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22nd March, 1955 (Tuesday)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

FOUR ANNAS (INLAND)

ONE SHILLING (FOREIGN)

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(Part I—Questions and Answers)

1227

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, the 22nd March, 1955.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Questions. Shri Gidwani. Shri Gidwani is not in his seat, next question.

Shri Gidwani: No. 1295.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should be in his seat.

I am going to the next question, as the hon. Member was not in his seat and he is now mentioning the number from a place other than his usual seat.

उत्तर प्रदेश को सड़क निर्माण के लिये अनुदान

*१२९६. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या परिवहन मंत्री ८ सितम्बर, १९५४ को दिये गये तारान्कित प्रश्न संख्या ६६४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह यत्न की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश के लिये स्वीकार किया गया १२५ लाख रुपयों का अनुदान किन किन सड़कों पर व्यय किया जायेगा ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में मुख्य पुलों को बनाने के लिये लगभग ५० लाख रुपयों का अतिरिक्त अनुदान भी दिया गया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो बनाये जाने वाले पुलों का व्यय क्या है ?

10 LSD—1

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रस्ते तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अलमेशान):

(क) जिन सड़कों पर भारत सरकार का १२५ लाख रुपये का अनुदान व्यय किया जायेगा उसकी एक सूची सभा पटल पर रखी जाती है [इसके परिशिष्ट ७, अनुबन्ध संख्या १५].

(क) कोई अतिरिक्त अनुदान नहीं दिया गया है लेकिन ५० लाख रुपये का एक ऋण विशेष सड़क के पुलों के निर्माण के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को देना प्रस्तावित किया गया है ।

(ग) निर्माण किए जाने वाले पुलों का कार्यक्रम अभी उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने पूरे रूप से तैयार नहीं किया है ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : यह जो विवरण सदन की मेज पर रखा गया है, इससे मालूम होता है कि यह १२५ लाख रुपये उत्तर प्रदेश की २२ सड़कों के लिए दिये गये हैं और इससे यह भी ज्ञात होता है कि जब कि बहुत से जिलों में एक मील भी सड़क नहीं बनेगी, कुछ जिलों के अन्दर बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर सड़कों का जाल बिछाया जा रहा है, क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि किस आधार पर इसका निश्चय किया गया और इस निश्चय करने का दायित्व उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार पर है या केन्द्रीय सरकार पर है ?

Mr. Speaker: A sum of Rs. 125 lakhs has been assigned to the U.P. Government for rural roads.....

Shri Bhakt Darshan: For metal and unmetalled roads.

Mr. Speaker: On whose advice was this amount allocated?

Shri Alagesan: It was purely the State Government that chose these roads.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इसका अर्थ यह है कि यह जो सड़कों का निर्णय किया गया, उनके लिये उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने जो प्राथमिकता सूची जो प्रायरीटी की लिस्ट बनाई, क्या उसके ही आधार पर यह किया गया है या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने भी इसमें परिवर्तन किया है ?

Mr. Speaker: Was it done at the instance of the U.P. Government?

Shri Alagesan: It will be seen from the statement that there are 33 schemes with a total cost of Rs. 250 lakhs.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे केवल एक प्रश्न पूछना है

Mr. Speaker: His question is as to who settled the priority of these roads. Did the Central Government have any hand in it?

Shri Alagesan: We follow the advice of the State Government in these matters.

Shri Bhakt Darshan rose—

COMMITTEE ON NURSING

*1297. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1371 on the 20th December, 1954 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the Committee on the Nursing Profession set up by the Central Council of Health; and

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations?

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

(b) The recommendations are summarised at pages 25-27 of the Report copies of which have been supplied to the Library of the House.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the main recommendations which are accepted and implemented?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The ones that are to be implemented by the States have been sent to the States and it is for them to implement them as early as possible. There is also a request from the Health Ministry for them to implement them as early as possible. The ones that are to be implemented by the Centre are under consideration.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH

*1298. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the steps taken to implement the resolution passed by the Central Council of Health at Rajkot in February, 1954 on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee appointed by Government to advise them on matters concerning the Homoeopathic profession?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): The resolution was forwarded to the State Governments for necessary action in regard to provision of facilities for undergraduate training in Homoeopathy.

As regards postgraduate training in Homoeopathy, the Governments of West Bengal and Bombay have been asked to intimate to the Central Ministry of Health the steps taken or proposed to be taken by them to implement the resolution. The West Bengal Government have submitted a proposal in this connection for the up-grading of the Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, which is under consideration. A reply from the Government of Bombay is awaited.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know the reactions of the other States to whom this resolution has been forwarded?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: We have not received replies from them yet.

पत्तन निरोधा उपाय

*१२६६. श्री कृष्णाचार्य जोशी : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्वारंटाइन सांसर्गिक रोगों को विदेशों से भारत में प्रवेश न होने देने के लिये सरकार ने क्या उपाय किये हैं ; और

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में किन किन देशों से सहायता प्राप्त हुई है ?

