



Wednesday,
26th November, 1952

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price Six Annas (*Inland*)
Price Two Shillings (*Foreign*)

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

781

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 26th November, 1952

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDIANS DISCHARGED FROM GOVERNMENT
OF BURMA SERVICES

***669. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether all the Indian Nationals discharged from services under the Government of Burma had been discharged on grounds of nationality?

(b) What is the number of such discharged persons absorbed under the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Practically all the Indian nationals who have been discharged, have been discharged on grounds of nationality.

(b) The exact figures are not readily available and it is not worth the time and labour involved to attempt to collect them. There were only 227 ex-Burma Government employees on the registers of the Employment Exchanges on 30-6-1952. From this it would appear that most of the discharged men have been re-employed in some capacity or the other, whether by Government or private bodies in India.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the Government aware of the number of persons who have been discharged on account of nationality?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have made enquiries from Burma sources but we have not yet got the number.

287 P.S.D.

Acc. No.....22982.....

Dated.....19.11.2014.....

782

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have any of them been retained in Burma Government service?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Those who chose to acquire Burmese nationality have been retained in service.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was it only their choice or were any conditions laid down? Was any representation made to the Burma Government in respect of persons who had lived there for more than 8 years before 1942?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have not got the details with me.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the result of that representation?

Mr. Speaker: Was any representation made to the Burma Government?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Not to our information, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Have the Government any information as to how many of these persons have taken to Burmese nationality?

Mr. Speaker: He has no knowledge and he has not even got the figures.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know, Sir, how many Indian nationals belonging to the Madras State have been discharged from service by the Burma Government?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have already said that details are not available.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Is the Government aware that the Government of Burma is now appointing Indian nationals to particular posts and has sent a mission recently to India for that purpose?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir; in particular they wanted doctors, and, I believe, a number of them have gone on contracts.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Are facilities being given by the Government to enable such persons to go to Burma and accept those appointments?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): When the Mission came, we co-operated with them in getting the doctors.

Mr. Speaker: This point was clarified before in this House.

SURPLUS DEFENCE STORES

***670. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) what was the value of the surplus defence stores disposed of by the Ministry during the year 1951-52 and during the period from 1st April 1952 up to date; and

(b) whether any of the items disposed of were controlled items among textiles, steel salvage and scrap?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) As regards the first part, I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply given to his Question No. 1520 on the 8th July, 1952.

The book value of surplus Defence Stores disposed of during the period from the 1st April, 1952 to the 31st October, 1952, is Rs. 4.83 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the total book value of the stores awaiting disposal just now?

Shri Buragohain: The total book value of surplus stores outstanding, including American surpluses and civil stores is 35.14 crores.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the amount of declarations of surplus during the last 12 months?

Shri Buragohain: I cannot give the figure for the past 12 months; but I can give for the whole of 1951-52. It was Rs. 15 crores. The book value of declarations for the period 1-4-52 to 31-10-52 is 3.77 crores.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is any separate account kept of the expenditure incurred in the maintenance of this Disposal Wing of the Supply Organisation?

Shri Buragohain: Yes, Sir, we have got a separate wing of the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether a separate account of expenditure for this wing is kept, and, if so, what was the expenditure incurred during this period?

Shri Buragohain: I should like to have notice of this question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What percentage of such surplus stores was sold by notified auction and what percentage by negotiated sales, Sir?

Shri Buragohain: I have not got these figures, Sir.

ARTICLES PRODUCED IN INDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

***671. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any new articles were produced in India for the first time during the last twelve months with the help and encouragement given by the Development Wing of the Ministry?

(b) If so, what were these items?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list of items is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 15]

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the amount of foreign exchange that we had to spend for the import of these articles in the previous year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Which articles, Sir?

Sardar Hukam Singh: Those that we are making here in India for the first time.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, the information is not available.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the amount of foreign exchange saved on account of the manufacture of these articles in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the hon. Member asked whether new articles were produced in India for the first time during the twelve months. The list is a very formidable one. The extent of the help that we have given varies with each particular commodity. I am afraid, Sir, that it would not be possible for me to collect the information which the hon. Member wants.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have any foreign concerns taken up manufacture of these articles for the first time or is it all Indian owned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not got it, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, what are the Commodities which have received government aid and to what extent Government has spent on them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot catch the question, Sir.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether the cost of production of these articles which are being manufactured since recently is cheaper than the cost of imported goods?

Mr. Speaker: It is a remotely related question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know, Sir, whether all these articles have been tested and found up to the mark or equal to the standard of the imported ones?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are two methods of testing quality. One is for the Alipore Test House test to be conducted. This is done invariably if Government is purchasing the articles manufactured for their stores requirements. For that every article has to go to the Alipore Test House to be tested. The other method is to lay down standards by the Indian Standards Institution and see whether the standards are being adhered to. We have furnished about 50 of these items and it is very difficult for me to say how many of them have been tested, what portion of the manufacture has been tested. It is a very omnibus question and I must plead incapacity to answer this question.

IMPORT OF USED CARS

***672. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to a supplementary question raised on starred question No. 1319 on the 30th June, 1952 regarding import of used cars and state the number of cars imported from dollar and soft currency areas in the year 1951-52 which were disposed of soon after their arrival?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Since there was no restriction on the sale of used cars imported as personal baggage from soft currency areas it is not possible to say how many such cars were disposed of soon after their arrival in India.

Used cars from dollar areas are allowed to be brought into India on the passenger executing a bond not to sell the car for a period of one year and to produce evidence within a month from the date of expiry of the one year period that the car was still in his possession. So far no case of violation of this Agreement has come to the notice of Government.

METALLURGICAL COAL

***673. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an upper limit of production of selected grades of metallurgical coal has been fixed; and

(b) if so, what is that limit and how is that going to be worked out?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes, for the years 1952 and 1953.

(b) 7.9 million tons in 1952 and 7.4 million tons in 1953. The Coal Board has fixed targets for individual collieries taking into consideration the production in 1950 and the anticipated normal production in 1952. For each colliery, or group of collieries under the same ownership or managing agency, the pegging of output will be regulated by the supply of wagons.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether after the fixation of this upper limit of production of metallurgical coal the collieries would be free to increase the production of lower grade coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The collieries have been given a certain latitude to switch over from the production of certain selected grades to other grades of coal for a certain period with defined limits.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government has assessed the number of coalminers who are likely to be retrenched as a result of the fixation of this upper limit?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Every care is being taken to fix the limit in such a way as not to involve any excessive retrenchment of labour.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how this upper limit compares with the usual production of metallurgical coal during the last few years?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot say how it compares with the production during the last few years, but compared to the 1950 figure the 1952 figure is 108 per cent. and the 1953 figure is expected to be the same as in 1950.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how the recommendations of the Metallurgical Coal Enquiry Committee have been implemented if the fact is that instead of decrease in consumption, in production there is an increase?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The recommendations of that Committee were accepted broadly by Government, but

in the process of actual implementation certain difficulties have come up, and taking all aspects into consideration the practical limit has now been fixed by Government.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know the basis on which the distribution of metallurgical coal is done and what are the criteria applied thereto?

Shri K. C. Reddy: A good part of this coal is intended for metallurgical purposes but even so some quantity will be left and that is mostly exported.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether Government collieries will be included in this arrangement?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the limit of production that has been fixed will affect the labour?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have already said that it would not affect the labour unduly.

ART SILK YARN (IMPORT QUOTA)

*674. **Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the import quota of art silk yarn for the latter half of the current financial year?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): For the July-December 1952 licensing period, licences will be granted for the import of artificial silk yarn to:

- (i) the three Art Silk Mills Associations in Bombay, Amritsar and Calcutta; and
- (ii) mills, manufacturing artificial silk cloth, which are not members of the above associations, on the basis of actual requirements as certified by the Director of Industries of the State concerned or the Textile Commissioner.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: What is the quantity of our actual annual requirements?

Shri Karmarkar: Our actual annual imports were as follows:—

1949-50	Rs. 10.46 crores worth
1950-51	14.71 -do-
1951-52	17.29 -do-

The average would be the average of these figures.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: What is the quantity of our indigenous production?

Shri Karmarkar: Indigenous production which has just started is expected to be of the order of 10 million lbs. out of 45 million lbs. required by us.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: May I know whether the art silk yarn that is imported from foreign countries is cheaper than the one that is produced here?

Shri Karmarkar: I could not say that offhand, but I think an attempt has been made to give a fair price to our indigenous yarn.

INDIANS IN FIJI

*675. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of Indians living in Fiji;

(b) whether the residential tax system has affected them adversely; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any representations in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) At the end of 1951, the total number of persons of Indian origin was approximately 1,43,000.

(b) and (c). The residential tax is levied on the entire non-Fijian population but those among them who pay income-tax can claim refund of the residential tax. As the majority of the Indians in Fiji do not pay income-tax, they are the main contributors to the revenue from the residential tax. Exemption from this tax is granted wherever it is likely to cause hardship. The tax was the subject of correspondence with the U.K. authorities in 1948 in which attention was drawn to the fact that the main burden of this form of taxation fell upon the Indians but the Government of Fiji expressed their inability, owing to financial circumstances of the colony, to dispense with it. However, they have stated that the number of exemptions granted has increased in recent years.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know what percentage of the Indian community staying in Fiji is paying this tax?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: As I stated, most of the Indians do not pay income-tax and therefore they are liable to pay this tax.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether there is a very good demand for Indian textiles among the Indians

in Fiji, and if so, are the Government giving any special facilities for the export of Indian textiles to Fiji?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Does this supplementary arise out of this question?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Shri Dabhi: Do the Indians living in Fiji enjoy full citizenship rights?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Those who have acquired citizenship do.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it a fact that the Indians in Fiji are under a disability with regard to holding of lands and they are prevented from owning lands there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I would like to have notice.

Shri Damodara Menon: Are the Indians who have acquired Fiji citizenship there subjected to this residential tax?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: This tax is levied on all, irrespective of their nationality of origin, if they do not pay income-tax.

Shri Nanadas: To what language group does the majority of the Indians in Fiji belong?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: Is there any Indian Government representative in Fiji?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have a Commissioner there.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: To what language group does he belong?

Mr. Speaker: I won't allow that question about language groups.

INDIAN EMIGRATION TO CANADA

*676. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how far Indians are permitted entry into Canada for permanent residence;

(b) whether Indians are allowed to acquire citizenship in Canada and if so, on what conditions; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to see that the proprietary interests of Indians residing in Canada are protected by the Government of Canada?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) According to the Agreement between the

Governments of Canada and India signed in January, 1951, 150 citizens of India will be admitted into Canada every year for permanent settlement provided they comply with the provisions of the Canadian Immigration Act. In addition to the above, husbands, wives or unmarried children under 21 years of age of a Canadian citizen are admitted for permanent residence provided that (i) they comply with provisions of the Canadian Immigration Act, and (ii) the settlement arrangements are shown to the Canadian authorities to be satisfactory.

(b) Yes, on complying with the requirements of Section 10(1) of the Canadian Citizenship Act, 1946. Copy of the relevant Section is placed on the Table. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 16]

(c) So far as the Government of India are aware, Indian citizens residing in Canada do not suffer from any disability in acquiring, holding or disposing of property. The question of protecting their proprietary interests does not, therefore, arise.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether it is the Government of India that selects these 150 people who are permitted entry every year into Canada?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No, Sir. The Canadian authorities do it.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether it is a fact that even now there are Indians permanently staying in Canada to whom franchise rights—municipal and federal—have not yet been granted?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have no information on this subject, but if they have not acquired the Canadian citizenship, obviously they cannot have the franchise rights.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether this agreement is for a specified period?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have no idea.

Pandit Lingaraj Misra: Does this number of 150 include minor children of a family?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Children under 21 years of age are allowed over and above the number of 150.

SHARK LIVER OIL

*677. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of Shark Liver Oil is produced in the country annually; and

(b) whether Government have considered the possibility of increasing the production of this oil?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Approximately 9,000 gallons.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: How does the Indian Shark Liver oil compare with imported Cod Liver oil in its content of Vitamins A and D?

Mr. Speaker: It is better that that question is put to some expert.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is any scheme for increasing the production of Cod Liver oil included in the Five Year Plan, and if so, what is the target contemplated by the Plan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let the Plan come. It is coming.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Are the Government aware of the fact that in certain laboratories shark liver oil is contaminated by adding other oils?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Not to my knowledge.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, the value of cod liver oil imported into this country for which shark liver oil could be used as a very effective substitute?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot say, Sir, whether shark liver oil could be used as an effective substitute for cod liver oil that is imported. I can give the House the figures of cod liver oil imports. They are:

1948-49	... 170 tons.
1949-50	... 260 tons.
1950-51	... 60 tons.

I am afraid I have not got the figures for 1951-52.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the price of imported cod liver oil, as compared with indigenous shark liver oil?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Unfortunately the way in which we keep our figures does not help my answering a question of this nature, because sometimes figures are kept in quantities and not in value. Oftentimes in this world of ours where prices fluctuate it is much better to keep figures in quantities rather than in value. At the moment I have not got the information.

Shri Punnose: May I know, Sir, whether the entire quantity of shark

liver oil produced, is produced in government laboratories or is it also done by private agencies?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid I have not got the break-up of figures.

Shri M. D. Joshi: May I know the centres at which shark liver oil is produced?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Bombay, Calicut and Trivandrum.

Shri Kelappan: Is there any export of shark liver oil and, if so, to what countries and how much?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: A very small quantity. In 1951 we sent 130 gallons to U.K., 10 gallons to Mauritius, 88 gallons to U.S.A., and a thousand gallons to Australia.

There have been no exports in 1952.

PREVENTION OF FLOODS

***678. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the area inundated by the recent floods in the River Jumna and in the floods in the State of Assam;

(b) the estimated value of crops destroyed; and

(c) whether Government have any plans under the Five Year Plan to prevent such disastrous floods which are recurring and if so, what are those plans?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Nearly 12,390 acres were inundated by the recent floods in the River Jumna in Delhi State and 10,000 square miles were inundated, particularly in the districts of Lakhimpur, Nowrang, Kumrup and Golpara in Assam, during July 1952 floods.

(b) The estimated value of crops destroyed in Delhi State is Rs. 3,80,300. About 3 to 4 per cent. of the total crop in Assam was damaged.

(c) No scheme has so far been finalised to prevent floods in Delhi State. It is, however, proposed to carry on surveys for the construction of floods preventing bunds along river Jumna, cleaning of old drains and digging of new drains, etc. As regards Assam, the schemes included in the Five Year Plan are:

(1) Protection of Dibrugarh town,

(2) Navigation, embankment and drainage projects.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know Sir, how many tenements were destroyed by these floods and how many people were rendered homeless?

Mr. Speaker: He refers to Delhi or Assam, or both?

Shri Hathi: I have not the figures available with me.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the estimated over-all losses on account of these floods?

Shri Hathi: So far as Delhi was concerned, the estimated loss to the crops was Rs. 3,80,600. So far as property was concerned, it was about Rs. 3,80,000.

For Assam the figures are not available.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is not the answer to my question. I asked information about the estimated over-all loss.

Mr. Speaker: He has supplied it, as far as it is available.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Am I to understand that the hon. Minister is not competent to give me an answer?

Mr. Speaker: It does not follow.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the fact that China has successfully prevented havoc due to floods, has the Government any proposal to send a team of flood control specialists to study the working of flood control in China?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a suggestion for action.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is not a suggestion for action. I asked whether there is any such proposal under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Speaker: He may ask it in any form. But the substance is—"look at China and see what they do."

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether any relief was given in the affected areas and if so to what extent?

Shri Hathi: Relief was given in the Delhi State as also in Assam. The extent of it I am not in a position to give now.

FIRING BY PAKISTAN FORCES ON INDIAN CAMP

*679. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the article published on page 3, column 2 of the

"Hindustan Standard", seventh dak Edition, dated the 25th August, 1952 under the caption "Pak Forces open fire on Indian camp. Villager kidnapped to extort secrecy"?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian nationals are still in the hands of Pakistani Forces?

(c) How many Indian nationals died by fire which was opened by Pakistani forces?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes. On the 5th and 6th July and the 17th August 1952, Pakistani forces fired altogether six rounds on the Indian outpost at Nilokhia on the Assam-East Bengal border. No Indian national was kidnapped from Indian territory, but a villager who had crossed the border to visit relatives was assaulted by Pakistani forces. An Indian constable who had by mistake strayed near the Pakistani outpost was assaulted in an attempt to extort information from him.

(b) The Indian nationals are reported to be in the custody of the district authorities.

(c) No Indian national died.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I suggest that this question and No. 684 standing in my name may be taken up together?

Mr. Speaker: Is it convenient for the Minister.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid these two questions relate to different subjects. One refers to East Pakistan and the other to West Pakistan.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know, how many times and in how many places Pakistan forces opened fire on Indian nationals?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is too vast a question, Sir.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India has protested to the Pakistan Government and if so what is the reply received from Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member refers to this particular incident.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The Government of Assam is in correspondence with the Government of East Bengal on this.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will Government please lay on the Table a copy of the reply when it is received from the Pakistan Government?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): In this case a citizen of India went to visit, as my colleague has said.

some of his relatives on the other side. It is in Pakistan territory and the Pakistan people assulted him. The person concerned was a Muslim, Sheikh Rahman and he had relatives in Pakistan. Now whatever happened was on Pakistan territory. The Pakistan Government's case is that somebody was trespassing on their territory, with illegal object, whatever it was. So that, the case is different from a case where our territory is invaded or trespassed upon.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that in view of repeated raids by Pakistan armed forces or Pakistani citizens on the Assam border, the Chief Minister of Assam has asked for the strengthening of the frontier guards?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure about frontier guards. But there is no doubt that the Chief Minister of Assam sometime back wanted to strengthen all frontier defences and steps were taken to that end.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it due to the fact that there have been repeated attacks on Indian territory from Pakistan and no effective steps have yet been devised to stop them?

Mr. Speaker: He is combining an inference with a question for information.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The strengthening of the frontier guards is due to a variety of factors, some of which the hon. Member himself has mentioned. Even otherwise we wanted to strengthen them anyhow for the future.

Dr. S. P. Mukherjee: Is there any friendly understanding between India and Pakistan that whenever such firings take place, either by India or Pakistan, none is injured on either side?

CYCLE FACTORIES

***680. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cycle factories in India on the 31st March, 1952 (State by State);
- (b) how many of these factories have newly been started;
- (c) whether any of the factories has been able to manufacture all parts;
- (d) if not, the smallest number of parts that a factory has to import to deliver a complete bicycle; and
- (e) whether India will become self-sufficient in cycles when all the factories existent in India start running at their full production capacity?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a)—

Bombay	...	1
Bihar	...	1
Madras	...	1
Punjab	...	1
West Bengal	...	2

Total: ... 6

(b) Four.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Three, namely free wheels, chains and spokes with nipples.

(e) It is expected we shall then reach a stage of near self-sufficiency.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the proposed Development Council for bicycles and parts and accessories thereof has been formed; if so, who has been nominated Chairman of the Council?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No Development Council has yet been constituted.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Do Government propose to constitute any such Council as was referred to recently by the hon. Minister in his address?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is the intention of Government.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether Government has banned the import of bicycles into India; if so, for what period?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The ban will lapse on the 31st December, 1952.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any factory has tried to manufacture free wheels, chains etc. in this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I believe there are people who do manufacture chains and free wheels; but the plant is not located in the bicycle assembling or manufacturing factories.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the other raw materials for this which are not available in our country and which are imported?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: One particular part which goes into the manufacture of a bicycle has to be imported—that is common to all factories—that is tubes which we do not make in this country.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether rubber parts are imported?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Not that I know of.

Shri Punnoose: Can the hon. Minister tell us what percentage of India's requirement of bicycles is produced by these factories either in whole or in parts?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, one factory has been producing almost to capacity. The other factories are in various stages of progress towards that end. At the present moment it is very difficult to say what percentage of our total requirements is produced. It may be that by the end of the year I might be able to answer a question of that nature.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the average number of Indian-made cycles purchased by Government for the purposes of the Government yearly; and what percentage does this purchase cover in the total requirements of cycles for the Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That question can be addressed to my colleague on my right at the proper time.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Sir, on a point of personal explanation. When I raised this point during the debate my hon. friend said that he had not got the information then. I thought he would be ready with the information now.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I do not know what the facts are.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the price of indigenous manufacture regulated by Government, or are the manufacturers free to sell them at any price?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member perhaps knows that we have no price control over bicycles at the moment.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know with how many of these factories foreign interest is connected, and how many are purely Indian concerns?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no information.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that in August last in the Industrial Development Committee's meeting the hon. Minister declared that Development Councils will be formed within one month for seven industries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, my memory is not as good as the hon. Member's. But the meeting of the Industries Advisory Council was, I think, on the 3rd of October, and not

in August. And I am afraid I was not so categorical in my statement that I could constitute a Development Council within one month, for the reason that I have to get the necessary staff for it and I am dependent on the Union Public Service Commission. If the hon. Member can tell me when the Union Public Service Commission would be able to select the staff for me I can also tell him when I can constitute the Council.

OCCUPATION OF INDIAN BORDER VILLAGE BY PAKISTAN POLICE

*684. **Shri T. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Pakistan Police and troops occupied certain villages on the Western border in September, 1952?

(b) What were the causes for the violation of the Indian territory by the Pakistan Officials?

(c) What is the position today?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No Indian village as such was occupied in September last by Pakistani Forces. On the 12th September, however, the Pakistani Border Police occupied an area of about 22 acres in the Indian village of Ranian in Amritsar District.

(b) The Pakistani authorities claimed ownership over the strip of land on the pretext that it had never been cultivated or used by Indian nationals ever since Partition and that their Border Police had been patrolling it regularly. It is true that this patch of land had not been cultivated in recent years, but there is no doubt about its being Indian territory.

(c) The matter is being discussed between the East and West Punjab authorities.

Shri T. N. Singh: According to the border as demarcated, may I know at how many places there are, or there is likelihood of, differences regarding border demarcation even today?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): At how many places, it is difficult to say. There are a number of places where there are continuing disputes, partly because of the want of demarcation, partly because the nullahs and rivers change their course somewhat. All this territory is uninhabited in the sense that there are no inhabited dwellings and sometimes it is uncultivated. Many of these dis-

putes arise about this uncultivated territory.

My hon. friend opposite talked about firing resulting in no casualties. There are two types of firing, if I may be permitted to point out. Sometimes of course there is what might be called a conflict where firing takes place between two groups, whatever they may be—small groups or big. But normally what happens is there is this uninhabited territory in-between and when somebody is seen to come the border patrol fires, not at him so much, as in the nature of a warning and either captures him or the person runs away. That sort of firing often takes place. The border patrol is trigger-happy or rather trigger-conscious and when they hear some rustling or some such thing they fire. That is one sort of firing. The other is the one which sometimes is deliberately done—which is more objectionable—which might cause occasional casualties.

Shri T. N. Singh: In view of the large number of such incidents, has either the Pakistan Government or the Government of India ever discussed any proposal for final demarcation of the territories?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, demarcation is taking place in many places.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it a fact that the area of land taken possession of by Pakistan on the ground that it was not cultivated, was not cultivated by our cultivators because of the fact that the Government of India which used to give protection to these cultivators later withdrew that protection?

Mr. Speaker: I think he is making a statement.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say, Sir, that normally speaking—I cannot speak of these 22 acres consisting, maybe, of jungle and all that—but normally speaking our cultivators cultivate right up to the border.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is there any barbed wire fencing?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no such demarcation.

Mr. Speaker: It is hundreds of miles.

GOODS PURCHASED FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

*685. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of indigenous goods purchased for Government departments during the first half of the year 1952-53; and

(b) the total value of foreign goods purchased during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) and (b). The value of goods purchased for Government Departments during the first half of the financial year 1952-53 is—

Indigenous Stores	Rs. 18.30 crores.
Foreign goods	Rs. 41.88 crores.

Shri B. K. Das: What are the principal items of indigenous and foreign goods purchased?

Shri Buragohain: The main types of foreign goods purchased during the period through the Central Purchase Organisation here are motor vehicles and parts, railway materials, machine tools, power plant, cables and wires, paper insulated power cables, paper insulated telephone cables and heavy chemicals. With regard to indigenous stores, they were jute and jute products, motor vehicles and parts, cement, paper and paper products, railway materials, machine tools, power plant, cables and wires and heavy chemicals.

Shri B. K. Das: Is there any particular item which has been purchased entirely from the indigenous goods?

