



सत्यमेव जयते

Friday  
9th April, 1954

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part I- Questions and Answers )

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**VOLUME I, 1954**

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**Sixth Session**

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**PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

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

Date 01/12/2014

1875

1876

## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

*Friday, 9th April, 1954.*

*The House met at Two of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### REVIEW OF STAFF REQUIREMENTS

\*1694. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1227 asked on the 22nd December, 1953 and state:

(a) whether the special team of officers appointed to conduct an objective review of the staff requirements of the Ministries has completed its work; and

(b) if so, what are the important recommendations?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah):** (a) The special team of officers appointed to conduct an objective review of the staff requirements of the organisations of the Government of India has so far covered the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, Irrigation and Power and Labour, together with their attached and subordinate offices, the Office of the Union Public Service Commission, Nine offices of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Ministry of Communications and Overseas Communications Service, Ten subordinate offices under Posts and Telegraphs Department, and the Roads Organisation, Directorate General of Shipping and Lighthouse Department of the Ministry of Transport.

55 P.S.D.

(b) The recommendations of the special team relate mainly to (i) reduction in staff and (ii) improvements in procedure where waste of effort or/and duplication of labour have been detected. The unit has also suggested avenues of additional revenues in respect of some offices.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** In respect of the Ministries that they have so far covered, what is the amount of expenditure that they have recommended as savings?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** In the Ministries that they have examined, the recommendations about savings come to Rs. 116 lakhs. The recommendations accepted by the Ministries come to Rs. 47.66 lakhs. The implementation up-to-date comes to Rs. 25.52 lakhs.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** What is the number of personnel that they have recommended to be retrenched so far as staff requirements in the Ministries and in the subordinate offices are concerned?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** In the Ministries and attached offices, I have got a big list.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants the number of persons proposed to be retrenched.

**Shri M. C. Shah:** I have not got that. I have got the savings recommended in each Department in rupees.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** In pursuance of the recommendations in respect of Ministries and subordinate offices covered so far, may I know whether any amount has been recommended by way of raising the revenue?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** The Economy Unit has suggested certain methods incidentally and has said that if these cesses and some other fees are raised in those attached offices and subordinate offices, there is a possibility of revenue to the extent of Rs. 52 to Rs. 56 lakhs. The Ministry concerned is Food and Agriculture and attached offices.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is there any idea as to how long they are going to take in covering all the Ministries and subordinate offices, because already it is two years and they have only covered four of them?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** They have covered six Ministries and the seventh Ministry has been taken in hand. Out of 19 Ministries excluding the one Ministry which is under consideration, there will be about 12 Ministries. There are six important Ministries and they are trying to expedite the work as early as possible.

#### GOLD DEPOSITS IN BIHAR

\*1695. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold is reported to be available in certain parts of Bihar; and

(b) if so, whether any survey has been made as to the nature and extent of its availability?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know whether the result of the survey has been communicated to the Government of the States concerned?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The survey has been going on for some time. Detailed information regarding the occurrence of gold is given in the memoir "Mineral Resources of the Damodar valley and Adjacent region and their Utilisation for Industrial development" by Shri V. R. Khedkar. The important localities where gold has been surveyed are

Sanjal river, Sona river, Subarna-rekha, etc.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know if the State Governments concerned are taking any steps to exploit the gold reserves in their States?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The information with me shows that attempts are going on for some time and companies have been floated. They have been trying to exploit the gold found there. I have not got the latest information about the State Government's activities in this matter.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** May I know if the occurrence of gold is such that it would be an economic proposition to set up any organisation?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Anything can be said with regard to that only after detailed prospecting has been done to a certain extent. We are actively considering a scheme by which a detailed survey and prospecting will be undertaken soon.

#### UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

\*1696. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has started functioning;

(b) whether they have chalked out any plan and programme of work;

(c) whether the question of giving *ad hoc* grants to the Universities has been considered; and

(d) if so, what its recommendations are?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The University Grants Commission is framing its programme of work.

(c) and (d). A statement showing grants-in-aid (including *ad hoc* grants sanctioned by the University Grants Commission is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 1.]

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether, since the appointment of this University Grants Commission, there has been any enhancement of the scope of this Commission to bring it up to the standard suggested by the University Education Commission?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** \*There is no question of enhancing the scope of the Commission, because the Commission was established according to the recommendation of the University Education Commission.

**Shri S. N. Das:** In view of the fact that the University Education Commission suggested a different form of University Grants Commission, I want to know whether the Government has considered the various recommendations with regard to this Commission made by the University Education Commission?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The hon. Member may remember that there was a University Grants Committee before the appointment of this Commission, and this Commission was appointed after the University Education Commission submitted their report. This Commission has been appointed according to the recommendations of the University Education Commission.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of the different functions that were suggested by the University Education Commission, and that this Commission has been appointed with a limited scope for the present?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** So far as I know, the scope of the newly appointed University Grants Commission has not been limited.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** May I know whether the Chairman of the University Grants Commission is a whole-time officer or a part-time officer?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** He is the Chairman of the Commission. He has also to do

some other work under another Ministry.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know whether the grants given to the Universities are also intended to benefit the affiliated colleges?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** There are two kinds of grants. So far as the Centrally maintained Universities are concerned, they are maintenance grants. The Universities may utilise them in maintaining the University. So far as the State-maintained Universities are concerned, they are giving for particular schemes.

**Shri Jethalal Joshi:** May I know whether there is any Indian University in the colonies or foreign countries, and if so, whether there is any recommendation to give grants to such Universities?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** In the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House the names of the Universities receiving grants from the University Grants Commission have been given. I find no such University as mentioned by the hon. Member in that list.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that according to the recommendations of the University Education Commission, the post of the Chairman should be a whole-time one?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The University Grants Commission was appointed by the middle of November last year, and it may be that all the conditions have not yet been fulfilled.

FOUNDRYMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE,  
KHARAGPUR

\*1697. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a foundrymen's training centre is to be opened at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur;

(b) the number of trainees who would be admitted at a time; and

(c) the qualifications required for admission?

\*This answer was later corrected by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das, vide column 1903 of the Debates Part I, dated 9th April, 1954.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):**

(a) to (c). The first course under scheme of foundrymen's training has already started at the Institute. The scheme provides for short-term courses of three months each with about 20 trainees for each course. Admission to the course will be opened primarily to foundrymen sponsored by established foundries in India and by the Government technical institutes.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know if there is any proposal to have another centre than at Kharagpur?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Yes, Sir. There is a proposal that a similar institution, or rather branch, for foundry technology should be established in the near future in the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know the number of students admitted till now and if there are any foreigners among them?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Twenty-three students have been admitted for the first three months course. I do not know whether any foreigner has been admitted to this course or not.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know whether it is a fact that some of the equipment of this institute was supplied free of cost by foreign countries, and if so, to what extent?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The American Technical Co-operation Mission agreed to send a foundry technologist who has already joined and under whose guidance this department has been started. This Technical Mission has also offered to make available the necessary equipment.

#### SMUGGLED GOLD

\*1699. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of smuggled gold seized by the Customs authorities (i) during 1953 and (ii) upto the 15th February in 1954;

(b) how this gold is being disposed of;

(c) from what sources was the gold being smuggled.

(d) how many persons were involved; and

(e) what action has been taken against them?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 2.]

(b) After issue of a show cause notice if the gold is found to be liable for confiscation under the Sea Customs Act it is confiscated, either outright or with an option to the owner to pay a fine in lieu of confiscation for clearance on production of a no objection certificate from the Reserve Bank of India; otherwise it is released to the owner. The gold is transferred to the Mint if it is confiscated outright or if the owner does not exercise the option of paying within the period stipulated the fine fixed in lieu of confiscation.

(c) The gold was found to have been smuggled from the Persian Gulf, East Africa, Singapore, the Portuguese and French Possessions in India, etc.

(d) In all 634 persons were involved during the period in question.

(e) In addition to confiscation of gold, personal penalties were imposed on certain offenders and a few of the offenders were also prosecuted under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Out of this Rs. 5 million worth of gold, how much has been detected by the new kind of scientific machine employed for detecting gold at the check posts?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have no definite information, but I do not think much of it will go to the credit of that machine. Almost the entire quantity has been detected by the usual old methods.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** What is the sum of money which the Government of India have invested in the purchase and installation of such equipment in the various check posts all over India?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I would like to have notice for that.

**Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** What are the figures of 1952 as regards the amount of gold as well as the persons involved as compared to 1953?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have not got with me the 1952 figures.

**Shri Boovaraghasamy:** May I know how many times gold was detected, and may I also know whether any person has smuggled more than one time and the additional action taken against those who have smuggled more than once?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** That information also is not available with me. I have only got the figures of how many persons are involved.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Has there been a perceptible decline in the smuggling of gold this year as a result of tightening of customs measures and also as a result of the tightening of the borders of North Kanara and Belgaum after the political turmoil in Goa?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I think smuggling of gold has gone down somewhat due to the tightening of the checking arrangements and also due to the fact that the price of gold in the French possession is almost the same as in India and so it is not profitable for the smugglers to smuggle from that place.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know...

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

#### ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

\*1700. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of the States from which agriculturist families have gone to settle in Andamans and the Nicobar Islands under the Five Year Scheme?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** The agriculturist families, so far settled in the Andamans under the Five Year Scheme, were taken from the States of West Bengal and Travancore-Cochin.

**श्री बिभूति मिश्र:** श्रीर जगह से कोई जाय तो उन को बसाने की सुविधा सरकार दे सकती है ?

**Shri Datar:** We want to send as many as possible subject to our scheme.

**श्री बिभूति मिश्र:** जब वहां कोई बसने के लिये जाता है, तो उस को सरकार कौन सी सुविधा देती है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** मैं समझता हूं कि यह प्रश्न यहां पर बार बार पूछा गया है।

#### CENTRAL FOOD TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

\*1701. **Shri N. Rachiah:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether an advisory Committee has been set up by the Central Government for the Central Food Technological Research Institute;

(b) if so, the names of the Members;

(c) when it was constituted; and

(d) whether the Committee meets periodically?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 3.]

**Shri N. Rachiah:** May I know whether the question of making appointments in this Institute is directed by this committee?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Appointments are generally made by the Director of the Institute.

**Shri N. Rachiah:** What is the term of this committee?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I presume that he wants the functions of this committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think he wants the period.

**Shri N. Rachiah:** I want to know the period for which it is constituted.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The Committee was constituted in 1953 in the month of April under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Mysore. The other Members of the Committee are: Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar, Dr. D. V. Karmarkar, Dr. K. Rajagopal, Dr. A. Nagaraja Rao, Shri M. Shankaraiya, Shrimati Sunandamma, an industrialist connected with food industries and Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Director of the Institute.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is for what period it is constituted.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** It is a three-yearly committee.

**Shri Muniswamy:** Are Government aware that many of the results achieved by this Institute have not been put into practice because of want of funds?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** No, Sir. I am not aware of it.

#### ARTIFICIAL RAIN

\*1702. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to carry out laboratory experiments on cloud formation and seeding of clouds, in the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi; and

(b) whether field experiments will also be undertaken?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research propose to undertake field experiments.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know whether field experiments will be conducted during the next monsoon period and if so, whether preference will be shown to those areas which are subject to frequent droughts for these field experiments?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** In the opinion of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Atmospheric Research Committee, a considerable amount of fundamental research has still to be carried out with regard to cloud physics and rain formation before field work can be undertaken, but immediately after this the idea is to take up field work with regard to investigation of water content of clouds and other things.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know whether the experiments that are being carried out in the National Physical Laboratory are on the same lines as are reported to have been conducted in Australia, or on some different lines

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** No actual work has commenced as yet in the National Physical Laboratory. There are certain recommendations made by the Committee appointed by the Council of Industrial and Scientific Research. One of the recommendations of this Committee is that laboratory investigation should be carried out with regard to certain technical matters, which it is not necessary for me to enumerate here. As soon as fundamental investigations have been carried out along with a certain amount of field work, we can go out into the field to do actual work in this connection.

**श्री रघूनाथ सिंह :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस का सफल एक्सपेरिमेंट किसी और देश में भी हुआ है या नहीं ?

**श्री के० डी० मालवीय :** जो सूचनायें हमें प्राप्त हैं उन से मालूम होता है कि अमरीका में और आस्ट्रेलिया में इस सम्बन्ध में काम हुआ है और यह भी कहा गया है कि वहाँ पर सफलता मिली है । पर कितनी सफलता मिली है इस के बारे में कुछ मन्देह है ।

**Shri Vallatharas:** How long will it take to have the first regular experiments conducted?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I cannot say anything.

# RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

\*1703. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the setting up of the proposed Rubber Research Institute at Poona; and

(b) the reaction of the Rubber Manufacturers' Association to this proposal?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) and (b). A proposal to form a Research Association for Rubber Industries in India is being examined by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in consultation with the Rubber Manufacturers.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** As regards part (b) of the question, the hon. Minister has not given the reaction of the Rubber Manufacturers' Association to this proposal.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Originally, there was a scheme proposed by the Calcutta Association of the rubber manufacturers, which was not quite acceptable to the Bombay Association. Latterly, the Bombay Association was requested to come forward with their scheme. They also made certain proposals which were examined by the Director of the National Chemical Research Laboratory, Poona. But as there was still some difference between the two Associations of Bombay and Calcutta, the Director of the National Chemical Research Laboratory has been requested to prepare his own scheme, and that scheme is now being considered by both the Associations.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the location of the Institute at Poona will be more economical?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** That is what the present recommendation indicates.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the refresher course in rubber technology, which is now being carried on at the Kharagpur Institute will help this research?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I have no information.

**Shri Kelappan:** Is there any proposal to start the Institute in any rubber-growing area?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Just now, the proposal which is under the consideration of Government is to start the Institute at Poona.

# MANIPUR STATE BANK

\*1704. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish the Manipur State Bank,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up any branch of a Scheduled Bank to cater to the needs of people of that State; and

(c) whether Government had the accounts of the Manipur State Bank audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General last year?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee, the Imperial Bank of India have agreed to open a branch at Imphal.

(c) A general examination of the accounts of the bank was conducted by the Accountant-General, Assam.

# FIELD AMBULANCE UNIT IN KOREA

\*1705. **Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose awarding an appropriate medal to all Indians who served in the Korean theatre with the Indian Field Ambulance Unit, in appreciation of their work;

(b) if so, the particulars of such award; and



(c) the time by which it can be expected?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) to (c). It is not proposed to institute a special medal for service in the Korean theatre. Under a Notification issued on the 28th July 1953, an Overseas Clasp can be worn with the General Service Medal 1947 for operational service ex-India. The qualifying conditions regarding period etc. are prescribed by Government for each operation separately.

Personnel of the India Field Ambulance unit who served in the Korean theatre are entitled to the Overseas Clasp. Government have under examination qualifying conditions for award of the Overseas Clasp for operational service in the Korean theatre and it is hoped to announce them shortly.

**Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** How many of the Indians who went to Korea deserve this award?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** It has not been settled finally. The details are being worked out, and will be announced in due course.

**Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** Do Government propose to award similar and appropriate medals to the Indian troops which served in the Korean theatre, along with the NNRC?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I think all military personnel who have served outside India will be considered for the award of this clasp. But the matter is under consideration.

#### COLOMBO PLAN CONFERENCE

**\*1706. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of expenditure incurred in the railway journeys of the delegates to the Colombo Plan Conference held in New Delhi in 1953?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** Rs. 44,719.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Is it a fact that the best saloons were commandeered from the different railway systems of

India, to enable these delegates to travel to some of our project areas?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** There was no saloon. It was a tourist train.

#### LAND CUSTOMS OFFICE AT ALIPURDUAR

**\*1708. Shri Katham:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have abolished the Land Customs Office of Alipurduar in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received by Government from the affected traders; and

(d) if so, whether Government intend to re-open the office?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) and (b). Alipurduar is not at present formally declared as a Land Customs Station, but Customs clearances are nevertheless being given to traders at that place as a special case.

(c) Yes. This was at a time when customs clearances at Alipurduar were stopped for a brief period. —

(d) The office has already been re-opened, but the question of the retention of the office is under consideration.

**Shri Barman:** When will the final decision be reached in regard to the retention of the office?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have already stated that the matter is under consideration, and I think shortly it will be finalised.

#### LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN DELHI

**\*1709. Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether a communication was issued to the Directorate of Education, Delhi for the revision of the pay scales of language teachers; and

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken thereon?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):**

(a) No, Sir, but a communication was sent to the Delhi State Government.

(b) It is understood that action is being taken by the Delhi State Government.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know what action Government propose to take in this matter?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The Central Government or the Delhi State Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Parliamentary Secretary can reply only for the Central Government.

**Shri Radha Raman:** Are Government aware of the action taken by the Delhi State Government in this respect?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not know whether the subject is under the State Government. What is the information that the hon. Member wants?

**Shri Radha Raman:** The Central Government have sent some communication to the State Government, with regard to the scale of pay of the language teachers. It was stated in the course of the reply given earlier that no communication was received, but that action was being taken in the matter. I want to know whether the Central Government are aware what that action is.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I am sorry I could not make myself properly heard by the hon. Member. I said that a communication was sent not to the Delhi Education Department, but to the Delhi State Government. The State Government in their turn referred the matter to the Delhi Education Department.

**Shri Radha Raman:** My question still remains unanswered. I want to know whether the Central Government are aware of what that communication is, and of what action is being taken by the Education Department of the Delhi State.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The Communication was in respect of the introduction of

a new system of pay scales and adequate minimum qualifications for language teachers other than English. This pay scale has been introduced by the Delhi State Government. But recently they had entertained some doubt about a particular matter in that communication, and so they referred that particular point to the Central Government. This particular point is under the consideration of the Central Government. So far as the rest of the communication is concerned, it has been implemented by the Delhi State Government.

#### CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**\*1712. Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether scholarships for young workers in cultural fields have been awarded for 1954-55?

(b) Are there any guiding rules for these awards?

(c) What are the break-up figures State-wise of the number of scholarships awarded?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):**  
(a) Not yet.

(b) The scholarships are intended for talented artists who are not more than 35 years of age and who have acquired a sufficient measure of proficiency in their chosen field to establish their outstanding promise.

(c) Does not arise.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know the names of the organisations through which these scholarships are proposed to be given?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The scholarships will not be given to any organisation. These will be given to individual youngmen of talent in the chosen fields.

#### INDIAN NAVY

**\*1714. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) when the I. N. Ships Godavari, Gomati and Ganga were received in:

our waters on loan from the British Admiralty; and

(b) whether we have enough trained officers and ratings to take charge of these ships?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) The ships arrived in India on 28th September 1953.

(b) Yes.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether these are the only destroyers that we have got on loan or we have our own destroyers as well?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** We have many more destroyers of our own.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether we had to spend anything on these destroyers for refitting them in British waters when we got them on loan?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** We have spent some money over refitting and modernisation of these ships before bringing them to India.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** May I know what is the amount spent in repairing these ships?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** It is about Rs. 117 lakhs, for the three ships.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** It is reported that HMS *Nigeria* is being bought. May I know whether officers from these ships will go to bring her?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** These ships are already here with us. HMS *Nigeria* will take some time to be delivered. It has to be refitted before being brought here. There would be some time-lag. Some officers and ratings from India will go to bring her. They will be from our naval ships.

#### TOBACCO DUTIES (BIHAR)

\*1715. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total income during 1952-53 from tobacco duties from Bihar; and

(b) the expenditure over the administrative arrangements in that area?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) and (b). The Central Excise duty on tobacco realised from the State of Bihar during 1952-53 amounted to Rs. 304 lakhs. The expenditure incurred in the collection of this duty during the same year was nearly Rs. 17 lakhs.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know whether this sum of Rs. 17 lakhs includes expenditure at the Central headquarters also?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I think this is the expenditure incurred for the Patna collectorate including the pay of the officers for the field work.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know if there is any increase in the area under tobacco cultivation in the province over that of last year, and does that figure represent any diversion of land from foodgrain cultivation?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** If the hon. Member wants to know if any land has been diverted from food crop cultivation, I have not got the figure with me.

#### INDIAS FOREIGN TRADE

\*1716. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have information regarding the amount paid as commission on brokerage and insurance to non-Indians in the foreign trade of India; and

(b) what are the factors that contribute towards this drain of money?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. B. Bhagat):** (a) and (b). Government have no information but as the transportation and insurance business is largely in foreign hands and a major portion of the foreign trade is handled by non-Indian banks, considerable sums must be being paid to non-Indians on this account.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether any efforts are being made by the Government to ascertain this amount?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** The Reserve Bank has already undertaken a survey as regards the freight and fare charges. There is a proposal to undertake another survey as regards payments on account of insurance on imports. As regards the proportion of foreign trade handled by foreign banks, the survey has been completed and published in the Bulletin of the Reserve Bank of India.

**Shri S. N. Das:** What percentage of Indian exports is handled by Indian Insurance Companies?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** The proportion of the import trade carried by Indian ships can be obtained.....

**Mr. Speaker:** He is referring to the insurance.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I have not got the figure.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether since independence there has been any increase or decrease in respect of the Indian trade handled by Indian exchange banks and insurance companies?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** As I said, all such information is not available. The Reserve Bank is already going to undertake a survey so far as insurance charges are concerned.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** I find that a sample survey to estimate the relative shares of Indians and non-Indians in the foreign trade was recently conducted by the Reserve Bank of India. May I know why in such a case the data about the insurance and brokerage were not collected by the Reserve Bank?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** As regards insurance, they are going to undertake another survey.

# SYNTHETIC RICE

\*1717. **Shri N. Rachiah:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 345 on the 26th November, 1953 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Food Technological Research Institute has since submitted a proposal for a new plant to manufacture synthetic rice from tapioca and groundnuts;

(b) if so, when the proposal was submitted;

(c) the cost of the new plant; and

(d) the action taken by Government so far in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) and (b). Yes Sir, at the end of November, 1953.

(c) and (d). Quotations for the plant have been called for and will be examined before firm orders are placed for the machinery.

**Shri N. Rachiah:** What rate will such a rice be available to the public?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** It is too premature now to say anything about it.

**Shri N. Rachiah:** What will be the food value of the synthetic rice as compared to natural rice?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** It is claimed by the scientists that the food value of this synthetic grain will be at least as good as that of natural rice.

**Shri Kelappan:** Is it not a fact that this attempt has been given up in view of the fact that the food situation has improved and people do not relish this artificial rice?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The attempt made to produce such a synthetic grain is not very much related to the scarcity of food which has been referred to by the hon. Member. This attempt is mostly connected with finding

out a nutritive food which can be produced cheaper and can be distributed and consumed by people who live in localities where rice is mostly eaten.

**पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी :** प्राकृतिक चावल और सिन्थेटिक चावल के स्वाद भिन्न भिन्न होंगे या एक समान होंगे ?

**श्री के० डी० मालवीय :** जिस प्रकार दो मनुष्यों के चरित्र नहीं मिलते और खूबियां नहीं मिलती, उसी प्रकार दो खाने वाली चीजों के स्वाद भी नहीं मिल सकते ।

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know if the synthetic rice will contain vitamin B?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Yes, Sir. It will contain vitamin B.

#### REQUISITIONED LANDS IN MANIPUR

\*1718. **Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to pay compensation for lands requisitioned or leased in Manipur State for the purpose of constructing air-fields during the last war;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned for the payment of compensation; and

(c) the number of claims received in this connection?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 22,05,000.

(c) Number of petitions received by Defence Ministry is three but that by the Manipur State authorities is not known.

**Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the long pending of the case, Government propose to take any steps so that payment may be effected as early as possible?

**Sardar Majithia:** I have said that it has been finally decided to pay Rs. 22,05,000.

**Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** What steps have been taken to make payment as early as possible?

**Sardar Majithia:** That is exactly what I mean. It has been decided. Payment will be made in the very near future; possibly it will start off within the next month.

**Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** Do Government propose to set up an *ad hoc* Committee to advise the Government in this matter? If not, why not?

**Sardar Majithia:** Government do not propose to set up any Committee because assessments have been made after due verification, and after further verification the claims have been settled. The hon. Member would be interested to know a little bit of the figures about de-requisitioning as well. out of 3504 and odd acres, 3330 acres have already been de-requisitioned. So it leaves a very small amount with the Government of India and, therefore, there is no necessity to appoint a Committee.