स्वास्थ्य उपमंत्री (श्रीमती चन्द्रशेखर) : (क) भारत सरकार ने उन बन्दरगाहों व हवाई अड्डों पर जहाँ से अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय यात्री भारत में सीधे प्रवेश करते हैं, पोर्ट (पत्तन) स्वास्थ्य संस्थाओं की संस्थापना की है। वे संस्थाएँ अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य नियमों (International Sanitary Regulations) में बताये गये स्वास्थ्य उपायों का पालन करती हैं। जैसे स्वास्थ्य परीक्षा, सांसर्गिक रोग से पीड़ित या जिस पर रोग लगने की शंका हो, उसे अलग रखना, हवाई व सामुद्रिक जहाजों की सफाई और पोशाकों व असबाबों को रोग रहित करना।

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार को किसी अन्य देश से मदद नहीं मिलती है।

श्री कृष्णाचार्य जोशी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि क्वारंटाइन बीमारियाँ क्या क्या होती हैं और उनके क्या लक्षण होते हैं ?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus and relapsing fever are quarantinable diseases.

श्री कृष्णाचार्य जोशी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इन बीमारियों को रोकने के लिए कौन कौन सी संस्थाएँ काम कर रही हैं और कहाँ कहाँ पर काम कर रही हैं ?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The major ports in India, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin and Visakhapatnam help clearance. Arrangements are also existing in Kandla and other small ports having direct international traffic.

CONDEMNED ROLLING STOCK

*1300. Shri M. R. Krishna: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of the condemned locomotives, coaches and wagons lying in the yards and sheds of the Railways at present; and

(b) whether any efforts have been made to make the best use of them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagasan): (a) The total approximate value of the Condemned Locomotives, coaches and wagons lying on Indian Railways on 1-2-1955 was Rs. 47 lakhs, Rs. 7 lakhs; and Rs. 58 lakhs respectively.

(b) Yes Sir. All serviceable material is withdrawn for use before disposal.

Shri M. R. Krishna: During the years 1953 and 1954, there were 556 metre gauge and 420 broad gauge locomotives awaiting repairs. May I know how many of them have been condemned?

Shri Alagasan: How am I to answer the question? It is very difficult to answer it. The hon. Member says that there were so many locomotives waiting for repairs and he asks how many of them have been condemned. I cannot answer the question without notice.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister cannot answer it.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I want to know whether the serviceable material which can be found from the condemned stock is utilised in the railways and if so whether the cost of such serviceable material is less than the renewal cost.

Shri Alagasan: Serviceable fittings and other valuable materials are removed from condemned stock for use in the existing stock.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Is it a fact that certain condemned locomotives, coaches, etc., have been lying in sheds for a number of years and, if so, what are the reasons for their lying there?

Shri Alagesan: They are disposed of by auction or by calling for tenders. There might have been some delay in some particular cases, but generally they are disposed of either by auction or by calling for tenders.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether the value quoted for these condemned locomotives, coaches, etc., is the original value or the depreciated value?

Shri Alagesan: It is not the original value; it cannot be. It is only an approximate value of the stores.

CORRUPTION AMONGST POSTAL EMPLOYEES

***1304. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of postal employees prosecuted for misappropriation of Government money during 1954;

(b) the amount so misappropriated; and

(c) the amount recovered through fines or refunded voluntarily?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 395.

(b) Rs. 3,80,950 (approximate) (Rupees three lacs eighty thousand and nine hundred and fifty).

(c) Rs. 40,536 (approximate) (Rupees forty thousand five hundred and thirty six).

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the number of cases dealt with departmentally and the amount of money involved in them?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The number of cases in which departmental enquiries were made in the year 1954 was 656. Punishments were awarded by the

Department in 136 cases and by the court in 73 cases.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it left purely to the discretion of the officer to deal with the cases, or, are there any rules governing the procedure as to how a line has to be drawn between the cases that are to be dealt with departmentally and the cases that are to be prosecuted?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Each case has to be judged and examined on its own merits. In case there is *prima facie* any culpable liability on the part of the official concerned, he will be prosecuted in a court of law. Otherwise, if it is a case of mere negligence or over sight or something like that, he would be dealt with departmentally for it.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are there any rules, or is it only left to the officer concerned, to decide whether there is culpability and whether, on merits, the case should be handed over to the police or be dealt with departmentally?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It will be the nature of the case that will guide the action and not the rules.

श्री भक्त वर्दान : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जिन २६५ कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध मुकदमे चलाये गये उन में से एकस्ट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल एम्प्लायी कितने थे और इस कारण क्या एकस्ट्रा डिपार्टमेंट प्रणाली में संशोधन करने का विचार किया जा रहा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : एकस्ट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल एम्प्लायी कितने थे इस के आंकड़ें तो मैं नहीं दूँ सकूँगा बिना नोटिस के, किन्तु यह निश्चित बात है कि एकस्ट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल एम्प्लायीज की संख्या अधिक है ।

श्री राज बहादुर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि कम से कम रकम क्या थी और ज्यादा से ज्यादा रकम क्या थी जिस के लिये प्रासिक्यशन किया गया ?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं किसी एक कंस की बात तो नहीं बता सकूंगा, लेकिन जो मजमूदा रूप से सारी रकम थी वह यह है। सन् १९५२-५४ में जिस रकम का अनुमान है वह ६,०२,४२५ रु० है जिस में से ७६,०६४ रु० वसूल हो गया, १४७६ रु० खारिज हो गया और ५,२७, ६८५ रु० एंजस्ट नहीं हो सका।

CORRUPTION AMONGST RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*1306. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 795 on the 15th December, 1954 and state:

(a) the decisions arrived at on the Enquiry Committee's Report which investigated the case of misappropriation of 13 lakh rupees by four Gazetted Officers of the ex-Saurashtra Railway;

(b) whether these Officers are allowed subsistence allowance during the period of suspension; and

(c) if so, the amount paid to them per month?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A decision in this matter will have to await completion of the prescribed procedure for disciplinary action which has already been initiated.

