in their speech have shown—that this machinery is not worked in a human way. It is working absolutely in a dangerous way and has done more harm than

good in many respects. So, this machinery must be scrapped, ended or mended. This is my first suggestion.

My second suggestion is that we are voting every year Rs. 10 lakhs. Last session I had put a question as to how many vehicles this organisation had and I was told that there were twenty-two vehicles—motor cars, station wagons and jeeps. I do not know for what purpose they are being used. I am aware,—you will excuse me, Sir,—that these staff cars in many departments are being used for picnics. Whether these vehicles are also being used for picnics and parties is the question. I want to know whether the money is being utilised properly for the purpose for which it is granted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is there no audit of these accounts?

Shri Gidwani: No, Sir. It is a department by itself. It was under a "super" Minister. I do not know whether the accounts were properly audited. I have no knowledge of it. But, this was the reply officially given to me. Therefore, I would suggest to the Minister that he should give a definite reply. I do not want to take his time. I want him to give us a definite assurance that in spite of this wretched law, the law would be administered as stated by the Prime Minister, that no woman shall be sent to Pakistan against her will, and that she shall be given enough opportunity to meet her relatives. I have also gone to Jullundur Camp where I saw babes in cradles, but the mothers had gone to Pakistan. I feel it is a very trying affair for the mother to leave her baby and go to Pakistan. But, that has been happening.

It is the first time that so many Members have spoken and expressed their opinion freely. Particularly I congratulate my Congress friends. After all it is they who are responsible for all that is being done and they could have brought this matter in their party meetings.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Do not malign the Congress Members by

congratulating them. They have always been doing their duty and are outspoken.

Shri Gidwani: At least on this occasion, very well, something was done. I hope the hon. Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh will give us a definite and categorical assurance that the same thing shall not be repeated, and that this organisation which deserves condemnation from every part of this House will either be mended or ended.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I admit at the outset that it is a complicated problem and the reactions which have been thrown out by the different hon. Members are such that no one can say in a dogmatic manner as to what is correct and what is incorrect. I do not propose to adopt that line. The problem was a peculiar one, and peculiar problems when viewed with an ordinary background and ordinary approach, are likely to result in a state of confusion. But, I am glad to note that there is almost unanimity of opinion on the question of the continuance of the recovery work, with modifications, of course. I am also glad to note that different sections of the House are in favour of approaching the problem not as a political problem. There may be political repercussions as pointed out by the hon. Lady Member from Bengal. But, our approach has to be human and moral. There has been difference of opinion as to what is the outcome of that human or moral approach and what will be the resultant effect of that approach. Some Members, viewing the question on the basis of that human and moral approach, have come to one conclusion and another set of Members have arrived at a different conclusion. If it were a case of an ordinary nature, it could have been said with a certain amount of confidence as to what is the correct yardstick by which it should be judged. But, the whole thing took place in a manner for which there is no precedent in history. Therefore, the normal concepts of legalistic approach will not yield any suitable

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

reply, not at least the correct and practical reply. Most of the criticism has been levelled against the organisation by picking out cases and by citing difficult cases. In a work of this nature, it will be very difficult for any one to say that all the cases have been handled in a proper manner. There may be mistakes; I cannot say that there has been no mistake. But, I would beg this hon. House to remember the extent of the problem and the amount of work done and then in the light of that volume of work, to judge the number of mistakes or the number of hard and difficult cases that have been cited.

I would, through you, Sir, like to remind the hon. House that with regard to the year in question, after this House discussed the question of extension last year, only one solitary case has been cited—the Alwar case which has been cited by my Barrister friend from Rajasthan. There was hardly any necessity to import all the heat for citing one case. Even that one case has not yet been decided and I may assure the House that that case will also be decided in consonance with the principles which were enunciated this afternoon by the Prime Minister. Besides that case, no other case has been cited which might have occurred during the whole of last year. Earlier cases have been mentioned. But, I would submit that when we are considering the question of extension, we need not go far back. We have to judge in the light of what is happening and what has happened in the near past.

Sardar Wukam Singh: I have to submit that I did not cite all the cases one by one. All of them occurred during 1953. I can pass them on to the hon. Minister.

Sardar Swaran Singh: There are always cases in which there may be one aspect and when they are scrutinised the result may be entirely different, but for obvious reasons I cannot go into individual cases. I will give a figure at this stage which will

show that the charge that as soon as a person is recovered and is taken charge of and sent to a home, transmission of that person to Pakistan is more or less automatic, is not correct. This contention or this allegation will be amply refuted.

Shri S. S. More: How?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am giving the figure, if the hon. Member will be a little patient.