**Shri Muniswamy:** What would be the number of peasants who would have been affected by this?

**Sardar Majithia:** It is difficult for me to give you the number of persons. But, as I said, the Ministry has received only three representations. So the people who would be affected by it could not now be very large.

#### CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

\*1719. **Shri Kanayade Patil:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the views expressed by him at Raipur on the application of the constitutional rights to the propagation of the Christian religion as published in the "Hindustan Standard" of the 16th March, 1954, represent the policy of Government; and

(b) if not, whether Government will state their policy in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) No; the report

is incorrect in material particulars and is misleading.

(b) Government's policy in the matter was explained in the course of the debates on the budget demands of the Home and States Ministries on the 5th and 6th April 1954.

**Shri Kanavade Patil:** May I know whether in view of the fact that there is a great deal of misunderstanding about the foreign missionaries in this country, the Government is making any clear statement in connection with conversion and proselytisation of the people in this country?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** Whenever any necessity arises and a demand is made, I shall be prepared to do so.

**Shri Kanavade Patil:** May I know whether conversion is allowed under our present Constitution?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is asking for opinion; I am not allowing it.

**Shri Kanavade Patil:** May I know whether the Government is in possession of the information regarding the conversions these people have made during the last five years?

**Dr. Katju:** That is a matter of census. If anybody asks for the figures, I shall let them know as to how many were converted.

**श्री जांगड़े :** क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि मध्य प्रदेश के रायगढ़ जिले में गत पांच वर्षों में जसपुर तहसील में डेढ़ हजार हिन्दू आदिवासियों को ईसाई बनाया गया है और इन के लिये रांची से २० लाख डालर दिये गये ?

**डा० काटजू :** मुझे इस की तहकीक मालूम नहीं है, हां, आप ने जो फरमाया वह मैं ने सुन लिया ।

**Shri Badshah Gupta:** May I know whether the same rights and privileges as are enjoyed by the foreign Missionaries in India are being enjoyed by our missionaries anywhere in the world?

**Dr. Katju:** May I know the number of our missionaries outside India?

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know whether an hon. Minister can ask questions?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is not about the number of missionaries but whether the rights enjoyed are the same.

**Dr. Katju:** My hon. friend is putting me in very great difficulty. I know the rights I give them. But, what rights they enjoy outside, I do not know.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

\*1721. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state how many senior and junior scholarships for research in scientific subjects were awarded to the Calcutta University during 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54 and in what subjects?

(b) How many of the scholars have completed their research?

(c) How many of them have been absorbed in the National Laboratories?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 4.]

(b) Two.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know in what department of the National Laboratories these post-graduates have been taken up?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** That particular information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** In the statement there is a reference to the quota according to which the vacancies are filled. May I know what is the quota

fixed for the Calcutta University and on what basis it is fixed?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** If the hon. Member carefully reads this statement, he will find the reply. The last column, that is, the figure for 1952-53, gives the quota fixed for the Calcutta University.

**Shri M. D. Ramasami:** May I know whether these scholarships carry a guarantee of absorption after training?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** These scholarships do not carry any guarantee on the part of Government to give these stipend holders any employment after finishing their training.

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY

\*1722. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cadets who were commissioned on completion of their training at the National Defence Academy, Dehra Dun during 1953-54; and

(b) the number of trainees that were discharged during the same period before concluding their courses, on the ground that they did not possess qualities necessary for an officer?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) 279 cadets of the Joint Services Wing and 340 cadets of the Military Wing successfully completed their training during 1953. The 340 cadets from the Military Wing were commissioned in the Army. The others would receive commissions on completion of full training.

(b) 37 trainees were withdrawn due to lack of officer-like qualities during 1953, of whom 15 were from the Joint Services Wing and 22 from the Military Wing. These figures include withdrawals during 1953 from all the courses running at the National Defence Academy and not only from the courses which were completed during the year.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know what was the amount Government had spent on the training of these cadets that have been withdrawn?

**Sardar Majithia:** I have not got the figures with me. But, obviously, various amounts have been spent on the various cadets because they were withdrawn at various times.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether the Kunzru Committee appointed for this purpose has submitted its report so far?

**Sardar Majithia:** No, that Committee has not completed its job as yet.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** We were told, during the discussion on this question, by the Minister for Defence Organisation that these cadets that were withdrawn before completing their period do not suffer because they were given a higher class for the time they had spent in the Academy. May I know whether these 37 trainees who were withdrawn would get this promotion as was declared and announced by the hon. Minister?

**Sardar Majithia:** About the promotions to the next higher class, I should like to repeat that the recognition was given for two years completed course as J.S.W. and not for cases year by year. That question is being examined and we hope to successfully complete those negotiations with the Education Ministry. If they have completed two years' training and they have passed the academic subjects successfully, then that promotion would have been given.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Can we have a break-up of this 37 and how many of them were already graduates who could not avail themselves of the concession that was promised to them and the number who were matriculates who could get admission to the college?

**Sardar Majithia:** As I said, 15 of them were thrown out from the Joint Services Wing and for them the minimum qualification is a matriculate. So far as the N.D.A. is concerned, you have got various categories; some come from the J.S.W., other are direct and they are graduates. Some come from the Territorial Army, others from the



N.C.C. and so on. I have not got those figures with me to say how many of them were graduates or otherwise.

**Shri Dhulekar:** May I know whether any alternative jobs would be given to those graduates who were rejected after two years or more?

**Sardar Majithia:** That does not rest with the Defence Ministry. If they apply in the normal course they will get the jobs on being found suitable and fit.

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**Correction to Answer to Starred Question No. 1696 asked on 9th April 1954  
Re. University Grants Commission**

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I have your permission to correct one of my replies to a supplementary question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Sir, in reply to my hon. friend, Mr. S. N. Das, I said that the present University Grants Commission has been established according to the recommendation of the University Education Commission. I beg to submit that the present Commission is a temporary one, which will continue in office till a Statutory Commission is established by an Act of Parliament. The Bill is under preparation in our Ministry and a Statutory Commission will be established after the Bill is passed. The Bill will be introduced at the earliest possible opportunity.

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**Short Notice Question and Answer**

**PRESENT SYSTEM OF BUDGETING AND  
EXERCISE OF FINANCIAL CONTROL**

**S.N.Q.9. Shri Bansal:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the Press Reports dealing with the recommendations of Shri Ashok K. Chanda on the present system of budgeting and exercise of financial control;

(b) whether these recommendations have been considered by Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that the recommendations are strictly confidential and secret;

(d) if so, the circumstances of the leakage of these recommendations;

(e) who is responsible for this leakage; and

(f) what steps are being taken to ensure that highly confidential documents do not leak out before they are officially released?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) and (b). I have seen some press reports on the subject. I have not seen all the reports and comments in the press which may have come out. Such as I have seen are partly correct and partly wrong.

The question of the review of administrative procedures has been long before Government and some steps have been taken from time to time. Administrative and like procedures are contained in a number of rules and regulations framed long ago.

This matter has been discussed repeatedly during the last two years in the Cabinet and the Planning Commission.

On the 17th January, 1954 I sent a note to the Cabinet Secretary suggesting an informal and rapid review of these old rules and regulations. I quote from this note:

"I find that the various rules, procedures and regulations, under which we are functioning, are very old. It may be that some minor changes have been made in them subsequently, but in the main, they remain what they were and it is obviously desirable to have a complete overhaul so as to make them fit in with the present conditions. Mr. Appleby has pointed out the necessity of adopting the present administrative apparatus to the tasks we have to undertake now, which were no part of the administration previously. It is not surprising, therefore, that we have



to face all kinds of difficulties and delays when we are trying to function under such old rules framed long ago under entirely different conditions".

In this note I suggested a review of (1) The Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal), Rules, with a view to their adaptation under the Union and the State Governments in regard to conditions of employment, conduct, discipline, appeal etc. (2) The existing arrangements for manning higher Secretariat posts under the Union and the State Governments with a view to securing maximum administrative efficiency, flexibility and interchangibility. (3) Fundamental Rules and Supplementary Rules, with a view to revising and codifying them. (4) The existing financial procedure with a view to expediting Government business. I added that this review should take place especially from the point of view of expediting the implementation of our Five Year Plan and various projects that we have undertaken or may undertake in the future.

I suggested that Shri Ashok K. Chanda, then Secretary Production Ministry, should undertake this rapid and informal review. In doing so he was to consult especially the Cabinet Secretary, the Secretary-General and Shri B. S. Bapat of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Cabinet Secretary, in consultation with other Secretaries, appointed a sub-committee of senior Secretaries to consider how and where delays had occurred. This Committee has been meeting from time to time, and is continuing its work.

Shri Ashok K. Chanda, subsequently, on the 10th February 1954 sent me a preliminary note dealing with certain financial procedures. Later, he sent me a second note dealing with decentralization of authority and functions. A third note by him on the Railways has been received by the Cabinet Secretary. I understand that other notes are in preparation in regard to Services.

All these notes are broad surveys to supply background material. The question of Government considering these matters has not arisen yet. When all the material has been collected, it will be processed in the normal way for the consideration of Government.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). Apparently, there has been leakage of the first preliminary note. I cannot say who is responsible for this, but it is unfortunate and highly improper for confidential documents to reach unauthorised persons.

(f) It is not possible for me to indicate what steps we can take about this matter but an effort is continually being made to prevent leakage.

**Shri Bansal:** May I know whether any enquiry was made after the leakage of the first report?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No special enquiries were made. I did myself find out that it is rather difficult. When certain papers are sent to a number of people, that is, Ministers and some others, like Secretaries, etc., and they see them, the range becomes rather too great for enquiries. Therefore, the procedure we hope to adopt is to limit the number of people to whom the papers are sent in future.

**Shri Bansal:** Now that the first note has been the subject of discussion in the Press, will the Prime Minister consider the advisability of placing a copy of it on the Table of the House?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not think that at this stage it will at all be desirable. If I may confess to the House, I myself have not considered it fully yet, because I am collecting material, and when it is ready, I will consider it and decide how best we may prepare a note on it, giving a constructive plan of the methods and all other things. My placing this report on the Table of the House would not be proper at all at this stage.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram:** In view of the great importance of this question, may I know from the Prime Minister whe-

ther he will seek the advice of the Estimates Committee on these points and whether he will agree to a full debate in the House before any change over is resorted to?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not see how the Estimates Committee comes into the picture.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** From what the Prime Minister has said, may we take it that the much-publicised domestic quarrel in the Government over this issue has been patched up?

**Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:** Having regard to the fact that several leakages have occurred in the past, may I know why no adequate measures were taken to prevent such occurrences?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** How am I to answer that question? We have taken measures sometimes when we discovered them, but I frankly confess that we have not been able wholly to control this evil.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** In the matter of publication of news relating to Cabinet secrets at high Government levels of a confidential nature, do Government propose to draw a line between essential secrets and non-essential secrets, essential secrets meaning those matters affecting the security and stability of the State, and non-essential secrets meaning everything in which everybody can put his nose in?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We might say that one may deserve a heavier punishment, but punishment there should be for both.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### ORDNANCE FACTORIES

\*1698. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the improvements that were effected in the medical organisation of the ordnance factories during 1952-53 and 1953-54 respectively;

55 P.S.D.

(b) the amount spent thereon by Government during those years, and

(c) what is the approximate additional number of lower rank employees that benefited thereby?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) and (b). To augment the existing hospital and dispensary facilities, works costing Rs. 8.5 lakhs were sanctioned during the last two years. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs approximately has already been spent. Some of these works have been completed and others are in hand.

Sanction for opening heat-stroke stations in 12 factory hospitals has been accorded. Anti-biotic drugs such as chloromycetin, streptomycin etc. were made available to patients when required. Arrangements were made for the admission of the factory employees suffering from TB to the Lady Linlithgow sanatorium, Kasauli where 10 beds have been reserved for Defence civilians. There has been some addition to the number of beds and also the staff. The figure of recurring expenditure on account of these improvements is not readily available. The estimated recurring expenditure on medical establishments in the factories was Rs. 11.9 lakhs in 1953-54 as against Rs. 4.77 lakhs in 1951-52.

(c) Approximately 17,350 in-door and 10,42,000 out-door patients received treatment in various factory hospitals and dispensaries during the year 1953. The number of in-door patients was 13,613 and 16,648 during the year 1951 and 1952 respectively.

### STIPENDS TO TRIBAL STUDENTS

\*1707. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tripura Government make a separate budget provision for stipends to Tribal students for secondary education;

(b) if so, the amount spent in 1954; and

(c) the number of Tribal students receiving stipends and the rate of stipend per month?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):**

(a) There is no separate budget provision for this purpose but 55 per cent. of the total number of stipends are reserved for students belonging to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other backward communities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 45 Tribal students are receiving stipends during 1953-54. The amount of a stipend per mensem is Rs. 7 or 10, according to whether the pupil is in a lower or a higher class. These scholars are also exempted from payment of fees.

#### LOAN TO ANDHRA STATE

\*1710. { **Shri Raghuramaiah:**  
**Shri Lakshmayya:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of special loan so far advanced to the Government of Andhra for the Construction of the temporary capital at Kurnool:

(b) whether it is proposed to advance any further amount to the State Government for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the amount so proposed?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) No loan has been specifically given to the Andhra Government for the construction of the Capital at Kurnool. A loan of Rs. 40 lakhs was given to the composite Madras State in July, 1953 for this purpose. Under Sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Seventh Schedule to the Andhra State Act, 1953 the liability for this loan has to be borne by the Andhra Government to the extent of actual expenditure incurred on the Capital prior to 1st October, 1953; this amount, as reported by Accountant General, Madras is Rs. 13,13,999.

(b) No request has so far been received from the State Government for a loan for the construction of the capital in 1954-55.

(c) Does not arise.

#### SOVIET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

\*1711. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have considered the offer of technical assistance under U.N. auspices made by the Soviet representative at the last E.C.A.F.E. Session?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** The matter is under consideration.

#### प्रेसों से जमानतें

\*१७१३. श्री नवल प्रभाकर: क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५२ तथा १९५३ में केन्द्र द्वारा शासित राज्यों में किन किन प्रेसों से जमानतें मांगी गई ; और

(ख) प्रत्येक की कितनी रकम थी ?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the information asked for by the hon. Member [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 5.]

#### TRIBAL WELFARE IN TRIPURA

\*1720. { **Shri Dasaratha Deb:**  
**Shri Biren Dutt:**

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far out of the total grant sanctioned for the development of the Tribal Areas in Tripura in 1953-54; and

(b) the main items on which the amount was spent?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) and (b). The total grant sanctioned by the Central Government was Rs. 4,87,200. According to the latest information available the total amount spent by the State Gov-

ernment was Rs. 2,81,956. A statement showing the details of the expenditure is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 6.]

#### HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LTD.

**362. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on "Courtesy Service" in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, Bangalore from the time Government assumed control up to the 1st February, 1954; and

(b) what, if any, are the rules or standing orders regarding expenditure on this account?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) The expenditure on "Courtesy Service" (including donations) incurred by Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. from 1946-47 up to 1st February 1954 is Rs. 1,18,298.

(b) The standing orders of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. permit the Division Heads to authorise Canteen Services and other minor items of expenses. Donations, presentation of models and other articles and expenses of major nature require approval of the Board of Management of the Company. Detailed statements showing nature and value of courtesy services, the approving authority, the recipient in each case etc. are rendered to the Board of Management monthly.

#### HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LTD.

**363. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount spent by Hindustan Aircraft Limited, Bangalore on construction of buildings and appurtenances thereto, from the date Government assumed control till 1st January, 1954; and

(b) whether such works of construction are done by the Central Public Works Department or by private contractors on contract?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) The total amount spent by Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. on construction of buildings and appurtenances thereto from 1946-47 up to 1st January 1954 is approximately Rs. 67.8 lakhs.

(b) Construction works at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. are carried out by private contractors on the tender system.

#### MINING RESEARCH CENTRE

**364. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Mining Research Centre is proposed to be set up shortly;

(b) if so, where it will be located;

(c) how long it will take to materialise; and

(d) the estimated annual expenditure thereon?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At Jealgora.

(c) This cannot be indicated at present.

(d) Rs. 2 lakhs.

#### HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LTD.

**365. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the main differences in the service conditions of daily-rated and regular employees of the Hindustan Aircraft Limited?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 7.]

#### INDUSTRIAL SCHEMES AND PROJECTS

**366. Shri Vallatharas:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment on Industrial Schemes and projects under the

Defence Ministry including the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, the Machine Tool Prototype Factory and Radar and Wireless Equipment Project as on 1st March, 1954; and

(b) how many of these schemes and projects have not yet gone into production?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) Capital investment by Government has been made as under:

	(Rs. in crores)
Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore.	3.20

(Rs. in crores.)

Machine Tool Prototype Factory, Ambarnath.	4.95*
Ordnance Factories (19 in number)	31.82 (As on 1-4-53).
Bharat Electronics Industry, Jalahalli.	.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.22</b>

(b) Bharat Electronics Industry.

(Rs. in lakhs.)

*Machine Tool Section	173
Prototype Section.	253
Apprentices Training	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>

Friday, 9th April, 1954

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**THE**  
**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)  
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**HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE**

Friday, 9th April, 1954

*The House met at Two of the Clock*

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(See Part I)

2-55 P.M.

**\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—Contd.**

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the consideration of the Demands for Grants Nos. 81, 82, 83, 84 and 132 relating to the Ministry of Production.

Members and Leaders of Groups may hand over the numbers of the cut motions which they select, to the Secretary in fifteen minutes as usual.

I shall now place the Demands before the House.

**DEMAND No. 81—MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION**

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,71,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Ministry of Production'."

**DEMAND No. 82—SALT**

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,93,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Salt'."

**DEMAND No. 83—OTHER ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION**

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Other Organisations under the Ministry of Production'."

**DEMAND No. 84—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION**

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,86,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Production'."

\*Moved with the previous sanction of the President.

75 P.S.D.

DEMAND NO. 132—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF  
THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,29,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Production'."

I have now got the numbers of the cut motions which the hon. Members may formally move.

3 P.M.

*Policy regarding industrial production*

**Shri Meghnad Saha** (Calcutta—North-West): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Prevention of premature compulsory retirement of Coal miners of Giridih*

**Shri Nambiar** (Mayuram): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Withholding of wages for 26th January (Republic Day) of contract labour of Bermo Colliery (Giridih)*

**Shri Nambiar:** I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Non-utilisation of bye-products of Sindri Fertiliser Factory*

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury** (Ghatal): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Restrictions on workers to meet M.Ps. during their visit to factory*

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Working of shipbuilding yard at Visakhapatnam with reference to foreign experts*

**Shri K. K. Basu** (Diamond Harbour): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Need for establishing testing laboratories in all salt factories*

**Shri Ramachandra Reddi** (Nellore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Failure to develop salt industry*

**Shri K. K. Basu:** I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Salt' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Lack of proper facilities for transport of coal*

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri** (Berhampore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Organisations under the Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Working of Coal Commissioner's Office adversely affecting small collieries against big collieries*

**Shri K. K. Basu:** I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Organisations under the Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Mr. Speaker:** Discussion may now proceed on the Demands as well as the cut motions which are placed before the House.



[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

**Shri Radheial Vyas (Ujjain):** I am very much thankful to you for giving me the earliest opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Production. The Ministry of Production came into existence only about two years back; it came into being in May 1952 and it is still a child. It is on the work with which this Ministry deals that the hopes and aspirations of the future, strong and prosperous India depend. The House is already aware that the Ministry is in charge of many items of work, namely, industrial undertakings, which number ten or eleven. Besides that, it deals with salt, coal and refineries. The State undertakings that are placed under the charge of the Ministry are Sindri National Instruments Factory, Nahan Foundry, Hindustan Housing Factory, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Penicillin Factory, D.D.T. Factory and the new company, Hindustan Steel Ltd., which is to come into operation shortly. Our food position had been very acute during the past and the Sindri Factory has done very good service to the country by placing ammonium sulphate for intensive cultivation, as a result of which the production of food has very much increased. While we took up the programme of rice cultivation by the Japanese method, the Sindri Fertilisers were of great help to the country. There has been a consistent demand for the by-products of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory and really the House would be glad to know that these by-products are being used, and there are schemes to produce by-products to the maximum extent possible. A cement factory has been installed there for which an agreement has been already entered into. Besides, there is going to be a coke oven plant which go into operation during this year. There is a scheme for the construction of a by-product plant to manufacture benzene, naphthalene, tar, etc. The scheme is proceeding according to schedule. We hope that with the development of by-products, the price of the fertiliser will be further

reduced and that it will be available to the agriculturists at a cheaper rate.

I must mention one thing. Though we have gone far ahead in the production of fertilisers, enough attention has not been paid to the publicity and public relations side. They have been issuing a monthly magazine in English. Looking to the large Hindi-speaking population in the country, immediate steps should be taken to publish its counterpart or a translation in Hindi as well so that the people may know the benefits of the use of fertilisers and they may become more popular in the country.

We have got some old factories, for example, the Hindustan Housing Factory. The scheme of prefabricated housing was not successful and so it had to be given up. This factory has been transferred to the Production Ministry. They have to change the design and make the best use of this factory. There were technical difficulties and so, the factory had to give up that work. Now, they have explored new avenues for putting the factory to profitable use. It has been decided to produce there foamed-concrete roofing, pre-stressed concrete slabs, wood work in standardised pattern and do also steel fabrication work. An agreement has been made with Messrs. Basakha Singh and Wallenbong Ltd., in equal partnership with a paid-up capital of Rs. 1 lakh. We have already spent lakhs of rupees on this. At last, a way has been found to make the best use of this factory. The factory has been reconditioned and repaired. The existing plants have been re-equipped so as to make them suitable for taking up the new lines of manufacture. The company has already produced nearly 30,000 feet of pipe lines. It has received orders for other items also. It is hoped that production on these lines of manufacture will be in full swing during this year. This year ushers in an era of bright future for the country inasmuch as the State undertakings, the Hindustan Cables Ltd., the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., the Penicillin Factory and the D.D.T.

[Shri Radhelal Vyas]

Factory are all going into production this very year.

With more than 2000 miles of coast-line and with our trade with foreign countries, and our own requirements in the country, there is great need for increasing our shipping industry. For that a shipyard is very necessary. We are glad that this Ministry has taken steps to fulfil our target under the Five Year Plan to produce more ships in the country. Very shortly, the capacity of the shipyard, at Visakhapatnam will go up from 2½ vessels per year to 6 vessels per year.

श्री श्री० एन० राजभोज (शोलापुर—  
रसित—अनुसूचित जातियाँ) : देखा है ?

श्री राबेलाल व्यास : आपने देखा है  
वही कम्पनी है ।

Now, I come to the Hindustan Steel Ltd. This is very essential for the requirements of our country. There have been bottle-necks in the various engineering industries in our country. Unless we produce steel, we cannot go ahead with the industrialisation of our country. The Ministry has proceeded very cautiously in this matter. An agreement has been made with a German firm of reputation and the site also has been selected after great care and without giving room for indignation to the various States. The manner in which the Ministry has proceeded gave satisfaction to all and we hope that very soon we shall be producing more steel in our country which will go a long way towards industrialisation of our country, and enable us to dispense with the imports on which we have to depend at present.

Next, I come to salt. This has got a history in our country. It is most gratifying to see that from a deficit country, we have become a surplus country in salt. We are now exporting to the tune of 80 lakh maunds

every year. As regards rock salt, we have been deprived of it by the partition of the country. I had been recently to Mandi and I saw the salt mines there. Drilling operations are going on and I may say that they have been very successful. I hope Government will take early steps to exploit the rock mines there and make the best salt available to the people in the country. There is one thing that needs immediate attention of the Ministry. There is a stream of brine water which flows into the river: at least 36,000 gallons of brine water out of which 600 maunds of salt could be manufactured. I learn that the Mining Engineer is badly in need of 600 feet of galvanised pipes of 3" diameter. If that is supplied, immediately, he could take up the manufacture of fine salt. It would cost only Rs. 2-8-0 per maund whereas Sambhar salt is selling at Rs. 6/- a maund. I hope that this need which is strongly felt will be immediately supplied. I learn that orders were placed with a Calcutta firm last year for the supply of these pipes, but they have not yet been supplied and the matter should be enquired into as to why they have failed. Further, it should be requisitioned from other sources and made available immediately.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are only two hours allotted for this Ministry. Therefore I cannot allot more than ten minutes to any Member.