(b) Yes;

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 16].

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if it is a fact that the charge-sheets have been served on those officials and if so, when were they served, and whether any time-limit has been prescribed for their sending their replies?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the exact date on which the charge-sheets were served. Show-cause notices have been issued to them, for which they will have to submit their explanation and then again they will have to be asked about the punishment. Again,

show-cause notices asking why such and such punishment should not be inflicted on them, will have to be issued. All these processes have to be gone through.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: From the statement I find that the officer shown against item (a) is paid a subsistence allowance of Rs. 750/- p.m. Could I know the designation of this officer?

Shri Alagesan: As the hon. Member will see, the subsistence allowance has been reduced from Rs. 750/- p.m. to Rs. 562-8-0 p.m. from 14-5-1953. He was the General Manager of the ex-Saurashtra Railway.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether this subsistence allowance which is paid to them is the same as for the subordinates?

Shri Alagesan: It is being given under the rules. I do not have the relevant rules before me.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether, as a result of these cases, any steps are taken to check up the accounts and if so, the nature of such check-up?

Shri Alagesan: That is the financial side of the work of the Railway Administration. We will try to plug all the loopholes.

CANCER

*1307. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the facilities that Government are in a position to provide to cancer patients in the various Government hospitals?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shri-mati Chandrasekhar): Facilities for operative treatment and with (a) radium and (b) deep X-ray are available at most of the larger Government hospitals in the country.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know if the Government have any idea about the total number of cancer patients in India?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No survey has yet been made and so I am not able to give any information about it.

Shrimati A. Kale: What facilities are there for patients coming from the rural areas to larger cities for cancer operations?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There are hospitals owned by Government as well as private institutions or non-government hospitals in the cities which give treatment for cancer.

Shrimati A. Kale: My question was: what facilities are given to those coming from rural areas?

Mr. Speaker: There are hospitals. What other facilities can be offered?

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know whether Government are aware that the facilities afforded for cancer patients are hopelessly inadequate, that there are a large number of cancer cases, and that in the whole of Andhra there is only one hospital where some sort of treatment is given?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Government are aware of the inadequacy of facilities for the treatment of cancer patients and we are trying to fill this inadequacy as quickly as possible.

RAILWAYS EMPLOYEES .

***1309. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Railway employees who had first opted for Pakistan and had served in that country for sometime and have since been taken on the Indian Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The number is about 2,000.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the employees who first opted for Pakistan and who are now being re-employed on the Indian Railways are enjoying the same

conditions which they enjoyed before and whether their seniority has not been affected?

Shri Alagesan: Those who provisionally opted for Pakistan and who changed afterwards to India have been reinstated in the service.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Can the hon. Deputy Minister give the maximum amount of the period for which any of these 2,000 employees worked on the Pakistan Railways, before they were re-employed here?

Shri Alagesan: I think it was a period of six months. The last date before which they had been asked to express their final choice was 15-2-1948.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether all the employees who sought re-employment on the Indian Railways have been given chance to serve here?

Shri Alagesan: Not all of them.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Has any one of them been removed from the Indian Railways after re-employment?

Shri Alagesan: I want notice.

Shri Keshavaiengar: May we know the main reasons why they sought this change?

Shri Alagesan: Evidently they found that conditions there were not as rosy as they once expected.

CATERING IN TRAINS

***1313. Chaudhri Muhammed Shafie:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any memorandum has been received by Government from Caterers running dining-cars in India during the year 1954;

(b) the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the improvements proposed to be effected in dining-cars during the next year?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In future there will be only two types of dining cars—one designated as "Restaurant Cars" and catering in the Western style, and the other "Dining Cars" catering mainly in the Indian style. These cars will have improved standard of accommodation for service and for cooking, stores and staff. Apart from the new Cars to be constructed, existing Cars will also be re-equipped so as to conform to these better standards.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: We were told sometime back that these Dining Cars and Restaurant Cars would be provided with refrigerators. May I know if any of these cars have since been equipped with refrigerators?

Shri Alagesan: I think there are refrigerators in many of these cars. I cannot give the actual number.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know how often these catering establishments—either the cars or those in the stations—are inspected by the health staff of the Railway?

Shri Alagesan: They are inspected quite often. I cannot give the period.

Shri Keshavalengar: May I know if the Government are aware of the great inconvenience caused to the public on account of the location of these Dining Cars and Restaurant Cars at the far end of the train?

Shri Alagesan: That was also one of the difficulties that were expressed by the caterers some time back. But, there are difficulties in having it in the middle of the train and if it is possible, we would also like to have it in the middle of the train.