I gave the figure of the persons who were actually sent across during the year 1953. Now, besides those persons who were sent across, as many as 326 persons were restored to relatives in India during the year 1953 after recovery, that is, they were not sent across. When we compare this with the figure of about 2,000 being the number of persons who were sent across, this does represent about half the number sent across. It represents that body of persons who, after recovery and after enquiry and after investigation, were not sent across but were either set free or restored to their own relations here. Therefore, it cannot be said as was argued in certain quarters that the act of recovery automatically results in the imprisonment, so to say, of that person and she is automatically sent across. That is not correct.

I also gave this afternoon certain figures relating to the children which indicated that a very large number of children were not actually taken across, but were left behind. I will separately come to this question of children. At this stage, all that I wanted to say was that this allegation which has been levelled from certain quarters is incorrect, viz., that a person after recovery is under duress or certain influences are made to work and an atmosphere is created in which there is no option left for the person concerned except to go across. That I would submit is not the correct position. And after the categorical statement made by the Prime Minister himself this afternoon

in this House no doubt should have been left in any quarter that these cases would be treated in accordance with the policy which has been enunciated by the hon. Prime Minister.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Is there any time-limit for the stay in the camp?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That question of the stay in the camp is a bit difficult to decide, because there are always two points. On the one hand it is said that she should not be permitted to stay for less than a particular period for an obvious reason, viz., she should be there long enough for an atmosphere to be created in which she can express her will after getting into touch with her relatives and after having had opportunities of getting the whole thing explained by social workers. That is, there is always a minimum time-limit. There should also be a certain maximum time-limit so that within that time some decision should be taken with regard to that woman. Steps will now be taken to settle some broad time-limits. There are already some informal understandings on that point and some arrangement according to which they are not detained for a very long time. They will be expected to express their desire after being kept there for a certain maximum number of days. Perhaps it will also be a good arrangement if that will is ascertained not immediately after the recovery, but after that person is kept in a neutral, friendly atmosphere for some time—a minimum number of days—and after social workers have had time to contact that abducted person and after opportunity had been given for the relatives to meet her.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: There is nothing like a specified minimum time?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He said there is a time-limit.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Obviously, this is a matter of detail which cannot be put in the body of the Bill, but

if there is any suggestion on that point. I would beg the hon. Members to weigh this in their own minds. It is not a point upon which any suggestion can be made off-hand, that it should be 15 or 20 or 30 days, but something rough could be there. At the moment our arrangement is that even after the decision by the Tribunal, the woman is not moved across for another 15 days so that if anybody else has got any application to make or any revision petition to file, there should be some opportunity given for that. That is the time-limit within which we are working. But that obviously does not indicate the maximum time for which these abducted persons are kept in these camps, before their will is ascertained. However, I personally do not hold strong views on this point. If any suggestions could be given on this question of the period for which they should be kept in these camps, they would be most welcome, particularly from the lady Members of this House, because their advice will be of great value in determining what should be the approach to this problem.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: What about our advice?

Sardar Hukam Singh: Not from Shri P. N. Rajabhoj.

Shri Gidwani: What about removing the police atmosphere?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am presently coming to that point. It has been suggested that the approach and the atmosphere right from the time of recovery up to the time of the disposal of the case, should not be official and there should not be any police atmosphere. I entirely agree with that proposition. But so far as the presence of the police, and their utilisation for recovery and guarding purposes are concerned, obviously we have to employ that agency, but so far as the camp is concerned, the atmosphere there is not police-ridden, and should not be police-ridden. And I am particularly in favour of some social workers, particularly lady workers, being associated with this work, so

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

that they can have ample opportunities to remove the complexes and psychological fears that might have been created. I am prepared to go even a step further and say that even in regard to the disposal of the cases, the Tribunal should have at its disposal, the advice of social workers, in some form or other, either in the form of advisers or in the form of assessors or in some other form; the advice of the social workers of both the countries could be made available to the Tribunal, so that the Tribunal can come to a decision after hearing their advice, in an equitable and proper manner.

I shall take only a few minutes with regard to the children. The problem is difficult and the legalistic approach which has been put forward from one or two quarters about citizenship, birth etc., I am afraid, is not tenable.

Shri S. S. More: Why?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is not tenable, because these very points have already been urged in the High Court, and the High Court had held that they are invalid. That is my legalistic reply. But I am prepared to approach this problem, not from a legalistic or narrow angle, but from a human angle.

Shri S. S. More: But why have you ousted the jurisdiction of the High Courts?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am not yielding.

Shri S. S. More: I am not challenging the particular hon. Minister, but the original Act which is sought to be extended now. I am asking this as a lawyer. As my hon. friend Shri Tek Chand has stated from his own personal experience, the courts have felt incompetent to go into these matters. I want to know why their jurisdiction has been ousted.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Although it is very tempting for me to argue the legal aspect, yet on this particular occasion, I must resist that temptation,

because the High Court went into this question, and came to the conclusion that the Act is *intra vires*, and that is an end of it. But this legalistic question apart, if there is any point worth considering, from a human and social point of view, from the point of view of the welfare of the children as the guiding principle....