Shri Meghnad Saha: As my predecessor has said, this Ministry of Production is the newest child on the other side. It has been in existence for only the last two years. It has taken up the production of a number of very important commodities. I need not go into them, but it is a very welcome move because the Government has moved away from their favourite slogan of mixed economy. Mixed economy means that we do almost everything through the private sector, but the protagonists of mixed

economy ought to understand that there are certain very important things which cannot be done by the private sector in this country.

Even in the most capitalistic countries like America which gets everything done by the private sector, atomic energy development is entirely a Government responsibility. That is because atomic energy requires an amount of capital which even American firms which command billions of dollars cannot find. What is true in America of atomic energy is true in this country of a large number of industries.

Take, for example, the iron and steel industry which requires a capital of Rs. 100 crores. It is well known that no industrialist firm in this country, nobody in the private sector, can raise this amount of capital. Therefore, it is a welcome measure that the Government has taken the responsibility for this industry within recent times. But I am sorry that they have not extended their activities to other fields. There are lots of other industries which cannot be undertaken by the private sector in this country.

There is the aluminium industry. Of course we have got an aluminium industry in this country but that is very small and very inefficient, because the aluminium is produced in this country at nearly two times the price of aluminium in other countries. If we want to have an aluminium industry in this country, this ought to be done in a proper fashion. Nearly five years ago the German aeroplane designer Messerschmidt was brought into this country to advise the Government on the manufacture of aeroplanes, and he said that we must have an aluminium industry yielding about 50,000 tons per year. Now, this can be done on account of the development of the power resources of this country, but at present it is being done in a very haphazard manner. The aluminium is produced near Ranchi. It is taken to Alwaye, and the aluminium ingots are brought to Calcutta to be processed into circles and squares and

so on, and we pay about Rs. 700 for one ton of aluminium product in freight alone. That is a very wasteful method of manufacture. I think this Ministry of Production might take up the production of aluminium in the Damodar Valley or near the Hirakud area where bauxite is available in quantity and where you will have cheap electric power.

In this connection, I would say that the Government's industrial policy has been very confused in the past. As I have just now remarked, their activities have been completely paralysed by the slogan of this mixed economy and they have not gone into details in this matter. Most of the capital goods industries in this country cannot be undertaken by the private sector. Iron is one. Aluminium is another. Heavy chemicals is another; then you have soda ash and others. Unless these industries flourish in this country, the industrial production cannot be increased. How backward we are in industrial production will be apparent if we take the figures as given by the Government. Our total agricultural production is Rs. 4,300 crores. Our industrial production is only Rs. 1,500 crores—one-third of that, while you find in a country like England that the industrial production is seven times that of agricultural production. Unless our industrial production is increased by ten to twenty times the *per capita* income in this country cannot be increased.

The Minister of Finance the other day informed us that the index of industrial production has gone up to 133 per cent. of the figure in 1950. With due deference to him I would say that this is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Industrial production ought to have gone up much higher. It is quite apparent why industrial production does not go up. I will illustrate this by means of a figure. Supposing you have got a number of small canals to irrigate your fields, the small canals cannot irrigate the fields unless there is water in the big river which supplies all these canals. So, no consumer

[Shri Meghnad Saha]

industry in this country can flourish unless you have sufficient iron and steel, aluminium, fundamental chemicals, heavy machinery and so forth. I wish the Government would take up courage in their hands and formulate a new industrial policy and announce to the public that they will henceforth be responsible for the production of all the capital goods on the industrial side.

Our position is quite similar to that of Russia before the first Five Year Plan, and in spite of what the Finance Minister has said, which was quite misleading, the Russian First Five Year Plan insisted on the capital goods industry. They said: "We should economise in our consumer goods, and we should suffer for a number of years till we have sufficient capital goods, so that we can organise our other industries, we can organise defence, we can organise production of consumer goods satisfactorily."

There is another point to which I wish to draw the attention of this House. That is about technical autonomy. At the present time, whenever we want to introduce a new industry, we have to fall back upon foreign countries. We have to take experts from outside. The latest illustration is the iron and steel industry. But one cannot understand why this should be so. We have got an integrated iron and steel plant operating in this country. At one time it was the biggest plant of its kind in the world and in spite of that it is very surprising to learn that there is no technical staff in this country who can design an iron and steel plant, who can manufacture the machinery required and who can erect it. We had to pay Messrs. Krupps and Demag Rs 2 crores as consultation fee, besides giving many other advantages worth several crores. I think, therefore, it is very necessary that we should raise in this country a technical staff which will be able to design, construct and

erect the next iron and steel plant. This is not impossible.

I may again take the example of Russia. During their first Five Year Plan their iron and steel industry simply did not exist. It was destroyed almost completely. They had one iron and steel plant in Magnitogorsk in the Urals which was built by American experts, another somewhere else which was built by German experts. But after that, they had Russian technicians trained up in this business, and within the next five years they had 41 blast furnaces producing nearly five million tons. All that was designed and erected by Russian technicians. This is a very important matter which you are completely ignoring at the present time. We cannot go on depending upon German or American firms for all times to come. Otherwise, we shall be in the same position as Iran. Let me dwell a little more on this point. As you know, the main industry in Iran was the oil industry, and that was developed by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Rightly enough, the Iranian people did not like it. They thought that the wealth of their country was being drained away to other countries, and so there was a movement, which ultimately nationalised the whole industry. But what was the result? They did not have sufficient technicians to run the industry themselves. The economic position of the whole country worsened, and ultimately they had to bring in foreign technicians and foreign domination. Therefore, it is not a very practical proposition—it is not wise at all—to depend, for all time to come, on foreign technicians.

I think the hon. Minister will consider seriously my suggestion of having a bureau of iron and steel technologists, from out of Indian technicians. It is not difficult to form such a bureau. Unfortunately, whenever Government consult the experts on these lines, these so-called experts

are not experts, but financiers, whose motive is quite different. Some of them do not want that there should be any machinery industry in this country, because they have got private business of their own, and they make money by importing machinery from the companies on which they are directors. This evil circle should be broken. Therefore, I would suggest in all seriousness that there should be a bureau of iron and steel technologists, composed of Indian experts, who are available from the two steel companies which are in existence now, and they should be attached to the German firm, and be associated with them, in the designing, planning as well as the erection of the proposed steel plant. At the same time, an attempt should also be made to find out what amount of machinery can be constructed in this country for the second plant, which, I hope, will be set up very soon.

The capital which we have to invest for an iron and steel industry is enormous, being of the order of Rs. 100 crores for an one million ton plant, and if, in the next few years, we have to erect five or six more plants, we shall be requiring about Rs. 500 to 600 crores. This is an enormous drain on the public finances. We can effect considerable economy, if the designing, erection, etc. could all be done by Indian technicians, and if Government also take the trouble of having a heavy machinery industry in this country, as was planned by the Director of Industries, Dr. J. C. Ghosh, a number of years ago. If the hon. Minister of Production just makes a search through his archives, he will find that plan there.

I have said all that I wanted to say. I want that this Ministry of Production should go on, and do good amount of work and take charge of all the capital goods industries, on behalf of Government, in spite of the criticisms which might be offered by the capitalists of this country. I cannot understand why the management

of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory has been made over to a number of very reactionary industrialists, whose only business is to make their own two pies out of it, and create trouble between the management and the labour. I could not also understand why the Managing Director of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory, who has done a very good piece of work, and who was sent outside to gain experience in starting a number of new industries, such as urea and so on, should, after his return with a lot of experience, have been transferred to be the Chairman of the Indian Airlines Corporation a subject in which he had no experience. Again, he has been sent from there to some other place. These are measures which are beyond the comprehension of the ordinary man. We take so much trouble in training up a man, but when he is trained, suddenly to put him on to some other entirely new work is a very wasteful process. Are our officers like matter in liquid state, so that they can be put into any bottle, and take its shape? It is a very very unwise step.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Chittoor):** The Ministry of Production is the nucleus round which the industrial enterprises in the public sector are built up, and I am sure, in the years to come, the activity of this Ministry will grow to such an extent that the industrial activity in the private sector will be insignificant compared to the activity in the public sector.

I am very happy to note that there are very few cut motions in respect of the Demands relating to this Ministry, and I take it that the whole House is in agreement with the policies that are being followed by this Ministry. I also feel very happy that the House has been very temperate in its criticism of this Ministry.

We find in this country, the industrialists that we have now are very chary of investing their capital in real nation-building activities. If we want a steel industry, it is Government that have to come to the rescue

[Shri Viswanatha Reddy]

of the private sector. Similarly, if we want to build any other big industry, again, it is Government that must come and invest all the capital. Even in regard to technical knowledge, we are obliged to get this from countries abroad, and our industrialists in this country are not a bit helpful to us in this direction. Therefore I would plead with hon. Members that the sphere of activity of this Ministry must be enlarged from year to year, and we should be able to establish, as has been suggested by Shri Meghnad Saha, all the capital goods industries in this country.

Also, we have been trying for some time, to evolve a pattern of organisational set-up to manage our industrial undertakings. There has been a lot of controversy over this, and even in countries like England, which have launched a sort of nationalisation of most of their enterprises, there has been a difference of opinion in regard to the organisational set-up, in respect of all the state industrial undertakings. However, we have been able to evolve a very happy synthesis in the limited companies that we have set up for the management of all the undertakings in which the state has got a large interest.

There is no reason to feel that this organisational set-up has done anything bad or is not efficient. On the other hand, we find that all the advantages of a business organisation are incorporated in this type of organisational set-up and, at the same time, there is enough control that can be exercised by the Government over the finances as well as other administrative matters pertaining to these industries.

Next, Sir, I would like to submit to the House some of the criticisms that have been raised against our State undertakings and the Ministry of Production particularly, not only in this House from time to time but also outside the House through many

papers and journals. The most common criticism that has been advanced with regard to this Ministry particularly is that a number of technicians are being imported from abroad. Sir, we are at present embarking on a policy of industrialising this country as quickly and as efficiently as possible. In this context how we can avoid getting technical aid from abroad is a matter which I really cannot comprehend. I personally feel that there must be unanimity of opinion with regard to the fact that we must have technical assistance at least in the initial stages from abroad. Whether we are getting this technical aid from one group of countries or the other is a matter of controversy or a matter of opinion. But that we should get technical aid must be so obvious that every one must be agreed on that point. Otherwise, we do not have any experience with regard to the industrial undertakings, or our technicians have not seen at all the latest developments in this direction in various countries. Therefore, why we should get technical aid from abroad is a matter which needs no elucidation at all.

Secondly, there has been criticism that the production schedules as well as the time schedules of various undertakings of ours have not been kept up. There is some truth in this criticism. But all the same, we must realise that for most of the capital goods and machinery and even technical 'know-how', we have to depend upon foreign countries and we have to take all these things whenever they are available in those countries and whenever we are able to get from them. Therefore, we are, to a great extent, dependent upon the conditions in other countries with regard to our own production and time schedules in our undertakings. So in my opinion, the delay of a few weeks or a few months in these industrial undertakings must not be taken serious notice of, and I can assure the House that the Ministry is doing its best to see



that these schedules are kept up as much as possible and only when it is inevitable, delays are occurring.

Again, Sir, it has been suggested by Shri Saha just now that the consultation fee that has been given to the firm of Krupps and Demag for erection and maintenance of the new steel factory that is going to be put up in Orissa is a little on the high side. Sir, everywhere the opinion has been expressed, and even surprise has been shown, how the Government have been able to get this consultation so cheaply. In fact, this Rs. 2 crores consultation fee represents only about 3 per cent or 2.5 per cent of the total value of the project, and in addition to submission of blue-prints, it also includes actual erection, the training of our men in the factory and also an assurance that the quality of the steel produced shall be up to international standards and even that the standards are guaranteed. When we consider all these factors, the consultation fee of only 2.5 per cent or a little more need not be very alarming at all. Therefore, I wish to assure the House on this occasion that the steel factory that is going to be put up in Orissa is going to change the very industrial basis of our country to a very great extent and that whatever we are paying as consultation or collaboration fee, by way of interest or even profit, is going to return to us at least a hundred-fold, if not a thousand-fold.

Now, Sir, with regard to the heavy electrical industry, I find from the report that this industry is to be set up in the Plan period. But the Government have only just now gone through or called for project reports from various firms abroad. These reports are likely to come in probably a few months. I need not emphasise at great length the importance of the heavy electrical industry for our country. Not only for strategic reasons, but also because we are going to develop hydro-electric energy during the Plan period to a very great

extent, we will be in great need of motors, armatures, transformers and other heavy electrical equipment. Therefore, the establishment of this industry in this country at a very early date, positively within the Plan period, is a great necessity and is going to be of great help. So I would appeal to the House to lend its full support to the Government in the matter of the erection of this industry at an early date.

**Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha** (Hazaribagh East): To cook our food every morning and evening, we require coal and to eat the food, we require salt. I am glad to say that this Ministry is in charge of both. As time seems to gallop with me, I shall put the issues before you straight.

I will deal only with some of the problems of Coal because I come from a coal area and I can talk something about it. The first thing that I would like to mention will be in respect of the policy laid down by the Government in the Plan. The policy of the Government under the Five Year Plan is to encourage the most effective and balanced utilisation of the country's resources. This has been applied to coal also. Early in 1952, the Government came out with a policy of "Conservation of Metallurgical coal", and to achieve this the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act 1952 was enacted. A Coal Board was set up to deal with all matters relating to coal from a comprehensive point of view. The first act of this Board was to effect a pegging on output of metallurgical coal upto Grade II.

Now, Sir, I will briefly examine how this policy of pegging has operated. The first result has been a drop in the production, naturally—because it aimed at that. This fact is also supported by the brochure that we have received from the Ministry. It says in page 22, para 2;

"The total raisings and despatches of coal in India during

[Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha]

the year 1953 amounted to 35·8 million tons and 30·7 million tons respectively, as against 36·2 million tons and 31·1 million tons in 1952. Production in Bengal and Bihar fields showed a slight decline during 1953..."

This information has been put down here. I expected that the accumulation, or the total tonnage of coal at the pit-heads, for those years, should also have been given, but that has not been given. I have, however, found that out and it is like this. The stock of coal at colliery pit-heads in 1952 was 29,76,253 tons and in 1953, 31,93,653 tons. So, we find from this that Production is declining, Despatches are also declining and the pit-head Accumulation is rising. The effect of this on the industry is obvious. The incentive for production is fading out and most of the colliery owners are finding it almost uneconomic to run their collieries. They are retrenching labour and they are creating an additional weight on unemployment. They are themselves facing crisis and frustration.

I am not opposed to the principle of pegging, but, of course, I am opposed to its way of application. Let there be targets; fix targets for each colliery, but, this process should not create new problems of dissatisfaction and discontentment and also unemployment.

In this connection, I would like to invite the attention of the Ministry to one relevant comment that has been made in the India's Coal organ, which is a weekly named the *New Sketch*, published from Dhanbad and which is reputed for its balanced criticisms and constructive suggestions. Sir, I read a few lines of its issue which clears up the policy. It says:

"In 1952, the Board fixed an over-all target of 7·9 million tons for Selected Grade Coking Coals but the actual output was 7·7 million tons only. Similarly, in 1953, the Board fixed an over-all

target of 7·86 million tons but the actual production, as reported by the Board in their bulletin, was 7·17 million tons or thereabout. This clearly shows that some Collieries had too liberal targets which they failed to reach. That some Collieries should have targets beyond their capacity to reach while other Collieries should be rendered uneconomic or feel frustrated because of the pegging is not at all desirable."

Sir, I agree with this and I may invite the attention of the hon. Minister also to this aspect of the situation and I request him to deal with it in a manner which may, of course, remove most of the grievances of the colliery owners.

Another point is with regard to the accumulation of stocks of Coal at the pit-heads. What are the reasons for these accumulations, when there is coal famine in Northern, Western and Southern India, when people have been burning cow-dung, which could have been utilised best as a fertiliser, when people have been devastating forests for fuel, in spite of the fact that Government want to develop and protect forests? Why lakhs and lakhs of tons of coal should remain accumulated and idle at the pit-heads? What steps for rationalisation have been taken? This is not rationalisation. Of course, there are tall talks by the Coal Board. There are constructive suggestions, attractive Bulletins, and there are Rotary speeches also, but they lead the colliery owners and the industry nowhere. The industry today is distressingly facing shortage of wagons, facing price reduction on a certain grade of coal, facing increase in cesses, enhancement of production costs, narrowing of markets and shrinkage of export due to Australian competition, and I should say, all sorts of adverse circumstances. Apart from all these factors, a certain class of owners enjoy a priority in



wagon allocation, whereas small producers of lower grade coals, who can supply fuel for food cooking, for brick burning and for other small and urgent domestic affairs, do not get the importance they deserve. Why should there be this disparity? I would request the hon. Minister to examine it and to see that there is proper rationalisation and that a fair share is given to each one who is engaged in this industry.

One or two small points and I will finish. Prior to April 1, this year, the Ministry of Production was concerned with the ownership of the Government Collieries only. But, after that, it has taken charge also of their control and management. I should say it is now all in all. It has also abolished the contract system. It is gratifying to note that the financial results of the working of the railway collieries during the year 1952-53 showed a profit of Rs. 61 lakhs and this year, 1953-54, will also follow suit. It does not matter whether a particular colliery is working at a loss or not. The Government is concerned with the overall earnings and it has been making profits. Why then, this policy of retrenchment of labour, I ask? In the Giridih group of collieries, from where I come, 558 coal miners were retrenched.

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** When? Recently?

**Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Yes Sir, in course of a year or a little over. I understand that permission from the Industrial Appellate Tribunal was also taken and the Tribunal gave a finding like this,—'last come first to go'. But, this was not followed. Nor are the retrenched workers given alternative employment, when the Hetla pit, Jatkuti Hills and other seams have been re-opened. My point in inviting the attention of the hon. Minister is that when these persons have been retrenched and when new avenues are being explored, these

hands should be employed immediately.

There is again a proposal to retrench surplus labour according to the recommendations of a Committee known as the Fact Finding Committee. Much water has flowed down the rivers Jumna and Ganges since then. Times have changed. We have already adopted the principles of a deficit financing under the changed economic climate. I strongly appeal to the Government and to the hon. Minister of Production to throw the report away, to throw it to the winds now, and not to create grounds for further unemployment. The report is now a story of the past and I wish it could be buried ceremonially and peacefully.

A few words about the employees and I finish. So far as the employees are concerned, of course. I was very much happy to know from the answers given to me the other day by Mr. Dubey, the Parliamentary Secretary, that their terms and conditions of services would remain unaffected and that if there was anything worthy of discussion, the matter would be discussed freely and frankly across the table. I have got the questions and answers here with me and I hope the Government has given those answers after due consideration and that it would abide by it.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra (Monghyr North-East):** Sir, to a back-bencher or even to a middle bencher like me, this House has always remained an enigma and the deity which mostly presides over the destinies of this House still more so. For example, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, if you try twenty times to catch the eye of the Chair you fail to do so, but when you feel you do not catch the eye, you catch it. I know that absolute blindness has been said to be the attribute of justice.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We are on the Production Ministry.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** ...but here, even absolute blindness seems to have become qualified blindness here. Therefore, it becomes far more difficult for us to find out the ways and methods. Whenever a man finds that he can contribute to the debates of the House he always attempts to speak but he rarely finds a chance. For example, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I wanted...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. I won't allow all irrelevant talk here. What I often find is this. I do not know to which particular party or group the particular Member is attached. The position is nebulous. There are a number of groups, the Communist group, the National Democratic group, the Praja Socialist group and so on, and there are also unattached Members. I do not know to which particular party the hon. Member belongs. He has been changing sides so often. Only today I find that his name has been given and I have called him. When I do not call him there is a complaint and when I call him there is also a complaint. I do not know how he would be satisfied. Let him proceed with the topic on hand. Otherwise, he may resume his seat. I am not a target of attack. I am not a Minister. I won't allow all this.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** I feel quite satisfied when I learn that the name would be called. When names are handed in, sometimes they are called, sometimes they are not. Therefore, we do not know when we will be called. Unless we become omnipotent, omni-present and omni-knowing, we cannot be doing justice to all the Ministers and the Ministries. The Ministry of Production, which ought to have been the most important Ministry, looks to me as the most neglected, and most relegated Ministry in the Cabinet.

**Several Hon. Members:** No, no.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** I will be very glad if that 'No' is really a 'No' and that the Ministry is really something and producing something. From the reports that we find, there are certain huge sums placed against the projects—Steel Plant Rs. 71 crores, Sindri Plant Rs. 23 crores and several others—totalling Rs. 120 crores, and this huge amount seems to be tied up with the Ministry of Production. Of course, when we ask why the Ministry is producing nothing in spite of this huge amount placed at its disposal, we are advised to have patience and we hear every year that the Housing Factory and so many other factories will come into production this month or this season, but none of them ever come into production. It looks to me that this capital of Rs. 120 crores is tied down and producing nothing. It seems to me mostly that the Ministry is not treated on par with the other Ministries and so I urge that it should be manned by stronger people. I have no complaints against the Minister, but against the Ministry I have huge complaints.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram** (Visakha-patnam): What is the difference between the two excepting that between tweedledum and tweedledee?

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** I can say that the Ministry is not doing adequate justice to the country. Dr. Meghnad Saha is an expert who can give opinion on these points but I have always seen that whenever the Head of the Cabinet is here, he flares up whenever opinions are given. I hope the Ministry will take note and push up matters. I know that there can be no production without capital. The hon. Minister of Finance is now sitting here. If there is no finance in a country and if it cannot invest very much on instruments, etc., would it not be advisable to go into production even with these bare hands? You are tying up not only Rs. 120 crores, but also 300 million pairs of hands. I

know that with machines we can produce very much. Supposing there is no machine, should we sit tight and idle? With whatever we have got, with whatever little or primitive instruments we have got, even with our pair of hands let the whole country go into production. If that is done, then I think the Ministry is doing something and the Cabinet is doing something in the matter. What is the use of sitting idle till we get enough money for capital formation? These two hands are a capital in itself and they can produce very much. Why should the Ministry sit down invoking this and invoking that? On the one hand, we should exert our best to make capital investment or raise capital, and somehow or other, we must find some means. I appeal to the Finance Minister—and had the Minister of Production been here, I would have appealed to him also—to go to the help of the Minister of Production. **Let them put their heads together** to find out how to make the best capital formation and for that let them take the advice of the capitalists round about, please them, placate them. On the other hand, we should draw up a scheme with which not one pair of hands should remain idle in the country. Once they go into production, the country will go forward and only in that way can a country like ours produce and go forward. But, what are you doing now? You are trying to keep so many hands idle although you are putting only a few people into production. I request the Finance Minister and the Production Minister to put their heads together on this important question and try to take the country forward. I appeal to all the other Ministers also in the same way although I do not find all of them here.