NOTICES IN TRAINS

***1314. Shri Keshavalengar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in almost all trains and particularly in the Grand Trunk Express old, out-of-date and irrelevant notices are being exhibited in the bath rooms and the bogies of the higher class compartments?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): None of the notices are irrelevant. Some of the notices may, however, be old. A few notices on some railways may also be described as out of date in as much as they retain pre-regrouping features.

Shri Keshavalengar: May we have an assurance from the hon. Minister that the railways would become up-to-date in this matter as well as allied matters?

Shri Alagesan: We are trying to introduce a uniform practice in this respect. We have circulated these notices. I have got copies of them and if the hon. Member likes to have them I can hand over these things to him.

DIVISIONAL SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS

***1318. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Railways in which the Divisional System is in operation at present, and the names of the Railways on which it is proposed to be introduced in the future;

(b) whether the Divisional System has been advantageous and facilitates Administration; and

(c) if so, by what time it is likely to be introduced on other Railways also?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (c). A complete Divisional system obtains on the Northern Railway

and on the ex-East Indian and ex-Bengal-Assam portions of the Eastern Railway, and a partial Divisional system on the Central Railway. No decision has yet been taken about the extension of the system to other Railways.

(b) The Divisional system has its advantages but is not necessarily the best in all circumstances.

FOREIGN AIR MAIL

***1319. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the foreign mails are carried by the Indian airlines;

(b) if not, which foreign companies carry mail by sea, train and air;

(c) whether Government have entered into a contract with such foreign companies; and

(d) whether the charges for carrying mails by air, sea and rail are paid by weight?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) A list showing the names of foreign steamer and air companies utilised for conveyance of mails from India is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 17].

(c) There are no contracts except with the British India Steam Navigation Company.

(d) In respect of sea mails the basis of payment when there is no contract is on weight and volume of mails and the distance over which carried. In the case of contract steamer services, the contractual amount is however, paid.

In respect of airmails, conveyed by foreign air companies the postal administrations of the countries to which the air companies belong claim

the conveyance charges at the rates approved by the Universal Postal Union which are based on weight of mails, the category of mails and the distance over which the mails are conveyed.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: From the statement I find that there are as many as seven foreign companies utilised for the conveyance of airmails from Indian airports. May I know what percentage of the mails are being taken by the foreign companies and what percentage by Indian airlines?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is difficult to give the exact percentage. It depends on the availability of air services. As is well known, our air services as well as shipping services have not yet developed fully. Therefore, our only objective is to provide as frequent despatches of mails from our country to foreign countries as possible.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Do these foreign companies carry mails from our country to such countries also where our airlines have got a flight daily?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They carry such mails when our flights do not go.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I want to know whether there are instances where these foreign companies are allowed to take mails to countries where our airlines also go?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In case our services are going on a particular day when our mails are to go, then our services will take the mails and not the foreign companies unless there is overflow of mails.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if there is any such contract with foreign countries whose mails our airlines carry to other countries?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have indicated in my answer that matters regarding conveyance of mails are governed

by conventions adopted by the international body known as the Universal Postal Union.

RAUWOLFIA PLANT

*1321. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the 'Rauwolfia' plant is being exported in large quantities?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): The export of Rauwolfia Serpentina and other species of Rauwolfia has been banned.

Shrimati Jayashri: May I know whether it is a fact that a Swiss firm called Ciba are importing these plants for manufacture of a drug called Serpasil which is used for blood-pressure?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The drug Serpasil is being imported now. But an Indian firm which is also manufacturing the same drug called Serpina has asked us not to allow import of the drug. So, the Ministry of Commerce is examining the two drugs. They have sent these two drugs to the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. When the results are obtained, we may take further steps.

Shrimati Jayashri: May I know whether it is a fact that a series of offensive picture post-cards have been sent out to German doctors by this firm in order to do propaganda against our Indian drug called Serpina.

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): I have just seen a newspaper report to that effect which has been given to me by the hon. Member. We will enquire into it.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: May I know whether Government is aware that the importing countries, namely continental countries and America, have been able to find alternative source of supply of this herb in Brazil?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: We have no information to that effect.

TRAINING CENTRE FOR WOMEN

*1323. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Regional Employment Advisory Committee of West Bengal for the opening of a training centre in West Bengal exclusively for women; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The information obtained was in the official bulletin of the West Bengal Government. Therefore, in what way are we to interpret the answer that nothing has been received here?

Shri Abid Ali: Sir, at a meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 4th February, they decided that a training centre for women may be opened in West Bengal. But this decision was referred to a sub-committee for further study and report to Government. Their report is awaited.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what the sub-committee is and within what time it will be submitting its report?

Shri Abid Ali: This is the sub-committee with regard to the establishment of training centres which is to study the matter in detail. Its report should not take long.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether this training centre which is being looked into is only going to deal with the women who have been working in factories, or whether it will also include women who require employment in the rural areas?

Shri Abid Ali: All.

दिल्ली उपनगरीय रेलगाड़ी

*१२२४. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पश्चिमी पटल नगर, दिल्ली के पास एक रेलवे स्टेशन बनाने की योजना है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह स्टेशन सभी आधुनिक सुविधाओं से पूर्ण होगा ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अलगेशन):

(क) तथा (ख). इस पर विचार किया जा रहा है ।

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह योजना, जिस पर कि विचार किया जा रहा है, कब तक कार्यान्वित हो सकेगी ?