Shri Buragohain: I should like to have notice of that question.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): May I add, Sir, that jute products and cement are the ones purchased entirely from indigenous sources?

Shri B. K. Das: What is the basis of the choice made as between indigenous and foreign goods?

Shri Buragohain: It is the policy of the Government to purchase indigenous products as far as possible provided they are of suitable quality and can be obtained at a reasonable price. Even where the price of the indigenous product is slightly higher than the price of the imported product preference as a rule is given to the Indian product, other things being equal.

Shri B. K. Das: Do I understand that price is the only consideration on which the purchase is made?

Shri Buragohain: Quality and the question of delivery are also considered among other things.

Shri B. K. Das: Are the purchases made through contractors or through the purchasing department of Government?

Shri Buragohain: By the Central Purchase Organisation of the Government.

Shri Dabhi: May we know the value of Khadi purchased by Government?

Shri Buragohain: I cannot say of Khadi but some handloom cloths are purchased through the Textile Commissioner.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: May I know, Sir, whether Government contractors are required to give an undertaking that they would give preference to Indian material?

Shri Buragohain: I do not follow.

Mr. Speaker: Whether Government contractors also are required to give an undertaking that they would give preference to Indian material?

Shri Buragohain: So far as contractors are concerned, there is no question of their giving an undertaking that they would give preference to Indian material because we, as purchasers, can always ensure that.

Mr. Speaker: Whether Government enforce it as a condition of the contract that the contractors will use only Indian made goods. That seems to be the point.

Shri Buragohain: That is the policy, Sir.

Shri Alfekar: May I know whether tenders are invited for the articles purchased?

Shri Buragohain: Yes, Sir. That is done.

SHIFTING OF OFFICES FROM DELHI

*686. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are investigating the possibility of shifting some of the offices at present situated in Delhi, to some other localities?

(b) Which offices are proposed to be shifted?

(c) Which are the new stations that have so far been selected?

(d) Will the new arrangement permanently cost Government extra expenditure and if so, what is the estimate?

(e) What would be the estimated cost of building etc., at the new stations?

(f) Will the Minister-in-charge of the department so shifted, also shift his headquarters from Delhi, or a skeleton department would be kept in the capital also?

(g) What will be the approximate number of employees that will be shifted out of Delhi under this scheme?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) It is proposed to shift such offices as are not integral parts of the Secretariats of the various Ministries and whose location outside Delhi is feasible. The selection of these offices has not yet been finalised. In the meantime, however, it has been decided to shift (1) Salt Commissioner's Office and (2) the office of the Director of Agricultural Marketing and Inspection. The office of the Narcotics Commissioner has already been shifted to Simla.

(c) Simla, Mt. Abu, Dalhousie, Mussoorie and Faridabad are among the probables.

(d) There will be some extra expenditure but the amount thereof would be capable of calculation after the decision to shift a particular office is firmly taken, depending upon the requirements of that particular office.

(e) It is not for the present proposed to construct new buildings at new stations.

(f) No. The Minister will not shift, nor will it be necessary to keep a skeleton Department in the Capital.

(g) This will depend on the offices proposed to be shifted.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the experience of keeping offices at the hill stations has not been encouraging in the past?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Opinions, Sir, differ on that point.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Will the Government see that residential accommodation to all its transferred employees is given and that the educational and other facilities that are available to its employees at Delhi will also be made available there?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Government will ensure that its employees are not worse off in the matter of residential accommodation or other facilities as a result of these shifts.

सेठ अचल सिंह: क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या आगरे के बारे में भी कोई विचार किया गया है, कि वहां कौन से आकिस जा सकते हैं?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is, Sir. a lot of congestion, if I know correctly, in Agra but if there is available accommodation, it cannot be ruled out.

ARREARS OF RENT FOR GOVERNMENT QUARTERS

*687. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a considerable amount of rent for Government residential quarters remains in arrears and if so, what is the amount of the same year-wise from 1947 up to date?

(b) What measures are being adopted to realize this rent?

(c) Have any dues been written off as unrealizable?

(d) What is the amount of such written-off debts?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) While there are arrears, they cannot be said to be considerable in relation to the total demand. A statement showing the amount of arrears outstanding as on 31.10.52 in respect of the years 1947-48 to 1951-52 relating to the civil residential pool of accommodation for Central Government servants in Delhi, Simla, Bombay and Calcutta is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 17].

The total arrears outstanding are only about 3.2 per cent. of the total demand for the period.

(b) Every item of arrears is continuously being followed up with a view to recovering the amounts outstanding from the individuals concerned working in various offices. There is a special Accounts Officer exclusively entrusted with this job in the Estate Office.

(c) and (d). Yes, for the years 1947-48 to 1951-52 an amount of about Rs. 34,000 has been written off. Much of this, however, is only a technical and accounting write off, as I understand that the rents of certain units were revised but could not be recovered retrospectively.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: From which class of persons mostly this amount is recoverable?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, I think all Government employees belong to one class.

AUCTION OF ASSAM TEA

*688. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what quantity of Assam tea was auctioned in Calcutta in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 both for internal and external consumption?

(b) Is it a fact that, on account of the recent re-grouping of North Eastern Railway, Assam tea can be carried to Kandala Port via, Katihar, Kanpur, Agra and Ahmedabad as this route consists of metre gauge Railways?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a)—

Assam tea auction in Calcutta

	1950-51	1951-52
Qty. in Chests	Qty. in Chests	
Export	1,087,868	1,149,055
Internal	91,098	34,044

(b) Yes.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is the Government aware of the fact that on account of the sale of Assam tea at Calcutta, the Government of Assam is losing a large sum of money in the shape of sales tax?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir, because the rule is that no sales tax be levied on exported tea and tea sent out; the State therefore is losing.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is it under the contemplation of Government to have one tea auction house in Gauhati in place of Calcutta?

Shri Karmarkar: I require notice.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is it not a fact that the transport cost from Assam to Kandala Port via Katihar is far less than through Calcutta?

Shri Karmarkar: Likely, because the distance is 1778 miles.

SYSTEM OF WEIGHT FOR IRON AND STEEL

*689. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have adopted British Avoirdupois weight as the standard system of weight for iron and steel?

(b) Is it also a fact that iron and steel are sold in Assam in Indian weight of maunds and seers?

(c) Why is this deviation in the case of Assam?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Because the general consumers of steel in that State are accustomed more to the Indian weights.

SALT (PRODUCTION AND EXPORT)

*690. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether Government propose to place on the Table of the House a statement showing the total production and export of salt from India for the last six months?

(b) How much has India earned out of this export during the above period?

(c) Are there prospects of our salt export expanding in the near future and if so, to which countries?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A statement showing the desired information pertaining to the period April-September 1952 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 18].

(b) About Rs. 45 lakhs.

(c) Yes, provided quality is improved. Japan offers the best prospects. Other markets also are being explored.

Shri Nanadas: According to the statement, we have exported nearly 37 lakh maunds to Japan during the last six months. May I know from which salt producing centres this quantity has been exported to Japan?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Mostly from the West Coast: Saurashtra, Kutch and a small quantity from Tuticorin.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what steps Government have taken to improve the quality of salt produced in Bombay and Madras States so as to make it fit for export to Japan?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Government have laid down that the quality of salt should be improved from year to year. During this year, the percentage of sodium chloride is fixed at 93 per cent, and for the next year at 94 per cent. Every possible facility is given to the salt industry to improve the quality of salt in all areas.

Shri Nanadas: May I know how the quality and standard of our salt compares with that of Aden salt,

and how the prices of our salt compare with those of Aden salt?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry I cannot give the information offhand here.

Shri Nanadas: From the statement it is evident that we have not exported any salt to East Bengal from July onwards. What are the reasons? Is there any 'ban' on our salt export?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is no ban now, since the last quarter of 1951. But, previous to that, since salt was not included in the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement, there was imposition of restrictions by both the Governments. But, even after the ban was removed and free licensing allowed, no improvement in the export of salt to Pakistan has been noticeable.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: Is the Government satisfied that the requirements of our country are fully met at reasonable prices before salt is exported to Japan and other countries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Raghavaiah wanted to put a question.

Shri Raghavaiah: I just wanted to...

Mr. Speaker: He need not put if he does not want. Next question.

Shri Raghavaiah: I wanted to.....

Mr. Speaker: Now, it is over. Next question.

Shri Raghavaiah: If you do not want to give me any chance.....

COTTON TEXTILES FUND COMMITTEE

*691. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is a body called the Cotton Textiles Fund Committee in existence?

(b) If so, what is its purpose, who are its members and for how long has it been working?

(c) Is it an official or non-official body?

(d) Do Government propose to place on the Table of the House a report on the working of the body since its inception?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes.

(b) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 19].

(c) It is a statutory body.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know the total amount of money in this Fund?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: About Rs. 2,33,00,000.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: In this statement, there is mention of an expenditure of about 18 lakhs for the starting of a research laboratory; what are the other items of expenditure?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We have, I believe, given—I cannot tell the exact amount—we did make a money contribution to what is called the SITRA—South India Textile Research Association. If the Bombay organisation also starts a research institute, we are committed to give them a contribution.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: What I wanted to know is this. In the last para. of the statement there is mention about certain officers enquiring about measures for stimulating exports. I want to know the expenditure incurred on that account.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The last para. of the statement says: "Measures taken for stimulating exports." If the hon. Member wants to know the expenditure we have incurred for this purpose out of this fund, I do not think we have incurred any expenditure out of the Fund yet.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: There is mention of an officer appointed by the Committee. I want to know the expenditure due to that officer.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot quite comprehend what he means.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously, an office is set up there as reference is made to an officer. What is the expenditure on account of that office?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not sure whether any amount has been spent. Possibly he is an officer belonging to the Textile Commissioner's office in which case no money was spent from the Fund.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

EXPORT OF ANIMALS AND REPTILES

*692. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the different kinds of Indian animals and reptiles exported to other countries in 1951-52 and the amount obtained by such exports?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Exports of living animals in 1951-52 have been recorded in official statistics under four heads namely:—

- (1) Horse
- (2) Cattle (excluding sheep and goat)
- (3) Sheep and goats
- (4) All other kinds

Exports of reptiles are not recorded separately.

The amount realised from the above export was Rs. 49,88,503.

Shri N. P. Sinha: No supplementaries.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are monkeys included?

Shri Karmarkar: I thought some hon. Members would be definitely interested in monkeys.....

An Hon. Member: A good question.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether it is a good question or a bad question. But, I see there are always some who want to put that question. I do not want to encourage that.

Shri Karmarkar: May I answer about monkeys, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: We go to the next question.

UTILISATION OF ENERGY IN WIND AND SUN'S RAYS

*693. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Scientists from nine countries, including India, was convened in England towards the end of September, 1952 to consider the ways and means of utilising the energy in the wind and the sun's rays; and

(b) whether the U.N.O. contemplates starting an experimental centre for utilising the energy in the wind and the sun's rays for mechanical purposes?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As far as Government are aware, there is no such proposal under the consideration of the U.N. at present.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Which are the countries that participated in the conference?

Shri Hathi: This was a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Arid Zone

Research. The Members of the Committee, namely, Egypt, USA., Australia, India, Mexico, France, Ukraine, Peru and U.K. were present.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: What is the result of the experiments in solar heaters and cookers carried out by the National Physical Laboratory in India?

Shri Hathi: I have no information.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Has it come to the notice of the Government that high scientific officers of the Government of India have made repeated statements in the Press that solar heaters will be available to the public in very large numbers in the near future?

Shri Hathi: I am not aware of it.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): In regard to these solar heaters, Government have decided that if anybody should manufacture these heaters, they can do so on payment of a small royalty to the Government. It is up to the manufacturers to take it up.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether Government is aware of a report appearing in yesterday's papers that a girl is living without food in Coorg, taking some sort of energy from air and wind, and if so, whether Government will make enquiries about that?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether anybody has taken advantage of the Government's offer in the matter of the production of these solar heaters?

Shri Hathi: I am not in a position to reply to that question.

TAPPING OF AVAILABLE MAN-POWER FOR RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS

*696. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of the Estimates Committee regarding the tapping of available man-power in India for the different river valley projects, under execution, has been considered; and

(b) If so, what are the decisions taken?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to Starred Question No. 150 by Shri Dabhi on 10-11-52.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is it true that some Engineers are being trained at some of the Project centres these days?

Shri Hathi: There is a scheme whereby we are taking about 15 Engineers to be trained at the different centres.

Shri L. N. Mishra: How does this compare with our demand for trained technicians?

Shri Hathi: That will be seen after they are trained.

Shri L. N. Mishra: What are the subjects in which training is imparted?

Shri Hathi: Construction of dams, mainly, and canals.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is there any proposal to open technical training centres at each project?

Shri Hathi: These centres are chiefly to be placed at the various construction sites.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is there any proposal regarding the financial aspects of these training centres? Are the States to contribute or is the Union Government making the contribution?

Shri Hathi: It is the Central Government that is taking these Engineers.

HIGH-POWER HAND-LOOM COMMITTEE

*698. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the constitution of the High-power Hand-loom Committee has been completed;

(b) if so, the names of the personnel and the terms of reference thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been arrived at between the Centre on the one hand and the States on the other in this connection; and

(d) if so, what is the agreed plan for aiding the hand-loom industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Presumably the hon. Member refers to the setting up of a Handloom Board. A copy of the Resolution setting up the All India Handloom Board is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 20].

(c) and (d). The hon. Member will see from the text of the Resolution that State Governments are represented on this Board. The Resolution also indicates the broad lines on which assistance to the handloom

industry may be given. Further measures are under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: There is no time now. Question-hour is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

CLOSURE OF TEA GARDENS IN ASSAM AND BENGAL

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of tea gardens in Assam and Bengal (mostly Indian owned) are facing closure by December 1952 by the combined effect of slump in tea prices and contraction in credit facilities by banks;

(b) whether Government has any scheme of saving these gardens by providing or arranging for finance, and, if so, in what way; and

(c) what would be the amount required and what would be the agency through which it would be issued?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Government have received information that some of the Indian owned tea gardens in Assam and Bengal intend closing down by December 1952 presumably for the reasons stated by the hon. Member.

(b) Government are now engaged in consultation with the Reserve Bank in examining what steps can be taken to ensure that banking finance through Commercial Banks is available to the affected tea gardens and others for next year's production.

(c) Estimates of requirements put forward by the interests concerned are sometimes as high as 4/4½ crores of rupees especially in respect of Assam tea gardens alone. The requirements of West Bengal tea gardens and South Indian tea gardens will be in addition to this figure. No scrutiny has been made of these estimates. Pending examination referred to above, Government are unable to say in what form the facilities required can be provided.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether it is a fact that mere banking finance would not be adequate, and that finance would be available from existing Banks only if Government underwrite or cover some risk? If so, are Government considering the question of covering any risk?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question is based on a hypothetical consideration that the estates would need something more than the finance

that commercial banks could possibly give them. If that consideration is answered in the manner in which the hon. Member wants, there will be time enough for an enquiry. I might also mention that Government is very much exercised about this matter. Last week the Secretary of the Commerce and Industries Ministry went down to Calcutta. He had consultations with the Chairman of the Central Tea Board and other tea interests available in Calcutta. This senior officer of the Ministry is scheduled to go to Bombay at the end of this week with the intention of discussing the whole matter with the authorities of the Reserve Bank. What we could do, Sir, is a thing which I cannot envisage at the moment. All that I can tell the House is that we are trying to do our very best.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know Sir, whether it is a fact that this subsidy which was given by the United Kingdom for tea was withdrawn, and whether it is also a fact that there was a ceiling on retail prices wherefore the prices did not rise after the subsidy was withdrawn?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I might admit that this matter was brought to my notice on a previous occasion by the hon. Member. It is very difficult to relate cause and effect in this matter. The facts are as the hon. Member has stated them, viz., that the subsidy has been withdrawn and that the retail prices have not shot up to the extent that they should by the withdrawal of the subsidy, but whether that fact can be related to any intention on the part of people to depress prices is a different matter altogether. The information that I have at my disposal indicates that there are several other factors operating in this connection. Hon. Members in this House who know about rationing will know that often times a commodity is consumed to the maximum extent which the ration allows only when there is rationing. The moment rations are relaxed, people do not stockpile in their houses. It is possible that in the United Kingdom, because rations have been relaxed, stock-piling has stopped and they are not buying even as much as 3 oz. which they were allowed when rationing was in force.

Another fact which I am told conduced to this depression in prices, is that because of a certain amount of stock carried by the U. K. Government when they were single purchasers of medium quality tea, after covering a large portion of these stocks, there also seems to be a fair amount of stock in the hands of the people who deal in these goods. I

am told that this is possibly the cause why the offtake is a little low, but in these matters one person's guess is as good as another's, and I would not be able to say anything very positive.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether it is a fact that in the Chittagong auctions in Pakistan, B. P. and B. P. S. teas were selling at prices ranging from Rs. 1-2-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 whereas in the Calcutta market, the same quality of tea was selling at Re. 0-9-0 to Re. 0-12-0?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not in a position either to confirm the hon. Member's information or deny it, but I am unable to deduce any conclusions therefrom.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India wish to raise the question of stabilisation of prices in the ensuing Commonwealth conference?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a question which I am not in a position to answer. In the Commonwealth conference perhaps the commodities which are exchanged with the Commonwealth countries might come up for consideration, but I do not think that this subject is on the agenda, as far as my information goes.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has stated that he has information that certain tea gardens intend to close down by this December. May I know if he has got any report either from official source or from the papers that some gardens have already closed, and if so, what is the number?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am obliged to my hon. friend for pointing out the discrepancy in my answer. It is a fact that some gardens have closed.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the number, and the number of labourers involved in these gardens?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Unfortunately, the staff at my disposal or the facilities that I have do not guarantee accurate information in this regard. Fourteen tea gardens in Cachar, two in Tripura, two in the rest of Assam, and two in West Bengal are supposed to have closed down. And the estimate in regard to labour thrown out is said to be about 15,000.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The Minister has referred just now to a conference which was held in Calcutta about this matter. Is the Minister aware that there a suggestion was made that there should be a rationalised scheme for reducing production to be taken

287 P.S.D.

up immediately? When does Government expect to arrive at a decision on this point, and what steps will Government take to see that labour is not adversely affected thereby?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This question of restriction of production is always brought up, and though I have not scanned the report of that conference—I have not got the report yet, except what my Secretary has told me—I can quite understand that this was also a subject discussed. The implications of a reduction are far-reaching, and we have to examine them. About the other matters, I am not in a position to answer the question now.

Shri Venkataraman: Has any single garden closed down or threatened to close down in South India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: South India seems to be strangely quiet in this matter.

Shri Venkataraman: I am just leading to another question. Has the Government cared to inquire how much of this crisis is due to high managerial costs, visiting agents, managing agents and so forth, and has the Government ever looked into the question of fixing or limiting the expenses on the managerial side?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: All these suggestions will be taken into consideration, if we have an enquiry committee.

Shri Venkataraman rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is trying to make suggestions for action.

Shri Venkataraman: One more question. The official team which the Commerce Ministry appointed recommended certain measures, particularly relating to labour. That official team recommended that the Plantation Labour Act should be postponed, as also the Minimum Wages Act. May I know whether the hon. Commerce and Industry Minister did not give an undertaking to the House that no recommendation affecting labour would be made by the official team without a member or a representative of labour being associated with such an inquiry, and if so, does the Government propose to adopt the recommendations made by that team, so far as labour is concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, my hon. friend has not correctly represented the assurance that I gave on the floor of the House. I did say that Government would not consider any recommendation which detrimentally affects labour, but at

that time I had in view only the application of the Minimum Wages Act. The Plantation Labour Act is yet to be planned, and I cannot speak in regard to an Act, the application of which is in the hands of my hon. colleague the Minister of Labour.

The hon. Member would also appreciate the fact that the Enquiry Committee did ask labour representatives to tender evidence before them, and I should say in this connection that the Government feels that their inquiry was conducted in a manner which was completely impartial without any bias in favour of either the one or the other interest, the sole objective being to find out some way of affording relief to the tea industry as a whole, which means the estate owner, labour and everybody else involved in the matter.

In regard to what could be done on the basis of the recommendation, it is a matter which, I think, is now engaging the attention of my hon. colleague the Minister of Labour. And the House perhaps knows that he proposes to have a tripartite conference some time in December in Calcutta, and we probably have to await what comes out of that conference.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what steps have been taken, since our withdrawal from the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board, to create a better market in foreign countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Our withdrawal from the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board does not put an end to any propaganda that was being done by the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board, because we are committed to pay them the contribution for the expenditure that they have budgeted until 31st March 1952 or that they have entered into contracts which go beyond that period. So there is no gap or lacuna which should be filled up immediately.

Mr. Speaker: I shall allow just one more question.

Shri B. K. Das: May I ask whether there has been any further decline in the demand in the foreign countries since our withdrawal?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid one cannot really relate this question of decline in demand with our withdrawal. And the hon. Member may be aware that the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board was spending a very little amount from its total funds in the U. K. market. One of the markets on which they had been spending the bulk of their budget, almost coter-

minous with the amount that we contributed to them was in America. I can assure the hon. Member that the propaganda in America, which they had undertaken is being continued and I do not think that we have suffered any loss because of our withdrawal from the Board.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There are so many hon. Members who are anxious to put questions. I have allowed 15 minutes for this question, and we have been carrying on with this one question for so long. There shall be no more supplementaries on this.

I am going over to the next item.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MAJOR ENGINEERING WORKS

*681. **Shri U. C. Patnaik:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether the question of associating Army and Marine Engineers with Civil Engineers in the construction of major engineering works under the Central Government has been examined by the Planning Commission?

(b) If so, do Government propose to place the relevant papers on the Table of the House?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

UTILISATION OF INDIA'S MANPOWER

*682. **Shri U. C. Patnaik:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether the Planning Commission has examined the question of utilising the vast manpower of India for national service by mobilising training and reorganising them on a defence-cum-development basis?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The subject is under the consideration of the Planning Commission.

STOCK REGISTERS IN RIVER VALLEY PROJECT ORGANISATIONS

*694. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee in its fifth report for 1951-52 under para. 135 has reported that stock registers of the various stores, plant and machinery on charge in the various project organisations specially in Hirakud, were not maintained;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry into the matter and if so, with what result;

(c) whether the Estimates Committee has suggested that immediate action should be taken to appoint a small committee of engineers unconnected with the river valley organisations to examine the matter and to assess the loss so far sustained on this account and suggest punishments if losses have been incurred through the negligence of certain persons; and

(d) what action have Government taken on the above suggestion of the Estimates Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation and Power, has been asked to enquire into the matter and his report is awaited.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The suggestion is under consideration of Government.

INSPECTION OF STORES SUPPLIED FOR D. V. C.

*695. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee in their fifth report for 1951-52 under para 137 has reported that in the case of Damodar Valley Corporation it was noticed that an agency or associated agency which was responsible for supplying store was also entrusted with the duty of inspecting those stores; and

(b) whether Government have examined this matter and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have appointed a Committee to examine and report on this and other recommendations of the Estimates Committee.

ASSETS OF INTERNATIONAL TEA MARKET EXPANSION BOARD

*697. **Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the International Tea Market Expansion Board has any assets?

(b) If so, what are its assets?

(c) What was the proportion and the total amount of India's contributions, out of which these assets have been secured?

(d) Would India have any claim on the assets after her withdrawal from the Board?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karimkar): (a) Yes.

(b) Information is under collection.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 21].

(d) Government would prefer not to answer this question at this stage.

CEMENT

*699. **Shri K. C. Sodha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total quantity of cement required by the Government of India for their building programmes during 1951-52?

(b) What was the total quantity allotted in 1951-52 for the housing and rehabilitation schemes of displaced persons?

(c) What was the quantity allotted in 1951-52 to different State Governments on their own account?

(d) What was the total quantity released to the general public?

(e) Is it a fact that black marketing is prevalent in the cement market?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take to release more cement for the general public?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The demand was 900,000 tons for the Government of India building programmes including dams, bridges, etc., but 560,000 tons only could be allotted.

(b) 170,760 tons against a demand of 277,040 tons.

(c) Out of 2.2 million tons allotted to States, 880,000 tons were released by them for Government departments and quasi-Government bodies.

(d) 2 million tons including allotments for agricultural and rehabilitation purposes.

(e) A few cases have been reported by the State Governments.

(f) Some expansion schemes have already been sanctioned. As production goes up, it would be possible to improve allocations to the general public.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON POWER ALCOHOL

***700. Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there has recently been an International Seminar held on power alcohol?

(b) If so, which countries attended it?