श्री हेम राज (कांगड़ा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का आभारी हूँ कि आप ने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया है। मेरे से पहले जो भाई बोल रहे थे वह तो यह ख्याल कर रहे थे कि मानों

हिन्दुस्तान में आज तक कुछ बना ही नहीं। मैं समझता हूँ कि जिस तरह से जॉर्जिस वाले को हर चीज पीली मालूम होती है उसी तरह उन महाशय को देश भर में कोई चीज बनी हुई नजर नहीं आती उन्हें हर चीज पीली नजर आती है। मेरा ख्याल है कि वह लाल टोपी भी छोड़ आए हैं, अगर वह बीली टोपी खरा कर आते तो उनको सारी चीजें नजर आतीं। उनको साफ तौर पर नजर आ सकता है कि जहाँ तक उन किसानों का मामला है उस सम्बन्ध में जो सिवरी कर्टिलाइजर्स फॅक्टरी बनाई गई हैं उसने अपना प्रोडक्शन का क्लेम यह रिपोर्ट जाहिर करती है कि २९ अक्टूबर सन् ५९ में शुरू किया और सन् ५९ के दो महीनों में उसने ७४४५ टन फॉस्फोरस आइसोलेट का, सन् ५६५२ में उसकी मिकदार ९७२,५९४ टन पहुँच गई और सन् ५६५२ में यह १,५५,७०४ टन पहुँच गई है। मैं अर्थ कर रहा था कि उनको प्रोडक्शन की कील्ड में यह बड़ोशी नजर नहीं आती, उनको तो बस एक चीज नजर आ रही है कि हिन्दुस्तान में कोई चीज नहीं बनी। मैं अपने मिनिस्टर महोदय को इस प्रोग्रेस के लिए बधाई देना चाहता हूँ लेकिन उसके साथ साथ मैं उनका ध्यान अपने पहाड़ी इलाके की तरफ भी मजबूर कराना चाहता हूँ। जिस वक्त हमारे देश का बंटवारा नहीं हुआ था, उस वक्त यह राक साल्ट या सेंधा नमक वह सारा का सारा पंजाब से आया करता था और वह खोड़ा खान से नमक निकालता था लेकिन जिस वक्त हिन्दुस्तान की तकसीम हुई और खैदरा पाकिस्तान में चला गया, उसके बाद अब सारे भारतवर्ष में सिर्फ मंडी की खानें ही सेंधा नमक की खानें हैं और यह खानें तीन ब्रह्म गोत्रों, दरंग और मंगल में ही फई जाती हैं। मंगल में खारी पानी के चरम भी हैं जिनका पानी नालों में बह कर व्यर्थ जाता है। यहाँ पर जो नमक पाया जाता है उस की खपत खास तौर पर हमारे पहाड़ी इलाके में है। यह जो नमक है यह पहाड़ से नहीं निकलता बल्कि वहाँ खारी पानी के कुछ चरम हैं और त्रैसैटिक मानसीय सदस्य ने पहले ब्रह्म गोत्रों में मल का चरम है और वहाँ पर नमक का पानी

श्री हेम राज]

बह रहा है और इसके मुताल्लिक साल्ट एक्स-पर्ट कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में लिखा है :

"There are also valuable brine springs which are running to waste at present. An attempt is being made to manufacture salt by evaporating this brine in shallow cement pans, but the pans are very small and the quantity produced is negligible. The brine being free from all impurities, can yield salt of 99 per cent purity and above. We estimate that if all this brine could be utilised, nearly 10,000 to 12,000 tons (2,72,000 to 3,26,800 maunds) of salt of the highest purity could be produced annually from it. This quantity would be at least twice as much as that quarried or mined in the three mines together at present and would be preferred in areas which are accustomed to the good quality rock salt from Khewra."

मैंने इसके मुताल्लिक कुछ सवाल भी इस सदन में रखे थे और उनके उस श्रुत माननीय मंत्री ने जो जवाब दिए उन से मुझे ऐसा मालूम होता है कि उनको इन माइन्स के निकालने के लिये और इनको तरक्की देने के लिये कुछ ज्यादा उत्साह नहीं है। मैं एक सवाल के जवाब में उन्होंने यह फरमाया था कि :

"So far the attempts were made to have the core drilling operations on three occasions, but unfortunately due to certain difficulties, the boring had to be stopped last year. In December 1952, the drilling was undertaken and it went on upto the middle of July. By that time there were bore-holes, but in one case the casting broke down, in another case, other difficulties came up and now a new programme has been undertaken by Government and the work is in progress."

It is difficult to say by what time the programme will be finished."

4 P.M.

मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि आज तीन साल हो गए हैं और आपने अपने फाइव ईअर प्लान में भी इन मंडी माइन्स को डेवलप करने के लिये एक करोड़ रुपये का प्राविजन रक्खा है। और उसके बाद जो आपने ५२, ५२ में प्राविजन किया था और ५२, ५४ में प्राविजन किया था, एक बार एक लाख और दूसरी बार १० लाख उसमें से २५,४२४ रूपया १२ आना ६ पाई और १६,५१५ रुपये १२ आना ६ पाई खर्च किया गया। इससे पता चल रहा है कि इन मंडी माइन्स को डेवलप करने की आपकी मिनिस्ट्री की रफ्तार बहुत सुस्त है और बहुत ज्यादा कमजोर है। आपने नमक की प्यूरिटी ६२ और ६४ पर सेंट के बीच में रखी है। मगर यह मंडी माइन्स का नमक आपको ६६ प्रतिशत प्यूरिटी का मिल सकता है। इसलिये मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि इसके मुताल्लिक ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान देकर आप इन माइन्स को डेवलप करें।

मुझे आपके एक सवाल के जवाब से एक शक पैदा हो गया है। आपने एक सवाल के जवाब में फरमाया था कि :

"In regard to rock salt Government are satisfied on expert advice that refined salt which is available in sufficient quantity is as good as rock salt for all practical purposes."

आपके जवाब से यह पता चल रहा है कि जो आपका नमक का टारगेट था वह तो पूरा हो गया है। गालिबन इस वजह से मंडी माइन्स को डेवलप करने का आपके दिल में ज्यादा जोश नहीं है। इसके साथ साथ मैं एक बात की तरफ और आपकी तवज्जह दिलाना चाहता हूँ। वह यह है कि आपके जितने भी साल्ट के कारखाने हैं वहां पर आपने मजदूरी वर्गरेहुर एक चीज का अन्दाजा लगा कर नमक की कीमत मुकर्रर की है। मगर जहां तक मंडी माइन्स का ताल्लुक है आपने किसी चीज का अन्दाजा नहीं लगाया और राक साल्ट का दाम २ रूपया मन और ब्राइन

साल्ट का दाम ४ रूपया मन मुकर्रर कर दिया। यह कांगड़ा वॅली, कुल् वॅली, हिमाचल प्रदॅश और काश्मीर का इलाका बहुत गरीब इलाका हैं। यहां के लोग गरीब हैं। इसके मुताल्लिक में ने आप को याददाहानी के लिये एक चिट्ठी भी भेजी थी कि नमक के प्राइस स्ट्रक्चर को फिर से एग्जामिन किया जाय और उसके बाद कीमत मुकर्रर की जाय।

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BEARGAVA  
in the Chair]

एक और चीज की तरफ आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं और वह यह है कि इस समय तक भी आप का नामिनी सिस्टम जारी है। जब नमक के लिहाज से हिन्दुस्तान पूरे तौर पर अपनी जरूरतों को पूरा कर सकता है। साथ ही आप ५० लाख मन नमक बाहर भी भेजने के काबिल हो गये हैं। फिर पता नहीं चलता कि अब भी यह नामिनी सिस्टम क्यों जारी है और क्यों हर एक को इजाजत नहीं दी जाती कि वह खुला नमक मंगवा सकता है और बेच सकता है।

मुझे आशा है कि मेरी इन बातों पर आप ध्यान देंगे और इन मंडी माइन्स को जल्दी से जल्दी डवलप करने की कोशिश करेंगे। अब तो जोगेन्द्र नगर तक रेलवे लाइन खुलने वाली है। इसीलिये अगर यह मंडी माइन्स डवलप हो जायेंगी तो इनका नमक पंजाब, पेप्सू और हिमाचल प्रदॅश का जो सारा इलाका है उसको मिल सकेगा। यह चीज आपके यहां की साल्ट कमिटी की रिपोर्ट में भी दी हुई है कि इस इलाके के लिये इस नमक का हासिल करना जरूरी है।

अभी हमारे सौदिया साहब ने कहा कि उनको दवा के लिये राक साल्ट की जरूरत थी और वह उनको नहीं मिल सका। तो अगर आप इसको डवलप करेंगे तो यह दवा के काम में भी इस्तेमाल हो सकेगा।

Shri P. C. Bose (Manbhum North):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Production Ministry, although very recently formed, has already assumed a very great

responsibility in the economic life of our nation. Not only the new factories, including the big factory of Sindri, but also a large number of collieries, about one-fourth of the coal industry of India, are now under this Ministry. With the proposed Iron and Steel Factory and some other factories, I think the Production Ministry will be the biggest employer of labour. I, therefore, think that this Ministry should be run on very sound lines; otherwise there may be various troubles.

I do not wish to go into individual factors; I would like to develop only one point. Our Government has got a fancy for mixed economy. They are forming Corporations for all the factories they have started. For Sindri there is a corporation in which there are some outside capitalists. The Board of Directors is constituted of Government representatives and some employers who have got some vested interest. I have some experience of this mixed economy and mixed Board. I think it is a very dangerous thing and may result in disaster unless the concern is run soundly and cautiously. When the coal industry was being worked by contractors, the Whitley and other Commissions found that there was a sort of dual ownership. The contractors were not under the management. They were having their contract signed by the directors, and the managers were in a helpless position when they found the contractors working in a wreckless and illegal way. The labourers were suffering because they were under dual control. They did not know whom to approach for the redress of their grievances. This mixed economy and mixed Board may create difficulties of a like nature. In a particular firm, I know of a case where a Manager got supply of wagons on a cold wintry night. He could not get labourers to load the wagons. If he were to detain the wagons he would have to pay demurrage. So, he went to the labourers and told them that he would pay them one rupee extra per wagon load, if they loaded the wagons in the night. The labourers at last agreed and they

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worked in the night. The manager sent the extra bill of one rupee per wagon for sanction to the Head Office. But, the Directors refused to pay this money. The head of the department said that this money could not be paid because he had not taken sanction beforehand. The labourers were not paid. On the contrary, action was taken on the manager as to why he proposed to pay one rupee more for loading. The result was that the manager was to be dismissed because he had not taken prior sanction. Later on, the labourers threatened to go on strike if they did not get the money. Somehow, the contractor and the Directors agreed and the money was paid. The manager's job was also saved. I am afraid this kind of thing may happen in some of these works also. Because, as I see, at present, nobody is really responsible for the management of the works. The Works Manager thinks that he has no power to appoint or dismiss and arrange for new things. The Government thinks that there are good businessmen in the Board of Directors and that they will do whatever is necessary. They think that the Government is the owner, the Secretary is the Chairman, why should we take care of all these things? We are not coming across these things now. Gradually, these will crop up. I have already noticed that there are some difficulties in these works. Perhaps they may assume bigger proportions. Therefore, I would ask the Government to see that some sort of a new formula is evolved, to see that control is kept in the hands of the Government and that the local man get the initiative in carrying on the things. Otherwise, some day there may be great trouble. I am told that there was a labour union before and now there is a regular union and that the two unions are fighting. They do not know whom to approach. As I said, the local manager thinks that he has no power to handle these things. Government thinks that there are big expert business people in the Board of Directors. The chairman has got very little time to go into these things. I hope this Ministry in charge of production will

also take notice of the political aspect of this business. I hope they will take up this matter seriously and pay attention to these things. That is my point.

Shri Muniswamy (Tindivanam): I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister a few facts about small-scale manufacturers of salt in our country. It seems that the present rules applicable to salt factories do not seem to be uniform in regard to both to the big-scale manufacturers and small-scale manufacturers. I should like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister some of the concrete cases, especially in the Madras State.

In the South Arcot district, near Tindivanam, there is a place called Marakkanam where more than 1000 acres are used for salt manufacture. There are some small-scale manufacturers. They are hardly hit by the rules that are at present followed in that State. In 1953, a sample analysis was made by the Superintendent of the South Arcot district. In making the analysis, there is no uniformity of practice by the officers. For example, in 10 platforms sample analysis was taken. Salt in extension platform was made fit and salt taken in the other nine platforms was made fit. Soon after, the matter was represented to the Assistant Commissioner, Tuticorin, who came to the spot. The case was investigated and 50 per cent of the salt manufactured was allowed to be marketed that is 50 per cent of the salt which was first prohibited, was allowed later for marketing. The rest of the salt was not allowed for marketing and no reasons were given. I would like the hon. Minister to know specially that in platforms 3, 8 and 9, salt which was once prohibited for marketing was allowed to be marketed in the case of the big scale manufacturers; but for the small scale manufacturers, it was not allowed and no reasons were assigned. I would request the hon. Minister to take note of these concrete cases.

In the case of analysis, officers who come to the spot, go to the biggest



manufacturers first and they ask the licensees to bring the samples. The licensees bring the sample and bottle them and give them to the officers. They are not sealed. Nobody knows what will happen later. This is not the correct method. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Assistant Commissioner, Tuticorin, he came to the spot and explained how the analysis should be made. Samples from eight heaps were taken and they were put in a bag and then three or four samples were taken from gunny bags and final analysis was made. There were many representations made to the Ministry by the manufacturers of the South Arcot district. I request the Minister should immediately go into the case.

I am told that the channels, platforms, the head sluice and the roads are not maintained well. There is another grave injustice to the small-scale manufacturers. It seems that even with the notice of the Government, some persons are manufacturing salt in unassessed waste lands and they come as competitors to the licence-holders. It seems that no action has been taken till now by the Government officers. The licence-holders cannot compete with these persons who manufacture salt in the unassessed waste lands.

Now, I would like to say a few words about lignite mines at Nelveli in the South Arcot district. It has been stated in the report for 1952-53 supplied to us that certain heavy evacuating machinery belonging to the Indian Mining and Construction Co., to enable the State Government, have been sent for quarrying. I am surprised to see in the report published by the Madras Government in April 1954 the following statement:

".....delay in obtaining spare parts required for the machinery loaned by the Government of India and obtaining delivery of the equipment donated by the TCA. Even now the shovels from

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the TCA grant capable of lifting two tons of earth every minute are due to arrive."

"As soon as they arrive it is expected that the excavation will be completed within six months."

This is the report published by the Madras Government in April, 1954. It is for the same purpose that it is said in the report of 1952-53 that some of the excavating machinery had been made available. I have been to the place myself and seen that the work is not in progress. When a question was put in the House, the hon. Minister was pleased to state that some of the spare parts and machines were supplied to the lignite mines. If he has occasion to visit the place he would know that no progress has been made.

Another difficult problem is the question of labour. They have been publishing many pamphlets and distributing them in the district as well in the State stating that labour is hard hit. When a question was put to the Minister he said that it was a provincial matter. It is high time that the Central Government should take immediate steps to take over the administrative control of the mines instead of leaving it to the State Government, in view of the fact that this industry is a great asset to our country.

It is said about the lignite mines that it is estimated that the pilot quarry which was calculated to yield 20,000 tons of lignite may yield four times as much which will appreciably reduce the cost of extraction, and considering that lignite at three times our depth is extracted in Germany at about 6 sh. per ton and lignite of about our depth extracted in Australia at about Rs. 10 per ton, there is ground to expect that the pit-head cost of lignite at Nelveli may be between Rs. 10 and Rs. 15 per ton.

In view of its importance and in view of the great wealth that we are

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going to get, I request the hon. Minister to take note of these lignite mines. The work is idle there. No machine is functioning. There are so many machines and spare parts which are quite unfit for use. Therefore, something should be done. The whole control should be taken over by the Central Government without leaving anything to the State Government, so that progress may be expedited.

**Shrimati Sushama Sen (Bhagalpur South):** Sir, I am really amazed to hear from Dr. Saha that this infant Ministry of Production has not produced enough. We find from the introduction that already about eleven industries have been taken in hand. And the last achievement as planned for the future, the new steel plant to be put up in Orissa, is really an achievement which our country has to be proud of. Besides, we are really proud of the Sindri Factory in Bihar. The amount of useful work that it is doing no one can question. It is for those who are in the Opposition to say a good word about the work which is being done. If production is going up so much, I would request the Minister to try to solve the problem of unemployment by utilising as many people as is possible. From the report we find that on the 31st March, 1953, there were 5,094 employees comprising 3,286 monthly-rated employees and 1,808 daily-rated employees. I want to know why there should not be more of employment when production is being increased at such a terrific rate. If the Production Ministry could solve this problem, I think a great work would have been done.

Since time is short, I shall not go into the details already touched on. The other point I wish to mention is about the Hindustan Housing Factory. I am very glad to find that the prefabricated housing scheme has been discarded, and instead they have put up another scheme, when they found that on account of certain technical and other difficulties the factory set up by the Government of India in

1948 for the production of prefabricated houses at low cost could not go into production. In a way I think it is a blessing and the installation of the pre-stressed concrete plant was completed in December, 1953 and the experimental production has been commenced. Some sample pieces were installed in the International Low Cost Housing Exhibition. We have seen these ourselves and we know how very useful they are and what good work has been done by this Hindustan Housing Factory. In fact, amongst the low cost houses I think this is one of the very best that we have seen in that Exhibition.

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** At the very outset I would like to express my gratefulness for the appreciative references that have been made by some of the Members to the working of this Ministry. I am also thankful for the suggestions that have been put forward by some of the Members for the improvement of the working of the Ministry in certain directions. I have taken note of several grievances or shortcomings in the actual administrative working of the Ministry—mention of which has been made, and with regard to them I need only say that these points will be examined carefully and the needed relief or remedy found out.

It has been pointed out that this Ministry came into existence about two years ago. The role that this Ministry was expected to play, is, I am conscious, well known to all the Members in the House. The policy of what is known as mixed economy has been adopted by the Government for the industrial development of the country. In other words, the industrial development of our country—the responsibility thereof—has to be shared both by what is known as the private sector and what is known as the public sector. Though for the time being, the responsibility for industrial production is largely that of the private sector, in recent times the State has undertaken the fostering and the development of certain



big industries in our country and the industrial policy of the Government has been made clear in the Resolution released by the Government in 1948 and later supplemented by the statement of the Prime Minister some time in 1949. It is more or less in accordance with the policy declared at that time that the industrial development of the country is proceeding apace. With that as the background, the first Five Year Plan has been adopted by the House and within the framework of the Five Year Plan the industrial development of the country is going ahead more or less to our satisfaction I should say.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** Very unsatisfactory.

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** It may be that the hon. Member has a feeling that the first Five Year Plan itself is unsatisfactory. It may be that the targets laid down in that Plan are not according to his expectations and desires, but that is a different matter. But so far as the targets that have been laid down in the Plan are concerned, keeping in view the limitations of our resources in men, material etc., I think I am correct in saying that the fulfilment of the Plan is a matter over which we can have general satisfaction. Having said that I want to make this point clear that this Ministry is responsible only for some part of the industrial development of the country in the public sector. It is not as if all public sector industries are under this Ministry. For example, all the defence industries, such as the ordnance factories, the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, etc. are under the Defence Ministry. The Indian Telephone Industries is under the Communications Ministry. The Locomotive Factory at Chittaranjan, and the coach-building factory are under the Railway Ministry. So, it is a fact that the Production Ministry is, at the present moment, handling only a few of the public sector industries in our country. From that, I do not want anyone to gather the impression that the hands of the Production Ministry are not full. It has got the overall responsibility—or if I may say so, the

general responsibility—of initiating, fostering and developing more and more industries in the public sector, the only limitation being our financial resources, and our ability to put through the schemes one after another.

In this connection, I would like to refer to one or two observations that fell from Shri Meghnad Saha. He extended an invitation to the Production Ministry to take the responsibility of starting some fundamental industries in our country in the near future. He referred to the aluminium industry, the heavy machinery industry, the fundamental chemicals industry, etc. by way of examples. I do concede that these industries are of very great importance in the economy of our country.

So far as aluminium industry is concerned, perhaps, the hon. Member is aware that there is a proposal to start an aluminium industry plant somewhere in the Damodar Valley area. It is just a proposal, and it has not taken any definite shape as yet. I do not mean to say that we are taking it up in the public sector or that the Production Ministry is handling it at the present moment. I am only saying that the necessity for an aluminium industry is well-recognised, and the need for increasing the production of aluminium in our country is realised by Government.

With regard to the chemical industry, I am willing to concede that it is a very very important industry. The quantity of heavy chemicals now being produced in our country is on the very low side, and there is very great scope for expanding this industry in the near future. But the responsibility for handling this industry, at the present moment, is that of the private sector. We have yet to see what progress will be made by the private sector in the development of this industry. Possibly, my hon. friend Shri Meghnad Saha is of the opinion that they have failed to fulfil the expectations that were entertained of

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them, and it is high time that Government should have stepped in and taken over this industry under the public sector. Well, one may be inclined to agree with him to a certain extent, but we have to balance these things. The possibilities of taking it up under the private sector, the possibilities of taking it up under the public sector, and if so, at what point of time, etc.—all these are factors which have to be borne in mind.

As regards heavy machinery industry also, I am one with him that it is time that we take up this industry into serious consideration. As a part of that industry, if I may say so, we have taken on hand, the heavy electrical equipment factory project. Realising that we are bringing into existence so many hydro-electric installations, and seeing that we have got a very ambitious programme in that field, we felt that we should not be utterly dependent on foreign imports for fulfilling our requirements in this sphere. So it was, that early last year, we took up this question. Though provision had not been made for it in the Five Year Plan, it was realised that such a provision should be made, and a sum of Rs. 7 crores was provided in the Plan to make a beginning in regard to the heavy electrical equipment project. With regard to this project, we have already taken some preliminary steps. We had invited two foreign firms of repute to give us their project reports. Those project reports have been received, and they are under the active consideration of Government. It is hoped that within the next few months, we will be in a position to say something very definite about the starting of this heavy electrical equipment factory.

I entirely agree with Shri Meghnad Saha, and I share the aspirations of my hon. friend, in this respect, and I would be very happy if these industries which he has mentioned would come into existence in our country at a very early date, either in the public sector or in the private sector,—in the private sector, if possible, and in the

public sector,—if I may say so—if inevitable.

Shri Meghnad Saha made another important point to which I would like to make a particular reference. He mentioned that we should have what he called "technical autonomy" in our key industries. That is a very vital and important point. He warned us of the danger of our remaining dependent on foreign technical know-how and personnel, in the matter of the building up of our industries. At the same time, he pointed out that even in a country like Russia, in the first few years of their planning, they did depend upon foreign technical personnel, in the building up of their several industries. He himself gave the example of the iron and steel industry in Russia, and pointed out that for setting up the first two or three plants foreign technical personnel were freely drawn upon, and their services utilised in order to bring those plants into existence. That is really the explanation for the policy that the Government of India are following at the present moment. Wherever the Government of India have decided to come into collaboration with foreign firms it has been with a view to obtain the technical know-how, in the matter of the building up of these industries, and not for any other reason. If Government realised and found that there was enough technical competence in our country to build up factories of the kind that we are building up now with foreign technical collaboration, then certainly, Government would have depended on indigenous scientific and technical personnel. That is why in almost all the agreements which the Government of India have entered into, in respect of the establishment of some of these industries, care has been taken to see that these foreign collaborators who come in are made responsible for training Indian personnel to take the place of the foreign personnel, as early as possible.

A pointed reference has been made to the question why we should have

gone abroad for technical collaboration with the German firms, in the matter of the establishment of the new steel plant. I really am not in a position to understand or appreciate the fairness or justness of his criticism. I know that this criticism is made by some of our very eminent men. Only recently, I read a report to the effect that Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the grand old man of India in the industrial sphere, had made a reference to this and said that we should never have thought of putting up this new steel plant with the aid of foreign technical personnel, and that we should not have gone for foreign technical collaboration.

Well, if we take the two existing steel plants in our country, it must be remembered that both those units depended upon foreign consultants in the beginning, and even now they are continuing them as consultants with regard to certain matters, if I am not mistaken. Both these units which are functioning—the big units I am referring to—are even today employing foreign personnel on very high salaries in order to help them run their units efficiently and satisfactorily. So, foreign collaboration, to which we have had resort to has been, if I may say, unavoidable and inevitable. At the same time, it will be realised that in the new agreement that we have entered into, sufficient care has been taken to get all the experience, to get all the know-how with a view to proceed on the basis of our own material, our own knowledge and personnel in the matter of the establishment of yet another plant which, I hope, will be not in the very distant future. I do not think I need refer to the relevant clauses in the agreement that has been entered into with the German firms. I may say in brief that from the stage of designing to the stage of completion of the project and even later—the working of the project—it has been made incumbent on,—it has been made the responsibility of,—the German technical people to associate Indian personnel with themselves, to give all the benefit of the technical know-how which they possess to our

Indian personnel so that at a very early date we may have a corps of Indians in our country who could be expected to sponsor or to build up new steel plants on our own at the appropriate time.

In this connection, I would like to point out that all the drawings, all the designs and the other material which will be available to the new Steel Plant will be the absolute property of the new company—I mean to say the company will have the full ownership. A particular clause has been introduced in the agreement to indemnify against any claim for infringement of copyright or anything like that which may be brought against the company by third parties. I am telling all this with a view to show that sufficient care has been taken in connection with the hammering out of this agreement with the German firms to see that we get sufficient knowledge and we obtain the necessary means to keep our own men trained in various stages and spheres so that we may be in a position to set up our new plant next time more or less on our own. So, it is not very fair to say...

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** May I interrupt? What about my suggestion?...