Shri Alagesan: This is a matter for the Northern Railway. There is a proposal to open a flag station at West Patel Nagar on the metre gauge. This will go before the Zonal Consultative Committee after which a decision will be taken.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : सुनाई नहीं दिया क्या कहा गया है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जॉनल कमिटी के पास यह योजना भेजी जाएगी । वहाँ निर्णय होने के बाद इस सवाल का फैसला होगा ।

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if there is any proposal to increase the frequency of the suburban trains; if so, from what date?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know how that arises from this question. I cannot say anything regarding the suburban train frequency or whether there are sufficient trains running now; but there is a proposal to open more stations.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह जो रेलवे स्टेशन बनेगा, इसका

सम्बन्ध विनयनगर से उपनगरीय रेलवे जो चल रही है, उसके साथ होगा ?

Shri Alagesan: This is on the metre gauge. I do not know whether any connection is intended.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know how the Government reconcile this policy of extending greater facilities in cities like Delhi and then withdrawing a line like the Upper India.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question is specific with reference to one station only.

TELEPHONE INSTRUMENT FACTORY

*1325. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone instrument factories in India;

(b) the names of the States where they are located; and

(c) whether the country's requirements are fully met by them?

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

(b) Mysore.

(c) Yes.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know how many people are employed in this factory? Are there any statistics?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Subject to correction, my estimate is about 3500. I will have to check up.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know if such a factory would be considered for establishment in West Bengal at all?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): No. This one factory is enough for the requirements of our country. We are investigating some foreign markets to export some of our products.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether the Government propose to sell the telephones to outside countries and if so, what are the countries that have agreed to purchase these?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is what I have said. We are exploring foreign markets for exporting some of our manufactured goods.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know before exporting our telephones to foreign countries, by what time Government will supply telephone connection at least to subdivisional headquarters like Godda?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: My hon. friend is keen about Godda. Godda is going to have a public call office. It is not shortage of telephone instruments which is holding up our progress in expansion; it is other exchange material which we are not manufacturing in this country at present.

RECRUITMENT ON RAILWAYS

*1326. **Shri Thimmaiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the manner of recruitment of *Khalasies* to the mechanical and Loco Departments of the various Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Direct recruitment of *Khalasies* is made by the local Divisional/District Railway Officers concerned. An advertisement for the information of public is put up on the Notice Boards which are normally hung at the gates of the workshops. Intimation is sent to the linked Employment Exchange whose candidates are considered for employment along with those who apply from the open market and are registered with the Railway Authorities. Such advertisements indicate the vacancies to be filled and the number reserved in favour of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Thimmaiah: Will the Government publish the same in the local papers?

Shri Alagesan: We do not publish vacancies relating to Class IV staff in the papers.

Shri Thimmaiah: Who are the officers that constitute the Committee?

Shri Alagesan: Two officers are appointed by the Chief Mechanical Engineer concerned and they make the selection. The officers are of district or divisional rank.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

*1327. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the earnings of the Southern Railway during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) the amount spent on the restoration of the old lines and on the construction of new lines on the Southern Railway during the above period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 18].

Kumari Annie Mascarene: In view of the fact that the Southern Railway covers a wider area than the rest of the railways, and in view of the difficulties in transporting goods and passenger traffic, has the Government realised that a very small amount has been set apart for construction of new lines?

Shri Alagesan: I do not agree with all the 'ifs' of the hon. Member.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: There are no 'ifs'.

Shri Alagesan: The hon. Member will have noticed that the progress on the new line namely Ernakulam-Quilon is fairly rapid. We will be opening a part of it soon.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: The speed of the construction is not what I am asking. What I want to know

is whether the Government has received any requisition from the State Government concerned to construct more lines for transporting goods and passenger traffic?

Shri Alagesan: As regards the construction of new lines, we have invited the attention of all State Governments and many of the State Governments have forwarded their recommendations.

श्री पी० आर० राव : क्या हैदराबाद स्टेट से कोई प्रोजेक्ट पेश हुआ है ?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have any information relating to that particular proposal.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: absent. Next question.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: He is not here. I was informed by the office that my name will be bracketed in this question. Unfortunately, I do not find it here. I have received communication from the Lok Sabha Secretariat.....

Mr. Speaker: Why bracketed?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Because I had put a similar question.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; his name is not there.

FOREST ADMINISTRATION

***1330. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inspector-General of Forests scrutinises and comments on the working plans of forests of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the total number of such plans dealt with by him during the last two years; and

(c) if, however, the answer to part (a) be in the negative, how Government propose to implement the recommendation of the Planning Commission in this regard as contained in Para 22 of Chapter XXI of the Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Only summaries of prescriptions of major working plans are at present scrutinized by the Inspector General of Forests.

(b) 15.

(c) The question of setting up an agency to assist the Inspector General of Forests in scrutinizing the working plans is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Do the Government contemplate any other means for the purpose of co-ordinating the activities of the State Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The whole field is under consideration for putting up schemes under the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: May I know some of the distinctive features?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the information here. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall answer.