(c) What was the business transacted at the seminar and of what use are the decisions taken to India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 22].

PRODUCTION OF PHARMACEUTICALS

***701. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the pharmaceuticals produced in India are sufficient to meet the demands of the country?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): No, Sir.

WAGON SUPPLY POSITION FOR COAL TRANSPORT

***702. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the position of supplying wagons for coal transport has improved during the last four months;

(b) if so, whether he proposes to make a statement on the present position of wagon supply for coal transport; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in many places in West Bengal, the price of coal for domestic cooking purposes has gone up due to the fact that the transport of coal by motor trucks involves higher charges?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) I may state that against an average of about 3000 wagons for coal transport till the month of June, the figures for July, August, September and October were 3108, 3444, 3323 and 3390 respectively; and up to the 15th of November the average was 3374. This improvement is seasonal, but the Government are taking action by way of rationalising

coal transport and placing orders for new wagons to effect a more permanent improvement.

(c) Yes, to some extent, in some sub-divisions of the State. Since Rail movement is used to the fullest possible extent the use of trucks to secure additional supplies seems to be unavoidable.

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

***703. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons from East Pakistan sent for rehabilitation outside West Bengal, excepting Assam and Tripura, since the beginning of 1950 upto October, 1952 and the figures of displaced persons sent to each State;

(b) what are the figures for Assam and Tripura;

(c) the number of displaced persons that have come back or deserted from Government displaced persons' camps or colonies in each of these States;

(d) the number of persons that remain behind and are permanently settled in each of these States;

(e) whether Government held any inquiries as to the reasons that impelled these displaced persons to return or desert from the places to which they were sent and the results thereof; and

(f) the number that is being proposed to be sent to each of these States now beginning from 25th October, 1952?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a)—

Bihar	27,504 persons
Orissa	27,389 persons
Uttar Pradesh	3,754 persons
Andamans	2,150 persons
TOTAL	60,797 persons

(b) No displaced persons were sent to Assam and Tripura.

(c) Bihar 11,471 persons

Orissa 18,916 persons

Uttar Pradesh 415 persons

Andamans Figures not available.

(d) Bihar 12,490 persons

Orissa 7,555 persons

Uttar Pradesh 3,339 persons

Andaman 2,150 persons

(e) Yes, Desertions were mainly due to the fact that the displaced persons were not accustomed to the conditions outside Bengal.

(f) Bihar	15,000 persons
Orissa	15,000 persons
Uttar Pradesh	3,061 persons

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER FROM CAUVERY FALLS

*704. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras have submitted any scheme for the construction of a hydro-electric power house by harnessing the Cauvery water falls at Hogenekal in Salem District; and

(b) if so, whether Government have assured financial assistance to such a scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN ASSAM AND MANIPUR

*705. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state how many centres of Community Project have been opened in the tribal areas of Assam and Manipur?

(b) How many such centres in all are going to be opened in the said areas in the course of five years?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Two Development Blocks in Assam and none in Manipur.

(b) No decision has yet been taken.

INDIAN JUTE MILLS ASSOCIATION MISSION TO U.S.A.

*706. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association sent any mission to the U.S.A.; and

(b) if so—

(i) whether the mission was sent after previous consultation with Government;

(ii) whether Government have received any report from the mission or its leader; and

(iii) whether Government have taken or intend to take any step on the mission's suggestions or to help its purposes?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) As this was a private mission, no previous consultation with Government was necessary.

(ii) No formal report has been received but Government have been apprised of the Mission's work by the I.J.M.A.

(iii) Does not arise.

PRISONERS AND MENTAL PATIENTS EVACUATED FROM PAKISTAN

*707. **Shri Telikkar:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners exchanged and evacuated from insecure areas in Pakistan to places of safety in India; and

(b) the number of mental patients so evacuated from Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhoosle): (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No. 436 on the 9th August, 1950. There has been no further exchange of prisoners.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No. 2874 on the 6th April, 1951. There has been no further exchange of mental patients.

NON-MUSLIM SHRINES IN PAKISTAN

*708. **Shri Telikkar:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the agreements reached and the steps taken by the Government of India to preserve the sanctity of non-Muslim shrines in Pakistan; and

(b) whether there were cases in which the safety and sanctity of such shrines was in danger?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given by the

Prime Minister to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 390 on the 11th July, 1952, which gives details of the agreements reached with the Government of Pakistan and other steps taken for the preservation of sanctity and proper maintenance of places of worship in India and Pakistan and also details of complaints about misuse, desecration and demolition of Hindu and Sikh Shrines in West Pakistan.

SODIUM CARBONATE FOR GLASS INDUSTRY

*709. {Shri Meghnad Saha:
Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:

(a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the output of Indian glass manufacturing industry has been adversely affected by the high price of sodium carbonate imported from U.K.?

(b) What is the price of heavy sodium carbonate per ton in the U.K. and in India?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by Government for the encouragement of manufacture of heavy sodium carbonate in India?

(d) Are Government aware that all sheet glass factories in India have been forced to close down on account of the high price of heavy sodium carbonate and the consumer has to pay four times the price for imported sheet glass?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 23].

(c) Soda ash industry is in the private sector. Government is prepared to give all encouragement to manufacturers who have schemes for producing heavy soda ash or are interested in increasing their existing capacity.

(d) No, Sir. No sheet glass factory was closed on account of high prices of soda ash nor has the consumer to pay unreasonable price for imported sheet glass.

चीन के लिये सिक्किम के चावल

*710. पंडित अलगु राय शास्त्री: क्या चीन अंती यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत सरकार ने सिक्किम की राजधानी गंगटोंक से चावल की एक बड़ी मात्रा कलकत्ता के रास्ते से चीन ले जाने की अनुमति दी है; तथा

(ल) यदि दी है, तो कितने चावल के लिये? इसे कब ले जाया गया तथा इस सम्बन्ध में परिवहन के कौन से साधन प्रयोग में लाये गये?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). At the request of the People's Government of China, the Government of India agreed in June last to grant facilities for the transport of Chinese rice to Tibet via India upto the end of 1952. It is estimated that between 2000 and 2500 tons of this rice will be transported by that date. The rice is moved from Calcutta to Siliguri by rail, from Siliguri to Gangtok by trucks and beyond Gangtok by mules.

ASSAM TEA

*711. Shri Amjad Ali: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the total bulk of Indian tea is produced in Assam Tea Gardens; and

(b) the average annual income derived by the Government of India from tea?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karimkar): (a) About 46-06 per cent. so far as production in 1951 is concerned.

(b) Rs. 14,23,01,000 by way of Central Excise and Export duties.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

*712. Shri Natesan: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the Central Electricity Authority contemplated under the Electricity Supply Act, 1948, has been formed and if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The Central Electricity Authority was constituted on the 20th January, 1950 by the late Ministry of Works, Mines and Power vide their Notification No. EL-II-1(9), dated the 20th January, 1950.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH WEST GERMANY

*713. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state as to what extent the balance of trade was in Germany's favour as a result of the trade agreement with West Germany which expired on the 31st October, 1952?

(b) Has any modification been made in the renewed agreement?

(c) If so, to what extent and what is the result anticipated by Government?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The last Trade Arrangement with Western Germany was for the period 1-11-51 to 31-10-52. According to the latest trade figures available for November 1951 to July 1952, the balance of trade in Germany's favour amounted to Rs. 1090 lakhs.

(b) and (c). In the renewed arrangement, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House, Western Germany has agreed to permit the import of a large number of additional items from India without any quantitative restrictions whatsoever. She has also agreed to license import of a larger number of items which are subject to import quota restrictions under her import control regulations, and has substantially raised the quota amounts provided for them. Government hope that these new concessions obtained from Western Germany would step up our exports considerably to that country.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN MANIPUR

*714. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Manipur have granted a loan to the cottage industries in Manipur;

(b) if so, the total amount of the loan;

(c) the names of such cottage industries as received the loan; and

(d) the progress so far made by individual firms concerned since the making over of the loan by Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 20,000.

(c) Hand-loom weaving, tailoring, wooden slate-making, paper-making.

knives, carpentry and production of pen-holders etc.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

STIPENDS TO DISPLACED TRAINEES

*715. **Shri B. N. Misra:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bachelor of Education Training Classes have been opened this year in Jamia Millia Institute, Okhla and if so, what is the amount of fees charged per head per month;

(b) whether it is compulsory for the trainees to reside in the hostel and if so, what is the amount of hostel charges per month;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have sent some displaced trainees to Jamia Millia Institute, Okhla, and that they have applied to Government for grant of stipends since a long time and that Government have neither replied to nor given them the stipend as yet; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government give scholarships to the trainees for B.T. and other technical courses?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN U.P.

*716. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the projects of irrigation and power in Uttar Pradesh for which grants have been made by the Central Government; and

(b) the amount asked for by the Uttar Pradesh Government for that purpose and the amount granted by the Central Government?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Grants have been made by the Central Government to the U.P. Government for minor irrigation schemes under Grow More Food Programme but not for projects for irrigation and power.

(b)—

Year	Amount asked for under GMFP	Amount granted under GMFP
1949-50	Rs. 39.40 lakhs.	Rs. 38.62 lakhs
1950-51	Rs. 111.36 ..	Rs. 101.28 ..
1951-52	Rs. 92.09 ..	Rs. 42.41 ..
1952-53	Rs. 76.71 ..	Rs. 24.025 ..

LAND ALLOTMENT IN GANGANAGAR

*717. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) why the allotment of land made to those displaced persons who have not accepted their allotments in Punjab are being cancelled in Ganganagar; and

(b) whether Government are aware that most of the lands left by the Muslim evacuees in Ganganagar have been occupied by Government servants and local residents?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

EXAMINATION OF INFORMATION OFFICERS

*718. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that candidates recruited to Foreign Service and posted to different countries as Information Officers at the Embassies were recently called for an examination by the U.P.S.C. at London?

(b) How many such candidates appeared for the examination and how many were chosen out of them?

(c) Is it the usual practice to hold such examinations at London to approve of appointments not made in consultation with the U.P.S.C.?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, why a departure from the usual practice was made in this case?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (d). Many requests came from our missions in Europe that certain officers serving in those Missions were suited for publicity work. It was not easy for them as well as some other Indians living in foreign countries to visit India for interviews. Advantage was, therefore, taken of the visit of the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission to London and he interviewed some persons whose applications had been sent to the Union Public Service Commission. As a result of these interviews, only one person out of the candidates interviewed in London was recommended for the post of an Information Officer. No appointment has however been offered to him yet.

This is not the usual practice, but occasionally this may be adopted, with the approval of the Union Public Service Commission.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS INDEPENDENT OF U.S. TECHNICAL AID

*719. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state which are the States wherein the Community Development Programme is being carried out independently of American technical and other assistance offered under the Indo-U.S. Technical Aid Agreement?

(b) What are the reasons for such exceptions?

(c) Does this in any way increase the cost of the particular projects or prolong its duration and if so, will the concerned State Government bear the difference in expenditure?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) 1. Jammu and Kashmir. 2. North East Frontier Agency.

(b) The special position of these two areas.

(c) First Part: No.

Second Part: Does not arise.

RESETTLEMENT OF MUSLIMS IN PUNJAB

*720. **Shri V. G. Deshpande:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any lands have been reserved in Punjab Districts for the resettlement of those Muslims who had migrated to Pakistan and who may like to return to their lands?

(b) If so, how many acres of land have been reserved in the District of Rohtak?

(c) Is it a fact that allottees of about 1000 acres of land in Punjab from amongst displaced persons have not still been given any land although their claims have been placed in 'A' class?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*721. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state where the displaced persons from Jammu and Kashmir have been rehabilitated?

(b) Is it a fact that most of them desire to be rehabilitated in Srinagar?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) The displaced persons from Jammu and

Kashmir have been rehabilitated at the following places:—

Jammu and Kashmir State:

Ramgarh

Kathua

Sundarbani

Rajauri

Manpur

Naushehra and liberated areas in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rajasthan:

Alwar

Ganganagar

U. P.:

Premnagar

Punjab:

Faridabad

Bhopal

PEPSU

(b) Government are not aware of any such desire.

AURANGABAD BROADCASTING STATION

*722. **Shri H. G. Vaishnav:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the only Broadcasting station of Aurangabad in Marathwada (Hyderabad State) is going to be abolished in the new scheme and if so, what are its reasons?

(b) What arrangements would be made to broadcast the Marathi programme and to encourage the local genius and artistes in Marathwada in case the said station is abolished?

(c) Has the feasibility of maintaining the Aurangabad Broadcasting Station as a rural station involving much less expenditure than the present been considered according to the representations made by Marathwada public?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keshar): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been found that the maintenance of very lowpowered Broadcasting Stations is wasteful in that the coverage provided is not commensurate with the expenditure incurred thereon. It is proposed to put the present Aurangabad transmitter to better use by shifting it to Hyderabad where it will give a useful local service.

(b) The area now served by the Aurangabad Station will be adequately and better covered by the existing as well as more powerful installations proposed at Hyderabad, Poona and

Bombay. Besides, during the winter, the proposed Station at Indore and the Station at Nagpur, which is being raised in power, should also provide a satisfactory coverage. Artistes from the areas at present covered by the Aurangabad Station will be made use of at one or the other of the Stations mentioned.

(c) The matter was carefully examined before the decision to close the Station was taken.

YARN FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

*723. **Shri G. D. Somani:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that State Governments are given quotas of yarn for distribution of the same at or below controlled prices to the handloom weavers in their States?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of Bombay were allowed to sell their stocks of yarn in the open market and if so, is it a fact that the Government of Bombay or their nominee exported yarn of counts between 18s and 20s?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yarn is allotted to the State on a quota basis for distribution to various consumers including handloom weavers at prices not exceeding the ex-mill prices plus the retail margin of 12½ per cent. thereon.

(b) The Bombay Government who are buying the State's quota of yarn on Government account were allowed to sell the unsold stocks of yarn including counts 18s and 20s of February 1952 and earlier packings only to dealers with permission to export, in order to clear their stocks which could not be sold by them.

PRICE OF TEA

*724. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. Government while withdrawing the subsidy on tea of 8d in the pound this year arranged with the Tea Trading interests in U.K. that retail selling price should not rise; and

(b) whether the present prices of Indian tea are in many cases below production prices?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) It has been reported that at the time when the U.K. Government decided to abolish the subsidy, the tea distributing trade had given an assurance that the maximum retail prices of tea would not be put

up by more than half of the subsidy abolished (i.e.) 4 d. per lb.

(b) The Official Team appointed by Government to inquire into the present conditions of the tea industry have reported that the level of current auction prices is not sufficient to meet the production costs of many average-medium estates and smaller gardens.

MAPS AND LAND RECORDS OF KARIM-GUNJ SUB DIVISION

*725. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maps and other land records relating to Karimgunj sub-division of Assam have been withheld by Pakistan and are now being refused to be handed over to the Government of Assam;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter; and

(c) whether it is a fact that similar records relating to Sylhet (which was part of Assam but is now in East Bengal) have already been handed over to Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). Information has been called for from the Government of Assam. It will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

REHABILITATION LOANS

*726. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was the policy of Government to grant rehabilitation loans to displaced persons for purpose of trade;

(b) whether it is a fact that grant of such loans has been altogether stopped except in new townships and if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that before the new policy was announced, thousands of applications for rehabilitation loans for trade purpose were pending consideration and decision and if so, what is the total number of such applications;

(d) whether it is a fact that these applications are not being considered at all;

(e) whether Government are aware that some of these applicants secured premises and made some investments of their own in the hope that they would receive State rehabilitation loans; and

(f) whether Government are aware that such applicants have been very hard hit?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Yes.

(b) No. Only the small urban loans have been restricted to the residents of the New Townships and to persons who have received vocational or technical training under a Government scheme and wish to set up their own industry. The reason for the modification of the scheme is that Government have been granting small urban loans liberally in the past, but now after five years of partition such loans have mostly served their utility in the existing towns.

(c) Yes. The figures of pending applications are not readily available and the time and expense involved in their collection would not be commensurate with the result achieved.

(d) No. Applications which are covered by the modified scheme are being considered.

(e) I have no information but that may be so.

(f) The number of such applicants must be comparatively small.

MALAYALAM COMMENTARIES FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMS

*727. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any commentaries in Malayalam for any of the documentary films produced by the Films Division of the Information and Broadcasting Department; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, which are the films for which there are Malayalam Commentaries?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) "Figuring It Out" and "Democracy In Action".

KOZHIKODE A.I.R. STATION

*728. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating the closing down of the Kozhikode Station of the All India Radio; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons which prompted Government to consider the closure of the Station?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) There is no such proposal at present before Government.

(b) Does not arise.

**EVICTION OF UNAUTHORISED OCCUPIERS
OF PRIVATE LANDS**

*729. **Shri B. R. Varma:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government under the Delhi Premises (Requisition and Eviction) Amendment Act passed in October, 1951, have evicted unauthorised occupiers from private lands as recommended by the Select Committee and in accordance with the assurance given by Government on the floor of this House; and

(b) if not, is it now proposed to do so?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply given by me to Starred Question No. 1574 asked by him in this House, on the 8th July 1952.

**HOUSES FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
OF THE PEOPLE**

*730. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of members of the House of the People who have not been provided with accommodation in this Session;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to give proper accommodation to all those who have not yet been allotted houses; and

(c) how long it will take for the new flats that are under construction to be completed?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Only 38 Members who could not be allotted bungalows or flats and who did not accept accommodation in the Constitution House had to find other accommodation themselves.

(b) 72 more flats in the North and South Avenues are under construction. It has also been decided to transfer three Government Officers Bungalows to the M.P.s. pool of accommodation. In addition, 9 Kit-citchens are being constructed in the Constitution House. This will ease the housing position for the Members of both the Houses of Parliament.

(c) Every effort is being made to complete at least 8 flats by February 1953. The others are expected to be completed by July 1953.

PRICES OF RAW JUTE

*731. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of raw jute have fallen considerably during the last fortnight causing great hardship to the cultivators;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and
(c) the steps taken by Government, if any, to meet the situation?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to my replies on the 10th November 1952 to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 140.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. There has been some fall in price which is due partly to seasonal variations and partly to weakness in prices of jute manufactures.

नोटरों के ब्याटांरों से बोवियों का निकाल
जाना

*732. **श्री श्री. आर० बर्मा:**

(क) क्या निर्माण, गृहव्यवस्था तथा रसद मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा देंगे कि क्या सरकार को इस बात का ज्ञान है कि रकाब-बज में बोवियों की एक बड़ी संख्या को नोटरों के ब्याटांरों से निकाल दिया गया है, तथा वह इस शीत काल में अपने बाल बच्चों तथा लोगों के हजारों रूपये के मूल्य के कारों को लिये हुये सड़कों पर बैठ हुये हैं जब कि उनके बर्टार दूसरों को किराये पर दे दिये गए हैं ?

(ल) क्या यह सत्र है कि दिल्ली के बोवियों की ओर से एक अभ्यावेदन, जिस पर १८ संसद सदस्यों की सिफारिश भी शी बक्स्ट के पहले सप्ताह में सरकार को पेश किया गया था तथा निर्माण, गृहव्यवस्था तथा रसद मंत्री ने एक भावित अः इवासन दिया था कि बोवियों को अब ब्याटांरों से नहीं निकाला जायेगा ?

(म) इस अभ्यावेदन पर क्या कुछ कार्य-वाही की गई है ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) From enquiries I have made, I understand that 9 washermen with their families are living by the side of the Dhobi Ghat behind the Rakabganj Road. But they are neither entitled to accommodation in the servants quarters of the houses along the Rakabganj Road which they had previously occupied, nor were they evicted by Government. Presumably they were permitted to stay in the servants quarters attached to the houses by the Government servants who were allotted the houses, as they were working for them; and when there was a change in the occupants of the main houses, the new occupants did not allow them to continue in the servants quarters as they were not working for them, or did not find the accommodation in the servants quarters surplus to be given to them. The dhobis are not entitled to take these servants quarters on sub-lease from the allottees of the residences.

(b) Such a memorandum was received, but I did not give any such assurance as is suggested.

(c) The request contained in the memorandum were very carefully gone into, and a reply has been sent to the hon. Member that, much as Government would like to assist the washermen, they were unable to accede to their request. The desirability of providing washermen with suitable accommodation in New Delhi has, however, been brought to the notice of the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

CONTRACTORS' CLAIM CASES AT HIRAKUD

*733. **Dr. Natahar Pandey:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claim cases in which the contractors entrusted with works at Hirakud have claimed amounts higher than that found due by the Chief Engineer and which have been referred to the arbitrator; and

(b) the cases which have resulted in award of amounts, higher than the amount found due by the Chief Engineer?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) There are no such claim cases.

(b) Does not arise.

SURVEY OF MAHANADI RIVER BED

*734. **Dr. Natahar Pandey:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the river bed of Mahanadi above the central axis line of the Hirakud Dam has been recently surveyed geologically; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to lay a copy of the report on the Table of the House?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Preliminary Geological Survey of the river bed of the Mahanadi above the Central axis line of the Hirakud Dam has been completed. Detailed Survey of the foundations of the Dam about its axis is in hand and will be completed by the end of this working season.

(b) The report will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

EXPORT OF COTTON YARN

*735. **Dr. Lanka Sundaram:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the ban on exports of yarn of certain counts made from Indian cotton;

(b) the circumstances under which export of cotton yarn made from Indian cotton and purchased from the stocks of the Bombay Government was permitted;

(c) the quantity involved in the exports referred to in part (b) above;

(d) whether the conditions of eligibility for getting export licences were observed in this transaction;

(e) the total stocks of such yarn available with Bombay Government;

(f) the reasons for the accumulation of yarn stocks with Bombay Government;

(g) whether this yarn was exported from the Port of Bombay; and

(h) whether the yarn held by the Government of Bombay could not have been diverted to other areas in India for consumption by handloom industries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Export of yarn manufactured from Indian cotton of counts 16s and 20s has been banned with a view to conserve the entire production for handloom industry as these counts are more in demand than other counts.

(b), (d) and (h). The Bombay Government was buying the State's quota of yarn on Government account for better control and proper distribution to various consumers.

The Bombay Government could not dispose of the stocks held by them either within the State or to other States. To avoid loss to the State Government, the Government of India agreed to allow them to sell their stocks including 18s and 20s to dealers with the assurance that export will be allowed.

(c) 5,200 standard bales approximately.

(e) 9,000 standard bales inclusive of approximately 3,800 standard bales of yarn made from foreign cotton.

(f) The general decline in demand for textiles which set in early this year.

(g) Yes.

HANDLOOM DEVELOPMENT FUND

*736. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what amount has been spent out of the Handloom Development Fund?

(b) What amounts have been granted to each State?

(c) For what purpose has each grant been made?

(d) If there is a balance, what do Government propose to do with it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 24]

(d) The balance will be utilised for the development of the handloom industry, in consultation with the All India Handloom Board.

M. Ps'. FLATS

*737. Shri Sinhasan Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state what is the rate of rent charged from officials for M.Ps' bungalows and flats when they are in their possession during off-Session periods?

(b) What is the average cost of flats that have been constructed and are under construction in North and South Avenues giving their costs separately for A, B, and C flats?

(c) Do Government propose to allow private individuals to build similar flats?

(d) What types of bricks are permitted to be used for these flats?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) A statement showing the rates of rent charged from Government Servants for

M.Ps' bungalows and flats, as also for the scale furniture flower beds and additional services therein, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 25].

The rent for the building payable by a Government servant, is subject to the maximum of 10 per cent. of his emoluments.

(b) Average cost of flats already constructed is Rs. 13,580/-, 15,930/- and 18,610/- for A, B and C types, respectively.

Estimated cost of flats under construction is Rs. 16,401/- and Rs. 18,397/- for 'B' and 'C' types respectively.

(c) Government would welcome the construction of similar flats by private individuals.

(d) 'Mixed' bricks have been used in these flats but for private constructions any other types of bricks can be used.

PRICES OF CYCLES

*738. Ch. Raghubir Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the prices of cycles in the market have considerably risen?

(b) What are the causes thereof?

(c) Is it a fact that the import of cycles has been stopped?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). There was some increase in cycle prices in October 1952 followed by a downward trend in November. Such fluctuations take place according to market conditions and it would not be correct to say that prices have risen considerably.

(c) No licences are being issued to the trade during the current half-year, but imports against licences issued in the last half-year are still coming.

EXPENDITURE ON REHABILITATION

*739. Shri N. L. Joshi: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total amount spent by Government for rehabilitation of displaced persons since January, 1952?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): Rs. 16.93 crores upto July, 1952.