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I was just coming to that. In this connection, the hon. Member has made a suggestion that a Bureau of Iron and Steel Technologists should be set up so that they may be attached to the German firms in the work of designing, erection and working of the factory. In fact, this is just the subject to which I have referred in a general sort of way. His suggestion has taken a more concrete form, that a team of our own people should be set up as a Bureau or whatever you might call it, so that they may be attached to the German firms or German technicians in the various stages of the working of this plant. That is a specific suggestion. I can only say that the matter will be given every consideration. What form it will take, I cannot say. But the principle certainly is one on which there is absolutely no difference of opinion whatsoever. In fact, out of this new steel

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plant, what we look forward to is to train our own men in such a way that we may become self-sufficient "technically autonomous" in the matter of the establishment of new steel plants in our country in the future to the maximum extent possible. That disposes of the two main points which were made by the hon. Member, Mr. Saha.

Another point was made, as to why we should go on transferring people who have had experience in the various industrial undertakings from one place to another. I do not think it is argued that if one person is put in a particular factory, he should continue there for ever. A change in some respects is certainly useful not only for the person concerned but also for the industry concerned. But it should be seen to as far as possible that such a person who has gained some industrial experience.....

**Shri Sarangadhar Das** (Dhenkanal-West Cuttack): Not so immediately after he has returned gaining that experience.

**Shri K. K. Basu**: After he is educated there.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das**: Immediately on his return, he was transferred to the Airlines Corporation.

**Shri K. C. Reddy**: I do not want to go into details in this particular case. But it was only after finding that such a transfer would be welcomed even, if I may say so, by the person concerned, that he was transferred to the Airlines Corporation—another State industrial enterprise.

**Shri Matthen** (Thiruvellah): Not in the interest of Sindri.

**Shri Meghnad Saha**: May I interrupt? This particular gentleman was sent with the specific idea of gaining experience in certain subsidiary industries which could be set up in Sindri, urea manufacture, cement and so on—I have forgotten the names. He

made a extensive tour and gained experience and after he had come back here instead of utilising his experience and knowledge gained in his foreign tour, he was transferred to a Ministry about which he had absolutely no experience. Was it not a great wastage of talent?

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee** (Hooghly): And money also.

**Shri K. C. Reddy**: This particular person, to whom reference has been made, was put there more because of his administrative experience and background and not merely because of the technical experience or industrial experience he had gained. There were two other technical experts on the team which was sent abroad in order to make a study of the various processes of the manufacture of urea and ammonium nitrate etc. The report is there and the experience of the officer, his opinion and suggestions, for what they are worth, are certainly available to the Government of India whenever required. It is not as if they will never be available, and I for one cannot conceive of a proposition—I cannot appreciate the proposition—that when once a man is put in charge of an industrial unit, he should continue there for all time. He may be shifted from unit to unit and thereby I do not think anything will necessarily be lost.

In this connection, I would like to say that there is a proposal made by the Planning Commission in the first Five Year Plan, a proposal which is under the consideration of the Government of India but regarding which, unfortunately, we have not been able to arrive at a decision till now. That is to constitute a new industrial cadre—to make a beginning in the constitution of a new industrial cadre to be built up over a period of, say, ten years, from out of which we could draw suitable personnel for the manning of these various State industrial enterprises. I hope that an early decision would be possible on that particular scheme so that within the next few years, say, about ten years

or so, we would be able to build up an industrial cadre from which we can draw the requisite personnel for running the various State industries...

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** This is no reply to the point which we have raised. This gentleman was sent with a specific purpose.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, order. A specific suggestion was made and a reply thereto has already been given. No further argument is permissible.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** He does not want to reply

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** The transfer of the Officers from one place to another is an administrative matter on which I am afraid, we cannot have any prolonged discussion. I have indicated the policy of the Government in this behalf and keeping in mind the suggestions that come from Members of Parliament or other sources, we will have to do the feasible thing in regard to any particular matter.

I have got very little time before me to refer to certain other points that have been made by certain other hon. Members. During the last year, as has already been indicated, we have been able to finalise the scheme with regard to the new Steel Plant over which, I suppose, the entire House and the entire country is happy. In regard to this, there is one point to which I would like to make a reference, though no mention of it was made on the floor of the House during this debate. There was a lot of controversy in regard to the selection of the site for the new Steel Plant. As the House is aware, the claimants for the site of the new Steel Plant were four States, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal. I do not want to go into all the various stages through which this matter passed, but I would like to make mention of one fact, because it seems to have given some cause for controversy in Bihar. As the House is aware, after the German memorandum embodying the recommendation for the location of this Steel Plant was received, it was sent to all the concerned Governments.

It was only the Governments of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and also the Government of Orissa that forwarded their views on the German memorandum. We did not receive any views from the Bihar Government. It was under those circumstances that we invited the representatives of the three Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, and did not think it worth while to trouble the Bihar Government because they did not send in their views on the recommendations contained in the German memorandum. This seems to have created an impression in Bihar that the Government of India ignored the Bihar Government altogether. That is far from the truth and I would like to take this opportunity to clear the misunderstanding, if there is any, on that point.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha (Saran North):** May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the Government of Bihar, in reply to a question in the Bihar Assembly, said that they were not invited by the Government of India?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** That is what I am saying. The Government of India did not invite the Government of Bihar in the last stage of the discussions because the Bihar Government had not sent their views on the recommendations embodied in the German memorandum and we invited only those Governments that had sent their views with regard to the German memorandum.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central):** Will the Bihar Government be consulted now in regard to the second Steel Plant, which I understand, is under contemplation?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I do not want to refer to the second Steel Plant at this stage because even if I were to give a faint idea about it, I will be asked on the floor of the House as to what progress has been made with regard to that. I will make mention of it only at the proper time.

With regard to coal some observations have been made. One of the Mem-

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

bers, Mr. Sinha was pointing out that coal production has gone down. Yes, coal production has gone down during 1953 by about 1 per cent. At the same time, he referred to the necessity for pursuing a policy of conservation of metallurgical coal. As the House is aware, several committees have gone into the question of conservation of metallurgical coal and they have consistently recommended that a vigorous policy of conservation of metallurgical coal should be taken in hand and pursued by the Government. It was during the year 1952 that we started implementing this recommendation and I must say that to a large extent the policy we have been pursuing in this behalf has yielded good results. I do not want to weary the House by giving figures but the production of metallurgical coal has gone down by an appreciable extent; about 7.9 million tons was the target fixed for 1952, I believe, but it was not reached; only about 7.17 million tons were produced. There is a tendency for the reduction in the production of metallurgical coal. That is all for the good, I should say. This reduction in the production of metallurgical coal is reflected to some extent in the overall production of coal in the country. But the real reason for the decline in production and for the accumulation in the pit-heads is traceable to the shortage of transport. I must be very careful when referring to this subject, because an impression is there in the minds of some people that the number of wagons made available for the transport of coal has been quite sufficient, and, in fact, has been in excess of the requirements for this particular purpose. I may straightway admit that, over a certain period of time, the number of wagons that remained available for the transport of coal was in excess of the requirements at that particular period of time. But, we have to take that position with this reservation. The overall regular availability of wagons in all directions in sufficient numbers is what is necessary in order to move the coal from the producing

centres to all the consuming centres. While it is true that the number of wagons available, say down Moghul-sarai, were quite sufficient and were, over a certain period of time in excess of the requirements, the same was not the position with regard to the transport of coal above Moghul-sarai and on certain other lines. It was because of this fact that production has been somewhat restricted—had to be restricted—and also it is because of this reason that the pit-head stocks had accumulated. After all, the pit-head stocks are in the neighbourhood of three million tons, that is to say, about a month's production of coal in the country. That should not be considered to be a very alarming stock but certainly, efforts should be made to see that the stock is reduced, particularly cooking coal and brick burning coal. With regard to this, certain steps have been taken recently for the allocation of particular quantities for the movement of coal from various collieries and it is hoped that as a result of that new step taken by the Coal Commissioner the position would improve.

Reference was made to the retrenchment in the Giridih colliery. I can only say that when a particular seam in a mine is exhausted and there is no coal that can be produced at all, what is to be done except to retrench the people who are employed on such seams. Reference was also made by Mr. Sinha to the fact that when the Hetla pit was opened some of these people should have been given alternative employment. Some of them were given alternative employment and some of them did accept the conditions of employment and they are gainfully employed.

It was also mentioned that the Fact-finding Committee's report may be shelved. Though it is not our intention to shelve it, in actual practice, it has got itself shelved owing to various reasons, legal and otherwise, which I need not go into at the present moment, nor have I the time to do so. Retrenchment has not taken place and it



is a matter of much satisfaction to me, as it may also be to the House that out of the 4,000 and odd persons affected most of them have been subsequently absorbed otherwise and there is no necessity today for going in for large-scale retrenchment. The alarming necessity of having to retrench a large number about a year or two ago is not there now.

I would like to say a word or two about salt and lignite. So far as lignite is concerned. I would like to say only this much that the machinery sent by the Government of India did reach the Government of Madras and though they were second-hand machines they did good service in the matter of working this pilot quarry. Certain other machinery was also arranged to be supplied to them from the T.C.A. Some machinery worth Rs. 5 lakhs or Rs. 6 lakhs has already reached them and some machinery worth Rs. 4 lakhs or Rs. 5 lakhs is yet to come. But, this statement I want to make that the Government is very anxious and keenly alive to the great necessity of pushing this scheme through and to see that every step is taken in order to complete the project early. For that purpose, the Planning Commission had recently convened a meeting and decisions have been taken that steps should be taken to push through this project.

5 P.M.

**Mr. Chairman:** I shall now put the cut motions to the House.

*The cut motions were negatived.*

**Mr. Chairman:** I will now put the Demands to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the order paper in respect of Demands Nos. 81, 82, 83, 84 and 132 be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of the corresponding heads of

Demands entered in the second column thereof."

*The motion was adopted.*

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below.—Ed. of P.P.]

#### DEMAND NO. 81—MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,71,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Ministry of Production'."

#### DEMAND NO. 82—SALT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,93,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955 in respect of 'Salt'."

#### DEMAND NO. 83—OTHER ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Other Organisations under the Ministry of Production'."

#### DEMAND NO. 84—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,86,07,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Production'."

# DEMAND NO. 132—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,29,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1955, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Production'."

## ADVANCED AGE MARRIAGE RESTRAINT BILL

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to restrict the advanced age marriages

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to restrict the advanced age marriages."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I introduce the Bill.

## PREVENTION OF FREE, FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR BILL

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide punishment for free, forced or compulsory labour.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide punishment for free, forced or compulsory labour."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I introduce the Bill.

## INDIAN ARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Mr. Chairman:** The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by **Shri U. C. Patnaik** on the 26th March, 1954:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Arms Act, 1878, be

taken into consideration."

**Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ghumsur):** I was saying last time that the Indian Arms Act of 1860 and the later one of 1878 were calculated to disarm the civilian population of India and make another rebellion or mutiny impossible to kill the fighting spirit in this country. These Acts were very much resented in this country and were called 'black Acts' intended to hold India perpetually in bondage. In September 1918, the question came up before the Indian Legislative Council. The late hon. Surendranath Banerjee and hon. V. J. Patel put questions in the Council relating to the Indian Arms Act, the need of amending it, and so on. In the same month, the late hon. G. S. Khaparde introduced a non-official resolution on the subject. His resolution was "That this Council recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that the Indian Arms Act be modified so as to bring it into line with the British legislation on the subject." Mr. Khaparde, in a well-argued speech, marshalled all the facts, and put up before the House the arms laws as they stood in England, how it was not merely the right but the duty of the citizens there to bear arms, how people were entitled to have weapons for protection of their crops and how there was no restriction on their possession in their houses. He also pointed out that the Indian Arms Act was the most reactionary measure introduced by the foreign government and he wanted that it should be brought into line with the arms legislation of other countries. He was supported by Sir Surendranath Banerjee and others. The then Government, however, did not support it and came up with another amending Bill in 1919, which did not go very far and on the other hand, was a fairly retrograde measure. In 1924, rules were formulated under the Indian Arms Act. I will just read a few of the exemptions under those rules, because under section 27 of the Act, Government can grant exemp-



tions to various persons. I refer to those rules because, it may be contended that instead of the Bill in the present form it would have been very well left to Government to grant exemptions to certain categories. I will, therefore, draw the attention of the hon. House to the exemptions that were being enjoyed under those rules. The exemptions related to a very large class of persons and one of the categories mentioned was "Members of the Indian Legislature during their tenure of office and for six months thereafter". Later on, another was added "President, Deputy President, Speakers and Deputy-Speakers of provincial legislatures during their tenure of office and for six months thereafter". There were also other provisions relating to different classes of officers, public men and leaders. These were under the Arms Rules of 1924 during the British regime. Some time later, after we attained freedom in 1947, the Government of India started a file—its number is 15(108) of 1947—and called for the views of the Provincial Governments about the withdrawal or retention of the exemptions allowed in Schedule I of the Indian Arms Rules of 1924 for the possession of arms and ammunition for personal use. After opinions were called for, on the 28th April 1950, about four years ago, Government of India reviewed the position and in the light of replies received, and came to the conclusion that the existence of exemptions on the then existing scale was an anachronism. They accordingly decided to curtail the number of exemptions to the minimum extent possible. "Accordingly, the table sub-joined has been revised and has been replaced with effect from the 1st August 1950." The new list granting exemptions applied only to the President of India, the Governors and Rajpramukhs of States, Chief Commissioners of Part C States, Rulers of Indian States having salute of guns, and so on and so forth, and similar exemptions in favour of rulers of Indian States not having salute of guns, members of their families, A.D.Cs., personal body-guards. This

particular order was not published in toto in the Gazette. Only the notification portion was published, and the letter, which went specifically into the case of withdrawal of exemptions, was ordered to be circulated only to the licensing authorities, and it was not circulated even to the gentlemen who were enjoying the exemptions of the licences, with the result that even today, some of the members of the old Constituent Assembly and others who were enjoying those licences, still possess them not knowing that the notification has curtailed that power.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur):** They may be prosecuted.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** Possibly.

**Shri S. S. More (Sholapur):** They will be cursing you.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** I may point out that the notification does not say that people who were enjoying this right have been deprived of it by virtue of this notification. They were not communicated the orders of Government on the subject, nor have they been told by the licensing authorities that their licences have been withdrawn, by virtue of the bare notification which simply goes on to say that Rajpramukhs, Governors and others are granted exemption. I do concede that ignorance of law is no excuse, but the way in which the amendment of this rule has been notified without explaining the necessary implications about the withdrawal of exemptions in the case of certain people has operated as a hardship and has also probably made so many of our hon. friends liable under the amended rules. It has not in any way improved matters; on the other hand it has created a very peculiar situation.

**Shri S. S. More:** Do not speak like a prosecutor.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** This is the new rule under section 27 framed in 1950 which restricts the right only to certain persons.

[Shri U. C. Patnaik]

Sir, I would not like to go into other details in the rules originally framed in 1924 and subsequently modified in 1950. They were issued in 1951 as consolidated rules. This is the position so far as the Arms Act is concerned. The old Act is continuing in force, although as early as 1918, the hon. Mr. Khaparde, the hon. Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee and the hon. Mr. Patel all demanded a reorientation of the Act. In fact the whole of India has been demanding a relaxation of the reactionary provisions of the Arms Act. But in spite of it, it has not been changed. It continues on the Statute Book as before, with only this change that in 1950 certain classes, including Members of Central and State Legislatures who enjoyed exemption for having arms were deprived of that privilege. That is the present state of affairs.

In the meantime, Sir, I feel that a change has taken place in the approach of our Government. We have heard on the 5th of last month from the hon. the Home Minister, Government's approach relating to rifle clubs and similar organisations. We have indeed had a very encouraging reply from the Government which accepted the non-official Resolution, as amended by my hon. friend from West Bengal, President of a Rifle Club himself. While doing so the hon. the Home Minister has stated the case for Rifle Clubs so well that I could not improve upon it. He said:

"I think there can be no doubt whatsoever that the spirit underlying the resolution is a fine spirit and the object that the movers have in view is a proper object."

\* \* \* As a matter of fact, the Government of India have been fully alive to the usefulness of rifle training. Something was said about the policy of non-violence. It has got really nothing to do with this, and I do not think that if Mahatmaji had been alive today and had been here, to assist us, he would have taken any objection to the policy

which we are pursuing. I think it is desirable that every young man should know how to handle a rifle. I also agree that these rifle clubs have served a very useful purpose.

Something was said about discipline. I think it is a well-recognised fact that these rifle clubs do inculcate a sense of discipline in our youth. We have had disturbances of various kinds in various cities, including the city of Calcutta, and let us say, Lucknow, with which I am familiar. But I am pretty confident that if a census were taken, you would have found that very few, if at all any, members of a rifle club had taken part in these disturbances. Only the mob has to do with it. But the moment you go there and have a National Cadet Corps or a rifle club, the very fact that a young man is able to handle a rifle makes him a little bit of an expert in self-restraint and self-control, so that he does not indulge in all these irregular practices which we sometimes read in newspapers."

I am sure I could not put it much better than the Home Minister has done—the discipline that rifle training gives, the training that it gives to the mind, the hand and the eye, in marksmanship, the approach to life that it gives to people and in fact the sobriety and temperance that knowledge of handling such fire-arms brings to our youngmen. I am sure there will now be a change in the approach and the old antiquated post-Mutiny British Arms Act will be scrapped and that a new liberal Arms Act will take its place commensurate with the aspirations of free India, which would satisfy the demands of our youth, to satisfy the requirements of our country in respects.

Before I come to the changes that I have proposed as a first step towards liberalisation, I would like to

draw the attention of the House to the arms laws of various countries. In fact, there are many countries in which there are no restrictions on the possession and training in arms, because it is presumed that every citizen ought to know how to bear arms, not only to defend himself and his property, but also to stand up in the defence of his country, if and when the necessity arises. But apart from those countries, even in countries whose model we have been following, for instance, the United Kingdom and allied countries, the arms laws are much more liberal than ours. Of course, during recent years some restrictions have been imposed even in the United Kingdom, Canada, America and other countries. But even those restrictions are nothing when compared with the reactionary provisions of our Post-Mutiny Arms Act which we are still continuing. The reasons for the slight restrictions that have come in after 1937 in U.K. and elsewhere are due to the fact that fifth columns became recognised weapons of warfare, that more and more dangerous automatic weapons came to be evolved, e.g., weapons which, once you pull the trigger go on firing till the entire number of rounds are exhausted. In view of these new factors, some restrictions have been introduced and the people have been asked to register certain types of fire-arms and obtain special permits for others. But even they are nothing when compared with our restrictions. I would like to draw the attention of this House to the arms laws of other countries and point out how our laws require immediate examination and if necessary drastic modifications. I would refer briefly to Volume 15 Halsbury....

**Mr. Chairman:** I do not want to interrupt the speech of the hon. Member. I may just remind him that he has already taken half an hour and there are many other hon. Members who are anxious to speak on this very important matter.

**Shri S. S. More:** He is supplying information to other hon. Members.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** With your permission, I shall finish within the half an hour or in two or three minutes more. I think I may be of help to some other hon. Members who may like to refer to the same point, and who would be able to throw much better light on this subject.

In Volume 15, under the head Gun Licences, it is said:

"the occupier of any land using or carrying a gun for the purpose only of scaring birds or of killing vermin on such lands, or, any persons using or carrying a gun for such a purpose by the order of such occupier....."

is an exception to the Act. Another provision says:

"The offence of using or carrying a gun elsewhere than in a dwelling house or of the curtilage thereof without a licence is punishable."

But this 'curtilage of dwelling houses' means garden and other appurtenances of the house. If he uses the gun in his house or curtilage thereof he does not come under the Gun Licence Act. Under the later Act of 1937, in the U.K., just before the Second World War, when they wanted to put in some restrictions, they wanted certain weapons to be registered. A smooth-bore gun having a barrel not less than 20 inches in length is not one that has got to be registered even under this later Act. What they call "prohibited weapon" is not our small .38 bore revolver, but it is a much bigger thing:

"any fire-arm which is so designed or adapted that, if pressure is applied to the trigger, missiles continue to be discharged until pressure is removed from the trigger or the magazine containing the missiles is empty; or any weapon of whatever description designed or adapted for the discharge of any noxious liquid,

[Shri U. C. Patnaik]

gas, or other thing;.....etc."

These dangerous types are treated as prohibited weapons there. Similarly, possession of fire-arms with intention to injure another person is an offence, the use of fire-arms to resist arrest is an offence. Possession of fire-arms while committing certain offences would also entail extra punishment. I submit that the United Kingdom on which the Indian administrators were basing their schemes of law and other things, has not been so reactionary. Even in anticipation of the Second World War, in view of the more dangerous weapons that had come into the field, when the U.K. wanted to restrict the use of weapons, that change was not so reactionary as the law in our country. Similarly in the U.S. Code also,—I refer to Title 26, sections 2361 and 2733—the term fire-arm means:

".....a shotgun or rifle having a barrel of less than eighteen inches in length, or any other weapon.....etc."

Weapons with barrels more than 18 or 20 inches in those countries are given exemption under the arms laws there. Similarly, in Canada it is the same case. I would refer to the Explosives Act, Chapter VII of the Statutes of Canada of 1946. Certain types of fire-arms in possession are to be registered; for instance, revolvers and pistols which are automatic or semi-automatic or auto-loading, all kinds of machine and sub-machine guns and fully automatic revolvers and so on are included in this category. Shot-guns, revolvers, etc., which are normally used for sporting purposes are exempt from registration even there. Therefore, in every country, the arms laws as they stand today, in spite of the dangers of the more perfected weapons that are being evolved are not so rigid when compared with our laws, which are the heritage of foreign rule in post-mutiny days. In India, there is no doubt that a change is necessary.

From what the hon. Home Minister told the House on the 5th March, from what the hon. Minister for Defence Organisation told the House on the 27th March relating to the supply of :22 bore rifles to various places for training purposes, I hope that a change in approach has come. I can say that :22 bore rifles are nowhere treated as weapons requiring a licence or registration, because it is a very small bore rifle for training purposes. Training and discipline are very important as the hon. Home Minister has said. We all feel that this training will give our young folk proper self-control as the hon. Home Minister has said at various places.

It is true that in this age of atomic and hydrogen bomb warfare, it is no good talking in terms of small arms, revolvers, breach-loading guns and the like. On the other hand, mass training in rifles, and breach-loading guns and other small arms will give the people a sort of self-confidence in themselves and will give the country a proper defence also in times of need. There is another thing also which we have to remember. Some of these weapons are getting outmoded. Perhaps our ordnance depots will be getting a huge amount of money if they could sell a number of these things which after three or four years will become obsolete as weapons of warfare. Therefore, I would plead that a change in our approach is necessary. I would also point out that, in this country, whatever offences we read in connection with rifles and revolvers or unregistered or unlicensed weapons, shows that those people who want to commit crimes are getting somehow or other unlicensed weapons. We have not come across many cases where licensed weapons have been used in a crime. People who want to commit crimes are getting a free supply of unlicensed weapons whereas law-abiding persons who want to defend themselves, who, in times of need, will be the country's greatest strength, do not get weapons for their legitimate use.

This brings me to the amendments that I have suggested. I do not claim that my amendments are of a perfect nature. This is the law that has been obtaining for hundreds of years; it has got to be revised and reconsidered in the light of so many things, and from various points of view. I do not claim perfection for the amendments that I have put forward.

One amendment is absolutely necessary, and that is, whatever changes you make under the rules, Government have in addition to offer modes of publication, to place them on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament to give greater publicity, because it is a very rigorous law and therefore any change in this law or the rules thereunder have to be given the widest publicity and have to be placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament.

The other change that I want is no doubt a first step, and I hope Government will not disagree with it. It is a revival of a privilege under the 1924 Rules. There were certain exemptions under section 27 for Members of Parliament and for other people. These are categories who ought to be given some exemption, and we have found that Government has withdrawn this exemption. Of course, my clause relating to these exemptions could come under two heads. One is to remove certain categories altogether from the purview of the Act by providing for registration, that is to avoid their going to the Head Constable or the Station House Officer and then going to the Sub-divisional Magistrate and others. Secondly, I want that those weapons with those people should be registered. It is a very small thing, because till recently these categories were enjoying that privilege under section 27. But that privilege has been withdrawn by an executive order of Government. The people who were holding arms and licences under the old rules have not yet been intimated that they have got to deposit their weapons in the Police Station. Government have not yet thought fit to

introduce some changes or to liberalise section 27 by extending it to certain persons who were already there—for instance Members of the two Houses of Parliament, of the State Legislatures, all Gazetted officers of Government, all officers of the Auxiliary forces and Cadet forces. These are some of the classes for whom I want exemption. Under section 1 itself I want that after subsection (b) there should be subsection (c) removing these persons from the purview of the Act itself. And I suggest a safeguard of having registration by a special provision.