MEDICAL AID TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

***1332. Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry or investigation has been carried out to ascertain the causes of increase of incidence of important diseases including enteric fever among the Railway Staff listed in the year 1953-54 as compared with 1952-53;

(b) if so, what are the findings;

(c) the steps taken to remove the insanitary conditions responsible for most of these diseases; and

(d) the estimated loss in man-days due to enteric fever?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes. The increase during 1953-54 has been mainly due to a general increase in the incidence of

such diseases in the various States through which the Railways run.

(c) A great deal of attention is being paid towards the upkeep of sanitation by re-organising and strengthening of the cadres, and by adopting preventive and prophylactic measures. One Railway has established sanitary councils at important stations which are doing good work in this field.

(d) We do not have data regarding man-days lost due to incidence of enteric fever.

Dr. Rama Rao: The hon. Minister made a general statement that the higher incidence among railway staff is indicative of the higher incidence in the country. I seek your guidance. This is a wrong statement. I can quote from a reply.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is not seeking guidance. He is passing remarks on the answer of the Minister.

Dr. Rama Rao: In such conditions what am I to do? He has made a wrong statement which I can prove to be wrong.

Mr. Speaker: I have many times laid down a procedure that in case an hon. Member finds that a statement made by an hon. Minister in the House is factually wrong, the proper course is not to put a question as to whether it is right or wrong, but to invite my attention to it by a separate communication to me. Then, I shall call upon the Minister to explain. If the statement is accepted by him as a wrong statement, I naturally expect the Minister to come to the House and make a statement correcting that statement. If it is right, of course, he will communicate with the Member as to how the Member is wrong. We do not discuss on the floor of the House the accuracy of facts as stated by the Ministers in this House.

Dr. Rama Rao: Thank you. In view of the higher incidence of enteric fever, has the Government any

plan to make T.A.B. inoculation a regular feature in the railways as it is in the Army?

Shri Alagesan: The preventive measures include inoculation.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The T.A.B. inoculations are given if there is an epidemic. Is it given in the normal course to the railway employees?

Shri Alagesan: I said that these are among the preventive measures.

AIR STRIPS IN KANGRA AND KULU VALLEYS

*1333. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received for the construction of Air Strips at Dhaloon in the Kangra Valley and at Bhuntar or Katrain in Kulu Valley; and

(b) if so, when their survey will be undertaken?

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

(b) Surveys are being carried out of several sites in the Kulu and Kangra Valleys.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know normally the time by which this survey will be completed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is now under examination and it will take some time.

PAY OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*1334. **Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the pay scale of "Havildars" of the Railway Security Service has been reduced from Rs. 35-50 to Rs. 35-40 and their designation changed to 'Naiks';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the affected staff; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). As a result of the re-organisation of the old Watch and Ward organisation, the scales of pay and designations have been standardized. Some persons known as Havildars on the Southern Railway have been redesignated as Naiks without adversely affecting their present emoluments. This step was necessary in order to have uniform scales of pay, designations and duties on all Indian Railways.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

STRIKE IN MANGANESE MINES

***1340. Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of miners employed by Messrs. Bird and Co. in their Thakurahi Mines in Barbil area, District Keonjhar, Orissa killed one local miner in the evening of the 3rd March, 1955;

(b) whether the group officer and the mines manager had taken any part in the riot;

(c) what action the local authorities have taken in tracking down the culprits;

(d) whether it is a fact that five thousand local miners have stopped work as a protest; and

(e) the steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) A local miner was killed as the result of an affray between the local miners and another group of workers.

(b) Information is being collected.

(d) the local miners stopped work on the 4th March as a protest but resumed work on the 5th March, 1955.

(c) and (e). Police investigation is proceeding.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know whether the other group of miners are the Gorakhpuris and during the war a Gorakhpuri recruiting organisation was formed and the mine-owners, Messrs. Bird and Co., are using the Gorakhpuris to terrorise the other labourers?

Shri Abid Ali: This organisation to recruit Gorakhpuris was established during the war period, but there have been several changes since then. According to the decision reached at the Indian Labour Conference which was held early last year, a Committee was appointed in which the Government of Uttar Pradesh also was represented. The workers' representatives and employers' representatives were there. And now the work is going on on the lines of the recommendations which were made by this Committee.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if it is a fact that the Chief Labour Commissioner visited the mines lately and an agreement has been entered into between the management and the union to remove the Gorakhpuris from that area?

Shri Abid Ali: The Chief Labour Commissioner was sent there, but his report is yet awaited.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if he was instructed to enquire into other matters, other grievances of the miners such as bonus, working time, wages, housing etc.?

Shri Abid Ali: Once the Chief Labour Commissioner goes to a particular spot, he attends to pending matters to which he should attend.

Shri K. K. Das: May I know whether the Government have ascertained that the management has any hand in inciting one class of workers

against another in order to prevent any of their just demands being accepted?

Shri Abid Ali: Not at all.