Shri S. S. More: May I make one submission?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am not giving way.

Shri S. S. More: Our anxiety is to safeguard the constitutional legalistic approach.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. All these points have already been urged either by the one side or the other. What is the new explanation that is required? Let lawyers keep quiet. (Interruptions).

Sardar Swaran Singh: I was saying that so far as the children are concerned, the figures given by me do indicate that a fairly large number of children are actually left behind. That perhaps answers the point which was made by my learned friend Shri Tek Chand. He himself was in doubt as to what should be done with regard to the children and he was trying to find some sort of different formulae about a suckling child who is in the lap of the mother and a child who has grown up. I am only reminding him through you, so that the complexity of the situation might be fully appreciated by this House that it is very difficult really to give any set formula. Broadly speaking, the welfare of the child should be the guiding principle and we propose to implement it. The welfare of the child will be the deciding factor in these cases. Therefore, the custody of the child, or its being sent across, is the point at issue. Whether you define that child as an abducted child or otherwise, that is the child about whom I am making my submission. I must refute with the utmost emphasis at my command the allegations that have been made against

Miss Mridula Sarabhai and also certain other social workers. The task that was being done was a very difficult and delicate task and regard being had to the number with which we are concerned, it is really unfair that allegations of that nature should be made, particularly against a person, on the floor of the House, who has not got the opportunity to refute those allegations. I want to place on record the appreciation of the Government for the splendid work done by her and by that large band of selfless social workers, most of whom are lady workers who have done this work at considerable risk and at considerable unpopularity. But I have no doubt in my mind that when these superficial approaches are gone and when we are restored to our normal way of thinking, posterity will remember this band of selfless workers with a deep debt of gratitude.

I have answered almost all the points that have been raised. I have purposely omitted to mention some of the small points, particularly something which was said about the staff and about the amount of expenditure. This point is constantly under review and no one will be more anxious than myself if, after going into that, it is found that either the transport is superfluous or any of the employees are superfluous—whether they are permanent Government servants or otherwise—we will take every step to ensure that not a pie more is spent than is absolutely necessary. With these words, I would commend this Bill for acceptance by the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the *Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Act, 1949*, as passed by the Council of States, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 and 2 were added to the Bill.

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

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I want to make one submission.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will call upon Shri Chavda.

Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Merely because an hon. Member stands up and makes a request, until I call upon him to speak, he ought not to speak. I have no particular antipathy towards the hon. Member. But the other hon. Member has not spoken at all.

Now the hon. Member, Shri Chavda. The speech should be short and swift. It is already 7-5.

ओं चावदा (बनस्कंठा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे इस समय बोलने का मौका दिया। इस बिल के बारे में बहुत साफसाफ बातें हो गयी हैं। उसकी चर्चा में मैं बहुत ज्यादा नहीं जाना चाहता। मैं ने आंकड़े देखे हैं। हमारे यहां से जो बहिनें भेजी गयी हैं और पाकिस्तान से जो बहिनें यहां लायी गयी हैं उन आंकड़ों को देखने के बाद दिल में यह बात आये बगैर नहीं रहती कि पाकिस्तान ने हमारे साथ जैसा व्यवहार करना चाहिए नहीं किया। मैं ने यह भी सुना कि यह भी जाहिर हुआ था कि वहां की मिनिस्ट्री के कुछ अफसरों के पास भी दो हजार के करीब बहिनें हैं। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान गवर्नरमेंट को इसका पता जरूर होना चाहिए और अगर पता है तो शायद वह जानबूझ कर के इन बहिनों को नहीं भेज रहा है और हमारे साथ कोआपरेशन नहीं कर रहा है। इसलिए मैं सोच रहा हूँ कि हम जो इस

[श्री चावदा]

बिल की मुद्रित एक साल और बढ़ा रहे हैं इस दरमियान में शायद पाकिस्तान समझे और हमने जितना भलाई का व्यवहार उनके साथ किया है वैसा ही व्यवहार वह भी हमारे साथ करे और हमारी जितनी बहिनें वहां हैं उनको वापस आने का मौका दे। मैं आज के मौके पर साफ कह देना चाहता हूं कि मेरे दिल में यह बात बिल्कुल साफ हो गयी है कि पाकिस्तान जानबूझ कर के जो बहिनें पास्कितान में हैं उनको वापस देना नहीं चाह रहा है। सरकार का तो यह काम है कि वह कहे कि वह हमारे साथ कोआपपरेशन कर रहे हैं। सरकारों का यह तरीका होता है। इसमें कोई शक नहीं कि हमारी बहुत सी बहिनें वहां हैं और अगर वह वापस नहीं आयीं तो हमें हर रोज के व्यवहार में पाकिस्तान के साथ डर रहेगा और अगर यह बहिनें वापस नहीं आतीं तो पाकिस्तान की सरकार पर कलंक रहेगा।