I had to choose between two things. On the one hand was the question whether the Government which has withdrawn these privileges under section 27 should continue to have the discretion to keep or withdraw the exemption under section 27 as they like, or whether it should be a statutory provision for removing these classes altogether from the purview of the Arms Act, by making a separate provision for registering the weapons with them.

This registration of weapons has also become a common matter—particularly weapons less than 20" length of barrel or weapons above .22 are being registered in several countries, and I have no objection for registration.

Then, every Member in this House represents about seven lakhs of people. He is the elected representative of the people, and what is the harm if he is allowed a weapon which is registered in his name. People are having thousands and lakhs of unregistered weapons in different parts of the country with which offences are being committed and which you are finding it very difficult to counteract. Why not have some sort of hold over them by registering weapons and giving weapons to the popular representatives. If you have appointed a man, and think he is trustworthy enough to be a gazetted officer of Government either at the Centre or in the States, why not he have a free licence? Why should he run after a

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Magistrate or the Assistant Sub-Inspector for getting a licence? Why should he be called upon to produce his rifle or weapon whenever the Head Constable or the Assistant Sub-Inspector or the Sub-divisional Magistrate calls upon him to produce the weapon? Similarly, all officers of the Territorial Army, the Home Guards and other organisations should be given the same privilege.

I have also asked that members of the rifle associations, recognised by the Government, should be given the same privilege, and for that I need not go further than repeat what the hon. Home Minister has already stated. And apart from that, rifle associations in every country are having some amount of concession in the matter of weapons particularly required for their rifle training, and I think they should be given the same privilege in our country. And you will please remember wherever there are restrictions on not giving arms licences or registration in favour of persons who have been convicted of certain offences of violence or whose antecedents are not desirable, rifle associations are also having the same restrictions, and therefore there is no difficulty.

This is the first step I submit so that in future Government may extend this privilege, so that the whole country is trained in small arms, and people are permitted to purchase small arms from our ammunition depots which would add a few crores of rupees to our revenue. Every patriotic citizen should have the confidence that he can stand in the country's need, because this kind of weapon has to be considered not merely from the individual's point of view, from the point of view of the law-abiding citizens trying to protect his person and properties but also from the point of view of national reorganisation so that every Indian has not only the right but the training, the capacity and the weapon with which he will have some sort of con-

fidence in case there is any aerial attack, in case there is chaos. If the Home Minister wants he can have any restrictions there, but I am anxious that there should be relaxation of the provisions of this outmoded Act, so that the country has the benefit of arms, so that we feel we are in an independent India, not still in British India or in a country which is worse than that. Let us feel we are in an independent India, we are citizens of a free country. Let Government feel that it can rely upon its citizens for necessary defence in times of need and for proper security measures at all times.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Arms Act, 1878, be taken into consideration."

There are several amendments to this, one in the name of Mr. Vallatharas for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon, and others in the name of Sardar A. S. Saigal, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad and Shri Keshavaiengar for reference to Select Committee. I call upon Mr. Vallatharas to move his Amendment.

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 10th July, 1954."

Mr. Chairman: As there is a very large number of speakers....

Shri Vallatharas: Whatever time you are pleased to give, I will abide by it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. As there is a very large number of speakers, I will request the hon. Members who are given a chance to speak to kindly finish their speeches within ten minutes so that a large number may be able to participate.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur). May I know how much time has been



allotted for the discussion of this Bill?

**Mr. Chairman:** So far as I know, no time has been allotted. At the same time, we should finish it today. After all, the measure is very important, and we should see that we do some practical work here, whatever may be the result of the motion. We must come to some decision. So I propose to take the vote of the House today.

**Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore):** I rise on a point of order. On Bills it has not been the practice to fix the time-limit on speeches. We can understand that in respect of general discussions of the Budget, Demands and all that, but generally in a matter of discussion of Bills it has not been the practice of this House to fix the time-limit except by the unanimous consent of the House. Therefore, if you put the matter to the vote of the House saying that the speeches would be for only ten minutes each, we will have an opportunity of expressing ourselves on this point.

**Mr. Chairman:** So far as the question of practice is concerned, the hon. Member is perfectly right, and it is therefore that I did not fix the time-limit. I only took the sense of the Members of the House, and I requested the Members to finish their speeches within ten minutes. I did not fix the time-limit at all.

**Shri S. S. More:** It was a request from the Chair.

**Mr. Chairman:** Of course, and it is in concurrence with the wishes of the House. I think this has the general concurrence of the House.

**Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior):** I do not agree, and I have got the right to disagree over the matter.

**Mr. Chairman:** Certainly. The hon. Member may not agree.

**Shri Vallatharas:** In view of the importance of the matter and the serious consequences that will follow from the various clauses of the Bill, 75 P.S.D.

it will be an injustice to restrict by limiting the time to one or one and a half hours. I would seriously submit that the time must be extended by at least two hours more, in view of the fact that there are so many Members who want to speak, and all of them should be given an opportunity, and moreover, this is a question concerning the internal and external defence of this country.

**Mr. Chairman:** So far as the question of time is concerned, I have already submitted to the House that no time-limit has so far been fixed. We also know at the same time that the Committee has reported that usually not more than four hours should be devoted to any bill. Considering this fact, I think we would be well advised in finishing the discussion on this Bill today. We have already devoted some time to it, and today also, we are giving it full time. I think we should finish it today by 7-30 p.m.

**Shri S. S. More:** On a point of order.....

**Mr. Chairman:** There is no point of order involved here.

**Shri S. S. More:** Please give me one minute.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, order. When I am standing, hon. Members should resume their seats.

There is no question of time-limit in the usual sense. If the House wants to prolong the debate, I have got no objection, but I thought that the House will be well advised, as I submitted earlier, to finish this by today. But if the House wants that the debate should continue, I shall certainly agree.

**Shri S. S. More:** If you are quoting the authority of the Committee's recommendation that four hours only should be devoted to any bill, then it will automatically modify our own rules.

**Mr. Chairman:** No authority has been quoted. I only said that that was the suggestion made. Otherwise,

[Mr. Chairman]

If the authority were there, and it was agreed to, I would myself have fixed the limit, and said that it will be finished by today. But I am leaving it to the House.

**Shri U. C. Patnalk:** May I make one submission? The average time-limit suggested by the Committee is four hours. The other day, we had only about ten or twelve minutes. So, I would submit that the debate on this Bill may even be allowed to go on beyond today, provided the debate is lively and hon. Members are taking sufficient interest in it. (*Interjections*).

**Shri S. S. More:** Why this proviso? We have every right to speak.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am entirely in the hands of the House. But I should think that when the matter is so important, and it has been so ably moved, it does not require very much time to come to a decision. If hon. Members so desire, we can extend the time to fifteen minutes for each hon. Member, or even more, if the House so wants. But then very many Members will not be able to participate in the debate. So, it is in the interests of the Members themselves to see that some time-limit is fixed. If they do not want a limit, I am not here to limit it, because it relates to the general right of the Members to speak on Bills.

**The Minister of Home Affairs and states (Dr. Katju):** There is another possibility. Hon. Members may not like to discuss the Bills which are coming up after this, and therefore they may like to take more time on this Bill.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I submit that last time, you gave only fifteen minutes to this Bill? Today, you were kind enough to give two and a half hours to this Bill. This makes a total of only two hours and forty-five minutes. So, I think, on the next day, one hour and fifteen minutes may be given to this Bill so that the total comes to four hours.

**Mr. Chairman:** The usual time-limit as suggested by the Committee is four hours. But supposing one of these motions, either the first motion or the second motion, is passed today, so far as the discussion on the clauses of the Bill is concerned, that will not take place today. I do not know what will be the decision of the House. I would, therefore, submit that at least this motion must be voted upon today.

**Shri Nambiar (Mayuram):** I would submit that at least five minutes may be allotted for the next Bill to be introduced.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member wants this Bill to be held up?

**Shri Nambiar:** After passing that motion, we can go on to the next Bill.

**Mr. Chairman:** How is it possible? The hon. Member has been in the House for a fairly long time?

**Shri Nambiar:** If the motion for circulation is adopted, then we shall have to wait for the opinions to be received.

**Mr. Chairman:** That means the hon. Member wants that this Bill must be finished within a much shorter time than the other hon. Members want. I cannot be a party to it.

**Dr. Katju:** The question is that if Shri Nambiar is going to speak, he cannot speak for less than an hour.

**Shri Vallatharas:** The Indian Arms Act is a lamentable relic of the British regime, which has discredited and defaced the honour and national valour of our country. It is a more heinous Act than the Press Act, or the Preventive Detention Act or any other Act on the statute-book. For over seventy-five years, this Act has been allowed to stand on the statute-book, without any popular support and without any national utility.

For the purposes of the present discussion, I will confine myself to



the policy. If it is a simple question of giving an exemption for the Members of the State Legislatures and the Parliament, I would not have troubled myself very much over this matter. Ordinarily, we belong to a very high standard of character and status, whatever might be our own limitations. We are representatives of the people, and we are sitting here as sovereign people. If we are denied the fundamental privilege of an ordinary citizen to possess arms in the right of our private or national defence, then there is no meaning in our sitting in this House and legislating for this country, and there is no meaning or purpose in passing this measure. If, for any purpose, this present Government thinks that we are not to enjoy that right, I cannot describe the imbecility and the impropriety of the status of that Government itself. So, this is a matter that comes to us automatically, and is within our hands.

The more important point I am concerned with here is this. I am not a greater expert than Shri U. C. Patnaik, for whose knowledge of defence and warfare, I have got very great respect. But one thing I can say, that the amending Bill does not touch the policy at all. He talked much about policy, but no policy is touched by this Bill. He only urges that being a Member of Parliament or a State Legislature or of any recognised association should be a qualification for exempting a person from the operation of this Act. Section 27 may operate, or it may be added on as a sub-section to section 1, or it may be included under the rules of 1924 or any other rules. But that is not what I want. A Member of Parliament or a State Legislature being exempted from the operation of the Act is not the be all and end all of the national requirements of our country at this time. All the thirty-six crores of people in our country must live as heroes, as valiant fellows, fully conscious of the past traditions. We never bowed down to any man who entered this country, and we absorbed too the alien elements which tres-

passed into this country, excepting the Englishman who fled without being absorbed into this atmosphere. I want to live like a hero, I do not want to be a coward, for my forefathers and ancestors were never cowards. They said that if there was a country which had human beings without arms, that was a barbarian country. But it is only under the British regime, that the arms were given only to some chosen classes of persons, the reason being that the British were aliens, and they wanted to rule the country by the sword. We are valiant people with a military tradition of five thousand years, prepared to meet any man from outside. So, we were always fighting against invaders, and we were always protesting against foreign rule; at the same time, we wanted to mobilise ourselves in order to purge the country of the foreign element. But now the conditions are changed from 1878 to 1954. We are now a free nation, and we have no idea of invading any other country or planting our men anywhere else. It is our Government that is in power today. Everybody is proud of the fact that we have liberated this country, and everybody is proud of the fact that we are a valiant people, who want to establish and maintain this honourable liberation for centuries and ages to come.

Under these circumstances, our stand would be that the entire Arms Act must be repealed, and a new Act conceding the fundamental rights of man must be initiated by Government themselves. If any hon. Member of this House brings it, that is welcome; but it is the primary duty of the Government to see that this legislation takes on a new attitude. I should like to state here that all of us should remember our own past traditions. At what stage in this country, have we failed to preserve our honour? The Englishmen, of course, had their own interests to serve by this Act. At one stage, they said that this law was quite essential to keep peace and order. But was this law not so essential to

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keep peace and order in Scotland or England or Wales? Why should there have been the concession of this civil right or fundamental right to the citizen of the United Kingdom? There, every man was automatically entitled to possess and carry arms. But in this country, nobody was entitled to possess arms, except under the sweet will and pleasure of the indiscreet and aggressive executive of the British imperialism. Now the situation must totally change. As my friend, Mr. Patnaik, envisages in his argument, if it be an exemption, I am really sorry. I do not want that exemption. I do not want anybody to grant that exemption. We, the sovereign body, should be exempted by the sovereign body—it is a very innocuous and incongruous position. The only thing must be that there must be no exemption; there must be a concession of the citizen's right to all in a free country. Every man must be able to carry arms as freely as possible within this country. The restrictions are there. What are the restrictions? Public safety must be preserved; public peace must be preserved. On these two fundamental factors, I really agree. Every arm in this country cannot exist without the knowledge of the Government. Every holder of a gun must get registered under the Government. These are the means by which an effective control of the existence of arms can be had. Then a limitation may be placed upon certain circumstances. Suppose a man is of unsound mind or of intemperate character or he is a drunkard or a man often given up to fits, and sometimes there are factions in which emotions play. Only in those circumstances, the grant of these guns or licences must be refused, and the police officer or any other officer deputed for the purpose must be the man to judge that. There may be appeal over his discretion. But for these small restrictions, there must be no restriction at all. That is the first point I wish to submit.

So far as the rules are concerned

I am not worried about them, because the rule-making body will work only in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution and the spirit of the Government, the policy of which is going to be laid down by this hon. House. How we were treated earlier is a matter of great importance. Ordinarily, if any of us go and apply to a District Magistrate or any officer for a licence, he will grant it because all of us are high people; we are not barbarians. We have high standards; we are big agriculturists, we are traders, we are bankers, we are title holders, we are advocates, we are businessmen and we have got our character established and our status is unquestioned. If you go and put in an application on that basis, you will have priority in getting a licence. But if you go and say: 'I am a Member of Parliament' or 'I am a Member of the State Legislature', the District Magistrate will turn his face aside and send you out at once without a licence. This is the way in which the Act is operating. That is why this matter i.e., the Bill was brought into the foreground.

We had experience of it on two occasions—in 1918 and 1922. In the year 1918, a progressive view was held. Members of the Legislatures of the States as well as Members of the Central Legislature were both recommended. But in the year 1922, there was a definite reply from the Committee that the majority of the Committee was not willing to concede this to the Members of the Legislatures of the States. I am not worried about those things now. They are matters of past interest.

Now, I take this opportunity to urge the second point. If at all this Bill is going to be accepted by the Government, then a further occasion must be had on this plea that a substantive increase in the licences and in the number of arms must be effected. Taking the Members of this House, the number is 500. The Council of States has got 250 Mem-

bers. Ordinarily, the State Legislatures would have 2,500 members. Now, is this laborious effort only for the purpose of equipping this small number of people with some arms? It is ridiculous. I do not like this plea. Who are all elected by the people? The District Board members and Presidents are elected by the people. So also the local *Panchayats*. The entire administrative structure is based on local *panchayats*. They are elected by the people. The local municipalities, the local *panchayat* courts, in fact, all the institutions in all the 7 lakh villages in the country, are elected by the vote of the people. They all must be granted licences. So this Bill must be the occasion for substantially increasing the scope, of increasing the licences of the arms throughout the length and breadth of this country. I suggest that the District Board members must be given this privilege. All the members of the *Panchayat* Council, *Panchayat* Boards, municipalities and every local board should enjoy this concession. In that way, I conceive roughly about 75,000 people will be able to get the advantage of the possession of these arms. So when I plead for a privilege to be invested upon the 36 crores of people, this is only a limited scope by which 75,000 people are able to get licences. The Government must essentially see this aspect. Why should we be kept in this cowardly position? It was admitted even by the British people during their regime, in 1878, that a large number of lives were lost at the hands of wild beasts, and the turbulent tribal people by the side of the Indian borders who transgressed into this country and inflicted several deaths. In spite of this fact, the restrictions placed on the issue of licences in the various districts were very indiscreet and arbitrary. A limit was placed and beyond that limit, the authorities were not willing to extend the number of the licences. The Government should recognise that by reason of the absence of fire-arms for self-defence in the hands of many people in various tracts of this country, several people died at the hands

of wild beasts, crops suffered extensive damage and also several deaths were inflicted by wild tribes. The issue of licences was restricted and indiscreetly in these districts. There ought to be a very liberal attitude in the matter of granting the licences. All other factors conducive to the defence forces of this country are contained in this also. I cannot understand the rationale behind the prevention of a man carrying a sword, a bow and arrow or even a javelin or a lance. If we read the history of the warfare of this country in ancient days, there was no part of this country—whether it is upland or hill or plain—where every man was not subjected to some sort of compulsory military training. I belong to a community which can command about 15 lakhs of people. All of us, men and women, children, even infants in the embryo, have got a militant spirit, and we stood and opposed the alien power. Because we opposed them—which is even today cherished in our memory—we were condemned by them as criminal tribes. They said these people should not have possession of arms. But without arms, we knew how to fight. Without arms, we knew how to win. In that way, we have won for this country great honour.

Our tradition goes to show that there was compulsory military training in this country. It is not as if when you get arms, you will go and kill people. Taking statistics on a layman's basis, the United States and England have got too many murders—committed through suicide with the help of revolvers or by people firing at each other. I was told there is an International Thieves' Association somewhere in Scotland which has got a systematic provision for its members, which has got a systematic control over ammunition and arms. But they have got their loyalty for the English nation, and keeping the English nation alive, they go about their job throughout the world on international thievery.

In this country, we same people are branded as criminal tribes, as

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undesirable people. These people are in no way different from the best of the patriots of this country. I can assure you that even in the south among these classes, we have got a very fine literature. If you look into the book of ancient warfare, you will see how Tamilnad, Kerala, Mysore and other places are depicted there. We should be able to receive the arms and there should be no restriction. There were many instruments which we have been possessing all through. If a Government has got atom bombs or if any province or State has got atom bombs or some other bomb, we do not very much worry about it. Here in our country, the police is quite sufficient. The military is quite sufficient. There is no subversive attitude to overthrow the Government in any part of the country. All these people have come together; changes have been suggested; our national consolidation is the only factor of very important concern that is engaging our attention.

So, at this stage I plead for an entire overhauling of the policy behind the Arms Act. The Government must take the initiative and see that the entire Act is annulled and a new legislation enunciated on the civilised basis that every citizen will be entitled to hold arms, only with certain restrictions as in the case of the U.K. and the United States of America and other civilised countries. I do want the Arms Act to be modelled exactly on the lines of those existing in other countries. That was why I thought whether it would be useful to circulate it for the purpose of eliciting public opinion. This Act was framed while we were under in the depths of degradation and cowardliness. It is now for the people alone to decide. The people must know what we ask for. Wherein lies the justification for us, the elected, to claim an exemption, when those who elected us, the people, are lying down-trodden and depressed by the absence of the right? Unless the people get the right, we the Members should not get exemption. We must know their opi-

nion, whether we can get it or not. That is the only impression in my mind. It is a further matter that in the light of the fact that self-defence and national defence are both concerned in this country, the public must know about it. So I thought that if this motion for eliciting public opinion could be accepted then a Select Committee might sit for a clearer and more beneficial scrutiny. If that is the view to be taken, I would suggest that as the time suggested by me—July 10, 1954—might be a bit short, it may be extended till 31st July, 1954.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member wants the date to be changed to 31st July, 1954 in his amendment?

Shri Vallatharas: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1954."

6 P.M.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : जो बिल माननीय उमा चरण जी पटनायक लाये हैं उसके बारे में मेरी यह राय है कि यह ज्यादा अच्छा होगा कि हम उसको सिलेक्ट कमेटी के पास भेज दें बनिस्वत इसके कि हम आज ही उसका फैसला कर दें। यह बड़ा ग्रहम बिल है और मैं समझता हूँ कि इस पर एक दम कोई राय जाहिर कर देना ठीक नहीं होगा। जो माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस के इनचार्ज हैं वह स्वयं इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं और मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर यह बिल सिलेक्ट कमेटी को भेज दिया जायगा तो उस पर वह भी अपनी राय दे सकेंगे और यह बतला सकते हैं कि हम उस कायदे में कहां तक संशोधन कर सकते हैं जिसके लिए हमारे माननीय मित्र इसको हाउस के सामने लाये हैं। यह सारी चीजें देखते हुए मैं इस बिल पर ज्यादा नहीं बोलना चाहता। लेकिन आज जब कि हमारा देश स्वतन्त्र हो गया है यह बात जरूरी हो

जाती है कि हम इस बात पर विचार करें कि जो पाबन्दियाँ हमारे ऊपर हथियारों के मामले में विदेशी सरकार के जमाने में लगायी गयी थीं उनको हम कहां तक हटा सकते हैं और कानून में कहां तक संशोधन कर सकते हैं। साथ ही उन देशों से अपनी तुलना करना जो कि हमसे ज्यादा उन्नति कर चुके हैं हमारे लिए ठीक नहीं होगा। हमको अपने देश के कायदों से उन देशों के कायदों की तुलना नहीं करनी चाहिए। हां, जैसा कि हमारे मित्र ने कहा जो हमारे सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्त्ता हैं जैसे संसद् के सदस्य हैं, बारा सभा के हैं उनको छुट मिलनी चाहिए और उनको हथियार रखने की इजाजत होनी चाहिए, इस बात पर हमें विचार करना चाहिए। हमको यह देखना चाहिए कि जितने हमारे यहां के सदस्य हैं वह किस रास्ते पर जाते हैं, उनकी कार्यवाहियाँ क्या हैं। इन सब चीजों का हमको तखमीना करना पड़ेगा। मैं नहीं समझता कि बिना इन बातों का तखमीना किये हुए सब को लाइसेंस देना कहां तक ठीक होगा। इसके साथ ही साथ उन लोगों को जिनको कत्ल वगैरह के मामलों में डकैती या दूसरे मामलों में काफी सजा हो चुकी है उनको हथियार देना कहां तक ठीक होगा, इस पर भी हमको विचार करना चाहिए। इन सारी चीजों को देखते हुए जो होमगार्ड इंस्ट्रक्टर्स हैं या जो डिस्ट्रिक्ट या डिवीजनल कमांडेंट्स हैं उनको हथियार देने चाहिए, नेशनल केडेट कोर के जो लोग हैं उनको देने चाहिए, फौज के जो बड़े बड़े अफसर हैं तथा दूसरे उच्च अधिकारी हैं उनको भी हथियार रखने की इजाजत देनी चाहिए। लेकिन इस सब को करने के लिए हमें विचार करना चाहिए, वक्त भी चाहिए कि हम इन कायदों में कहां तक संशोधन कर सकते हैं। पहले भी यहां इन बातों पर दरियाफ्त किया गया था कि हम कितनी छुट दे सकते हैं। मालूम नहीं कि क्यों वह बातें आगे नहीं बढ़ सकीं। अब तो

मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह कहूंगा कि आप इसको सिलेक्ट कमेटी में भेज कर इस पर पूरी छानबीन करके राय ले लें और इन सब चीजों पर विचार कर लें। इसमें अगर चार छः महीने की देर भी हो जायगी तो हम उसको बरदाश्त कर सकते हैं, लेकिन इन चीजों पर अच्छी तरह से विचार होना चाहिए। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी तरफ़ीम को उपस्थित करता हूँ।

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member has not read out his amendment. Will he kindly move it?

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** I beg to move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Uma Charan Patnaik, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Dr. Satyanarayan Sinha, Shri Amjad Ali, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad, Shri Choithram Partabrai Gidwani, Shri Govind Hari Deshpande, Shri Balwant Nagesh Datar, Shri V. B. Gandhi, Shri Wasudeo Shridhar Kirolikar, Dr. A. Krishnaswami, Shri Satish Chandra, Shri R. V. Dhulekar, Shri Vishwambhar Dayal Tripathi, Shri Murli Manohar, Dr. Suresh Chandra, Shri Lakshman Singh Charak, Shri N. Keshavaiah, Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, Shri Girraj Saran Singh and the Mover, with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next session."

और जो माननीय मंत्री महोदय इसके इनचार्ज हैं उनके साथ यह सिलेक्ट कमेटी बनायी जाय यह मेरा प्रस्ताव है।

**मिस्टर चेयरमैन :** माननीय मूवर का नाम तो आपने पहले ही लिया हुआ है। उनका नाम तो पहले ही मौजूद है। और आप किसका नाम चाहते हैं ?