ALUMINIUM FACTORIES

*740. Shri Rup Narain: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aluminium factories in India at present and their production:

(b) the names of aluminium factories in Uttar Pradesh and the kind of goods they produce; and

(c) whether any sort of protection has been given to them by the Central Government?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) There are two factories producing virgin aluminium namely, Indian Aluminium Company Alwaye and the Aluminium Corporation of India, Jaykey Nagar. Their total production in 1951 was 3,849 tons.

(b) There are no factories in Uttar Pradesh producing virgin aluminium.

(c) Aluminium Industry is protected by the levy of import duty at the rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* plus 5 per cent. of the total duty.

ALUMINIUM CIRCLES AND SHEETS

*741. **Shri Rup Narain:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the annual output and import of aluminium circles and sheets in India since 1950?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

	1950 (Tons)	1951 (Tons)	1952 (Jan.- Sept.) (Tons)
Production of aluminium sheets and circles	5,878	6,793	3,752
Imports of aluminium sheets and circles		.	
	3,690	3,349	1,511

INDIANS DISCHARGED FROM GOVERNMENT OF BURMA SERVICE

*742. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what was the total number of Indian Nationals discharged from service by the Government of Burma on grounds of nationality?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The exact figures are not available. There were about 3,000 Indians employed in various Departments of the Government of Burma and about 8,300 in Burma Railways. Most of these men have been discharged.

DUTY ON INDIAN Bidis IN PAKISTAN

*743. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the

Pakistan Government have lately increased duty on Indian Bidis?

(b) If so, what was the duty before revision and what is it now?

(c) What was the value of the total exports of Indian Bidis to Pakistan during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(d) Has the increase of duty affected the export of Bidis and if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmakar): (a) and (b). Yes. Pakistan's import duty on Indian Bidis has, with effect from the 17th May, 1952, been raised from 10 to 50 per cent. *ad valorem*.

(c) Separate figures for export of Bidis to Pakistan during 1950-51: are not available as they were then included under the general head "Tobacco manufactured (others)". Exports of Bidis during 1951-52 were Rs. 4.78 crores.

(d) As there are import control restrictions on Bidis going to Pakistan, it is not easy to assess the effect of Pakistan's import duty on our export of Bidis.

GHATAPRABHA VALLEY SCHEME

*744. **Shri R. G. Dubey:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 257 given on the 13th November, 1952 and state when the investigation began on the Ghatsprabha Valley Scheme?

(b) When is it likely to end?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The investigation started in 1947.

(b) It is likely to be completed by the end of 1954.

STEEL PIPES AND TUBES

*745. **Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that manufacturers requiring steel pipes or tubes are given quota certificates to purchase steel pipes and tubes from only specified dealers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps are taken to ensure that two manufacturers, producing identical finished engineering goods in which steel pipes and tubes are used, get these steel pipes and tubes at the same rate?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes. Sir

(b) I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the answer given

to his Unstarred Question No. 36 on the 10th November, 1952.

TEA EXPORT COMMITTEE REPORT

***392. Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the Tea Export Committee has submitted its report on the difficulties facing the Indian Tea Industry?

(b) If so, what are the suggestions contained therein?

(c) Have Government taken any action on them?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). A copy of the Report submitted by the Official Team on the Tea Industry is laid on the Table of the House. [Copy placed in the Library. See No. IV.R.171(14)].

A copy of the Press Note released by Government on the 19th instant, announcing the main recommendations made in the Report and the action taken by Government thereon is also laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 26].

CORRUGATED IRON SHEETS

236. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the production of corrugated iron-sheets in the country during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) the total quantity of corrugated iron-sheets imported into India during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52; and

(c) the quota allotted to each State during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) 1950-51—80,681 tons, 1951-52—69,190 tons.

(b) There were no imports of corrugated sheets in 1950-51. The imports in 1951-52 amounted to 16 tons.

(c) Figures for sheets are not available, as the allotments to the States are made in bulk and not category-wise. Within their bulk allotments, the States can indent for any categories of steel they like. A statement showing total allocations of steel to the various States in respect of the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 27]

चमड़ा तथा खाले

237. स्वामी रामानन्द मास्ट्री : का वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५१-५२ के बर्ष में देश में किसी मात्रा में चमड़ा और खाले तथा कमया हुआ चमड़ा आयात किया गया है तथा कितना यहां से निर्यात किया गया है।

(ख) किस प्रकार का चमड़ा आयात तथा निर्यात किया गया; तथा

(ग) भारत के प्रत्येक राज्य से निर्यात की मात्राएँ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 28.]

(c) The information is not available.

गंगानगर में भूमि-वितरण

238. श्री बाबपाल: क्या पुनर्बास मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सत्य है कि पुनर्बास मंत्रालय की नई भूमि वितरण योजना के अन्तर्गत पाकिस्तान से आये बीस हजार विस्थापित जमींदारों को श्री गंगानगर (राजस्थान) में जमीनें दी जा रही हैं, तथा अस्सी हजार विस्थापित बहित्रियों को जोकि पहले ही उस जमीनों की कृपि कर रहे हैं तथा जिन में से अधिकतर हरिजन हैं, इन जमींदारों को काश्तकार बनाया जा रहा है?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhoosle): No. Plans for giving compensation to displaced landlords from West Pakistan are still under consideration and no decision of the kind referred to has been taken.

STERCULIA UREN

239. Shri Balwant Singh Mehta: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the causes for fall in price of Sterculia Uren?

(b) To what countries is it being exported mostly?

(c) What are its uses and why is it not being wholly used in our country?

(d) Are Government aware that it is one of the main sources of income for Adivasis of Rajasthan?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmakar): It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to Sterculia 'gum'. The answer has been framed accordingly.

(a) Government have no information.

(b) Countries to which exports are made are not shown in the Accounts relating to the Foreign Sea and Air Borne Trade and Navigation of India.

(c) It is used as a suspending agent and as a stabiliser for emulsions. It is not being used wholly in the country because another product, namely, 'Tragacanth' gum is preferred whenever available and Sterculia 'gum' is used only as an alternative.

(d) Government have no information.

NITRO-CELLULOSE LANQUERS AND TITANIUM-DIOXIDE

240. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of nitro-cellulose lanquers and titanium-dioxide in the new plants put up in 1951; and

(b) whether both the plants worked to their full capacity during 1952?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a)—

	1951	1952
Nitro-cellulose lacquers and ancillaries	30,397 gallons	64,142 gallons
Titanium Dioxide	152 tons	223 tons*

(January to October.)
(January to June.)

* The production of Titanium Dioxide stopped from the 23rd June 1952.

(b) No, Sir.

RUBBER

241. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what was the price rate of raw rubber in the year 1947 and what was the price upto 20th May, 1952?

(b) What has been the increase in the cost of production during the last three years and how has it affected the production of raw rubber?

(c) What has been the increase in the price level in the world during the last year and how has that increase been allowed to be shared by the growers of rubber in India?

(d) What steps are being taken to rehabilitate the rubber growers in our country?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmakar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) A statement showing the cost of production as determined by the Government Cost Accounts Officer in 1948, the Indian Tariff Board in 1951 and the Tariff Commission in 1952, and also showing the production of raw rubber during the years 1948 to 1952, is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A statement showing the Singapore prices of raw rubber during the period June 1951 to October 1952 is laid on the Table of the House. It will be observed that world prices have actually come down during this period.

[For (a) to (c). See Appendix IV, annexure No. 29]

(d) Government ensures that the growers get for their produce a fair price and an assured market inside the country. In addition to affording this security to the growers the cost of production of rubber, on which internal prices are based, includes a provision for rehabilitation of the rubber estates. Government have also in mind a development scheme to aid the expansion of the industry.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME IN WEST BENGAL

242. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many houses for industrial labour are going to be constructed in the current year in the industrial areas of West Bengal;

(b) how the Rs. 9 crore subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme of Government will help expediting the construction;

(c) the number of houses constructed for tea labour in West Bengal in 1951-52 and the number of those that are proposed to be constructed in 1952-53; and

(d) whether the tea planters have received any help from the Government of India in the form of loans to expedite housing construction?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The West Bengal Government have come up to the Government of India with a proposal for the grant of subsidy and loan, under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme, to construct at Calcutta, during the current year:

- (i) 750 tenements through their construction Board; and
- (ii) 66 tenements through the Calcutta Improvement Trust.
- (c) The West Bengal Government have not availed themselves of financial aid from the Central Government either in 1951-52 under the Ministry of Labour Industrial Housing Scheme or in 1952-53 under the present scheme for the construction of houses for tea labour. According to an agreement reached at the third session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations, however, some of the Tea Plantations Employers' Associations, have undertaken to construct houses for their labour.
- (d) The tea planters have not so far applied to the Central Government for aid to house such of their labour as may be covered by the Central Government Scheme.

STORES AND EQUIPMENT

243. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements (or provisions) have been made for protecting and preserving the stores, material and equipment held by the Ministry of Production against loss through pilferage or damage through weather and other similar natural factors;

(b) what arrangements (or provisions) have been made for checking these stores, material and equipment on receipt as regards the quality and quantity or number and for internal audit, from time to time, of the same;

(c) whether any cases have been discovered, in any of the last five years, or reported by the Public Accounts Committee, of loss through theft or damage to these stores, material and equipment by culpable negligence of the staff appointed for the receipt and custody of the same, or of disparity between the order (indent) and actual receipt of any stores, material and equipment; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in respect of each of these cases?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Stores, materials and equipment are kept in weather proof stores and shops, shelves, closed cupboards, almirahs, iron safes and in other properly enclosed accommodation e.g. fenced and walled compounds, depending on the nature of the stores and equipment. Maintenance staff are employed for periodical and routine oiling, greasing and other anticorrosive treatments. Special watch and ward

287 P.S.D.

staff keep watch over the stores, materials and equipment day and night. There is also a system of check at the gates. Nothing can be taken inside or outside without authorised gate-passes.

(b) All materials, on receipt, are first of all inspected by technical Inspection Staff, and no material is taken into stock until certified as acceptable by the Inspectorate. The inspection covers both qualitative and quantitative check. At the time of bringing the stores on charge, the quantities are again checked by the store-holder.

Materials in stock are subjected to continuous physical verification by stock verifiers independent of the authorities responsible for the care and custody of stock. The Bin cards showing quantity balances, maintained by the stores Section are subject to control by stores Ledgers independently maintained by the Accounts Section and the staff of the Audit Department carry out systematic stores audit.

(c) and (d). There has been no case of loss through theft or damage by culpable negligence of the staff. A number of cases of thefts and shortages of stores have occurred while in railway transit. These have been reported to the railways and necessary claims lodged with them. There have also been two cases of shortage of stores in certain collieries. The total loss amounted to Rs. 15,000 approximately. The concerned stores staff were held responsible for the loss and suitable disciplinary action has been or is being taken against them.

FERTILISER PRODUCTION AT SINDRI

244. Shri N. P. Sinha: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the total quantity of fertilisers produced at Sindri in the months of June, July and August, 1952?

(b) Was the total production consumed in India?

(c) Was the out-put of the above three months considered sufficient to meet the requirements of the people during this rainy season?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) 35,553 tons.

(b) I am not in a position to say that the above quantity was actually consumed during the period referred to but I may state that the despatches against payment from Sindri during the period in question amounted to 44,060 tons.

(c) No.

CONTAI SALT FACTORY

245. Shri S. C. Samanta: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state how much salt is expected to be

produced when the proposed Salt Factory at Contai in the district of Midnapur (West Bengal) will start working?

(b) Will pit brine or solar evaporation system be taken up there?

(c) How much salt is imported at present into West Bengal annually from other States in India?

(d) Are the salt requirements of Assam and Nepal met through the State of West Bengal?

(e) How does the per capita consumption of salt in West Bengal compare with that of the other States?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The project, which has not been fully examined, is to produce approximately 54 lakh maunds per annum.

(b) Solar evaporation.

(c) About 117 lakh maunds from the West Coast (Saurashtra, Kutch and Mithapur) and 17 lakh maunds from Tuticorin were imported into West Bengal during the calendar year 1951.

(d) Yes.

(e) The per capita consumption in West Bengal has been estimated at about 14 lbs. per annum as in all other States except Bombay and Madras (including Travancore-Cochin State) where it has been estimated at 12.7 and 20 lbs. respectively.

TITANIUM OXIDE

246. Kumari Annie Mascarene: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of Titanium Oxide imported into India;

(b) what are the purposes for which it is imported;

(c) from where it is imported; and

(d) what is its price per ton?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Correct statistics are not available as import of Titanium Oxide is not separately specified in the Accounts relating to the Foreign Sea and Air-Borne Trade and Navigation of India.

(b) Principally for use as white pigment in the paint industry.

(c) Mainly from the U.K. and West Germany.

(d) Present landed costs are:—

U.K. product Rs. 2,480 per ton.

German product Rs. 2,780 per ton.

ILMENITE (EXPORT)

247. Kumari Annie Mascarene: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how many tons of Ilmenite are exported from India and to which countries;

(b) what is its price per ton; and

(c) which are the States which supply this mineral sand?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a)—

1949	2,65,220 tons of ore.
1950	2,38,090 tons of ore.
1951	2,40,967 tons of ore.

1952 (January to October) 1,34,855 tons of ore.

The countries to which the ore is exported are U.S.A., U.K., Japan, Italy and France, the first two countries being the largest purchasers.

(b) The export price ranges from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per ton.

(c) The bulk of ilmenite sand is supplied by the Travancore-Cochin State. It is also available in small quantities in the States of Bombay, Madras and Orissa.

EXPORT QUOTA FOR ONIONS

248. Shri Namblar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of onions is allotted for export in the period of July to December, 1952 within the jurisdiction of the Madras Deputy Chief Controller of Exports;

(b) what quantity has already been distributed to the exporters by the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Madras, for this period; and

(c) whether it is a fact that 15 per cent of the basic period's total export has been distributed to the exporters and if so, on what basis this percentage was arrived at?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 6,500 tons.

(b) 5,583 tons.

(c) Yes. After reserving a minimum of 5 tons each for petty established shippers the balance available for distribution worked to 15 per cent of basic exports of the remaining shippers.

DISPLACED PERSONS' SHOPS BURNT IN FIRE ACCIDENT

249. Shri Basappa: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a fire accident about two to three months back

in Irwin Road, New Delhi, as a result of which nearly ten shops of displaced persons were burnt to ashes and property worth about Rs. 15,000 was lost;

(b) if so, what was the reason for the fire accident;

(c) whether any compensation has been paid to the displaced persons who have lost their goods; and

(d) whether any other shops have been provided for them to carry on their trade and if so, how many persons have been so provided and where?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). A fire involving ten shops of displaced persons broke out on the Irwin Road on the night between 18/19th August, 1952. It is not possible to estimate the value of the property lost by displaced shopkeepers due to this fire. 8 of these shops were insured for Rs. 71,000 against which the Insurance Companies have already paid Rs. 47,800 as compensation. The two uninsured shops had been sublet by the Municipal allottees to unauthorised parties. In one of these two shops there was only some furniture. In the other the total estimated stock value was not worth more than Rs. 500 and much of his property was salvaged. It has not been possible to investigate the cause of the fire.

(d) Two of the shopkeepers are reported to have acquired shops in Ghaffar Market and Irwin Road and another has jointed in the business of his son in Ghaffar Market. Two were unauthorised sub-lettees and have no claim for alternative accommodation. The case of the remaining five shopkeepers for provision of alternative accommodation is under consideration of the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

मौतियों के लिए मकान

२५०. श्री आर० एन० सिंह: क्या निर्वाचन गृहव्यवस्था तथा रसद मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि प्रत्येक मंत्री को बिना किराये के घो सुसज्जित मकान दिए गए हैं, उन का बालू दर के हिसाब से किराया कितना होगा; तथा प्रत्येक मंत्री के मकान को सूचित रूप से रखने के लिए कितना जरूर होता है अथवा दूर रहा है?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): A statement containing the required information is placed on the Table

of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 30].

IMPORT OF TEXTILES

251. श्री जटविर: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of mill-made cotton, silken and woollen cloths imported into India from U.K. and other foreign countries during the last two years?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): The information is given in the attached statement. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 31]

M.Ps' FLATS

252. श्री उ. म. त्रिवेदी: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state how many M.Ps' flats were vacated by the M.Ps' after the last session?

(b) How many of such vacated flats were let out to non-M.Ps. and on what terms?

(c) What was the rent charged for these flats from the non-M.Ps.?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 78.

(b) 29 flats were allotted to Government officers during the non-session period on the condition that they will be vacated at short notice, if required.

(c) Standard rent under F.R.—45-A subject to a maximum of 10 per cent. of the officers' emoluments was charged for the buildings. Furniture and additional services were charged for in addition.

CLOTH CONTROL

253. श्री न. ल. जोशी: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the varieties of cloth on which control is maintained?

(b) What are the varieties which are decontrolled?

(c) What is the proportion of increase or decrease in production of the varieties mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above in the year 1952 as compared to the production figures for the year 1951?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No 32].

CLAIMS OFFICERS

254. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of "competent officers" appointed under the Evacuee Interests Separation Act, 1951 (Central Act 64);
- (b) the number of claims so far received by each competent officer;
- (c) the number of claims decided by each of them with their daily output; and
- (d) the period by which these claims are likely to be finalised?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Seven wholetime and fourteen part-time Competent Officers were initially appointed so as to provide one Competent Officer per State according to the magnitude of work involved in the initial stages. Sanction has recently been issued for the appointment of twenty-seven additional wholetime Competent Officers. Actual appointments have been left to the discretion of the State Governments according as may be necessary from time to time. Information about appointments made so far under this sanction has not yet been received.

(b) and (c). According to the scheme of the Act, information has first to be laid before the Competent Officer about the composite property whereupon a notice is issued asking the claimants concerned to put in their claim. In the interests of economy, the first set of Competent Officers appointed under the Act were mainly required to complete the work relating to issue of notices and receipt of claims, adjudication being left, by and large, until such time as the additional Competent Officers were in position to deal with the claims received, as also to be able to deal with the claims on a regional basis for the convenience of the parties. A statement of the information received by the Central Government regarding the work so far done by the Competent Officers is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 33].

(d) Every effort is being made to complete the work involved within the least possible time. It is, however, not possible to indicate a date by which the work is likely to be finished.

CONVENTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

255. Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to

state whether the Fifteen Nation Drafting Committee elected by the General Assembly of United Nations to evolve a fresh Draft Convention on Freedom of Information has submitted its draft for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council?

- (b) If so, has the Convention been finalised?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

- (b) No.

FILMS ON ELECTIONS

256. Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the films dealing specially with "Elections—Rights and Responsibilities" and "Democracy in Action" are still being shown in any place?

- (b) What are the languages in which copies of these were distributed?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) "Rights and Responsibilities" in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu and English.

"Democracy In Action" in Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and English.

OIL FROM IRAN

257. Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether India imported any of her requirements of petroleum and its products from Iran in the last five years, ending 31st March, 1952, and, since the outbreak of the dispute between the Iranian Government and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company?

(b) How far and in what ways have the interests of this country, and of its oil imports been safeguarded, *vis-à-vis* the Iranian oil in face of the existing dispute?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Supplies of all major Petroleum Products were received in India from Iran upto the end of June 1951 since when, owing to the closure of loadings *ex* Abadan, imports were dis-continued.

(b) Imports of Petroleum Products in India, inspite of the closure of supplies from Iran, have been maintained from other sources so as to meet the full requirements of the

country and no shortage of stocks or shortfalls in imports are expected in the future.

TRANSFER OF IMPORT LICENCES

258. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conditions of grant of import licences permit any transfer of such licences from the person or company in whose names they were issued in the first instance to any other persons or company;

(b) whether any cases have come to the notice of Government involving illegal transfer of any import licence (or its illegal assignment) from the person or persons, in whose name it was originally issued to any other person or persons; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to guard against any such infringement of the terms of the licence?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Such firms are black listed, i.e., debarred from receiving import and export licence. The question of prosecution is also considered depending upon the nature of the evidence and circumstances of the case.

Bidi MANUFACTURING MACHINE

259. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a machine has been invented for the manufacture of Bidis?

(b) If so, what is its cost and average daily production?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have received reports of Bidi manufacturing machines having been invented by two parties—(i) at Banaras and (ii) at Nasik (Bombay). The machine invented at Banaras is stated to be completely automatic. It can produce 2,400 Bidis per hour. The other machine can be worked up by hand as well as mechanically. It is still in experimental stage. When perfected, it will be capable of producing 1,000 Bidis per hour, if operated manually, and 1,500 Bidis per hour, if operated mechanically.

Acc. No. 2568
Dated....20.11.2

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

1205

1206

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE
Wednesday, 26th November, 1952

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(See Part I)

12 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951:

- (i) Report of the Tariff Commission on the review of retention prices of tinplate produced by the Tinplate Company of India Limited; [Placed in Library. See No. P-80/52.]
- (ii) Ministry of Commerce and Industry Resolution No. SC (A)-2(92)/52, dated the 12th November 1952; [Placed in Library. See No. P-80/52.]
- (iii) Report of the Tariff Commission on the fair ratio between the ordinary shares of the Steel Corporation of Bengal Limited, and the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited; [Placed in Library. See No. P-81/52.]
- (iv) Iron and Steel Companies Amalgamation Ordinance, 1952 (No. VIII of 1952), dated the 29th October, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. P-82.]

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Yesterday I was trying to make out a case for State ownership of the Industrial Finance Corporation. Before I discuss this point further, I wish to quote an anecdote. A teacher was giving his class a lecture on charity. 'Sundaram', he said 'if I saw a man beating a donkey and stopped him from

doing so, what virtue would I be displaying?' For that, Sundaram replied, 'Brotherly love'. Government, in piloting this amending Bill, is saying that the big industrial concerns are hit hard by lack of funds or financial accommodation, and therefore the Corporation should be enabled to give more financial assistance to certain big industrial concerns. This love of the Government for the giant business concerns is the same kind of love that I referred to in the anecdote. Government as it is constituted today, to my mind, has not framed any philosophy of industry, so far, or even any economic philosophy for that matter.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

The economic system in which we are living today is no system at all, but only chaos, and has grown without any preconceived plans or well-thought out ideologies. The various kinds of Bills that have been brought forward for the consideration of this House just resemble this chaotic system that Government is following in matters of economic development. I represent a party which believes in the ideal of Sarvodaya. Mahatma Gandhi all along his life struggled hard to evolve a salient philosophy of village industries. I may call it the ideal or the doctrine of 'Villagism'. The conception of that doctrine is that every village should be taken as a unit and every unit should produce all the goods required for local consumption and if anything surplus is left after consumption, then that surplus should be marketed through co-operative channels. That is the whole theme of 'villagism' that was advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. I feel the ruling party still holds to this ideal, at least in theory. But we are not finding it translated into practice. That is the most unfortunate and tragic aspect of the situation. Any economic measure or any act which is concerned with economic life of the country should be brought in line with a system of philosophy. If there is no philosophy, then the people will suffer and perish in the long run. Today I am finding a woeful lack of philosophy on the part of Government.

Shri D. D. Pant (Almora Distt.—North East): Give us one.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am giving you. I am advocating the philosophy of Sarvodaya, the philosophy of what I call, 'Villagism'. If Government is genuinely desirous of and is interested in, developing every nook and corner of the land, then the policy that should be pursued should be a policy of decentralisation based on the doctrine of 'Villagism'. The present policy which is favouring big business and large scale enterprise and which is an imitation of foreign countries, is harmful to the land in the long run. I am not denying the fact that the country does need big industries. Of course, we are living in an age of big industries. But the pattern of control and ownership of those industries should be changed. The pattern of control should shift from the private capitalists to public ownership. Today I see the Industrial Finance Corporation is only an instrument for furthering the cause of big business in the land. Among the Board of Directors the majority are private capitalists. The loans given are huge and only to a few big industrial concerns. The small industries and agriculture cannot and will not get any financial help from this Corporation. My hon. friend may say that there are other ways of financing and helping them, there are other facilities given. But my reply is this. Our economy should be viewed in a comprehensive way. We must take the entire economy into consideration. While helping the various sectors of our economy, you must take an integrated view of things. That is necessary, but today the Government is lacking in that integrated view.