यहां कुछ मृदुला बहिन के बारे में और एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के बारे में कहा गया। जहां तक मृदुला बहिन का सवाल है, मैं उनको जानता हूं। उन्होंने अपना सारा जीवन बहिनों की भलाई के लिए ही लगा दिया है। और उनके विश्व जो कुछ कहा गया है उसको मिनिस्टर सम्हब ने रिक्यूट भी किया है। जो काम इस आरगेनाइजेशन ने किया है शायद वह हमारे एवडमिन के इतिहास में एक मर चोड़ हो बर रह जायगा। यह काम ऐसा हुआ है कि इस की वजह से हम हमेशा अपना सर ऊंचा रख सकेंगे।

कुछ भूलें जरूर हुई होंगी, लेकिन उन भूलों को देखते हुए भी काम अच्छा हुआ है। पाकिस्तान ने हमारे साथ अच्छा व्यवहार

नहीं किया, यह में कबूल करता हूं, लेकिन इसलिये कि कोई हमारे साथ बुराई करता है, हम उस के साथ बुराई नहीं कर सकते, क्योंकि हम तो भलाई करना चाहते हैं।

तो मैं इस मौके पर मृदुला साराभाई बहन को और उन के साथ जो आरगेनाइजेशन ने काम किया है, उस को मुबारकबादी देता हूं कि उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा काम किया है और आपन्दा के लिये उम्मीद है कि जो वक्त मिला है उस में वह इतना अच्छा काम करेगा कि हमें दोबारा इस तरह के बिल को लाने का मौका न मिले। मैं आप का आभारी हूं कि आप ने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया।

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Normally, I expect hon. Members would not intervene in every debate. The hon. Member is doing it.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am sorry, I do not want to speak when such a remark is made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not making any remark. There are certain persons who speak on every subject. When everything has been said on the subject, I did not expect the hon. Member to intervene in this. Ordinarily, he does not intervene in such matters. He has got a lot of other work. He has been contributing to the debates of this House in the matter of economics, in the matter of sericulture and other matters. Therefore, it is not denying the hon. Member any opportunity. The Chair knows that normally he is not taking part in such matters. There is no aspersion against the hon. Member. He is always alert, energetic, very enthusiastic and speaks well.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I very much regret what you have said.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even these remarks?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What you said before, that I am intervening in every debate, on every subject.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are five hundred Members. The hon. Member will bear with me; if all the 500 Members want to speak, shall I allow all of them to speak without exercising any discretion in this matter? Shall we sit all the 365 days? Unfortunately, we have only 365 days in the year. If every hon. Member stands up and says he has a right, I have also an equal right to say I cannot allow him. That is what I want to convey. There is no aspersion on the hon. Member in this particular matter.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am not questioning your right, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is getting up again and again and I am trying to close this at 7-15.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I very much regret the remark that I am intervening in every debate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as this Bill is concerned, I am yet to see what new points the hon. Member is going to add. We are in the third reading stage.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I know I am intervening in this debate at the third reading stage. I know the procedure of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Well, let us hear him.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to make one observation and it is this. This department was functioning under the External Affairs Ministry. Originally, this was under the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

Sardar Swaran Singh: It has always been under the External Affairs Ministry.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: This matter relates to the problem of

restoring women who were abducted at the time of partition. The Rehabilitation Ministry is dealing with the question of rehabilitating those persons who have left their homes in Pakistan.

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): That is a different question.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: This matter is very much related to the problem of rehabilitation.

An Hon. Member: Not at all.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I beg to submit that this function may as well be entrusted to the Rehabilitation Ministry and it is not necessary to continue this department under the External Affairs Ministry. That is my first submission.

Secondly, I want to know what are the reasons for removing the previous person from this department. No reason has been given so far either to the House or at any time....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the meaning of "previous person"?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This has no relevancy at the third reading stage, Sir.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: The removal of a person who was managing all these affairs previously....

Sardar Swaran Singh: Who says that? Who was removed?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I want the reasons for that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are now in the third reading stage. The hon. Member can advance reasons why the Bill ought not to be passed, and he need not ask why the person has been removed. Does he mean to say that because the person is removed, the Bill ought not to be passed?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I want to point out, Sir....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I want to point out that we are in the third reading stage. The hon. Member may say that

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

the Bill ought to be thrown into the waste-paper basket; he can advance arguments for that. But, because a person has not been put in charge of it, it is not a reason for throwing the Bill out.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I only want to show that the machinery has not been working properly and it has not been manned properly.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is not adding anything to the argument which will enable the House to come to one conclusion or the other.

The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The House then adjourned till Two of the Clock on Friday, the 26th February, 1954.