**An Hon. Member:** Mover of the amendment.

**Mr. Chairman:** You have not included the name of the hon. Home Minister. You said you were very anxious to see that the opinion of the Home

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Minister is taken in the Select Committee. If he is not made a member, how are you going to take his opinion?

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** I have moved it, Sir.

**An Hon. Member:** The Deputy Minister is there.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Both of them should be there.

**Mr. Chairman:** Now, there are two amendments before the House. One is—

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1954";

and the second is—

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the names read out by the hon. Member and the name of the hon. Home Minister Dr. Katju included in it, with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next session."

There are other amendments, one by Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad and the other by Shri Keshavalengar. Both of them are the same, though the names are different. That is all.

**Dr. N. B. Khare rose—**

**Mr. Chairman:** Why should the hon. Member stand?

**Dr. N. B. Khare:** I want to speak.

**Mr. Chairman:** When the Chair is on its legs, the hon. Member should not stand.

Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Uma Charan Patnaik, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Dr. Satyanarain Sinha, Shri Amjad Ali, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad, Shri Choithram Partabrai Gidwani, Shri Govind Hari Deshpande, Shri Balwant Nagesh Datar, Shri V. B. Gandhi, Shri Wasudeo Shridhar Kirolikar, Dr. A. Krishnaswami, Shri Satish Chandra, Shri R. V. Dhulekar, Shri Vishwambhar Dayal Tripathi, Shri Murli Manohar, Dr.

Suresh Chandra, Shri Lakshman Singh Charak, Shri N. Keshavalengar, Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, Shri Girraj Saran Singh, Dr. Kailash Nath Katju and the Mover, with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next session."

Because the amendment is the same, I cannot allow other amendment about the Select Committee to be moved. So far as the names of the members are concerned, on a proper occasion if the hon. Members so desire, they can take away these names or add to them. Discussion may now proceed on both these amendments, which are placed before the House.

**Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla):** Mr. Chairman, the Indian Arms Act of 1878, I submit, is outmoded and deserves to be recast and completely overhauled. I wish to offer my felicitations to Shri Patnaik who has brought this matter to the notice of the House. But the Bill of Shri Patnaik, in its scope, has a very, very narrow ambit. The entire Act deserves to be recast. It deserves to be examined because the prohibitions contained therein press unfairly against respectable citizens.

There are two other matters to which I wish to invite the attention of the hon. House and in particular of the hon. Home Minister. It is a standing shame that this Act of 1878 should be permitted to retain the definition of arms and ammunitions unamended. If you kindly see the definition of 'arms' parts of arms are also included in the definition. The handle of a knife is an arm, a bow and arrow is an arm; virtually everything that can be used as an article for attack or defence becomes an arm. Even a broken piece is an arm, even the triggerless and broken revolver is an arm. If a person unwittingly were to possess a junk called an arm, on account of the courtesy of the law, he is in for a sentence which can extend to three years and if he endeavours to conceal it and it is said that he is deliberately concealing it, the extent



of the sentence can go up to seven years. It is a monstrous law. It has become draconic in severity and, as it is, it ought not to stand on the statute book of any civilised country.

So far as the definition of "ammunition" is concerned, parts of ammunition are treated as ammunition, and therefore, discharged, useless cartridges, which are of no use at all, have been treated as parts of ammunition, and possession of such cartridges—even empty cartridge case is an ammunition—is an offence and the man concerned is liable to forfeiture of liberty for a period of three years and, sometimes, even for a period of seven years, as the case may be. That is why I style this law absolutely draconic in its severity. Then again, compare the British Act of 1937 that is Fire Arms Act of 1937 and juxtapose the sections of the British Act with sections 19 and 20 of the Indian Act. The punishment that is imposed on a person for possession of fire-arms without the certificate—in England, the person must have a certificate, but we use the word 'licence' instead of certificate—is up to a maximum sentence of three months or £50 by way of fine. That is one aspect that I want you to examine here.

The second aspect of the law is that the approach in the matter of giving licences in the two respective Acts is totally different. So far as the English Act is concerned, it assumes that a person is entitled to carry and bear fire-arms and the normal rule is that a person is entitled to a certificate and the exceptions are three. If such a person is of unsound mind, if he is a person of intemperate habits and lastly, if he is otherwise unfit to be entrusted with a fire-arm, then the certificate is to be withheld from him; otherwise, he is entitled to that certificate, and every respectable citizen, so long as he does not fall in any one of these three excepted groups, is entitled to have that certificate and to bear fire-arms. I am not at all happy with the Bill of my distinguished colleague, Mr. Patnaik, when he seems to place us in a distinguished class of persons who

automatically should be entitled to the use of arms. The approach, I submit, is incorrect. The ordinary rule should be that so long as a citizen is law-abiding, so long as his record is good in respect of reliability, he should be entitled to carry fire-arms and the exception should be that he is otherwise undesirable for reasons known to the Police or known to the authorities that be. Therefore, I would respectfully invite the close attention of the hon. Home Minister to the various provisions of the Fire-arms Act of 1937 of the United Kingdom. It will be a good model for us to follow, and of course, according to our exigencies and requirements we can select things that we like and eschew that are unnecessary or undesirable, but nonetheless, the British Fire-arms Act, 1937, is a good model on which to base our arms laws.

There is one more request that I should like to make. In the matter of carrying arms, have a law which goes in tune with the law and order in the land, with inculcation of courage, self-reliance and self-confidence. A good deal of dacoities and a good deal of robberies can thereby be avoided. If in every village with a population of 1,000 or 2,000, the headman was required to keep arms by law, that is to say, that it should be the policy of the Government that in every village with a population of 2,000 or more, the headman of the village or somebody, who is respectable and dependable, should be ordered to keep arms and ammunition, and it is a well known fact that in those villages, at least in the Punjab and PEPSU, where it is known that there are two or three guns or two or three licence holders of guns, there are less dacoities, and if there be any, the dacoits are invariably discomfited.

**Dr. Katju:** What about murders by fire-arms by people who possess fire-arms?

**Shri Tek Chand:** Those murders will continue so long as fire-arms continue to be available underground. If you give a licence to 'A' and it transpires that the gun has been misused, you

[Shri Tek Chand]

have got a much greater check as the name of the person is registered, and the calibre of the gun is known. If there is a misuse of the gun—I am prepared to say without fear of contradiction—it is invariably in a large majority of cases where murders are committed by fire-arms, which are not licensed fire-arms, but stolen fire-arms, and which people locally manufacture. I can assure the hon. Home Minister that if he could make an enquiry officially through the Police, and collect the statistics of cases where fire-arms have been used for murder, let us say, in a particular State—call it Punjab or PEPSU—then he will find that a vast majority of the fire-arms are those that have been locally manufactured or that have been stolen, and not licensed fire-arms whose registered numbers are known to the Government.

Shri S. S. More: But the Minister wants to encourage that industry!

Shri Tek Chand: Therefore, it will be desirable if in every village we could have two or three guns. It will help the law and order position. I would go even a step further and say that it should be an imposition or a legal duty for the headman or patwari or any respectable young man that he must keep fire-arms and ammunition and be in readiness in the event of an attack. That will be the best line of defence so far as the local disturbances are concerned. Anyway, it will be a good thing. It may be that the fears entertained by the hon. Home Minister are well-founded or have some basis. In that event, I would respectfully suggest to him that he should select an area—may be a tehsil, a district or two or three districts—and see that in a number of villages arms are provided so that it will have a small private armoury. Let him see by contrast as to whether there are more dacoities in those villages or more dacoities by persons of those villages. In this matter, I suggest that the arms law deserves to be relaxed, deserves to be humanised and deserves to be rationalised. The Arms Act, as it is, is a very sad commentary on the spirit of the

people and on the spirit of those who are called upon to administer the law. All that I wish to say is that you should humanise your sections 19 and 20, because somebody—maybe a servant, a guest, a host—out of curiosity may happen to have a gun or part of a gun and he may be confronted with three years' forfeiture of liberty.

Shri Achuthan (Cranganur): It is rare.

Shri Tek Chand: I do not subscribe to the view that it is rare, but assuming that it is rare, even one man, who is in possession of part of an arm, deserves that he should be treated in a humane manner and the dosage that is usually given by magistrates is simply cruel.

श्री बी० जी० बेंसाण्डे (गुना) : सभापति महोदय, मैं श्री पटनायक के प्रस्ताव का हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ और मेरे समर्थन करने का मुख्य कारण यह है कि सन् १८५७ के पश्चात् इस भारतवर्ष की भूमि पर जो अंग्रेज शासक थे, उन्होंने यह निश्चय किया कि भारत की क्षात्रवृत्ति नष्ट कर दी जाय और इस हेतु उन्होंने लोगों से शस्त्र छीन लिये और शस्त्रों के रखने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया क्योंकि उन्हें यह भय और डर हो गया था कि अगर हिन्दुस्तानियों के हाथ में शस्त्र रहने दिये जायेंगे तो १८५७ की सशस्त्र क्रान्ति के प्रयत्न के पश्चात् भारत फिर अपनी स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्त करने के लिये प्रयत्न करेगा। लेकिन अब तो परिस्थिति बिल्कुल बदल चुकी है और मुझे यह देख कर बड़ा आश्चर्य होता है कि आज करीब सौ वर्ष पश्चात् भारत के शासक अंग्रेजों द्वारा शस्त्रों पर लगाये निर्बन्ध को कायम रखे हुए हैं। कांग्रेस के पुराने प्रस्ताव जब मैं पढ़ता हूँ और जब मैं देशभक्तों के कथन पढ़ता हूँ तो पाता हूँ कि इस देश के लोगों की स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्त करने की प्रबल इच्छा थी और हमारे नेताओं का यह देश की जनता के लिये नारा था कि स्वराज्य



हमारा जन्म सिद्ध अधिकार है और हम इसे लेकर रहेंगे, यह प्रसिद्ध नारा स्वर्गीय लोकमान्य तिलक ने देश को दिया। इसके प्रतिरिक्त श्रीमती एनी बेसेंट ने कलकत्ते के कांग्रेस अधिवेशन के अवसर पर यह घोषणा की थी कि जब तक भारतवर्ष में शस्त्र धारण करने का अधिकार हर एक व्यक्ति को नहीं मिलता है तब तक इस देश के लोग दुनिया के और स्वतन्त्र देशों के बराबर स्वतन्त्रता का अनुभव नहीं कर सकते। आज सौ वर्ष बीत जाने के पश्चात् हम देखते हैं कि शस्त्र निर्बन्ध कानून उसी प्रकार से चल रहा है। मुझे पता नहीं है कि आज के हमारे भारतीय शासकों के दिल में किस प्रकार का भय अथवा चिन्ता है जिसके कारण वह यह प्रतिबन्ध शस्त्रों पर क्रायम रखे हुए हैं। हमारे गृह मंत्री डाक्टर काटजू ने जब श्री टेक चन्द बोल रहे थे जिस भावना का परिचय दिया और हमारे सरदार सहगल जो कि शस्त्र की पूजा करने वाले हैं उनके हृदय में भी एक चिन्ता बैठी हुई है कि हमारे इस संसद् में जो सदस्य बैठे हुए हैं उनको भी हर एक को शस्त्र देना उनकी निगाह में उचित न होगा और मैं इसी कारण चाहता हूँ कि लाइसेंस देना बन्द करना आवश्यक है जब कि हालत यह है कि आप के हृदय में उन चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों के बारे में भी एक संशय और शक है जिनको कि लाखों मतदाता चुन कर यहां पर भेजते हैं और इसका तो यह मतलब हो जाता है कि आप कल आर्म्स के लाइसेंस देते वक्त यह देखेंगे कि अमुक सदस्य मेरी पोलिटिकल पार्टी का नहीं है, यह विरोधी दल का है यह देख कर आप लाइसेंस देंगे तो फिर वह एक बिल्कुल फ्रांस हो जाता है। मैं मानता हूँ कि पटनायक साहब का जो विधेयक है वह बहुत दूर तक नहीं जाता है।

आज यह बड़ा आश्चर्य की बात है कि हम लोगों का जो दुनिया को—सर्वे सुखिनः

सन्तु सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः सर्वे अत्रापि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चित दुःख भाग भवेन्—शान्ति का सन्देश देने वाले हैं वे भारतवासी इस विश्वास के पात्र नहीं हैं आज जब कि भारत स्वाधीन हो चुका है। इंग्लैण्ड का हर एक आदमी पिस्तौल रख सकता है, बन्दूक रख सकता है, लेकिन इतने वर्षों की अहिंसा के अनुभव के पश्चात् भी आप उन पर यह विश्वास नहीं करते और चाहे वह संसद् का सदस्य क्यों न हो शस्त्र नहीं रख सकता। इस अविश्वास और सन्देह की भावना को लेकर आप इस देश पर राज्य कर रहे हैं। मैं तो यह बात मानता हूँ कि इस देश में शस्त्र धारण करने का अधिकार "शुड बी ए रूल एण्ड नाट एन एक्सेप्शन", अलबत्ता शस्त्र न धारण करने का अधिकार "शुड बी एन एक्सेप्शन" होना चाहिये। हर एक को शस्त्र धारण करने की स्वतन्त्रता हो और अधिकार हो, यह उसका जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है। हां कुछ खास अपवादात्मक परिस्थितियों में जब कि आप समझते हैं कि कोई इनसैनिटी से सफ़र कर रहा है या इनटेम्परेट है, ऐसे लोगों को आप शस्त्र धारण करने के अधिकार से अवश्य वंचित कर सकते हैं। लेकिन आपने क्या किया है, आप तो सब लोगों को ही वंचित रखना चाहते हैं और अपवादस्वरूप किसी किसी को जिसको आप देना चाहते हैं उसको आपने शस्त्र रखने का अधिकार दे दिया है। अंग्रेजों के शासन काल में कम से कम जनता जिन को चुन कर भेजती है उनको शस्त्र धारण करने का अधिकार तो था, वह भी अधिकार वर्तमान शासन ने ले लिया है और सरकार के इस प्रतिबन्ध का निषेध श्री पटनायक करना चाहते हैं। श्री पटनायक इस बात को मानने को तैयार होंगे कि यह शस्त्र पर जो प्रतिबन्ध है, इस प्रतिबन्ध को लूज होना चाहिये और शस्त्र प्रतिबन्ध के बारे में आपको धीरे धीरे नीचे आना चाहिये। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें

[श्री बी० जी० देशपांडे]

हिंसा और अहिंसा का विवाद यहां उत्पन्न नहीं होना चाहिए और मैं तो समझता हूँ कि इस देश की सरकार यह मान रही है कि अहिंसा का जो एक बड़ा तत्व चिन्तन है उसे इस देश की सरकार ने भी मान लिया है कि इस देश की सुरक्षा के लिये संगठित हिंसा पर इस देश की सरकार का विश्वास है और मैं अपनी सरकार को इस प्रकार से एक यथार्थवादी और वास्तववादी दृष्टिकोण से इस समस्या को देखने के लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं देखता हूँ कि गरीब बेचारे मजदूर कलकत्ते के अन्दर जब रोटी मांगते हैं तो हमारे डाक्टर काटजू के सिपाही उन पर गोलियाँ चलाते हैं, अपनी समझ से वह उचित बात करते हैं क्योंकि वह कहते हैं कि लोगों की स्वतन्त्रता रहनी चाहिये, और उसको कायम रखने के लिये पुलिस बन्दूक चलाती है। ठीक बात है, गरीब बेचारे शिक्षक खाने को रोटी मांगते हैं और कोई लोग ट्रामों का फेयर कम कराना चाहते हैं, और उन लोगों के खिलाफ भी हमारी सरकार गोलियाँ चलाती है। मैं इसका विरोध नहीं कर रहा हूँ। मेरे कांग्रेस के मित्र मेरे इस कथन पर कुछ अस्वस्थ से प्रतीत हो रहे हैं। काटजू साहब की दलील दलील के लिये मानी जा सकती है कि जब कोई लोग भले ही किसी अच्छे काम के लिये क्यों न हो, लोगों की शान्ति भंग कर रहे हैं, तो उस हालत में हमारी पुलिस उन पर गोली चला सकती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें हिंसा और अहिंसा का वाद विवाद नहीं आना चाहिये और आज हम दुनिया में जो कुछ देख रहे हैं, एटम बम और हाइड्रोजन बम देखने के पश्चात् हम इस नतीजे पर पहुँच गये हैं कि यह जीवन स्वयं एक महान् संघर्ष है और इस संघर्षमय जीवन में जो सबल होता है जिसके शस्त्र ज्यादा प्रभावशाली होते हैं और परिणामशाली होते हैं उसकी विजय होती है। हमने देखा कि घनुष के पश्चात्

तलवार आई, तलवार के पश्चात् बन्दूक आई और बन्दूक के बाद तोप का आविष्कार हुआ और तोप के पश्चात् आप देखते हैं कि आज के युग में एटम बम, हाइड्रोजन बम, नाइट्रोजन बम हमारे सामने आ रहे हैं और इससे यही सिद्ध होता है कि विजय उसी की होती है जिसके शस्त्र अपने बैरी से ज्यादा प्रबल होते हैं और दुनिया में यह देखने के पश्चात् हमारी सरकार का शस्त्र पर फिर विश्वास बैठ रहा है। इसके अलावा मैं जो इस शस्त्र प्रतिबन्ध को ढीला कराना चाहता हूँ और ठीक कराना चाहता हूँ उसका मुख्य कारण यह है कि इस शस्त्र प्रतिबन्ध का ही यह परिणाम होता है कि जो शान्तिप्रिय नागरिक हैं और कानून को मानने वाले हैं उनके संग अन्याय होता है और इसके विरुद्ध वे लोग जो कानून को मान कर चलना नहीं चाहते हैं, जो दुर्गुणी हैं जो आक्रमण करना चाहते हैं, जो डाकू, लुटेरे अथवा हत्यारे हैं उन लोगों को फायदा पहुँचता है और जो शान्तिप्रिय और सद्गुणी नागरिक हैं उनके लिये हम देखते हैं कि यह सब बातें चल रही हैं कि मुझे कोई कह रहा था मुझे पता नहीं वह कहता था कि यह संसद् के पांच सौ सदस्यों को शस्त्र रखने का अधिकार देने से बड़े खतरनाक नतीजे सामने आ सकते हैं, क्योंकि यहां पर कुछ ऐसे दल हो सकते हैं जो उत्पातों में विश्वास करते हैं, क्या आप ऐसे लोगों के हाथ में शस्त्र देना चाहते हैं, लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जो उत्पात करने वाले लोग हैं उनके पास शस्त्र आलरेडी मौजूद नहीं हैं। क्या आप ऐसे लोगों से शस्त्र ले सके हैं? मैं देखता हूँ कि उत्पात करने वालों को शस्त्र बिना लाइसेंस मिल रहे हैं और जो लोग उनसे बचना चाहते हैं उनको आप शस्त्र दे नहीं रहे हैं। हमारे डाक्टर काटजू जो गृह मंत्री हैं मध्यप्रदेश से आते हैं, मैं भी मध्यप्रदेश से आता हूँ और आज वहां बड़ी

अव्यवस्था फैली हुई है और हम देख रहे हैं कि लोगों के जीवन की रक्षा का कार्य हमारी सरकार पूरा नहीं कर पा रही है। मैंने देखा कि मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र ग्वालियर की जो कोलारस तहसील है वहां पुलिस थाने पर डाकू लोग पुलिस को मार कर स्टेनगन ले गये, डाकू लोग हथियारबन्द थे, उनके पास कोई हथियार रखने का लाइसेंस नहीं था। जहां तक डाकुओं का सम्बन्ध है उनके पास स्टेनगन और सब प्रकार की बन्दूकें और हथियार हैं लेकिन उनसे बचाव करने के लिए लोगों को हथियार देने में खतरा अनुभव किया जाता है। डाकुओं के पास तो प्राधुनिक शस्त्रास्त्र हैं, और उनसे बचाव करने के लिए हमारी सरकार सामने नहीं आती है। गुना जिले के लापचोरा गांव का एक भयभीत यहां आया था जिसके ग्रंग पर ७० जख्म थे। मैं उसको डाक्टर काटजू के पास ले गया था। उसके यहां ८०,००० रुपये से ऊपर की चोरी हुई थी। मैं स्वयं लापचोरा गांव में गया और मैंने वहां जाकर देखा कि वहां पर किसी के पास हथियार नहीं है। यह अवस्था हो रही है कि देहातों में लोग नहीं रह सकते और इसका परिणाम यह हो रहा है कि वह गांवों को छोड़कर शहरों में आ रहे हैं। उस जिले में बहुत आतंक हो रहा है। आज जो विधेयक आया है उसके द्वारा हम यह मांग करते हैं कि इस देश के अन्दर अपने संरक्षण के लिए जो चरित्रवान लोग हैं उनके हाथ में शस्त्र हो। आपके इस निर्बंध का परिणाम यही हुआ है कि जो लुटेरे हैं उनको तो शस्त्र लेने के लिए किसी लाइसेंस की आवश्यकता नहीं है पर जो अच्छे लोग हैं वह हथियार नहीं रख पाते हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त एक बात और है। आज अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय परिस्थितियों के कारण हमारे देश में संकट की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो गयी है। इसलिए भी आपको शस्त्र निर्बंध को उदार

करना चाहिए। मैं जानता हूं कि एटम बम और हाइड्रोजन बम के सामने हम बन्दूक और पिस्तौल से लड़ाई नहीं कर सकते। यह समझने के लिए कोई बहुत बुद्धिमत्ता की आवश्यकता नहीं है। लेकिन जैसा कि मैंने पीछे भी कहा देश के अन्दर लड़ाई होने पर एटम बम और हाइड्रोजन बम के होते हुए भी इन शस्त्रों का मूल्य कम होने वाला नहीं है। बन्दूक और पिस्तौल तो क्या, खुलड़ी तक का आखिर तक उपयोग हो सकता है। इन सब चीजों का अपना अपना स्थान है। तो इस दृष्टि से इन शस्त्रों का मूल्य कम होने वाला नहीं है। इसी कारण मैं खास कर कहता हूं कि जो हमारे सीमावर्ती प्रान्त हैं जैसे कि पंजाब और बंगाल वहां के लोगों को बन्दूकें और बाकी शस्त्र देने चाहिए और उनकी शिक्षा देनी चाहिए। इन दृष्टियों से मैं अपने गृह मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह स्वयं खड़े होकर यह बतायें कि यह विधेयक पूरा नहीं है और हम इस विधेयक को ज्यादा लिबरल बना कर इस देश में लायेंगे और शस्त्र निर्बंध को समाप्त करेंगे और अपवादों को छोड़ कर शेष लोगों को शस्त्र धारण करने का अधिकार केवल रजिस्ट्रेशन द्वारा सरकार मान्य करेगी। यही आशा करके मैं इस बिल के तत्त्व को मान्यता देता हूं।

**Shri Raghuramiah (Tenali):** I am in great sympathy with the main principles of the Bill and I fully endorse the spirit which has actuated the Mover and also Shri Tek Chand who spoke a little before.

I consider this Indian Arms Act as the most degrading piece of legislation on our statute book. It is the living monument of our erstwhile servitude and I think it is time that we realise that we are a free people. The Indian Arms Act is based on great mistrust, on great suspicion. Its history goes back to the Indian Mutiny. I believe it was in 1860 or so that the first enactment was put on the statute

[Shri Raghuramaiah]

book. The purpose of it was not to help us to behave well towards each other. The purpose of it was clearly and deliberately to disarm the entire people of this country and make them safe for the British rule. That was the sole objective. It is not as though we are such uncontrolled barbarians as will kill each other the moment arms are given into our hands. There are thousands and thousands of small but dangerous implements which are still capable of being possessed by us and yet we do not kill each other every day. We are a civilised people. We have a sense of responsibility. Whatever be the reasons which actuated the British Government to make this monstrous measure, I would appeal to the Home Minister to see that at least a Committee is appointed to go into the whole question and consider how far amendments are necessary to the Indian Arms Act. As I said, it is a frequent reminder that we were once slaves and that we cannot be trusted to hold arms.