I said this Corporation is controlled by the private capitalists. I know, Government has got its nominees. But I want to know who are those nominees. Are they not private capitalists? Who is that man called Sri Ram? From which part of the world does he come and which interest does he represent? Is he not the Chairman of the Corporation? Does he not represent big business. And who are the rest of the Government nominees? Are they not private capitalists or are they not representing in some way or the other big business? And who are the people who are elected to the Board of Directors? They are also in a way private capitalists. They may represent joint stock companies and co-operative banks. I agree. But I tell you

that nowadays the joint stock banks and the co-operative banks are also mostly controlled by a handful of capitalists. You must bear in mind that five per cent. of the population is controlling 35 per cent. of the total wealth of the land. And you say that private capitalists are not allowed to have a share in the Corporation; you do not want to promote private capitalism in the land. So you have invited joint stock companies and co-operative banks to become shareholders. But you must know who are controlling these joint stock companies. The managing agency system which is prevailing today is controlled by a few handful of individuals and has become a joint family concern of a few people. The entire economy of the country is controlled by a few joint families and what you call joint stock companies are joint family concerns and nothing else.

Furthermore, I want to draw the attention of the House to the question whether the joint stock companies are genuinely democratic in their functioning. We know that joint stock companies in theory are controlled by shareholders. But it is a fiction to say that shareholders control the joint stock companies. It is nothing but fiction and in reality it is controlled by a few domineering individuals like Birlas, Tatas and Dalmias. And so do not make a sort of camouflage by inviting only joint stock companies and co-operative banks to have shares in the Corporation and say that it is not controlled by private individuals. Indeed it is controlled by private industrial magnates through joint stock companies. So we are in a vicious circle and the entire economy of the country is controlled by a few magnates and we have been forced to accept it. And you are the cause for that situation.

The joint stock companies, if I may say a few words more, are controlled by a board of directors according to the Company Law. But in this there is a new tyranny. I am seeing—the tyranny of the board of directors. Unless we free our shareholders who are poor men, common men, from this tyranny of the board of directors, unless we amend the law to avoid the nefarious managing agency system or unless we fix that one industry should be managed by only one man and one should not be allowed to have a say in more than one industry—that is industrial democracy in a way, in a limited sense, one man should not start more than one

industry and one man should not invest more than a particular sum—unless you fix up a limit like that, I think the type and concept of industrial democracy which you visualise, at least in theory, will not come into practice.

I make a few . . .

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): If one man has spare money, what shall he do with it? What does my friend suggest?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am putting the same question to you. Why are you not competent to comb out all the money?

Shri Tyagi: Now the idea is complete!

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: You have failed to do so. You have left enormous surplus money in the hands of a few people. They are reaping the harvest. You are only a tool in the hands of those harvesters. And I want you to be more courageous.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly address the Chair.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: So, Sir, a change in the outlook is urgently called for on the part of the Government.

Then, I was referring to the question that the present Industrial Finance Corporation is helpful to large industries alone. I would put this question to the hon. Ministers of Finance and Industry, "Do you want to increase the over-crowding of the already overcrowded cities in the land? Do you want to industrialise the already industrialised areas?" Big industries are concentrated in a few localities, as you know. You say that you believe in decentralised economy but your practice and profession stand for centralised economy. Do you believe that big industries should be in the big cities?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I have been hearing the hon. Member for some time; it is now ten minutes. We are not discussing the Industrial Policy Resolution. The scope of the Bill is very limited. If perchance this should be the first occasion when an Industrial Finance Corporation is thought of and the Bill is introduced in the House, we can say, 'you are industrialising big cities' and all that. This is only an amending Bill. Inasmuch as they are going to borrow from outside also, they want to guarantee outside loans; and one or two other matters are touched. The general

policy behind the Industrial Finance Corporation or even the industrial policy or the working of the Corporation, except in so far as it is relevant to the kind of amendments sought for, I do not think these things are relevant. I am afraid, the hon. Member is trying to enlarge the scope of the Bill.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Sir, I do not want to worry the House with a long speech.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has a right to worry the House so long as he is relevant.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Sir, as I was making out, the present Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill is meant to augment the financial resources of the Corporation, the main objective of which is to provide more financial accommodation to certain industries which require more funds. Another objective of the Bill is to guarantee the loans of the International Bank; but there is one snag here. Government has agreed to meet the loss due to exchange operations. I fail to understand when a loan is taken from the International Bank and when that loan is utilised to finance an industrial concern, why the loss due to exchange operations should be borne by the Government and not by the industrial concerns themselves? It is just and reasonable that the burden should be passed on to the industrial concerns and the Government should not take that burden upon itself.

Further, the hon. Minister said yesterday that the maximum limit of the loan would be increased to one crore of rupees and in special cases, if the Government deems fit the loan may exceed even that one crore. I am attacking almost from the very beginning the policy of the Government to aid only big industries. I would also draw the attention of the hon. Minister concerned to another point. Some of the concerns are, as you are aware, already suffering from over-capitalisation and the loans that have been distributed by the Industrial Finance Corporation so far have helped this process of over-capitalisation. We have not yet come to a stage where we can judge scientifically and correctly whether a particular industrial concern is over-capitalised or under-capitalised or whether it is run right. We have not yet machinery or a mechanism it not possible to judge this. But opinion, as I gather, It is not. Will view that there is a duly approved by in some of the in doubt the detailed nance Corporation, industrial project by the Corporation it

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy]

client care to see this aspect while advancing loans to such concerns. Having seen the operation of this Industrial Finance Corporation for the last four years, I say that it has failed in its fundamental objective. Further, I can say to this House that this Corporation is meant to support the already existing industries and it is not meant to promote new industries in new areas. Therefore, I say it is not a correct approach to the problem. If your objective is to promote the industrial economy of our country, then you cannot draw a distinction between the industries which are existing and the industries which are not yet started. People may come forward to start new industries but they may feel that they are lacking in funds. The provisions of the Act do not allow the Corporation to finance new industries. The existing industry will continue to exist though there are difficulties for that industry. (Interruption) The existing industry will continue to exist and it will not go into liquidation; for the industrialists or the capitalists who have promoted that industry will see that somehow or other the industry exists. Are we not seeing that so many industries exist today without depending upon the loans granted by the Corporation? But the most important thing is to assist those who are trying to start new industries in different areas of the countryside. The Corporation is to act as an instrument for promoting the spreading out of industries in all parts of the land. That is what it should do, but it has failed to do this.

The hon. Minister said yesterday that this Corporation has been functioning very satisfactorily, but he failed to justify this statement. I want him to tell me when he gives his reply the names of the individual concerns, to whom these loans have been granted. In the four annual reports supplied to us, there is no mention of the names. Only the industries are mentioned. I think both the House and the public outside are entitled to know the names of the individuals or proprietors of these concerns, because there is a charge rest at there is favouritism in the grant. Are these and that the Corporation is they not partial and above board. One the other by, Members, Dr. Saha, add the people who are to the hon. Minister of Directors? The names and other private capitalists, concerns to whom loans sent joint stock com and the hon. Minister of banks. I agreeing that "in the is information can't public interest

is there, I cannot see. I think there is no public interest; it is only private interest involved. Unless we have this information, how can we find out whether there has been any progress in production? Does the Corporation maintain sufficient data to know whether there is a proper utilisation of the funds and whether there is any progress in production? Has it done this? I know that Government can direct the policy of the Corporation, but is not doing that. The policy is controlled by a few capitalists who are on the board of directors. Like the big brother, Government are allowing them to go their own way. Such a thing should not continue.

To conclude, I want that this Corporation should be brought under complete State control. This is absolutely necessary after we have seen the working of this Corporation for so many years. I think in these circumstances I am fully justified in asking the Government to scrap the original Act, withdraw the present amending Bill and bring a new Bill, by which we can control and operate this Corporation. Otherwise, the Corporation will be taken advantage of by a few cliques of business magnates who will take control of the entire industrial economy of the country and after a few years we will have to sit like idle and helpless spectators unable to do anything. So, I want the Government to come forward with a new Bill, or at least change aspects of the existing Act, so that we may own and control this great institution. You may be aware that the experience in America is that 200 joint stock companies are controlling 70 per cent. of the total corporate wealth of that country. That sort of thing should not be repeated in India. There is a tendency in that direction and it requires to be arrested immediately. Therefore, I strongly plead that the Government should put an end to this policy of lame duck and follow a path which is courageous and bold.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The amendment has not been placed before the House. I shall place it now.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): The Speaker took the amendment as moved and allowed the general discussion on the main motion and the amendment together.

Shri A. C. Guha (Santipur): There is an amendment standing in the name of Mr. Gurupadaswamy

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): And also Mr. Ramaswamy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has it been placed before the House?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): Yes.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: At the very beginning. The amendment was treated as having been moved.

Shri A. C. Guha: The Speaker said that as Mr. Gurupadaswamy was not well, so his motion for Select Committee reference would be taken as moved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, apart from that, I was about to ask the hon. Member who has moved this amendment whether he wants to press his amendment, because I understood that he was opposed to the Bill itself. That is how he concluded. He never said that the amending Bill ought to be taken into consideration. He was only saying that he wants it to be withdrawn.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I have said yesterday itself that I want to press my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Did he do so? Hon. Members should speak relevantly to the motion they intend to press, and not oppose the Bill itself when they propose a Select Committee motion.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I rise to support the proposal that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I would appeal to the House to look at the provisions of this Bill from a realistic standpoint. I can appreciate the position taken by several hon. Members who have spoken in opposing some of the fundamental features of the Act. But we are not really here to consider the merits or de-merits of a particular economic system which may be in vogue in the country today. The original Act obviously proceeds on the assumption that there will be private enterprise in India. If some of us do not like it, they may certainly hold that opinion, but the object of the Bill is to give necessary facilities to private enterprise so that there may be a planned development of the industrial resources of the country.

The main reason for amendment of this Bill has arisen out of certain negotiations which have been going on with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Statement of Objects and Reasons in fact indicates that the changes which are being made today are being made more or less on the suggestion of the Bank itself. We suffer from an initial handicap inasmuch as the terms of the

agreement which might have been entered into between the Bank and the Government are not available to us. If they were known to the House then, perhaps, many of the conjectures or suspicions which have been thrown on this matter might have been avoided.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It has not been completed yet.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: If it has not yet been completed, at least a little more detailed picture might have been given to us, or perhaps the hon. Minister could in his reply make this point clear.

What does this Bill seek to do? The Bill merely says that the Government may, if it so chooses, guarantee any foreign loans which may be made to the Corporation. There is no compulsion about it. The matter is left entirely to the discretion of Government. Nor does the Act mention—in fact it cannot mention—the particular source from which such foreign loans will come. So far as the mere enunciation of the principle goes, there cannot be any objection to it. Naturally, if we want to take any foreign loan and if it be a condition attached to such foreign loans that the Government guarantee must be there, there must be a statutory provision to that effect.

I am not one of those who would feel nervous if there is any suggestion of receiving foreign loans. At the same time, certain clarifications should be made by Government. It has been said by the hon. Minister while he was moving the motion that the loan will be given with regard to schemes approved by the Bank. He did not develop this point. But I would like to know what exactly this "approval" means. How far will this International Bank, or for the matter of that, any other foreign agency who may be willing to advance loans, be entitled to interfere with the essential freedom which we must have in determining which particular sector of industry should be developed. I would like the Minister to make this clear as regards the scope of interference of any such foreign authority while granting a loan to India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not provided in the Bill?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: It is not. Will the scheme be ultimately approved by the Bank? No doubt the detailed screening of each industrial project must be made by the Corporation it-

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

self, but what is the extent of the interference which the Bank will insist upon before any loan is given.

Now an additional director is being added. Is it the intention that this director will be a representative of the Bank which may be giving the loans to us? It is not quite clear as to which interest is proposed to be represented by the addition of this director.

Shri M. C. Shah: No director from the World Bank.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: But anyone to be appointed at the suggestion of the World Bank.

Shri M. C. Shah: No. It will not be at the suggestion of the World Bank.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Now, this is a matter which has to be considered with a certain amount of care.

A number of suggestions have been made with regard to the working of the Industrial Finance Corporation. I have seen the report which has been circulated to us. What I would like to know from Government is how far Government is satisfied that the loans which have been granted by the Corporation during the last five years have been made with regard to the overall idea of planned development of the industrial resources of the country? Have they been granted in a haphazard way or has there been any attempt to coordinate the assistance which has been given by the Corporation in relation to the overall planned development of the country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member knows that two Government directors are there. They do the coordination.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Yes, I know that. One difficulty which we experience is this. The report which is circulated, the Fourth Annual Report of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India, just mentions the types of industries on page four. There is no mention of the particular concern which is receiving the help. After all there should be no secrecy about this matter.

Shri A. C. Guha: It cannot be a question of public interest to disclose it.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: At one stage we discussed this question and it was pointed out that it would not be in the public interest to disclose which particular concern was getting the assistance through the Corporation. I do

not understand the logic of it. There must be some check by somebody and obviously Parliament which brings the Corporation into existence ought to be in a position to know which particular concerns are receiving the grants. Secondly, the report should include a full statement as to how far the grants made have been utilised by the institutions concerned for realising the objective in view.

For instance, take textile machinery industry, which received a total of Rs. 64 lakhs. Now this amount has been paid till the 30th June 1952. How far has India benefited with regard to manufacture of textile machinery by the grant of this Rs. 64 lakhs? There should be some progress report with regard to each one of these types of industries, so that we may know that a close scrutiny is maintained and the final objective is going to be reached in regular instalments. Take again the case of cotton textiles which received a loan of more than Rs. two crores. Now what were the special circumstances under which a cotton textile mill was given such a huge loan?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Was it one concern?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I do not know. It is said cotton textiles Rs. two crores and 74 lakhs.

Shri M. C. Shah: Not only one concern; there are so many concerns.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: That is our difficulty. When we are re-examining the provisions of the Bill—and as the hon. Minister has stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons this opportunity is being taken to make certain amendments to improve the operation of the Act—it would have been much better if some sort of note had been circulated to us so that we could know how in respect of each one of these types of industries and also in respect of the concerns which have been helped, the main objective of this Act, namely better and increased production, reduction of cost of production, national self-sufficiency etc., had been attained.

Now I may take another group of industries—the automobile and tractor industry. Here we have spent Rs. 50 lakhs, but so far as my information goes, one of the main automobile factories has been temporarily closed down and so far as the tractor factory is concerned, little progress has been made.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Which is the main automobile factory which has closed down?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The one with which the hon. Minister is in love—Hindusthan.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know how the hon. Member knows about my loves much better than I myself do.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Because my love has been transferred to the hon. Minister for the time being.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is not the hon. Minister informed from time to time?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I thought I could get some information from the hon. Member if he chooses to give it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it the contention of the hon. Minister that it has not been closed down, or even if it has closed down he is not aware of it? I thought the hon. Minister would have been kept constantly informed about these.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There seems to be some lacuna in my information service.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On the floor of the House, I would not like that any hon. Minister, however humorously, should put such questions on very important matters.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I submit, Sir, that my information is that no major factory has closed down?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is not the Hindustan Motor Factory a major factory?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My information is that it is working. Of course, it closed down for some time but it has started working again. I do not know whether it closed down again. I do not know, the hon. Member did not tell me.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: That is what I wanted to know.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I quite recognize, Sir, that we could not plead our own ignorance in this House. On that the Chair is quite correct. But the information is palpably wrong. That is why I asked him what is the factory that has closed down.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: What I said was that a particular factory had temporarily closed down and it was for my hon. friend to get up and say: it is now working. There would have been no scope for humour or any lapse of memory at all.

This is one point which naturally the house has got to discuss, and if the matter goes to Select Committee it will be possible for us to get full information as regards the manner in which the loans have been granted to particular types of industries and to particular concerns and what results have actually been achieved during the last five years. That I consider to be a very important aspect which we are entitled to discuss in connection with this Bill.

The next was a very delicate point which was raised yesterday with regard to the personnel of the board of directors. It is not for me to cast any reflection on anybody. In fact, the present chairman of the board of directors is one of the outstanding industrialists of the country and his services in many directions have justifiably won praise and admiration for him. But it is not a question of individual selection. I think it will be good for us to lay down that anyone who is a member of the board of directors should not be directly associated with any big manufacturing concern.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Indirectly?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Directly or indirectly. I mean it should be left to Government to select a man with outstanding experience but one who is not now concerned with any company. It is necessary for creating confidence in the minds of all concerned. It may be that many of these institutions with which this gentleman might have been connected and which have received grants are otherwise fully deserving of support. But it does create some doubt, some suspicion in the minds of the public which, I feel, should be avoided.

As regards the changes which have been made, as I was going through the reports and also studying the working of the Industrial Finance Corporations of other countries, there is one important aspect in which our Act has been found faulty. We have not provided in our Act any scheme for giving equity or risk capital to these companies. Our provision is only to grant loans. The hon. Minister knows that with regard to the operation of similar Corporations in other countries, especially in Great Britain and in Canada, the realisation is coming more and more that if any help is going to be real and lasting and capable of producing results, then not only must the Corporation give loans but it must also provide for risk or equity capital. That fundamental point has somehow not been taken into consideration.

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

I had something to do with the framing of this Bill four years ago when the then Finance Minister Mr. Shanmukham Chetty introduced it. This was a matter which was then taken into consideration, but in view of the novelty of the experiment which Government was going to make and the possible risks which were associated with the working of such an institution, this matter was not pursued further. But having had four years' experience now, and when the Act is going to be amended, I think, it is very important that this aspect of the matter should be considered. If it goes to Select Committee we can consider it there.

What most of the customers want is not loan capital but risk or equity capital. In fact, the E.C.A.F.E. Committee which sat in Lahore in February 1951 discussed this very matter and passed a resolution recommending that industrially backward countries should have Industrial Finance Corporations which would make it possible for such Corporations to initiate, underwrite and participate in new enterprises and to furnish entrepreneur capital. This arose out of a consideration of Ceylon's Industrial and Financial Corporation and naturally had its application in respect of India also.

I was trying to get the reports for U.K. and I could lay my hands on figures for three years, one ending March 1950, another ending March 1951 and the third ending March 1952. I find from these reports that on 31st March 1950, 36.6 per cent. of the Corporation's assets consisted of share holdings in industrial companies; that is 36.6 per cent. of the amount which was at the disposal of the Finance Corporation represented the share holdings in industrial companies. Of course, the total amount came to a very large figure, namely, nearly about £500,000. It may not be possible for India to provide such a sum. Then at the end of March 1951 the percentage went up to 42 per cent. and at the end of March 1952 the percentage was 38 per cent. In Canada also I find the same principle has been accepted and in fact this question has been dealt with in detail in the annual reports: both in England and in Canada by their respective chairmen, and they have described how this feature was essential if the Industrial Finance Corporation was really going to work in an effective manner.

Now, the difference is obvious. If you grant a loan, that means that the interest starts running immediately.

But if you take shares, that means you are entitled to get back by way of dividend only when profit accrues. If a new industrial concern starts working, naturally for the first four, five or six years it may not be possible to have any profits. And if during that period there is the question of payment of interest, then we practically take away through one hand something which we give through the other hand.

Similarly, if the loan is given on the assets of the company, you make it still more difficult for this company—the company whom you are helping partially—to raise additional money from other sources. In fact, the speech of our own chairman delivered last time did refer to this aspect of the matter and pointed out the difficulties. We have already paid Rs. seven crores. That is what the hon. Minister said yesterday. How much return have we got out of granting a loan of Rs. seven crores? We have sanctioned loan to the tune of Rs. 15 crores. The hon. Minister did not explain clearly why the grant of Rs. eight crores, although made, has not been taken by the industries concerned. What is the reason? Why do they hesitate to take that? Obviously one of the reasons which was explained in one of the recent reports was that this loan which was being given was not itself sufficient for the complete purpose which the industrial concerns may have in view.

Shri A. C. Guha: Conditions.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Conditions, of course, might be too rigorous. While on the one hand we are spending a few crores of rupees, we are not getting the full value. I would therefore ask the Government very seriously to consider whether the time has not come when we should have a provision for risk capital. I am not saying that this means that the Corporation will go and take shares in every industrial concern. It may be in select cases, it may be in cases where the Corporation is satisfied that but for its participation that particular enterprise will not be able to develop its activities, that the Corporation will so participate. Of course, along with this also goes a greater amount of control.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Greater risk.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Of course, without risk there is no gain. The hon. Minister knows very well. He has faced so many risks himself and has gained thereby also!

The two points which I would like to emphasise are these. First of all, the Industrial Finance Corporation, must have its own inspecting and advisory agency. I was glad the hon. Minister said yesterday that there was a proposal to have some technical staff. You must have a proper agency—technical men—not for the purpose of interfering with private enterprise but really for offering them help and assistance and guidance and that must go on concurrently with such financial assistance as the Corporation may give. You must associate one or two economists also with the working of this institution so that sound expert knowledge which is now available at the disposal of similar institutions in England or in Canada may also be made available in our country. Secondly, the entire working of this Corporation must be tuned up with the overall planning scheme of the Government. We have now decided that the private sector will be given its allotted share. Our assistance must fit in with the possibility of performance by the private sector for realising the objective that Government may have in view. The help must not be given in a random fashion but it must be properly integrated. In every country attention is given with equal vigour not only to the desirability of making additional grants to those who might have received grants earlier but also for making grants to new enterprises and new institutions. Now there is a feeling—I am not able to prove that the feeling is always justified—but there is a feeling that new enterprises, as my friend Mr. Guha said yesterday, which deal with new manufactures or important commodities have not received that ready help which they should from the Corporation. We have a proverb in Bengal:

"Oil and more oil is poured on the oily head".

You do not look after the needs of new enterprises which may be very important for the national development of the country. The Bill has introduced shipping companies or shipping and I find this also has been added at the instance of the International Bank. Now what exactly does shipping company mean? Does it mean manufacture of ships or does it mean trading? If it is trading, why do we have shipping alone? Why not other transport services also? It is

not quite clear why this foreign company is suddenly interested in giving loan for developing shipping trade.

Shri Tyagi: It is not a question as if they are interested. We are interested and we process the proposal and they approve our proposal. That is all.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: These are the details which Mr. Tyagi is hugging to his bosom and naturally we cannot share with him but the point is if you want to include shipping then do it in a way that you may include ship-building also.

1 P.M.

Shri Tyagi: It is really difficult for me to lay on the Table of the House the details—the loans are still under negotiation, and my friend will realise that it is not in the interests of the public to do so. Our people have gone there. I cannot talk very freely.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I quite appreciate that. That is why I am suggesting that this Bill requires further consideration. You may not discuss it on the floor of the House. If you sit in a Select Committee, then we can know what exactly are the intentions of Government and how it is possible for us to modify the provisions of the Bill so as to make the attainment of the objective more feasible. If you want to include shipping companies, I would certainly suggest that we include also the manufacture of ships. What I do not like is this. If you want to make any changes in our Act

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I know the rules of the Government for the Select Committee so that I may regulate the debate in this House?

Shri M. C. Shah: We do not accept.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: This is the unfortunate part of the Government attitude. We are here not to oppose for the sake of opposition. We are making some useful suggestions so that the provisions of the Bill can be altered and it is hardly possible to make detailed changes if you discuss them on the floor of the House.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): This report is not available to Members. We want to read this report and take part in the discussions. I do not know why this report has not been supplied to Members. I would request the hon. Minister kindly to supply the report at least so that we may go through the Report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I know that in previous years the report was circulated to hon. Members. Now in view of the fact that this Bill has come up before this House, will it not be more useful if copies of the report are circulated to hon. Members?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Quite true.

Shri M. C. Shah: They are available in the Library, Sir.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I will find out how many copies are available. If some are available, we will...

An Hon. Member: Not a single copy is available.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: This is the only copy available.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I may make one small suggestion to the Government. So far as these reports are concerned, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry said he will find out whether copies are available and will supply copies to as many hon. Members as is possible. From time to time hon. Members have been receiving notices from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, that so many copies of the various documents are available and they may take them from there. Instead of waiting for 10, 20 days, before notice is given, as and when copies are printed, all such documents, if sufficient number of copies are made available, can be supplied to hon. Members there and then.

An Hon. Member: I waited for 46 days.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I received some copies during the previous year. I do not know why this year they were not sent.

Shri A. C. Guha: As a rule, copies should be circulated to all the hon. Members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has agreed to circulate.

Shri A. C. Guha: We are not getting copies. If we cannot go through them, what is the use of sitting here and taking part in the discussion?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: May I suggest that the debate may be adjourned and the report should be circulated. It is only fair that Members of the House should have an opportunity of studying the report. Otherwise, the discussion will be unreal. Government may accept the suggestion.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The number of copies available will not be coterminus with the number of Members of the House. We have only 20 copies. Members can have a look from the Library.

An Hon. Member: We want them for study.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This is a very small report, three or four pages.