ऊन

*१३४१. श्री भक्त वृद्धन : क्या स्वाध्याय तथा कृषि मंत्री ११ दिसम्बर, १९५२ को दिये गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ५५२ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हिमालय के इलाके में कारमीर से लेकर आसाम तक भेड़ बकरीयों के ऊन की श्रेणी और मात्रा में वृद्धि करने के लिये कोई और कदम उठाये गये हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका व्योरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्री (डा० पी० एस० बंशमुख) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) सभा-पटल पर एक संक्षिप्त विवरण रखा जाता है । [इंस्टीट्यूट परीशिट ७, अनुबन्ध संख्या १६]।

श्री भक्त वृद्धन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय की सम्मति में कितने वर्षों के अन्दर सार्त हिमालय भर की भेड़ों और बकरीयों का सुधार कर लिया जायगा और क्या वह वर्तमान प्रगति से संतुष्ट हैं ?

डा० पी० एस० बंशमुख : मैं संतुष्ट नहीं हूँ और उसमें प्रगति लाने की आवश्यकता है, पर पूरा हिमालय कवर करने के लिए उतना ही लम्बा अर्सा भी लगेगा ।

श्री भक्त वृद्धन : क्या गवर्नमेंट को इस बात की जानकारी है कि आजकल जो मेरीना तथा दूसरी भेड़ों के साथ परीक्षण किये जा रहे हैं उनके बदले तिब्बत से लाई हुई भेड़ें, बकरीयां हिमालय के ऊँचे स्थानों पर अधिक मफल हो सकती हैं और क्या इस बात का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है कि तिब्बत से भी भेड़ें लाई जायें ?

डा० पी० एस० बंशमुख : इस खास बात के बारे में तो मुझे इस वक्त कुछ मालूम नहीं है, मगर जो कुछ भी मनासिब है, वह कार्यवाही हो रही है ।

CATERING ON TRAINS

*1342. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1024 on the 10th December, 1954 and state:

(a) whether Government have since standardised the rates for meals served from Restaurants and Restaurant/Dining or Buffet Cars on the Railways; and

(b) if so, what they are?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that on the Western Railway the charge for a vegetarian meal is Rs. 2-4-0, and whether it is not comparatively high?

Mr. Speaker: He is asking for opinion.

Shri Alagesan: Yes, that is the figure. The hon. Member is correct, but we have asked the Railways to review these prices and submit their proposals.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that the Restaurant Cars and Dining Cars use in the preparation of chappati etc., vegetable oil instead of ghee, and whether Government would ask them to use ghee instead of vanaspati?

Shri Alagesan: They are, I think, at perfect liberty to use vegetable oil as long as there is no objection to vegetable oil as such.

Mr. Speaker: I think the question relates to the higher prices that he referred to. His question is, as I understand it, that the higher price is on the assumption that ghee would

be used instead of vegetable oil. That is how the question is related.

Shri Alagesan: I do not know about that, but these rates have been there for a long time.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the Government aware that the quality of the standard meal in the Eastern and North-Eastern Railways is absolutely abominable and cannot be taken?

INDO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT

*1343. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into any Agreement, under Article 3 of the Treaty of Peace of June, 1952, between India and Japan; and

(b) if so, the main terms of the Agreement?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No. The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know when this agreement is likely to be entered into?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think it will be in the very near future because Australia had an agreement with Japan and, instead of leading to any peaceful solution, it has led to more trouble. So, we will have to go through the matter carefully before we come to an agreement.

RAILWAY CORRUPTION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*1346. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 340 on the 24th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the Railway Corruption Enquiry Committee has since submitted its report; and

(b) if not, when it is likely to be received?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) The Committee expect that their report will be submitted to Government by the end of the present Budget Session.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In addition to their enquiries, will the Government or the Railway Board make available to them some of the reports of the enquiries they have conducted departmentally into certain cases of corruption?

Shri Alagesan: If the Committee asks for any material relevant in this connection, certainly the Railway Board will make available such material to the Committee.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister has said that the report will be available before the end of the Budget session. Am I to understand that the report is in the drafting stage and they have finished visiting all stations?

Shri Alagesan: It may be under various stages, I cannot say, but this is what we have been given to understand by the Committee itself that they will be able to finalise the report by the end of the Budget session.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May we know whether this Report will be published as soon as it is received by the Railway Board or it will be published after examination by the Railway Board?

Shri Alagesan: I think these are all very hypothetical questions.

Mr. Speaker: It is problematical at this stage.

ANTI-T.B. AID TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*1347. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the aid given to the State of Jammu and Kashmir under the Tuberculosis Control Scheme during the year 1953-54; and

(b) the progress made till the end of 1954 in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 20].

(b) In the B.C.G. Vaccination campaign carried out in the State, 985,798 persons were tuberculin tested and 347,228 persons were B.C.G. Vaccinated, up to the end of December, 1954.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: In the statement supplied I have been informed that anti-T.B. publicity material has been supplied to the State. May I know the nature, quantity and cost of the material supplied?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have no information about the cost of the material. For the details I would like a separate question to be put.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: In the statement I have also been informed that technical advice and assistance of the B.C.G. experts have been made available to the State. May I know who paid their travelling allowances, the Centre or the State?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: If at all the expenses were to be paid, it may be the Central Government which paid them. But I am not quite sure about it.

The Minister of Health (Bajkumari Amrit Kaur): All foreign personnel are invariably the care of the Central Government.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: I could not follow the reply.

10 LSD—2

Mr. Speaker: They are paid by the Central Government.