We forget another thing. Not only are we free, we are living in the Hydrogen Bomb age. The ordinary arms we are talking of are nothing but like pen-knives in the age of swords. The latest, the Hydrogen Bomb, can destroy a whole island, a whole country. If in the age of swords, a pen-knife could not be considered dangerous,—in a military sense, I mean—the possession of a small pistol or a gun of a certain calibre today cannot be considered so vitally dangerous to the safety and security of this country. Even today, I am told in Coorg any person can hold a gun without licence. You do not hear every day of dacoities and murders in Coorg. People have been trained to hold arms and restrain themselves. As a matter of fact, it is the deprivation of the general mass of people of these arms that has been responsible for the recent murders, lootings, etc. I know in some of the States, on the Hyderabad border, with one gun illicitly obtained, a man can walk

into a village, threaten the people and hold them to ransom. If there are respectable people in the village holding arms, the very idea that there are some arms available in the village will be the most effective answer to the gangsterdom we oftentimes hear about in those parts of the country.

As I said, we are every day more and more impressed with the necessity and urgency of developing that sense of self-defence among our people. The American aid to Pakistan has created a problem. You have got to reconsider your notions of military strength. You have to prepare the country for self-defence. It is not a question of Pakistan only. Formerly the Government of India—I am speaking of the pre-Independence days—could send a cable to England and get the British Navy and the British Army. Today, we are a free people and we can only depend upon ourselves ultimately. So, a sense of self-defence must be developed and that can only be developed if we get rid of this feeling of being afraid of arms. Think of the Indian history and of the wonderful men and women who were so chivalrous, who were so gallant and who were so martial in their spirit; think now of a whole crowd being afraid at a small pistol. If there is a pistol in a box in a railway compartment, the whole crowd moves out. We are afraid at the very sight of arms, let alone using them. There must be a reformation in the whole psychology of the people. I do not say that we should go back to the age of wilderness when there should be no control at all about the arms. There should, in the interests of society and in the interests of social progress, be a certain restraint on individual licence. But the question is, should license be the general rule or should license be the exception? Should freedom be the order of the day, or should restraint be the order of the day? I suggest with all humility that the time has come when we should consider it the birth-right of every citizen to have arms in his

possession. What arms he should have, what quantity he should have, subject to what regulations he should have them, is a different matter and a matter which we have to very deeply and seriously consider. Certainly, a man should be asked to register whatever arms he has. Certainly, a limit should be put as to the ammunition he should have, and various other restraints of that nature which are in the general interests of the country, which are in the general interests of the society at large should be welcomed. Such sort of control should be there, but, as I said, the rule should be that every one has the right to hold arms and arms of the type we are contemplating are really something like pen-knives, harmless things in the context of the world to-day. Therefore, I would earnestly appeal to the Minister to reconsider the whole aspect, and if he finds it possible to appoint a committee to go into the question, viz., in what respects in the context of our freedom, in the context of the present world affairs, in the context of our own situation, we should amend the Act.

This Bill is a very modest one. I agree with Mr. Tek Chand it is not a question of Members of Parliament or Members of the State Legislatures having arms; it is not a question of Members of the Panchayat Boards having them. It should be the respectability of the person, the reliability of the person to exercise restraint in the use of arms. Therefore, the general criterion should be reliability, a sense of responsibility. Who has got that? We have got to find that out. The Select Committee can go into this, can certainly enlarge this clause and can suggest various other restraining measures which would be necessary. In the event of the Home Minister not finding his way to give us an assurance that this would be looked into by the Government of India, I would for myself feel obliged to support this motion for Select Committee.

श्री केशवबंगार (बंगलौर उत्तर) :  
सभापति महोदय, मुझे हिन्दी भालूम नहीं,

मैं अभी हिन्दी का विद्यार्थी हूँ, इसलिये मेरे इस पहले भाषण में जो गलतियाँ होंगी, उनके लिये मैं आप से क्षमा प्रार्थी हूँ।

मैं वर्तमान प्रस्ताव के प्रेरक महोदय को हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ : यह प्रस्ताव तो हमारी सरकार को ही पेश करना चाहिये था। उसकी तरफ से इस प्रस्ताव के न आने से मुझे शक होता है कि हमारे स्वतन्त्र भारत में यह सरकार देशी है या नहीं है। इस ऐक्ट का जन्म तो एक अद्भुत वातावरण में हुआ था। मैं आप लोगों को आज से १०० वर्ष पीछे ले जाना चाहता हूँ। आप घबराइये नहीं, हम वहाँ से वापस भी आ जायेंगे, उन दिनों में हमारा देश विदेशियों के आधीन था। हमारे देशवासियों ने उन विदेशियों के विरुद्ध आन्दोलन भचाया था। विदेशियों ने इस आन्दोलन को दबाने के लिये इस ऐक्ट को बनाया था। मुझे पता है कि उन विदेशियों के हमारे देश से भागने के बाद रातों रात ही हमारे देश का पुनरुद्धार नहीं हो सका। फिर भी आज हमारी पालिसी 'गो स्लो' की पालिसी है। हर एक विभाग के परिवर्तन में यह 'गो स्लो' पालिसी अच्छी नहीं लगती।

हमारे स्वतन्त्र होने के बाद इस ऐक्ट को अपने स्टेट्यूट बुक में, जैसा कि वह आज है, उसी तरह, स्थान देना बहुत कम की बात है। अब तो यह नहीं होना चाहिये कि इस ऐक्ट को इसी तरह रहने दिया जाय। इसका सुधार होना चाहिये। सिर्फ आप की 'गो स्लो' पालिसी की वजह से यह ठीक नहीं हो पाया है। मेरा अभिप्राय यह है कि या तो इस ऐक्ट को सुधार दिया जाय या फिर इसको स्टेट्यूट बुक से बिल्कुल मिटा दिया जाय। जो एमेन्डमेन्ट्स हमारे मित्रों ने पेश किये हैं उनमें कोई हानि नहीं है।

क्या आप अपने प्रजा के प्रतिनिधियों का विश्वास नहीं करेंगे? Even the

[श्री केशवैयंगर]

British Government trusted its unreal representatives. क्या आप के विचार में वे लोग गैर जिम्मेदार हैं ? क्या आप यह भूल गये हैं कि महात्मा ने हमें धूल से मनुष्य बनाया है, क्या उन्होंने हमें निडर होना नहीं सिखाया ? क्या कांग्रेस के सिवा अन्य पार्टी वालों को बन्दूक देने में आपको डर लगता है ? क्या वे भी हमारी तरह देशभक्त नहीं हैं ? क्या आप कम्युनिस्ट मेम्बर्स से डरते हैं जो कि अहिंसात्मक रहने की घोषणा कर के अपने हथियार छिपा कर रखते हैं ? हमारे देश में उनका जीवन बहुत थोड़े काल का है। The days of the Communists are numbered in our country. अगर आप एक नम्बियार को बन्दूक देते हैं और वे एक केशवैयंगर को गोली मार देते हैं तो इससे क्या बिगड़ता है ? क्या इस प्रस्ताव के एमैंड-मेंट्स छिपी हुई बन्दूकों को और हथियारों को बाहर नहीं निकालेंगे ? फिलहाल हमारे मुल्क की क्या हालत है ? मेरे खयाल से अब हमारे देश के हर एक सिटिजन को एक सोल्जर बनाया जाय, हर एक आदमी, स्त्री, पुरुष, बूढ़ा, जवान, बन्दूक चलाना जाने। There is nothing wrong in having a giant strength, only it should not be used the way a giant uses it. इससे भी अधिक जन प्रतिनिधियों के लिये जरूरी है कि उनके पास बन्दूक हो और वे उसको अच्छी तरह से चलाना भी जान सकें। आम तौर से हम हिन्दुस्तानी जोलिम उठाने में बहुत पीछे पड़े हैं। अपने जीवन के सम्बन्ध में भी हम अभी लकीर के फकीर बने पड़े हैं। मुझे शर्म लगती है कहने में जो कि मैं आपके सामने पेश कर रहा हूँ। यह लोक सभा भारत में सब से ऊँची सभा है। हम लोग इस ऊँची सभा के सदस्य हैं। वर्तमान सरकार तो क्या कोई

भी सरकार हो, पर वह इस लोक सभा के आधीन है। मगर वास्तव में हमारा स्थान क्या है ? सरकारी अफसरों और नौकरों के लिये भी एक राइफल क्लब मौजूद है, उनके उपयोग के लिये सरकार ने ६ बन्दूकें उधार दी हैं। इसी तरह आपके पार्लियामेंट के सदस्यों के लिये भी राइफल क्लब मौजूद है। लेकिन जैसी सरकार आफिसरों के राइफल क्लब के लिये बन्दूक उधार देती है, वैसे आप के क्लब को उधार नहीं दे सकती। आप के क्लब के लिये जब हमारी सरकार की सहायता की हालत यह है, तो आप समझ सकते हैं कि हमारे देश के अन्य गैर सरकारी सदस्यों को क्या सहायता मिल सकेगी।

इस तरह से यह प्रस्ताव बहुत जरूरी है, इसलिये इस प्रस्ताव के सेलेक्ट कमेटी में भेजने के लिये मैं आप से प्रार्थना करता हूँ। बड़ी मुश्किल से मैंने इतना हिन्दी में कहा है। मैं इतना ही चाहता हूँ कि आप इसको सेलेक्ट कमेटी के पास जरूर भेज दें।

आप ने मुझे बोलने का जो अवसर दिया, उसके लिये बहुत धन्यवाद।

**Shri Sadhan Gupta** (Calcutta—South-East): I rise to support the Bill, but not without considerable disappointment. I very heartily share the views generally expressed by hon. Members to the effect that the Bill is very inadequate, and that it should have been much more comprehensive. The hon. Member who has sponsored the Bill has stated that he has aimed this Bill at the reactionary provisions of the Indian Arms Act. But he has apparently failed in his object, because, after all, you cannot aim a Bill at the reactionary provisions of the Arms Act, which exists without blasting it out of the statute-book. The Indian Arms Act, in its whole conception, and in its whole spirit, is an out and out reactionary Act. You cannot turn it into a progressive Act, by simply tinkering

With a few of its provisions. That Arms Act was conceived in a vile spirit by our enslavers, the British imperialists. It was meant to crush not only our resistance, but even our very spirit. It was intended to turn the people in this country into an effeminate race, and therefore, the people were denied the right even to possess arms.

It is this kind of an Act, that we are up against. Many hon. Members on all sides of this House have regretted that this Act has been allowed to continue on the statute-book, even when independence has been won. But I had no such surprise. I only expected it, because the position is not very different today. The British had need of the Act, because they distrusted the people. They could not trust that the people would have arms, and yet their misrule would continue. It is the same case today with our present Government also. They cannot trust the people, and there is no wonder in it. How can they trust the people, when they themselves are out to subvert the people? You cannot rule with Section 144 of the Cr. P. C., the Preventive Detention Act, etc. and yet trust the people with arms. You cannot perpetually let loose repression on the working class, the peasantry, and the middle-class and every poor section of the population, you cannot carry on repression in the interests of a handful of exploiters in the country, and yet keep confidence in an armed people. Even more than that, it is not merely repression which is concerned here, but the Government's regard to democracy is such that they do not hesitate to break the very laws of the country, either the constitutional conventions or the laws themselves.

What has happened in Travancore-Cochin? A Government which had lost the confidence of the Assembly did not resign, though as everyone knows, when the Legislature withdraws its confidence from a Cabinet, that Cabinet is bound to resign. But the Cabinet in Travancore-Cochin did

not resign, even after a vote of no-confidence was passed. That was a breach of the conventions. They took the attitude that if the Legislature did not give them the vote of confidence, then the Legislature was at fault, and not Government. That is not the attitude which you can possess and at the same time confide in the people.

There is an even worse instance in Calcutta. When the people were exercising a right, a fundamental right conferred on them by the Constitution, and they were saying, that if the British tramways did not reduce their fares, they would not go by trams, merely for this propaganda, the people were recklessly thrown into prisons, shot down, lathi-charged, and detained under the Preventive Detention Act. You cannot follow this kind of a policy, and at the same time, give the people the right to hold arms. So, it is not at all a wonder that while the exemption has been taken away, so far as the Members of the Legislature are concerned, the exemption has been given to the former rulers, their sons, and the members of their families, their servants, and so on. It is they that are the friends of our Government; the people are looked upon as their enemies. That is the fundamental and real crux of the matter. That is a thing on which Shri U. C. Patnaik did not talk at all. He only tried to fortify himself with precedents drawn up from British rule, which extend the exemption only to the legislators.

I agree with Shri Vallatharas when he says that the exemptions should not be confined to the legislators alone, but they should extend to the elected members of every elected body, for, in everyone of them, the people have expressed their confidence. I am of the same opinion. I also see that something is better than nothing. The reason why I support the Bill is that, after all, we have here a chance of liberalising to some extent—to however unsatisfactory an extent it may be—the Indian Arms Act. If we cannot have a general exemption, let us at least have the exemption for the legislators. This is not enough, this is



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not at all sufficient, but it is better than what obtains today.

7 P.M.

That is my reason for supporting this Bill. After all, we know that by sending it to a Select Committee and by giving the Home Minister an opportunity to express his opinion, we will not improve matters. We will not carry exemptions very much further. Nor will we improve matters by enabling public opinion to be expressed, because there is no sense in public opinion being expressed. We know that the public opinion that is going to be expressed on this point is what has been expressed on the floor of this House, that the Arms Act must be practically scrapped for all purposes and the right to hold arms must be recognised. That is the opinion we can expect, because we have faith in our country; we have faith in the democratic outlook of the people of the country and there is no reason for supposing that the public opinion that will be expressed on this Bill will be any different. But, Sir, it would mean delay; it would mean delay in liberalising the provisions of the Bill to the extent that we might liberalise through the instrumentality of the present Bill.

Now, Sir, that is why I support this Bill, but I would urge upon the Government to take note of the feelings that have been expressed on all sides of the House. To take note of this feeling and yet make this concession to democracy, let them bring forward a Bill with the utmost expedition to scrap the present Arms Act and to allow freedom to bear arms to every subject only to essential safeguards.

Sir, the Home Minister remarked in the course of the speech of Mr. Tek Chand that murders would be committed. I know that is the stock excuse advanced by everyone who wishes to keep this reactionary provision in the Statute-book. Murders have been committed through fire-arms and, as has been very ably pointed

out by many speakers—I do not hesitate to point it out again even at the risk of repetition—when was murder ever committed by a licenced gun? When was murder ever committed by the possessor of a licenced arm? If anyone wants to commit murder, he can steal a gun, he can secure a gun through devious means: unlicenced guns, guns that cannot be licenced may be secured and murders may be committed. As a matter of fact, it is committed precisely by this means.

Shri S. N. Das (Darbhanga Central): Sir, it is 7 o'clock.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Sir, law and order is often held out as an excuse. Even that is no excuse, as has been pointed out, because after all, a bandit has no difficulty in finding arms for his purpose. On the contrary, the very fact that his victims are unarmed, that his victims are not likely to meet him with armed opposition is more encouragement to banditry. How many gangsters and dacoits would have been discouraged if they knew that out of every window in the village, out of every nook and corner of every village, bullets would shower at him if he tried to carry on his predatory activities there? Now, Sir, that is the protection we are deprived of. So the law and order argument really recoils on its exponents, because it is our unarmed state that is responsible for the present law and order situation in the country, for the activities of dacoits.

Sir, with these few words, I beg to support the Bill. Although, I must repeat, the Bill is very unsatisfactory, yet something must be done, something must be done quickly, and therefore, I support the Bill and oppose motions for circulation and reference to Select Committee.

Dr. Katju: I imagine that the speeches which have been made have appealed to every section of the House. I myself am not surprised at these speeches. As has been observed, the

Arms Act is associated in our minds with foreign rule and we think that it was enacted by those rulers not for the purpose of promoting the welfare and happiness or the security of India from the Indian point of view, but for the purpose of strengthening that foreign rule. It is from that point of view that I am not surprised that the Arms Act is a hateful thing to us, and I am quite willing to subscribe to the doctrine that the whole of this Arms Act, as my hon. friend, Mr. Tek Chand said, requires reconsideration, revision and review. You may enact the same thing if you consider it desirable, but then the stigma which attaches to the Arms Act of 1872 will disappear. What is required really is that keeping in close view our national requirements, the requirements of the situation, on the one side the desirability that every citizen should have an opportunity for defending himself, and on the other, the desirability that peace should not be endangered—keeping everything in view, this Parliament should enact that law so that people may feel that it is something our own which we have enacted. If there are restrictions, then after the fullest consideration we have imposed those restrictions upon ourselves. I venture to suggest by way of example—I am not raising any dispute at this moment—that in the Punjab sometimes you find that a man who has got a rifle shoots! My hon. friend said that 'that may be a stolen rifle or that may be a rifle which may have been manufactured by a sort of illicit process, like illicit liquor'. He is a learned advocate with experience. I have got some experience myself, of course in another way. In the Punjab, we find—Mr. Chairman, you know it—on the border, there is the defence policy, and the defence department, the military people, have distributed some rifles, and I come across case after case where people quarrel and somebody snatches a rifle given to him by whom? By the border police. He is one of the policemen; he just goes and shoots. Finished! We call him trigger-happy. He kills. I am not

saying that he would not have killed if the rifle had not been there. Probably he would have used a kirpan or a sword or a dagger. There are so many instruments for committing violence. But this thing is near at hand and therefore he turns to it.

Now, when I was hearing the speeches, particularly the speech of my hon. friend who spoke in Hindi, I thought that it was really a sort of psychological problem also. We are obsessed with it. We are not prepared at the moment to consider the various provisions of the Act, as it stands,—you may call them—on their merits. They are hateful—many of them. One of my hon. friends said the punishment is awful—seven years; three years. What has a British Judge who had newly come up to the High Court Bench said? He said—this is a case of drunkenness, disorderliness or possession of unlicensed arms. The Act prescribes seven years, five years. It is one of the grievous cases which can be thought of. I think it is a Sessions case. We should consider how severe it was.

I do not want to take the time of the House. Mr. Patnaik is a very dear friend of mine, but he would not misunderstand me if I were to say that the Bill, as it stands, really does not go very far. Take, for instance, this—it sounds very nice—'Give arms to every Member of Parliament, every Member of the Legislature and so on and so forth.' Now, we have been working all this while for a classless society, for a caste-less society. My hon. friend is adding a class of himself. 'I am a Member of Parliament and, therefore, I am entitled to keep arms'. That does not appeal to me. What I want is that in the Bill which may be framed, we should look at it from the Indian citizen's point of view. Every Indian citizen should have an equal right, no matter who he is, whether he is a Member of Parliament, sitting or defeated, or whether he is a Member of the Legislature—whichever he may be—he is entitled to possess arms. You may impose limits that he should have a li-

[Dr. Katju]

cence, that his name should be registered and he must pay a nominal fee etc. But, I do not want any distinction to be drawn on the basis of superiority in wealth, rank or status because he is a Member of a *Gram Panchayat* or he is Member of Parliament or a member of the District Board and that sort of thing. That is one big thing he has got.

The other big thing he has got is how to change the Arms Act rules. There is no sufficient publicity. Now, the publicity that is given is that they are published in the Gazette of India. My hon. friend's opinion of publicity is different. He said that it should be placed on the Table of the House, as if by placing anything on the Table of the House it gets enormous publicity. It all depends upon what the matter is. Then, he says that when the arms had been seized in a certain emergency, then something should be done with that. I venture to say with great respect that we sympathise with the object; we share the views but the way in which he has tried to carry them out is rather perfunctory. My own feeling is that this is a matter of some importance. It should be done thoroughly. The responsibility for law and order—that hated expression—primarily rests upon the State Governments and the proper procedure should be that this Bill should go nominally before the public at large, which means going to the State Governments and eliciting public opinion. I will write to them and say, do not please confine yourself to the provisions of the Bill we are circulating for your opinion, but do please consider the whole matter, the whole of this topic from A to Z. Take into consideration the existing psychological change, the requirements of the day and send your proposals. I am personally most anxious to develop the feeling in the minds of the commonest man that this is his country, its defence is his prerogative, its defence from external aggression—call it whatever you like—whatever the bomb may be—is his

concern, the preservation of the internal security is his concern. I want to create a feeling; the public should feel that the administration of justice is their concern and they are responsible for it. It is the people's *raj* and people should see to it that everyone secures justice. It is from that point of view that I wish to ask the State Governments not to confine themselves to the skeleton of this measure but to look at it from the broadest aspects and then tell me what, in their opinion, should be done. Somebody mentioned the Communists. I look upon the Communists as great patriots and they would accept the same description of me. Sometimes we doubt but that doubt disappears.

Shri Nambiar: The little doubt is there.

Dr. Katju: I am not afraid of the Communists. We are all Indians. The preservation of security and the maintenance of law and order is for all of us. I am not feeling that if I give revolvers to the hon. Members over there or here they would kill me at any time they like. There is no difficulty about that. I therefore say that of the two amendments that have been placed before the House, the first is a better one, namely, circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion because it is a matter of great importance. We will take the other Acts, namely the English and the American Acts, into consideration and then remove the psychological barriers that we have got now. I am sure when the hon. Members hear the factual statement of the requirements of the situation and what the different State Governments have got to say, they will say that this thing should be done or that thing should be done. The arms should be granted freely subject to the granting of licences, a nominal fee should be charged, there should be registration with proper addresses so that whenever there is a difficulty they might be called back and so

on and so forth. It is from that point of view that I respectfully suggest to the House to accept the amendment for circulation of the Bill.

I would like to give a little more time. May I know what is the time suggested?

**Mr. Chairman:** It is 31st July, 1954.

**Dr. Katju:** I would have rather liked it to be a little longer, because the State Governments may have to take some time. If the view of the House is that it should be so. I have no objection. But, if the hon. Mover is willing to make it 31st August, I think, it would be desirable.

**Shri Raghuramiah:** On a point of clarification. May I know whether it would be open to the State Governments, whose opinion is elicited, to give their views on the other sections of the Act also and not merely on the particular section which is sought to be amended?

**Dr. Katju:** I may make it quite clear. I want to make it clear to the State Governments that they would send up their suggestions on the Arms Act as a whole, the whole topic. The whole thing will be examined right from A to Z.

**Mr. Chairman:** On the entire subject and not on this Bill alone.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Home Minister for the great sympathy he has expressed for the proposal to change the provisions of the Arms Act. I was myself submitting from the very beginning that I do not claim my suggestions to be final: I have simply proposed some changes with a view to set the machinery in motion and to see that the urgency of the problem is taken notice of. I have asked, as a first step to restore the old privileges. I am grateful to the House, to all my hon. friends who have spoken and particularly to the hon. Home Minister for the view that they have all taken. But, I would also add that the hon. Home Minister has forgotten to take

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notice of the urgency of taking some steps in the matter, in view of the dynamic situation today and the various happenings all round us. Some change in the Arms Act would have enthused the people and enlisted their co-operation and support for the fuller measure. I should have thought, with all respect to the hon. Home Minister, that a sort of Select Committee with himself as the Chairman or some Committee should be formed by himself in order to change the provisions of the Bill and to give urgent effect to certain changes in the whole of the Arms law. It would have been much better and would have enthused the people throughout the country. Even as it is, I leave it to the House to decide as to what to do. I agree to the proposal of the Home Minister of adding a note that suggestions are invited on the entire Arms Act so that we can make the Act fall in line with those of other countries or even make it more liberal still. It will be very much better.

**Mr. Chairman:** I shall now put the amendment to the vote of the House. The amendment runs thus:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1954";

to which another amendment has been proposed by the hon. Home Minister that instead of 31st July, the date may be 31st August. I hope the hon. Member accepts that amendment.

**Shri Vallatharas:** I accept it.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st August, 1954."

*The motion was adopted.*

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** It is already 7-20 p.m.

**Mr. Chairman:** But it was notified that the House will sit upto 7-30 p.m.

I find, however, that there is no quorum.

**Shri Nambiar:** Please ring the bell and we shall have the quorum.

**Pandit K. C. Sharma** (Meerut Distt. —South): By the time people will come, it will be useless to take up the next item today.

**Dr. Katju:** The sense of the House seems to be that it should adjourn.

**Mr. Chairman:** In spite of the anxiety of my friend, Shri Nambiar,

I cannot dispense with quorum.

**Shri Nambiar:** Some Ministers are coming now.

**Mr. Chairman:** But unfortunately there is no quorum yet. In view of the fact that we have waited for such a long time and yet the quorum is not there, I am sorry I have to adjourn the House till 2 p.m. on Monday, the 12th April 1954.

*The House then adjourned till Two of the Clock on Monday, the 12th April, 1954.*

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