Shri B. Das (Jaipur-Keonjhar): Sir, I would draw your attention that the report was laid on the Table of the House last session. Parliamentary Debates take a long time for publication. I do not know why only three or four copies are being given to the Library.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): It seems that many Members who are anxious to participate cannot do so for lack of sufficient information being made available. As I understand copies are not available in the Library. It is for you to decide whether a proper debate is possible under these circumstances. As suggested by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, this matter may be adjourned till tomorrow and in the meanwhile copies may be furnished to as many Members as desire.

Shri Tyagi: Six copies were placed on the Table of the House. Generally...

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Tyagi: That is another matter. If each hon. Member wanted a copy, that could also be arranged. It will surely take time. In the usual course, when such documents are placed on the Table, a few copies are placed. My hon. friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee also may remember that he too did not place in bulk copies of reports. I understand six copies have already been placed and they were available. It is not possible all at once to produce 500 copies just now.

Some Hon. Members: Why not?

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think it is necessary to have any long discussion over this matter. The hon. Minister will kindly find out from the Industrial Finance Corporation how many copies are available.

Shri Tyagi: I have sent a word.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let all of them be placed. Let as many copies as are available be placed in the Library so that, even if they should fall short of

the total Members in the House, as many Members as want to read that and want to speak today, may take them in preference to those who want to speak tomorrow. As amongst themselves, they may adjust. It was also incidentally referred to in this debate that for the purpose of fully appreciating the fresh provisions that are sought to be made by this Bill, and to understand the working of the Corporation from the administration report, details are not given: as for instance, two crores and odd for the textiles, etc. I do not personally see what objection there can be or what confidence there is. After all, it is the business of this House to safeguard the amounts lent to this Corporation, also because of the Government guarantees and various other things on loans taken by the Corporation. Therefore, I would advise the hon. Minister to circulate to the Members details regarding the manner in which this money has been spent so as to enable them to exercise proper control and deal with this Bill properly. In view of the fact that it largely depends on the information that has to be circulated to hon. Members, I would adjourn this Bill till tomorrow.

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

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

FOOD ADULTERATION BILL

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

"That the Bill to make provision for the prevention of adulteration of food be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Santosh Kumar Dutta, Shri Lokanath Mishra, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Shri Kailash Pati Sinha, Shri Hira Singh Chinaria, Shri Amarnath Vidyalankar, Shri Bheekha Bhai, Sardar Raj Bhanu Singh Tewari, Shri K. G. Deshmukh, Shri Vaijanath Mahodaya, Shri T. Madiah Gowda, Shri Halaharvi Sitarama Reddy, Shri K. Periaswami Gounder, Shri Maneklal Maganlal Gandhi, Shri Rajaram Giridharlal Dubey, Shri Hoti Lal Agarwal, Shri Biswa Nath Roy, Shrimati Uma Nehru, Shri Narayan Sadoba Kajrolkar, Shri C. R. Narasimhan, Shri R. V. Dhulekar, Dr. Indubhai B. Amin, Sardar Lal Singh, Shri K. Kelappan, Dr. Ch. V. Rama Rao, Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri, Shrimati M. Chandra-

sekhar, and the Mover with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next Session."

In bringing forward this proposal, may I be permitted to say a few words?

I do not think that there will be a single Member of this House who will not welcome the introduction of this Bill. In fact, in the past Parliament and even before that I have been asked several times as to why I have not been able to introduce this measure before today. But the difficulty was that I could not do it until the adulteration of foodstuffs and other goods came on to the Concurrent List. The moment I was in a position to bring a measure like this before the House, I circulated all the State Governments and asked for their opinions. The Members of the House know that laws against food adulteration do exist in all the Part A States, in some of the Part B States, and in some of the Part C States, but they lack uniformity, and I think in a situation like this where food adulteration is growing or has grown into a positive menace, it is absolutely essential that something should be done in this regard. And therefore, it is that I felt it was absolutely necessary for the Central Government to enact legislation.

Now, opinions have been received from all the States, and all their useful suggestions have been incorporated in this Bill. My own feeling has been throughout these years that while food laws do exist, it is the inadequacy of Government machinery that has been greatly responsible for their inability to check the menace. Not only is the machinery inadequate, but there is also, I am sorry to say, lack of integrity in that machinery. Therefore, whatever legislation we pass, the State Governments will have to see to it that this inadequacy is removed, and that, as far as possible, the integrity of the machinery is also ensured.

Some friends feel that this Bill should be circulated for public opinion. I myself feel that there is no necessity for that now since the State Governments have been consulted, and consulted over a long period, so that they have been able to give all their experiences and their considered judgment on the measure and, what is more, they have again been circulated since this new measure has been drafted. That is to say, the present Bill has been circulated to them, and

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

they have been asked to give their opinions before the 22nd of December, so that the Select Committee will have ample time to consider any further suggestions that they may have to make.

The important suggestions in this present measure—the most important are: first of all, the constitution of the Central Food Laboratory which I am sure the Members will welcome because under the existing laws where if a food inspector or a vendor is not satisfied with the report of the analysis of any food article that has been given to a public analyst in any State, there is no provision for analysis by a superior authority. Therefore this Central Food Laboratory will be of very great value, and it will not only carry out analysis of such foodstuffs as are given to it that have not been satisfactorily analysed, but they will also carry out analysis of samples of imported foodstuffs sent from the ports by the Collectors of Customs or by any other officers authorised by the Central Government for this purpose. They will also carry out investigations for the purpose of fixation of standards of foodstuffs. That is very important. They will also undertake investigations, in close collaboration with the laboratories of State public enterprises, for the purpose of standardising methods of analysis. Uniformity in the formulation of standards for various items of food and any permissible variations from the standards will be achieved through the Central Committee that is sought to be appointed, and State Governments will also set up their committees, and I think that a very great deal of efficiency will be brought into being by the constitution of the Food Laboratory, the Central Committee and the State committees.

One of the standing complaints against food laws has been that the penalty prescribed for offences has been too small, and that very often the courts do not even award these small penalties. For that also, some more drastic provisions have been put into the Bill.

I, therefore, hope very much that those who have put forward amendments for further circulation will be good enough to withdraw them in view of what I have said that public opinion has been elicited, and that State Governments have been circulated again. I do hope that all Members who are interested in this measure will send any suggestions that they may like to the Select Committee. There is ample

time for their suggestions to be considered, and I hope that the Bill will go on the Statute Book as early as possible in the next session of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to make provision for the prevention of adulteration of food be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Santosh Kumar Dutta, Shri Lokenath Mishra, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Shri Kailash Pati Sinha, Shri Hira Singh Chinaria, Shri Amarnath Vidyalankar, Shri Bheekha Bhai, Sardar Raj Bhanu Singh Tewari, Shri K. G. Deshmukh, Shri Vaijanath Mahodaya, Shri T. Madiah Gowda, Shri Halaharvi Sitarama Reddy, Shri K. Periaswami Gounder, Shri Maneklal Maganlal Gandhi, Shri Rajaram Giridharlal Dubey, Shri Hoti Lal Agarwal, Shri Biswa Nath Roy, Shrimati Uma Nehru, Shri Narayan Sadoba Kajrolkar, Shri C. R. Narasimhan, Shri R. V. Dholekar, Dr. Indubhai B. Amin, Sardar Lal Singh, Shri K. Kelappan, Dr. Ch. V. Rama Rao, Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri, Shrimati M. Chandrasekhar, and the Mover with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next Session."

There are amendments of which some hon. Members have given notices. I would like to know whether they are moving them. The first amendments stands in the name of Shri S. V. Ramaswamy.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): I am not moving it.

Mr. Speaker: The second amendment stands in the name of Shri Veeraswamy.

Shri Veeraswamy (Mayuram—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I am moving it.

Mr. Speaker: But the hon. Member has not given any date by which the Bill should be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon. By what date does he want it to be circulated?

Shri Veeraswamy: By the first week of the next session.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may have it by the first day of the next session.

Shri Veeraswamy: Yes; I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the first day of the next session."

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the first day of the next session."

There is one amendment in the name of Shri Jajware. Is the hon. Member moving it?

Shri Jajware (सन्धाल परगना व हजारी बाग) : मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं नहीं, कहने की बात तो बल्ग है।

Shri Jajware : अभी जैसी श्रीमती मंत्राली जी से बात हुई

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं वह अभी नहीं चाहता हूँ, अभी मैं इतना ही चाहता हूँ ...

Shri Jajware : अध्यक्ष महोदय,

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप चरा सुनिये, आप बैठ जाइये अभी मैं इतना ही जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो संशोधन आप ने भेजा है वह आप पेश करना चाहते हैं या नहीं।

Shri Jajware : नहीं।

Mr. Speaker: There is one amendment in the name of Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore) : I am not moving it.

Mr. Speaker: There is one in the name of Shri H. G. Vaishnav.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav (Ambad) : I am not moving it.

Mr. Speaker: What about Kumari Annie Mascarene?

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivandrum) : I am moving it.

Mr. Speaker: But no date has been given.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Let the date be by the first week of the next session.

Mr. Speaker: That is already there. Whether it is the first day or the first week it amounts to the same thing. So this amendment is barred.

What about Dr. Rama Rao?

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): It is already moved.

Mr. Speaker: So there is only one amendment that has been moved, for eliciting public opinion by the 1st day of the next session.

The original motion as well as the amendment are now open for debate.

Shri Raghbir Sahai (Etah Distt.—North East cum Budaun Distt.—East) : I welcome the Bill that has been moved for being referred to the Select Committee, by the hon. Minister of Health. Everybody knows that adulteration of foodstuffs is a growing evil. This Bill which is intended to combat that evil has therefore to be welcomed. How far it will be able to lessen that evil is to be seen. I quite agree with the hon. Minister that this Bill was overdue, as there is great dissimilarity in the Acts on this subject in several States. Coming from Uttar Pradesh, I may inform the House that a very comprehensive Bill on this subject was passed by the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, a couple of years back, but somehow the operation of that Bill has been withheld. I do not know whether it is due to the intervention of the Union Government. But whatever the reason might be, the fact is that the operation has been withheld. Everybody will recognise that food plays a vital part in the building up of the health of a nation. Since long, the health of the people of this country is very poor. In this connection, I may quote some figures which are very pertinent to the subject. It is said that although the birth rate of India compares favourably with that of other countries, so far as the death rate and the average expectation of life are concerned, they compare very unfavourably with those of others. The relevant figures for the various countries are as follows:

Country	Birth rate per 1000	Death rate per 1000	Average expectation of life
	Males	Females	
France	19.4	13.2	54.30 59.02
Germany	15.7	10.5	59.86 62.75
India	26.6	25.1	29.91 26.56
Japan	25.6	10.0	44.82 40.54
United States of America	24.3	9.7	59.12 62.67
United Kingdom	15.9	11.2	58.74 62.88

If we compare these figures, and study them carefully, we shall come to the conclusion that our birth rate is

[Shri Raghbir Sahai]

supposed to be the highest, but the expectation of life is the least, with the result that the death rate also in this country is the highest.

Now, we have to look into the reason for this highest death rate and the lowest expectation of life in this country. Apparently, it appears to me that the reason is the poverty of the people and the insufficiency of the nutritive value in the diet of large sections of the people of this country. That is the main reason for the highest death rate and the lowest expectation of life. Mostly, in this country people are vegetarians; there are non-vegetarians as well, but as compared to non-vegetarians the number of vegetarians is very large. For vegetarians the main diet consists of milk and milk products because they play a very important part in the diet of these people. It is these articles of food, it is these commodities which are adulterated to the greatest possible extent. In this connection, with your permission, Sir, I would quote a few lines from the findings of the Bhore Committee Report. It was a very important Committee which submitted its Report in the year 1946, and is said to be the last word on the subject of health of the people of this country. The Report says:

"The chief articles of food which are found adulterated are milk and milk products and the edible oils".

And with regard to the extent of adulteration, the Report continues to say:

"The percentages of adulterated samples in respect of milk and milk products varied in 1937 from 100 per cent. in the case of Central Provinces"—because in 1946 it was known as Central Provinces—"to 15.9 per cent. in the case of Sind"—which now forms part of Pakistan. "Samples of edible oils showed percentages of adulteration ranging from 80.8 per cent. in Bengal to 5.4 per cent. in Assam"

The very reading of these figures makes one shudder to think of the problem of adulteration. Also the same subject was taken up by the Planning Commission and in the course of its report it says:

"The widespread malpractices which affect the purity of food articles in the market are an aspect of the food problem which should be attended to with vigour and a sense of urgency. The various substances which are often used as adulterants and are doing serious harm to the health of the people appear to be growing. This

must be tackled on the footing of a principle of priority both by the administration armed with adequate powers and the organised force of public opinion and social action. It must be recognised that the administration of laws relative to the prevention of adulteration is at present largely ineffective. What further measures for the improvement of food laws or what further legislation in this connection by the Centre or the States would prove helpful is a matter of urgent consideration".

I welcome this Bill because the Centre is going in the right direction. As I have said, adulteration takes place mostly in milk and milk products such as ghee, which is a very essential article in the diet of vegetarians. It is our everyday experience that with milk, especially distributed in cities, the milk vendors mix arrow root, not to speak of water and with ghee they mix vanaspati oil which is flooding the market like anything. The idea is not to prohibit vanaspati or vegetable oil, but to see that vanaspati is not used in adulterating ghee and the whole thing passing for ghee, as is done these days.

There has been a persistent and insistent demand on behalf of the public for the colourisation of vanaspati, so that it can be distinguished from pure ghee. The present Bill, in so far as it goes, does not—so far as I think—make it obligatory on the part of producers of vanaspati to colourise it, and I submit there will be a great lacuna in the Bill if no definite and specific provision is made in this behalf. To quote the report of the latest Committee, namely, the Ghee Adulteration Committee of 1952—it has made certain recommendations and Sir, with your permission, I will only quote two of them—(1) "It was found that ghee was adulterated on a very large scale with vanaspati" and (2) "It is recommended that the total production of vanaspati in the country should be coloured orange by using carotene oil concentrates as the colouring medium in addition to the incorporation of sesame oil". My submission is that in the drafting of this Bill the recommendations of the Ghee Adulteration Committee were perhaps not noticed. My only hope is that when the Bill goes up to the Select Committee this main lacuna will be removed.

So far as the question of sentence is concerned. I think—and this is my humble submission—that the sentence laid down in the Bill does not appear to be adequate enough. It is an

offence against society and I submit that a very serious view should be taken of it. In this connection, also the Food Adulteration Committee drew attention to the desirability of deterrent punishment in respect of offences under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Now, in my humble view, the option to courts to impose a sentence upto three months of imprisonment or fine or both is by no means conducive to a deterrent sentence. At least in my view, the sentence for this offence should be up to one year. It should be left to the courts, according to the nature of the offence, to determine what sentence should be imposed. It may go right up to one year. Three months, I suppose, is a very inadequate kind of sentence.

3 P.M.

The main question that arises when considering this Bill is, will the object in view be achieved by presenting this Bill, even if the provisions of this Bill are effectively enforced? I submit, it will not, because there is a paucity at the present moment of such articles as milk and ghee in an unadulterated form. My humble submission is that it should be the duty of the Government to see that milk and ghee are manufactured under their own supervision in such quantities that they can be made available to every adult in the country. Until and unless the Government takes up that responsibility, even the most effective enforcement of this Bill will not serve the purpose. I find that the hon. Minister is very attentively looking at me and listening to my remarks with very great attention. I consider it to be a compliment. My submission will be that as the Government has taken upon itself the responsibility of supplying medicines free to every resident of this country, to every citizen of this country, so it should take the responsibility of supplying pure ghee and pure milk to every citizen of this country. Until and unless that responsibility is taken up, my apprehension is that the object of this Bill will not be served.

So far as the indispensability of milk is concerned, especially for those who are vegetarians—and I submit for non-vegetarians as well—little is necessary for me to be said. I have looked at some figures and I find that even in those countries which are reputed to be non-vegetarian, milk is used in very large quantities. For instance, in Canada 56.8 ounces per head per day is used, in Great Britain 40.7 ounces per head per day, in the United States

of America, 35.6 ounces per head per day and in India, a land which was reputed to be flowing with milk and honey at one time, only 5.8 ounces per head per day. That is a reflection on our so-called veneration for the cow. We grow sometimes enthusiastic in our desire to see that the cow should be protected. But when we look at these figures, we find that it is merely a show. We have to realise that if milk is so necessary for non-vegetarian countries, how much more so should it be necessary for countries as India, which is almost a vegetarian country. With regard to the importance of milk also, the Bhore Committee Report said:

"Milk contains proteins of high biological value and for this reason its consumption by children and expectant and nursing mothers has to be particularly encouraged. Milk is perhaps the one article of food which can be used by all classes of the population in the country in order to increase protein consumption."

I would not weary this House by further remarks. I would only submit that I welcome this Bill, but my only grievance is that it does not go as far as the public wants it to go. I do hope that in the Select Committee those shortcomings will be rectified. I am glad to note that although as many as seven hon. Members had tabled motions for the circulation of the Bill, only one hon. Member would like to move it, while the rest have expressed their consent not to press their motions. I hope that that gentleman too would reconsider his decision and would not press for the circulation of the Bill.

सेठ अचल सिंह (ज़िला आगरा—पश्चिम) माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, यह जो मिलावट का बिल (Food Adulteration Bill) हमारे सामने पेश किया गया है इस की बहुत ज़रूरत है, खास कर हिन्दुस्तान जैसे मुल्क के बास्ते जहां कि ज्यादातर लोग मिलावट में विश्वाय रखते हैं। हम हिन्दुस्तानियों का चरित्र स्तर इतना गिर गया है कि, हर चीज म मिलावट करते हैं। दूध म क्या भी में क्या, आटे में क्या, दालों में क्या और दबाइयों में क्या, यहां तक कि अनाज में मिट्टी और कंकर तक मिलाये जाते हैं। यह एक ऐसी प्रथा चल गई है जिस की वजह से हमारे

[सेठ बच्चल सिंह]

देशवासियों की सेहत का पतन होता जा रहा है। इस बिल में जास बात जो इस में सजा देन की रखी गई है वह तो है ही, लेकिन हम को यह भी प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये कि किस तरह से हमारी जनता का चरित्र बदला स्तर उठे जिस से कि इस को बह दुरा और पाप समझे। विदेशों में दूध में पानी मिलाना कोई जानता तक नहीं है। लेकिन हमारे देश में दूध में पानी मिलाया जाना मामूली बात है। मक्कल उस में से निकाला जाता है और न जाने क्या क्या दुरे कम किये जाते हैं। इस तरह से दूध में, जी में और तेल में मिलावट की जाती है, जिस की वजह से हमारी भारतवासियों की सेहत पर बहुत दुरा असर पड़ता है। आप देखेंगे कि हमारी भारतवासियों की बायु कितनी कम होती जा रही है। जब कि विदेशों में एक इन्सान की औसत उम्र ५४ या ५६ वर्ष है तब हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में २५-२६ वर्ष है। इस का साथ कारण यह है कि शूद पदार्थ जाने को नहीं मिलते। एक तो गरीबी और दूसरे जाने को जो मिलता है वह बक्सुद मिलता है, इस लिये हमारे देशवासियों की तन्तुकर्ती का पतन होता जा रहा है।

इसलिये जो यह बिल लाया गया है कि मिलावट करने में शकावट हों वह बहुत ही आवश्यक है और मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूँ। मैं जासा करता हूँ कि सिलंकट कमेटी इस बिल को इस तरह से बनायेगी कि जिस से इस का ठीक ठीक प्रयोग हो सके। मैं देखता हूँ कि हमारे यहां उत्तर प्रदेश में और बहुत से स्टेट्स में अडल्टरेशन एक्ट बने हुए हैं। लेकिन फिर भी मिलावट नहीं रुकती है। इस का कारण यह है कि लोकल संस्करणमें अर्थात् चुंगियां इस का इन्तजाम करती हैं। उन के जो इन्स्पेक्टर होते हैं वह इतने

निकम्भे और गिरे हुए होते हैं कि मिलावट को रोकने का कोई काम नहीं हो सकता। उन का माहवारी पैसा बंधा हुआ होता है दूध बालों से, जी बालों से, हलवाइयों से, मिठाई का काम करने वालों आदि से। इस कारण तभाम जगह मिलावट चलती है। इस को भी देखना होगा कि इस को कैसे रोक सकते हैं, क्यों कि यहां तो ऊपर से नीचे तक ऐसी हालत पैदा हो गई है कि किस तरह से नाजायज अवधा उठाया जाय। इसलिये मैं चाहूंगा कि सिलंकट कमेटी इस बात पर जहर और करे कि इस को कैसे रोका जाय।

अभी हालत यह है कि जो नमूने जांच के लिये भेजे जाते हैं उन तक मैं गड़बड़ी हो जाती है। इस में जो पहली बार तीन महीने की सजा और दूसरी बार मैं साल भर तक की सजा रखी है वह ठीक है। लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि आज कल स्टेट्स में ज्यादातर लम्बे लम्बे जुमाने होते हैं। दूध में पानी मिलाने पर या मक्कल निकाल कर दूध बेचने पर १०० रुपये से २५० रुपये तक जुमाने होते हैं। लेकिन जब तक सजा नहीं होगी तब तक लोग नहीं ढरेंगे। इस लिये डर के साथ साथ हमें जनता के चरित्र अवधा स्तर को, उठान अवधा जनता के विचारों को भी सुचारना है ताकि वह इस प्रथा से दूर रहें, क्योंकि इस से न सिर्फ उन्हीं का बल्कि तभाम देश का पतन होता है स्वास्थ्य लराब होता है और उम्र में कमी होती है। तभाम बीमारियां बढ़ती हैं और देशवासियों पर तभाम मुसीबतें आती हैं। आज कल हम देखते हैं कि दबाइयों में भी बड़ल्टरेशन चल गया है और बहुत सी नकली दबाइयां चल रही हैं। हर किंम को पेटट दबाइयां होती है उन की खाली शीशियों में नकली दबा भर कर बसलों के बनुसार पेंकिंग कर के सस्ते दामों में बेच कर जनता को धोका देते हैं। इस का बहुत दुरा असर मरीज की सेहत पर

पढ़ता है। मैंने देखा कि पैपनिसिलीन की ८८ हजार कली भीज भर देते हैं आदि।

इस बिल का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ और आक्षय करता हूँ कि सिलेक्ट कमेटी इन सब बातों पर विचार करेगी जिस से कि यह विलाषट की बुरी बीमारी जो हमारे देश में जो फैली हुई है, दूर हो सके।

Shri Dabhi (Kaira North): This Bill—though a new one as far as this House is concerned—merely replaces and consolidates various State legislations on the subject of adulteration. In spite of several anti-adulteration Acts existing in different States, adulteration has not stopped; rather it has increased. If anyone were to ask me to tell him which articles of food are adulterated, I would turn round and ask him to tell me which articles of food are not adulterated. Go to buy milk; it is mixed with water. Go to buy oil; it is adulterated with white oil. Go to buy ghee; it is mixed with vanaspati. Go to buy vanaspati; it is mixed with something else. So, it is a matter of speculation how far this legislation, even if it is passed into law, will prevent adulteration so long as there is not a change of heart on the part of those who are engaged in the trade and so long as public opinion tolerates this adulteration.

This question of adulteration is a vast one, but I shall confine myself to the adulteration of ghee with vanaspati, which has become a great menace in our country. The first warning about this came from the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture presided over by Lord Linlithgow. The Commission said:

"Many complaints of adulteration of ghee have been sent to us and our attention has been directed to the increasing sale of substitutes known as vanaspati ghee."

The report also expressed the fear that as a result of this adulteration the genuine product would be driven out of the market. Then, Government invited Dr. Wright to advise them on the development of cattle and dairy industries and Dr. Wright in his report gives the following estimate of the mischief done by adulteration of vanaspati with ghee:

"It is the opinion of some of the manufacturers that 90 per cent. of the total supplies are used in the

adulteration of ghee.....Adulteration is a very paying proposition for the business merchant."

According to the latest figures published by Government, the production of vanaspati in 1951 was one lakh and 72 thousand tons. Leaving aside Dr. Wright's calculation of 90 per cent., I would assume that only 50 thousand tons, that is 29 per cent. of the total production of vanaspati, are used for adulteration of ghee. This means that at least this quantity of vanaspati is sold as ghee. The price of vanaspati at present is about rupee one per lb. whereas the price of genuine ghee is Rs. 3-8-0 per lb. Calculating the profit for 50,000 lbs. the amount comes to Rs. 38 crores and 50 lakhs. Now, out of the remaining quantity, many people buy vanaspati under the impression that it has all the qualities of ghee. As I shall presently show and as everyone knows, vanaspati is not in any way superior to any ordinary oil. At any rate, it has not been proved so far that it is superior.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We are not discussing the merits of the adulteration of this article or that article. The point is that adulteration has to be prevented. It may be vanaspati or milk or some other edibles. If every hon. Member goes into the history of the adulteration of every article, we shall never see the end of this debate. All that is sought to be done through this measure, is to enact a law which will arm the authorities with sufficient power to deal with adulteration, wherever they come across it. In this view, whatever he says, he is going to "show presently" would be entirely irrelevant.

Shri Dabhi: I would not say any more about it. My only point was that people buy vanaspati thinking that it has the qualities of ghee and the value of vanaspati sold in this manner is more than rupees seven crores. Thus, people are defrauded of a large sum of money.

Clause 2(ix)(e) of this Bill defines what is a misbranded article, that is, if false claims are made for it upon the label or otherwise. Anybody who sells a misbranded article can be punished. The vanaspati-walas are cheating the people by making false claims for their article. I want to illustrate how they do this.

A Bill for the prohibition of vanaspati was introduced in this House sometime back by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. A similar Bill was introduced by me in the Bombay Legis-

[Shri Dabhi]

lative Assembly in 1950. At that time these vanaspati manufacturers were so much alarmed that they began to issue several pamphlets extolling to the skies the qualities of vanaspati. I have with me several leaflets issued by the vanaspati manufacturers of India. How these people make false statements and how they make false claims, I would show to this House by reading a few extracts from one of these pamphlets. In one of the pamphlets they refer to a statement said to have been made by the hon. Food Minister, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, on the 8th December 1949, in Parliament:

"As a result of the experiments carried on at Government laboratories and research stations, it has been proved conclusively that vanaspati is nutritive and wholesome."

So, this pamphlet says that Government had declared on the floor of this House that vanaspati was nutritive and wholesome. I say that this is altogether a false statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. What is the point which the hon. Member is driving at? There is no vanaspati Bill before the House now—I do not know whether one is coming at a future date.

If he comes to the subject matter of this Bill, I shall allow him to proceed. If, on the other hand, he goes on referring to adulteration of this or that article and the methods adopted by them, or the false propaganda carried on by the manufacturers or merchants, I cannot permit him to do so. We are not out here to establish how vanaspati is adulterated, what are the proper methods to see that adulteration does not proceed and so on. That is not the subject before the House at present. At that rate we can go into the details of adulteration of every article of human consumption or use. We cannot do it on this Bill.

Shri Dabhi: May I make a submission, Sir? I am not going to point out how adulteration is carried on. Clause 2(ix)(e) of the Bill gives the definition of misbranded articles, which is made punishable.

Mr. Speaker: Clause 2 (ix) defines "misbranded".

Shri Dabhi: It is stated that if any false claims are made for any article of food, then it is an offence. I only want to show how false claims are

made by the manufacturers of vanaspati. They go to the extent of quoting what was not at all said by Government.

Mr. Speaker: But then such claims are made not only with reference to vanaspati, but with reference to many other things which are in the market. So I will not allow any discussion on that point. It is unnecessarily taking up the time of the House. He may now speak on the Bill.

Shri Dabhi: I only wanted to say that the hon. Minister never said what he is alleged to have said.

Mr. Speaker: We are not at present concerned with that. If false claims are made, it is for the hon. Minister to take care of himself and the public. What the hon. Member is going into refers to execution or administration of this Bill. It is not administration with which we are concerned at present.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri Dabhi: Sir, the point which I was going to make was that though certain articles of food like vanaspati have no claims to nutritive value.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no purpose in violating a ruling of the Chair. I am only appealing to the hon. Member to come to the subject. The hon. Speaker told me just now that he is not allowing details to be gone into about adulteration.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Can we not cite certain commodities for the sake of illustrating our remark?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But if the whole speech is about that commodity?

Shri S. S. More: The information is very useful from the point of view of purchasers of vanaspati.

Shri Dabhi: What I wanted to prove was that the manufacturers and dealers in vanaspati make false claims about vanaspati's nutritive value, though nobody has proved it. The utmost that has been admitted is that it is not injurious to health, as compared with ordinary oil and that too if the temperature is not beyond 37°C. So several false claims are made and the ignorant purchasers are made to feel that they are buying genuine ghee.

I would only give one instance of how vanaspati itself is being adulterated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why is the hon. Member so fond of vanaspati? Let him come to towns-pati!

Shri Dabhi: Sir, this is a new point and one which has never been brought to the notice of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Vanaspati is not the only food article. I am sure this Bill applies to the adulteration of all articles of food. What is the good of going into details as to how vanaspati can be adulterated or of saying that some people take it for ghee? If they want to deceive themselves by all means let them do so. But why should we get into all those details regarding vanaspati? Some time back there was the Vanaspati Bill and they wanted to introduce colouring to vanaspati and so on. But this is not the Vanaspati Bill. I will not allow any more reference to vanaspati so far as this Bill is concerned.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): May I humbly submit, Sir, that your ruling that any more reference to vanaspati by any other Member will be rather too much?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have said so far as this Member is concerned. He has said enough about vanaspati.

Shri Dabhi: Sir, I will only say one sentence.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nothing more. He need not repeat it. He may keep that sentence for himself.

Shri Dabhi: I am not going to repeat. I am merely going to say.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will not allow a reference to vanaspati once again. There is no meaning in it.

Shri Dabhi: Even in respect of several other articles of food which the dealers proclaim as good and healthy it has been found that they are adulterated. Take *nakli* ghee for instance. Now it is proved that it is adulterated. But thousands of gullible people thought that at least this was pure. Still these things are being adulterated. That was what I was arriving at.

Though this Bill will not I am afraid, stop articles of food being adulterated—because, as I said in the beginning of my speech, such Acts are in force in several States, but still the same thing is going on—still I would suggest certain amendments as far as this Bill goes. If we want to make at least a little more effective than the other Acts which are in force today in the States, my first suggestion is with regard to clause 2 (ix) (e). It reads "if false claims are made for it upon the label or otherwise". This clause says that if false claims are

made regarding any article of food, that article of food would be deemed to be misbranded, and the punishment is provided for those false claims. My suggestion is that it should be made clear in this sub-clause or some explanation should be added to it to the effect that when any claim is made in respect of any article of food the burden of proving that claim must lie on the person who makes that claim. Because, in these cases of adulteration, as I have already said, the dealers in different articles of food make false claims, and it is very difficult to prove that they have made false claims. So my suggestion is that if they make any claim, then the burden of proof must lie upon them to show that the claims they make are real. I would commend this amendment to the Select Committee which is going to be appointed, and I hope that in this matter at least the Select Committee would have no soft corner for those people who are in the habit of adulterating these articles of food.

I had to say several things about this but I have no time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Many opportunities will occur. The hon. Member need not despair so soon. I think the hon. Member has nothing more to say. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

Shri Dabhi: At last I hope that the Select Committee will accept this amendment which has been suggested by me and thus save the people from being cheated by putting the burden of proving that particular claim that the article is good, upon the person who makes that claim.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I welcome this Bill. I congratulate the Government for having brought this measure although so late in the day. But, as I stated in regard to the Bill on Forward Contracts, my complaint is that the Bill does not go far enough. The Bill is such that it will not even touch the fringe of the problem. Today what do we see? In ordinary foods, for instance in ghee, milk, *atta*, in medicines, in rice, in everything I should say, we find that the articles are adulterated. Even in regard to medicines, instead of quinine we get chalk. In regard even to other kinds of medicines which are said to be patented, even there, there are spurious medicines. If this evil was rampant only in the cities, the appointment of a few more public analysts in the States, or, so far as the Centre is concerned, the appointment of a Central Committee and a Central analyst may be enough. But here what do we find? If we go to the villages, even in the villages it

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

is impossible to find unadulterated ghee today. It is impossible to find even unadulterated milk because in the villages also adulteration is practised. Previously nobody sold any milk. Now butter is taken away and the chach (butter-milk) is being sold in the villages which, 25 years ago, one could not dream of.

Now, my friend was speaking of vanaspati and the hon. Deputy-Speaker was pleased to tell him that he need not make any reference to vanaspati. I will not go into the details of vanaspati. At the same time I would submit that this Bill does not go far enough. With respect to vanaspati, the point is this. After all what is the difficulty? The Government themselves, the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Food, the hon. Deputy Minister of Food, all gave assurances in this House and decided that so far as vanaspati is concerned, they will see that it is coloured. They told us that they will ask all the eight laboratories of which they are so proud to find out some colour. They said they would ask all the scientists in India to find out some colour. I was given to understand by the greatest scientist of India that within a year, he will be able to find a colour.

An Hon. Member: Who is that scientist?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Dr. Bhatnagar.

The Government of Bombay, when it passed the Bill, gave an assurance to the local Council that they would colour the stuff. Then again the Government of Bombay also made a suggestion to the Government of India that it would be coloured in a particular way, the Punjab also passed legislation that it should be coloured in a particular way. A Ghee Adulteration Committee was appointed. I was also a member of that Committee. We made recommendations. We knew that the colour was not found in spite of the assurances of the scientists that they would be able to find one. They have not been able to find one. I cannot say that the scientists failed and there is bankruptcy of scientific knowledge so far as scientists are concerned in this matter but at the same time I know that the manufacturing interests are very very strong and so far we have not been able to find a colour. I do not know when in future we will be able to find a colour. What is the difficulty? The then hon. Minister, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram made a

speech here and those persons who are interested in this vanaspati published in posters that vanaspati is nutritious. I approached the then Minister of Food, Shri Munshiji, to take action because I knew that Shri Jairamdas Daulatram never made such a statement. The statement was ascribed as having been made in this House by him though it was never made in this House. Then many vanaspati factories ascribed certain remarks to Mr. Gupta, an hon. Minister of U.P. He came out in the Press and said this was all bogus and that he had never made such remarks. I approached the hon. Minister. He said he is helpless, he cannot do anything.

I am glad that the definition of misbranding is there and it may be possible to bring such persons to book but how will those persons be brought to book? We know that even in regard to small matters, in regard to an offence under section 323 I.P.C. and other sections every person in this land has got a right to go to a court and bring the offender to book. In almost all matters this is the rule. It is only very few offences in regard to which a person is not allowed to go to a court and bring the offender to book but for this particular offence, this heinous offence—supposing a person gives poison—I cannot bring the offender to book. It is the local Government, it is the State Government which may bring the offender to book. I would therefore submit that so far as this aspect of the case is concerned, I would beg of the Select Committee kindly to consider whether they can see that this ban on private complaint is taken away. When a person slaps somebody else he can be brought to book and when a man gives to another a wrong medicine, when he gives him something which is not what it is claimed to be, I think, it is a good case in which a private man should have the right to go to a court and bring the offender to book.

I was submitting that our nation lives in villages. Where are those public analysts to be found? Our experience today is that people in the towns also do not want to take vanaspati and yet there are no arrangements by which they can find out if there is adulteration. Now they say public analysts have been appointed. I would submit that there are no laboratories in the villages. No person can find out whether there is adulteration or not. How will these persons be protected? Government is not meant for cities alone. If you want that the

system should work you should appoint public analysts at least in each district so that the people may be able to take advantage of them. I will go further and say that this adulteration business is not confined to cities only. All the evils which are found in the cities are also to be found in the villages.

Again, my submission is we ought not to see that a law is just made. After all these laws have been in existence in the Provinces for a very long time but with what effect? These laws are not enforced. Nobody takes care to enforce these laws. Then, again, so far as these laws are concerned, wherever they have been used, they have been used for getting money out of innocent people, they have been misused, they have been abused to a very large extent. What happens? A food inspector in league with certain merchants gets hold of a sample from a railway station and then in the presence of a bogus person who is said to be a representative of the manufacturer, a sample is taken and the stuff is allowed to be sold by the consignee. He sells everything. He is thereby saved. Then a case is launched against the manufacturer. I know several such cases in which these inspectors make money. They just prosecute some people, manufacturers, etc. So far as this Act or any other Act is concerned, we should see that it is not abused. In regard to this I would beg the Select Committee kindly to consider some suggestions which I propose to make. In the first place I would like that some period should be made compulsory by which time the analysts should be able to give their opinion. Supposing a sample is sent today. Opinion is given after three months. The whole thing should be finished within fifteen days. That is my opinion.

Again, I find that a food inspector is entitled to take a sample. I find it in clause 11. I find that there are not enough safeguards by virtue of which an innocent person can be protected from the tyrannies which a food inspector is able to exercise under this Bill. For instance, when we take samples it is not necessary that the person from whose possession the sample is taken should be there. He is not asked to sign anything. This will not inspire confidence. The food inspector, in the absence of the person, takes a sample of the thing, whose possession is ascribed to him, and he sends it to the public analyst. It is not unusual to find that these inspectors themselves put in linseed and

other oils in the mustard oil sent by some manufacturers to various places and then they prosecute them. I would rather like that the provisions of section 103 of the Criminal Procedure Code, as they apply to searches, taking possession of stolen articles, etc., or taking objectionable articles in possession may be applied to this case also. When the food inspector is taking a sample of any article, it should be made obligatory that first of all he ought to inform the person against whom that sample is taken, and who is going to be prosecuted, so that he or some other authorised agent—not an ordinary agent—may be present there. Now, the practice is, he himself asks some spurious person to come and in his presence the sample is taken. The manufacturer then comes and says, this is not my authorised man. The House knows the practice of the merchants. When they send goods from Kanpur or Allahabad to Calcutta, the Railway receipt is practically negotiable, and it is transferred by one person to another and then to a third man. The money has already been taken so that the consignor is not the person fully interested when the consigned article reaches the destination. Therefore, it should be made obligatory upon any person who wants to take a sample out of the manufactured goods to see that the really authorised person or representative of the person in whose possession ultimately the goods are, is present.

Shri S. S. More: Will you please see clause 11?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Clause 11 says that three samples should be taken and one given to that man. The question, first of all, relates to the identity of that person. Usually, nowadays it so happens that the food inspector, in league with the merchants of the place, just puts up a person who is not the real representative. The merchant does not lose; the goods are sold. They go after the manufacturer, because he is supposed to have sent the goods. They prosecute the man. He says, that person is not his representative. That is the difficulty. I do not know whether the hon. Member who has interrupted has.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It says, "..... deliver one of the parts to the person from whom the sample has been taken".

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My humble submission is this. When the sample is taken from, say, a railway wagon in Calcutta, you must ensure that the person to whom the sample

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava] is given is the right person. If a spurious person is there what happens? Even if you give a sample, what does it matter?

Shri S. S. More: Now, Daldia is being sold all over the country. How could an authorised person of the manufacturer be produced at that time?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My hon. friend has taken another example. The example that I wanted to give is not covered by his example. So far as Daldia is concerned, the hon. Member talks to me about Daldia. What do the Daldia people do? It is mixed with marine oil. It is said to be vanaspati and it is sold to the people. No Hindu will take it if he knew that. Do you know what Mahatma Gandhi said about vanaspati? He said, it is neither vanaspati nor ghee. It is a counterfeit ghee.

Shri S. S. More: I am afraid, the hon. Member has misunderstood me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. More has been misunderstood. What he wanted to say was, a person sells Daldia in one corner of India and if you have to trace the person who sold it to him, it will be impossible to prosecute anybody. The man who is there on the spot will be taken to represent.

Shri S. S. More: That is exactly my point.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: So far as manufactured goods are concerned, who will be liable therefor? They are made in a factory. Their case is quite different. Take for instance, til oil or mustard oil.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the harm? So long, food has been adulterated. Let the prosecution also be adulterated. For some time, it is likely to hit hard strangers. But, they will pay the penalty for all the past deeds. What is the harm if the pendulum swings a little to the other side?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I want the right person to be prosecuted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nobody will be prosecuted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Today hundreds of people are being prosecuted who are not guilty.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In which case, this Bill would have been unnecessary. If they have been prosecuted regularly, this Bill would not have been necessary at all. Many people escape.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Who is being prosecuted? The man who produces the thing is not prosecuted; the man who passed off the thing as good is not prosecuted; but the man who manufactures the oil in the factory at Kanpur or Allahabad is prosecuted at Calcutta on the basis that there is argemone in this oil. It is not proved that he is responsible for it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let him prove it.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Another person is being prosecuted.

Shri S. S. More: Supposing he is wrongly prosecuted, he can prove his innocence.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am afraid my hon. friend has come out with another preposterous proposition, when he tells me that when a person is being prosecuted, he ought to prove his innocence. He should think twice before making such a proposition.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The manufacturer in Lucknow, whose article is sold somewhere in Calcutta is not so dumb or mute or helpless as not to be able to prove his case and produce evidence.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I was submitting that a sample is taken when the man is not there and he is not rightly represented.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How could he be?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Why not? This is the rule that we must have. This clause also requires that the third part of the sample must be given to him. What is the rule in regard to stolen property? The man must be there. Two respectable persons must be there. After all, what is the food inspector? He is like a sub-inspector of police. They do the same nefarious thing. It so happens that in Calcutta a sample is taken in the absence of the man. The manufacturer is either in Kanpur or Allahabad. He is quite helpless, because when the sample is taken, he puts something and himself adulterates the stuff and then demands Rs. 300, or 20,000 for a bribe. I am aware of such cases.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the sub-inspector so greedy as to ask for 20,000? I can understand 200 rupees.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It so happens. Perhaps our experiences are different. I know food inspectors and

judges who charge thousands in bribe. I know police people who charge much more than two hundred or two thousand.

I was submitting anyhow—we are not concerned with what they charge—that we should make this Bill fool-proof in the sense that innocent persons should not be troubled. When I speak about this, I shall come to the other clause also—it is a point on which I have been speaking in this House—that is offences by companies. The same old thing is repeated in this Bill also. It is not fair. My opinion is this habit of adulterated prosecution, as you have been pleased to say—I thank you for the phrase—is extremely bad. If you want to stop something, go in for the right man and punish him. You want to proceed against the real offender; but you make every man, be he a director or anybody else, who has nothing to do with that part of the business, liable. I think you will be erring in allowing such prosecutions and you will be allowing something which is like adulterated food itself.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How is it possible to find out who is the man? There are so many people.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am reminded of a story; you also know the story. The saying is:

अन्धेरे नगरी चौपट राजा, टके सेर भाजी
टके सेर खाजा ।

Because my neck is fat enough, I should be hanged; I would suit the gallows. Is that possible? If you cannot find the real offender, do not prosecute anybody. You cannot prosecute innocent people for the purpose of finding out who the guilty man is.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): He may be an accomplice.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: You can make him a scape-goat also. How can you prosecute an innocent person and find a third person guilty? Have you heard anything like that? In this Bill and other cognate Acts, when you want to prosecute company people they are allowed to themselves prosecute scape-goats or other people. I do not hold any brief for company people. I want these big people to be brought to book: but not in this manner, when the thing cannot be proved against them. I was submitting that so far as this is concerned, I would rather like that some safeguards were found out by the Select Committee in taking samples etc.

4 P.M.

Then, again, we find that in clause 12 the words used are:

"A purchaser of any article of food other than a food inspector shall be entitled etc....."

I would like that this right should be given to the members of the public whether they are purchasers or not because after all, a man pays for getting the analysis made. So, any person should be allowed to have this right, not the purchaser alone.

Dr. M. M. Das (Burdwan—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Unless he purchases, how will he get the thing?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Purchase is not the only method by which a person gets into possession of articles. There are many other modes. The only point is whether the article is adulterated or not, not how one gets it. Suppose I am given food for the purpose of being poisoned, without my purchasing it, am I not entitled to get it analysed? So, I would like the Select Committee to consider this point of giving this right to every person.

My hon. friend was speaking about vanaspati. I have got every sympathy with him because he was not allowed to have his full say. There are certain articles, vanaspati for instance, which are often being adulterated. Instead of using vanaspati for adulteration of ghee, people are using motor oil, white oil etc., for adulterating vanaspati. What is going to be done to them, I want to know.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is such kind of adulteration exempted under this Bill? This applies to it.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Supposing this Bill is not passed, have we not got provisions even today for prosecuting people? The point is: have they got the facility? Supposing in a village, this motor oil is being used for adulterating vanaspati, what can the villager do? Where can he go? How can he find out? For the meanest persons you must provide these facilities if you are really serious, in considering that this adulteration should not affect him. Of course, adulteration is now far too rampant to be tackled. I think it is only in a very small degree that we will be able to tackle the evil with this Bill. The real evil can be tackled only by the Government having a propaganda to raise the moral standards of people, that they should not mix these things. When we go on like this, when we allow forward contracts and allow

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

every person to gamble and allow our national character to deteriorate, I do not know what is the use of bringing this Bill. Unless people realise that they should not mix these things and adulterate, the trouble will not be solved.

It has just been said by some friend of mine that here the dietary value of food is very much less than in other countries. In other countries, 2,000 calories is the usual value of food, whereas in India some people are getting 1,000 or 1,200 calories. When even things like chhachh and milk are adulterated, we do not know what we are coming to. I may submit for the consideration of the Government that in regard to certain matters, they ought to take more stringent action and see that the standards of food are not allowed to deteriorate. My friend was speaking of ghee, milk etc. These are ordinary things which are adulterated, and my friends are perfectly right in pointing this out. What do we care if some patent medicine like streptomycin is adulterated? Not that it is not harmful, but at the same time it is used by a microscopic number of people. So far as milk and ghee are concerned, they are very important. In 1935 ghee was produced in the country to the tune of 240 lakh maunds; in 1940, it came down to 140 lakh maunds, and in 1945, it came down further to 111 lakh maunds.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The deficit is made up by adulteration.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Quite right, Sir. What do those who are charged with our destiny say about this? So far as the poor men in Madras, in Bengal and in Bihar are concerned, if they go on using vanaspati, they are bound to deteriorate in health. Government is losing a revenue of Rs. 450 lakhs, and they would not touch vanaspati with a pair of tongs. Government appointed a committee, and the committee submitted a unanimous report that carotene concentrate should be allowed to be mixed with vanaspati, and Government brushed aside that report without saying a word about it. Every municipality, every cantonment and every local authority should have an obligation placed upon it that it shall not allow vanaspati to be sold unless the Baudois test is applied.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why not the hon. Member serve on the Select Committee? There is the list here. With his number of suggestions and experience, he will be useful on the Select

Committee, and Government may be willing to include his name.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: No, Sir, I am not placed in this Committee.

Shri Velayudhan: It is rather unfortunate.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It is fortunate for me, and fortunate for those who have prepared this list. Mr. Guha's name is nowhere put down. I do not mind whether I am in the Committee or not. I am here before you and I have got the right to say what I have to say. I do not care to sit on any committee.

I am glad that the Government has come forward with this Bill, but at the same time it should be enforced in such a manner that innocent people are not clapped in. The difficulty is that when an evil is very great, people do not distinguish between the right man and the wrong man, and innocent people are troubled for nothing. I would therefore like that all these safeguards and provisions which are usually found in the penal laws should be introduced in this Bill. It should be seen that the sample is taken rightly and the identity of the person who signs the report is established, and we should be able to see that the actual guilty persons are there. If ordinary things are adulterated, perhaps the harm is not very great, but there are certain things which are poisonous. If these adulterated things are taken, the consequences, I should say, will be very great. In regard to that punishment does not seem to be commensurate with the offence. I therefore think that if a person's life is endangered or other serious consequences follow as a result of taking adulterated foodstuffs, the punishment meted out to the offender should be commensurate with the enormity of the offence.

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I understand from the hon. Minister that with reference to the Industrial Finance Corporation, about 200 copies of the report are now made available. Fifty copies will be placed in the Library, and 150 copies will be available in the Notice Office. Any hon. Member who wants to look into it and have a copy will be furnished with a copy.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Report No. 4?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (Gurgaon): We are very thankful to you, Sir, for the supply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In addition the hon. Minister has prepared a note giving details of the loans that have been given to various persons during the last year.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): The various categories of industries.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): That is not what we wanted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: True, but that is what he is giving at this stage. Let us see what more is available.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I submit one point? Yesterday speaker after speaker, especially Mr. Guha, brought out this point, that these loans were being given to such persons who are relatives and so on, which were not justifiable. This is scandalous to say the least. When Member after Member says this, we want either the Government should make an enquiry or they should give a list of those persons to whom these loans were given, so that the House may be able to see whether these influences have been used for ulterior purposes or not. I would request you to ask the Ministry to give us a list of the persons to whom loans have been advanced.

Shri M. C. Shah: The list of the person, that is the loanees, cannot be given, for, if you will look at section 31 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, you will find that the Bankers Books Evidence Act has been applied, and as a convention on the part of the banking institutions, no mention of the borrower can be made to anybody outside. We have already given in the statement that will be circulated, the names of the industries, and for instance in the case of the textile industry, we have mentioned the number of applications received, the number sanctioned, how the distribution of the sum was made etc. I have already given over 500 copies to the Notice Office, and all the information may be had from that statement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Minister wants to look into these facts, does the Bankers Books Evidence Act stand in the way of his looking at them? Suppose, the Minister in charge of this wants to be satisfied as to whether, there has been any proper distribution, whether there has been any nepotism, or other irregularities

etc., is he prohibited from looking into these things, by the Bankers Books Evidence Act?

Shri M. C. Shah: Government can look into them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, if the House wants to look into them, how can it be prevented from looking into them?

Shri M. C. Shah: It will be absolutely wrong in this way. Suppose for instance, a certain industrial concern has borrowed Rs. 50 lakhs as a matter of fact, under the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, whenever there is a financial accommodation, the properties of that concern have to be hypothecated, or securities should be taken from that concern. If this information goes out, then there will be a rush on that concern, and the safety of that concern will be immediately jeopardized. In banking institutions, the names of the borrowers are never given. And that has been the convention throughout. After all, what is the Industrial Finance Corporation? It is really speaking, in a sense a Bank, which gives loans to certain persons. Then it is a statutory corporation, for which a board of directors has been appointed, which has been given powers to grant loans. But Government has got the controlling power and the power to give directives. Government has also got the power to just inquire into the matter, but it cannot disclose these facts to the House, because it will be made public to the whole country. As a matter of fact, no borrower will come forward, if his name is disclosed to the public. That has been the convention all over the world and not only here. Even the entire management of the Corporation has been given to the board of directors. A certain procedure has been laid down, and there is also a provision in the Act to the effect that certain directives can be given by the Government to the board of directors, which manages this Corporation. Under this provision, we can just inquire or look into these matters, but these things cannot be given to the House.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West cum Rae Bareli Distt.—East): These loans are acknowledged in the balance-sheets of the concerns to which these loans are given. Now, a balance-sheet is a public document which is available to anybody—leave alone a Member of Parliament. I cannot therefore understand how the hon. Minister says that there is something very secret about this, and so it cannot be disclosed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Moreover in the Act itself, it is laid down that when a loan is taken and the properties are subjected to the conditions laid down in the Act so that the Government can take them over, the first charge being that of the Government; so everybody knows that whenever loan is advanced the property is under mortgage and the management can take it over. So, what is the difficulty in disclosing the names?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the practice that is obtaining in the United Kingdom? I have got here one of the latest books dealing with this matter, from which I shall make some references later. In this book, the names of some of the well-known British companies have been mentioned, which have received loans from the Corporation.

With regard to the general objection even, let us take for instance the case of the SCOB. When it was given a loan of about Rs. 2½ crores, the matter came up before Parliament, and it was discussed also. So, even if you look at it from the merits of the case, how will these companies be adversely affected? On the other hand, I would suggest that their reputation will be even more firmly established, as has been hinted in this book itself. These will be companies that have received the patronage, recognition and support from a Corporation behind whom the Government is standing, so that it will be possible for these companies to raise money from the market, because people will know that these are concerns which are well-managed and have received the support and recognition of the Government itself. On the other hand, if the names are not disclosed, there will be unnecessary suspicions. It may be that many of the allegations that have been made on the floor of this House yesterday are not well-founded at all. In fact, if I may say so, I have seen the list of the names of many of the firms. If these were properly disclosed and explained on the floor of the House, I am sure any spokesman on behalf of the Government can present a case generally in support of what the Corporation has done. But the hesitation on the part of the Government in disclosing the names, unnecessarily creates an atmosphere of suspicion. I, therefore, appeal to the Government that, since there is no legal bar, there should be no hesitation in taking Parliament into confidence in this matter, for then alone it can know whether things have been properly done, and hon. Members may

offer constructive suggestions as to the proper administration of this organisation in the future. I hope Government will think over it and tell us tomorrow.

Shri Ferose Gandhi: On a point of information. Are these loans granted only to public limited companies?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Yes.

Shri Ferose Gandhi: Then there can be no difficulty in disclosing the names of the concerns. If they are public limited companies, the objection that has been raised does not hold.

Shri K. K. Desai (Halar): When this question was being discussed here, during interpellations, questions were asked of the hon. Finance Minister whether he will be prepared to give the names. The Finance Minister then replied twice or thrice that it was not the convention of the Banks to give the names of the loanees. But as Dr. Mookerjee has just now stated, these loans are after all being given to public limited concerns, which do mention the fact in their balance-sheets which are generally available to the public. Personally, therefore, I do not see any objection in giving the names. If these are disclosed, then the unnecessary suspicion that has been roused about these loanees may be immediately removed, and there will be absolutely no atmosphere of suspicion. If Parliament can know the concerns to which the loans have been given, the extent of the loan, the terms under which they have been given, whether the terms have been exactly the same for all the loanees etc., I think much of the discussion will become limited.

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): I promise that I will consider the proposal just made in the House. Government will be in a position to reply tomorrow. I shall consider the request made here.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): There is some confusion and difference of opinion on this point. May I make a suggestion? Further information be given in the statement tomorrow, and there will be some difference of opinion. So this debate be postponed to Monday, instead of to tomorrow, so that there will be enough time for the hon. Members to go through the reports.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would like the hon. Minister to say what Government thinks about this suggestion. If those copies are made available to us only today—I am talking of the report—then hon. Members may take

some time over it, and so I am inclined to say that this matter will stand over till day after tomorrow. But day after tomorrow is a non-official day, and there is enough other Government work for tomorrow. So this may be taken up on Monday.

An Hon. Member: Monday is a holiday.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In that case, this matter will come up for consideration again on Tuesday, instead of tomorrow.

FOOD ADULTERATION BILL—contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As regards the Food Adulteration Bill, I think we have had sufficient discussion, and I think the Bill may be referred to the Select Committee without any further speeches. I understand that all that hon. Members are suggesting on this Bill (*Interruptions*).

Order, order. Hon. Members ought not to show their backs to the Chair. Hon. Members will be attentive to what is proceeding in the House. There are some inevitable rules of decorum in the House; they will have to be followed. One is not to show their backs to the Chair except when they recede. That is by the way.

What I would suggest is this. The principle of the Bill seems to be accepted. Hon. Members are only anxious to make it a little more rigorous and more effective.

Shri N. Sreecantan Nair (Quilon cum Mavelikkara): Only the Congress Benches have spoken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Other Members also.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): No, no.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will call lady Members first.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I had sent in an amendment to this Bill to send the Bill to elicit public opinion. The hon. Minister while moving the motion said: "I am sure that there will not be a single Member in this House who will disagree with this Bill." She is quite correct. I do not think there will be a single person in this House who will say 'no' to the Food Adulteration Bill. But I had sent in the amendment because I thought that the scope of the Bill was very limited. This Bill has come to

this House, or rather we Indians have taken up this Bill rather too late in the day. If you look into the history of such Bills, you will find that the rest of the world has taken up this question even from the 13th century. The difference between their Bills and ours is this, that this Bill refers only to food in a particular fashion while the rest of the world took this Bill to include drugs as well. A Food and Drugs Bill is really a comprehensive Bill which will include all the adulterated articles consumed by man. My hon. friend, Shri Bhargava, while speaking said: 'Not only food but medicine is also in it'. That is why I had sent in an amendment to include drugs in this Bill—not to oppose this Bill.

Ever since this Government had taken to control of food, owing to the scarcity of food and drinks in this State, there was ample scope for the adulteration of food, that is, the admixture of false adulterated counterfeit articles of food highly injurious to public health against all the ethics of business and degenerating to national character. That we lag behind in this Bill is clear when we have a cursory glance at similar Bills all over the world. Records of Government taking notice of this adulteration of food can be seen as early as the history of Rome and Greece which prevented the adulteration of wine. When wine-making, slaughtering and bread-making became a regular business, it was natural for Government to regulate it, and in England you see the regulation beginning from 1316, from spice regulation, and ending in 1928 in the statutory offence of adulteration of food and drinks. Selling unwholesome food was a common law offence in England in the beginning; later on it became a statutory offence, in 1928. In France, adulteration of food was forbidden as early as 1292 and it ended in 1802 when there was jurisdiction over food and drugs. In Germany, it started as early as the 13th century and in 1607 Frederic II of Russia appointed drug inspectors. In America it started as early as 1874 when the first general food law was passed at Illinois and it ended in 1938 with the Regulation of Food and Drugs Act. So we see, that between 1874 and 1921 Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Japan and Russia passed laws on food and drugs. It is easy to see that this legislation is not to be confined to food alone. The definition of food does not confine itself to the food that we take in for nourishment but the food that we take in to maintain our health and cure our diseases too. That is why, the two came

[Kumari Annie Mascarene]

to be legislated as one Act, the Act on Food and Drugs.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: May I just say something, Sir, to clear a misapprehension perhaps in the hon. Member's mind. A Central Drugs Act is already on the Statute Book and I propose to bring in certain amendments to that in due course. So that there is no point in asking for a Food and Drugs Act. The Drugs Act already exists.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: My suggestion is that a comprehensive law on both the subjects will be more applicable to present-day conditions because it is very difficult to define food and drugs. Of course, it is left to the hon. Minister and the Government to consider my suggestion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even if they are separate, if it is food it will not be drug and if it is not drug, it will be food.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I said I leave it to the Government. In India adulteration of food has been going on at a dangerous speed. In 1946 I remember when I was in this City itself, there were many cases of death resulting from chalk powder being added on to atta. I suppose it was the British Government that was running the administration. But I wish to point out that that very gentleman who was in charge of Food during those days is in the very good books of the Government today.

Similarly, the other day I remember to have given a bottle containing the so-called essence to the hon. Minister. I wonder what she has done with it—whether she has used it or not. Anyway that fact unhappily is still hanging in doubt and so much propaganda is done about that matter. I remember to have brought a letter—unfortunately, it is not with me now—from a company, the Travancore Sugar Company Limited.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Under this Bill, it will not be open to the hon. Member to bring bottles here. She has to send them to the Analyst.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I shall not fall short of your expectations.

I hope the hon. Minister will have patience for some time more. While a complaint was made to the Chief Minister of the Travancore-Cochin State that a company that was producing the same thing from Quilon and that it was highly injurious to health has been complained against by

the Madras Government, he pointed out that the company is being given duty-free liquor by the Government itself. I am prepared to produce the letter before the hon. Minister tomorrow. The man who runs the company is high up in Government there also.

I should like to draw your attention to another fact. People in houses of glass should never throw stones. In Trivandrum, just before I came here, we were given a mixed variety of rice, white quality mixed with a yellow quality. The yellow quality when boiled gives out the smell of lavatory and this mixed rice is distributed to us in Trivandrum. For the information of the hon. Minister, I have brought a specimen of her own sin.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member need not be unnecessarily induced by other hon. Members.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I have confidence in myself.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let her have all the rice and send it to the Analyst under the Bill.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I want to point out that if this Bill is to be passed with retrospective effect, the mover of the Bill and his colleagues will fall under the mischief of the law. Perhaps, the Constitution will prevent it. I tell you, all are equal in the eye of the law. If we are to have democracy and if we are to have equality, which we proclaim from the top of our houses, I think the law must be rigorously enforced. It is useless legislating.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are waiting to know what concrete suggestions the hon. Member has got. If per chance her local Government is not in a position to enforce it, does the hon. Member want to clothe the Central Government with the powers to prosecute these persons?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: There is a clause at the end of the Bill that when this Bill is passed all other laws become invalid. Therefore, it is for the Central Government to apply it to themselves first and then to apply it to others.

Legislation is not complete unless the executive carries it out. I was just listening to the details about vanaspati from the lips of my hon. friend close-by and I was surprised how, in the face of law, in the face of the Committee reports, in the face of public opinion and in the face of injury to the nation, that article is yet allowed to be sold and distributed in this country.

I hope that this Government will take note of another fact which I wish to bring before them. There is a clause in the Bill with respect to inspectors and analysts. I am happy that as far as that portion is concerned, the law is comprehensive except in one point. The American law on the subject, section 90 of the Food and Drug Act, demands that any inspector who is corrupt or receives any bribe should be punished.

"Any person, firm or corporation or any agent or employee of any person, firm or corporation, who shall give, pay or offer directly or indirectly, to any person authorised by Government to accept, any money or other things of value with intent to influence such authority in the discharge of his duty shall be deemed to be guilty of felony and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by summary dismissal and a fine of not less than five thousand dollars or with one year's imprisonment."

This section not only prevents that crime but allows the law to be enforced rigorously by inspectors. I wish the hon. Minister will take note of this section of the American law and will include it in this Bill. It is necessary that deterrent punishment should be given for offences of this kind. In Travancore-Cochin State, we have the law preventing the adulteration of milk, but, yet, what do we find? The offence is repeated. The fundamental principle of punishment is that it should be deterrent. I wish to suggest that the punishment given in this Bill is not sufficiently rigorous. The adulteration of food and drugs means so much injury to humanity that it should be regarded as felony or even man-slaughter. In England, if any body dies of unwholesome food, it is punished as man-slaughter. I think the same should be adopted in our country too.

I am presenting this specimen of adulterated food of this Government to the hon. Minister to be shown to her colleague. Some time back, I produced some broken rice which was distributed to me at home by way of ration, and the hon. Minister said, he made a soup of it and drank and came back to life strong enough to come to this Parliament and hide the failures of his Government with ready wit and humour. I hope the same will not happen. I want the hon. Minister to boil this rice and enjoy that noxious smell which is being enjoyed by all of us at home.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. This is not a playground. The hon.

Member will kindly resume her seat. It is not a playground that this can be exhibited here. Once a bottle was brought here, and there is no meaning in exhibiting all these things here. It is most irrelevant. No doubt, it is exactly to prevent all these things that the Government is bringing this Bill. How is the hon. Member contributing towards the debate in coming and saying that the hon. Minister may eat the rice and not come to the House at all?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Who is responsible?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whoever is responsible, let him be prosecuted and punished, but all that the hon. Member is saying is not relevant and on top of it, another hon. Member taking charge of the exhibit reduces the decorum in the House. I think a little more respect ought to be shown to the House.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: This Bill has been brought forward to end adulteration and I am pointing out cases of adulteration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Who ever denies that there is adulteration of food? Everybody agrees that there is adulteration of food. But on that score, all the adulterated articles ought not to be brought here and exhibited.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: But this is distributed by Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whosoever may have distributed it, should we bring vanaspati, medicine bottles and all kinds of things here?

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): There is no provision here for punishing the Government. There is only provision to punish companies and individuals.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If that is so, then let the hon. Member make that point if he gets an opportunity.

I think the hon. Member Kumari Mascarene has concluded her speech.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: No, Sir.

May I point out that there is no intention to defame anybody or find fault with anybody, but once a person gets on to the Treasury Benches he or she does not become anything other than a human being and he or she is as much subject to the common law of the land as anybody else. This is my intention in exhibiting these articles. Merely saying these things do not impress the House as much as supporting them with these articles. Adulteration has been going on for a long time and

[Kumari Annie Mascarene]

it will go on for a long time to come, but the fact that this is done by Government does not frighten me and I am not going to hide the facts. I am sent here by lakhs and lakhs of people to say that they are suffering by eating rice like this.

An Hon. Member: On a point of information. Has the hon. Member any evidence to prove that it is adulterated by Government?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I think the fault of the agent is the fault of the employer and therefore there is a vicarious liability.

Shri G. P. Sinha: (Palamau cum Hazaribagh cum Ranchi): Was it imported from China?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whoever indulges in adulteration shall be punished and the arm of the law must be long enough to reach all offenders. All these are instances she is pointing out. Let her proceed.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I am glad Sir, you have given me the credit for speaking about the law being applicable to all, irrespective of personalities. With these words, I support the Bill, expecting the hon. Minister to make necessary changes to widen its scope.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As early as 1934, the President of the Legislative Assembly had ruled as follows:

"The Chair would like to announce that it strongly deprecates the practice of producing exhibits on the floor of the House. The Chair does not propose to allow this practice in future. The Chair did not want to prevent the hon. Member from doing so before giving due notice."

In this case, I was also taken by surprise. This practice ought not to be indulged in in future, whichever the quarter may be.

An Hon. Member: I suggest the Chair confiscates the property.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): As far as the principles of this Bill go, naturally everybody supports them, especially at a time when every day during question hour we are informed that the incidence of T.B. is going up, that infant and child mortality is increasing, and even in places like the U.P. there are 2.6 million cases of blindness due to mal-

nutrition. At the same time, there are certain things which ought to be taken into consideration and I think it would have been good if the hon. Minister had prefaced her opening speech by some remarks as to why similar legislation promulgated in various States have not achieved the results expected from them at the time when they were promulgated. As far as our experience goes, there are two tendencies even in the States where such laws exist. One is that the innocents are made to suffer, and the other is that the very big and powerful people get off without any punishment. From that point of view, I agree with Pandit Bhargava that certain provisions should have been made in the Bill to tighten up things so as to avoid these two tendencies.

Now to go into the further details—while we support the principles of the Bill, we think it is a pious wish that is expressed here. There are several other factors which are not envisaged here that have to be taken into consideration. First and foremost, we have to consider the existing economic condition of the people. We find that a big proportion of the people who fall under this measure in Bengal are the small vendors who sell their wares, bhajis or tea round about the mills and the office quarters or the fruit sellers in the streets of Calcutta, particularly in Clive Street, one of the biggest centres of offices. These are the people that fall under this measure most of all. Then there is a big section of people that gains its livelihood by making parotas and rotis in conditions which are most unhygienic. What are we going to do about this?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But what are they adulterating?

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: There are certain clauses in the Bill which deal with contamination, insanitary conditions and also unhygienic conditions and thus these people also fall under the purview of this Bill. Their educational status is also low. They do not know what is hygienic and what is unhygienic.

Then there is the other question that if we want to give the best food to people, we should make that food available to them at a reasonable price. We talk of vanaspati and ghee, but everybody knows that ghee is better than vanaspati but the majority of the people are unable to buy ghee and they take vanaspati. Then again, this adulteration occurs even in State undertakings. Here is a clause laying down special provisions for imposing rigor-

ous control over the production, distribution and sale of milk and milk products. With reference to these, we know that they are a dead letter in most States. Even in a case like the State enterprise in Calcutta, people are saying that the article supplied is unwholesome. The question therefore really is whether we are able to exercise this control effectively.

If we are going to protect these small people, then the industrial concerns will have to open canteens where they must guarantee that proper and good food is supplied to the workers. Therefore, while the principles of the Bill are good, we have yet to see how far the provisions would be practicable.

The second point to which I would like to draw the attention of Government is this. We want to be quite sure that the small vendor or the small person is not unnecessarily penalised. On the streets of Calcutta, we have seen the police suddenly sweeping down on the small street vendors, taking away all their wares and completely confiscating them. We do not know what happens next, whether it is paid for, or not. Here clause 10 says that any article which appears to a food inspector to be adulterated can be seized and carried away. Sub-clause (4) of the next clause (11) says:

"If the sample of the article is reported by the public analyst to be not adulterated, the article shall be returned at the cost of the Government to the owner or person from whose possession it was seized."

But when the whole stock is seized and ultimately on analysis it is found that it is not adulterated, there is no provision to the effect that Government will compensate the person. Also, I think there should be a provision to the effect that an inspector who does this too many times should be subjected to some punishment as a deterrent against using his powers in a way that will affect the small vendors.

There is a provision that if a party is not satisfied with the analysis of the public analyst, a sample may be sent to the Central Food Laboratory, on payment of a fee. So far at any rate as the small vendors are concerned, I am afraid this provision will remain a dead letter.

Then, there is the question of big companies, which was referred to by my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. The first part of clause 17 says that a company may be proceeded against, but if it is proved that the offence was committed without the knowledge of the manager, or any

other person proceeded against, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge, he can go Scot-free. Sub-clause (4) of clause 19 says that "where an employer proves to the satisfaction of the court that he had used due diligence to enforce the execution of this Act and that the said other person committed the offence without his knowledge, the said other person shall be convicted and the employer shall be acquitted." In this case it may so happen that a small placard may be put up that no contraband should be used and that may be cited as a proof that he has used due diligence. All these things have to be taken into consideration.

Then there is another very serious point to which I would like to draw the attention of Government. Clause 11(6) (d) says:

"If it appears to the magistrate on taking such evidence as he may deem necessary that the article of food produced before him under sub-section (5) is adulterated, he may order it—

(d) to be returned back to the owner for being sold under its appropriate name, after taking a adequate guarantee from the owner."

Here I would like to mention a case which came up recently in Calcutta in connection with tea adulteration. A very big European Firm—Brooke Bonds—was involved in it. Finally the court's decision was that the stalks of tea could be used and that is now being sold under a particular name. These are factors which we should take into consideration.

A question I would like to ask in this connection is: why is it even in States where these Food Adulteration Acts are in existence, the rice, atta etc., which are issued by Government are rotten? There have been several instances where the attention of Government has been drawn to this. While Government is taking upon itself the power to prosecute persons who adulterate food, what is to happen if Government itself becomes the accused? We would like to have an answer to that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must be a student of politics and must be aware of the answer. Hon. Members can throw out the Government.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: That we shall do step by step.

One of the main reasons why the State legislation has remained a dead

[Shrimati Renu Chakravarty.]

letter is that the whole system is being worked by a machinery which in itself is incapable of putting into effect the principles which we have enunciated in the Bill and the whole system is so cumbersome that it becomes impracticable of administration. In that I am absolutely at one with Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, in so far as his remarks about the ordinary villager are concerned. Are we going to make the help of a public analyst available to him? Will he be able to comply with all the legal procedures enumerated here? How are we going to give them an opportunity of utilising this measure? Then again there is the question of fees. All these have to be thoroughly examined. Even then I am apprehensive whether within the scope and framework of the system as it exists today we will be able to work this measure. It is not a question of raising moral standards; it is a question of raising economic standards, the educational standards, the entire social structure. It is only in such a society that we will be able to prevent effectively adulteration of food-stuffs.

Shri U. S. Malliah (South Kanara—North): I beg to move:

"That the question be now put."

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani, who is the leader of a party in Opposition is anxious to speak. There are other Members as well who are anxious to take part. May I suggest that we should not proceed so precipitately in the discussion of very important legislation like this?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is a measure, about the wholesomeness of which all people are agreed. A number of suggestions have been made. The Select Committee will certainly try to improve it. When the Bill comes from the Select Committee hon. Members will have another opportunity to speak. This is a measure in which there is no difference of opinion.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The matter would be expedited if the House has an opportunity of adequate discussion before the Select Committee goes into the measure. After all the whole House cannot go into the Select Committee and this is a piece of legislation which affects the vital interests of the people. The whole procedure would be expedited if the House has an opportunity of fully discussing it.

Shrimati Maydeo (Poona South): You should give an opportunity to women Members from this side as well.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is evidently forgetting that the hon. Minister piloting this Bill is a woman.

Shrimati Maydeo: But let us support her a little.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will add the names of Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shrimati Indira A. Maydeo, Shri Harendra Nath Mukerjee and Shri S. S. More to the Select Committee, if the hon. Minister has no objection.

Shri S. S. More: Of course, you do not mean anything, but the inference will be drawn from the other side that we are getting upon our legs to get into the Select Committee.

5 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members need not understand at all that way. As a matter of fact, this is a matter where all hon. Members are interested. Whatever others might think—I am sure they are not thinking that way—when I made that suggestion I had not the least such idea.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I submit to you, Sir, that we expect the courtesy from the Government to say at least something in answer to our request. I wish Government does not proceed with this motion for closure. There is not a word from the Government side.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: She will say I believe it has been moved at the suggestion of the hon. Minister. I made the suggestion to the House that the other hon. Members who wish to contribute to the debate may as well sit in the Select Committee so that they may have an opportunity of expressing their views.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Sir, if we are allowed to give our views now, it will save time. After all, this debate started after Lunch and one hour was taken up by the Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill. This is a Bill in which everybody is interested and it is therefore necessary that people should have an opportunity of expressing their views now. I would therefore request you to consider this and give some more time to us.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I have no objection whatsoever to giving the House further time. Let us have the discussion tomorrow morning, that is after Question Hour up to one o'clock till the House adjourns for Lunch.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very well.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 27th November, 1952.