TRANSPORT HANDLING

*1348. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Station Masters of a large number of Stations on the Pandu region of the North-Eastern Railway are entrusted with contracts for the loading and unloading of goods at their respective Stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this system has, in any way, affected the regular transfers of the Station Masters and other Railway staff of that region?

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

(b) This is an old practice which is still being continued. Station Masters, however, hold contracts where the volume of traffic is not considerable and they are able to fulfil the contracts efficiently without detriment to their official work.

(c) No.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the minimum and maximum amounts for which loading and unloading contracts have been given to the station masters at the biggest stations and the smallest stations?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the rates before me. But as I said, the station masters of small stations are asked to handle it. My information is that the schedule of rates sanctioned for these stations are even lower than the rates sanctioned for contractors.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the rate paid per load to the coolies by these station masters who are having contracts at different stations, for loading and unloading purposes?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the rates before me. I said that already.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In reply to part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister stated, no. May I know whether Government will give us the information required by laying on the Table of the House a statement showing the period for which the station masters have been there at the respective stations where they are at present?

Shri Alagesan: I do not think such a wide statement is called for. What I meant to say was that when transfers are made, and one station master goes to another station, he takes over the work. So, because of this practice, transfers are not, where necessary, prevented.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether it is a fact that much of the material which was necessary for the flood control measures for Dibrugarh could not be unloaded due to the fact that there was no labour, and whether that has any connection with this particular type of contract system which is prevalent in these areas?

Shri Alagesan: I am afraid not.

COMPLAINTS

*1349. **Chaudhri Muhammed Shafie:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state—

(a) the number of complaints received from the public against the discourteous treatment of and corrupt practices adopted by the Railway employees during the year 1954;

(b) the number of officers and employees suspended, dismissed or against whom disciplinary action was taken as a result of the above-mentioned charges; and

(c) the number of complaints on which no action was taken?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 4180 and 1896 respectively.

(b) The number of cases in which action has so far been taken is 1765.

(c) All complaints are investigated and appropriate action taken except in cases in which complaints are not established.

PILOTS

*1350. **Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of not recruiting persons addicted to drink as pilots in the Civil Aviation Department; and

(b) if so, their conclusions in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Persons addicted to drink are not recruited as pilots in the Civil Aviation Department or the Air Corporations.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is his reply that casual drinkers are recruited?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have given a straight reply to the hon. Member's question. He wanted to know whether addicts are employed or not. I say, they are not employed.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know whether those who regularly drink are employed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mohiuddin: May I know at how many air-ports alcoholic drinks are licensed to be sold?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For that I would require notice of a separate question.

COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND

*1351. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund upto the 31st March, 1954;

(b) the expenditure incurred therefrom upto the 31st March, 1954; and

(c) the number of quarters constructed for Coal Mine Workers upto the 31st March, 1954, out of that Fund?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Eight crores ninety nine lakhs ninety five thousand four hundred and forty seven rupees.

(b) Four crores sixty four lakhs sixty thousand six hundred and eighty five rupees.

(c) 1. Houses constructed entirely at the cost of the Fund: 2153;

2. Houses constructed under the Subsidised Housing Scheme of the Fund:

(a) Houses sanctioned: 2767,

(b) Houses completed: 1386,

(c) Houses under construction: 191

Shri Gidwani: Are there any arrears yet to be recovered from the miners, and if so, what steps are being taken to recover the same?

Shri Abid Ali: No arrears are to be recovered from miners.

Shri Gidwani: What are the other measures adopted for the welfare of labourers?

Shri Abid Ali: The whole scheme is for the welfare of labour. They attend to hospitalisation, anti-T.B. measures, and leprosy relief; maternity and child welfare centres have been established. There is also grant to collieries for maintaining dispensary services. And there are so many other items that we attend to.

Shri Gidwani: What are the special measures adopted for labourers who fall victims to T.B.?

Shri Abid Ali: As I said earlier, anti-T.B. measures are adopted. While

they work in the coal field also, steps have have been taken both preventive and curative.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know whether this Fund is kept merged with the Consolidated Fund of India, or it is kept as a separate Fund, and interest earned upon it?

Shri Abid Ali: It is a separate fund

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Is any interest earned upon it?

ELECTRIC COACHES

*1353. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any order for new electric coaches has been placed recently;

(b) if so, for how many; and

(c) the names of the firms with which the orders have been placed?

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

(b) 24 Metre Gauge in November, 1952 and 50 Broad Gauge in January 1954.

(c) Messrs. Breda Ferroviaria Sesto, S. Giovanni-Milano of Italy.

AUTOMATISATION OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONE SYSTEM

*1355. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state when the automatization of the Telephone System will be completed in Calcutta?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): By the end of 1957.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know what is delaying the change over to this automatic system that we may not have it before 1957?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is a very big project costing about Rs. 14 crores and more. As is well-known to the hon. Member, the ex-Bengal Telephone Company left the present telephone system in a very bad way; they had not done any replacements and repairs for years, and we had to take over the system in that condition. Therefore, a good deal of planning had to be undertaken because Calcutta is a big city, and it was as late as 1951 that the project for automatisisation was sanctioned. Ever since then, we have been going at almost break-neck speed in trying to execute this job as early as possible.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: Owing to the system being made automatic some people will naturally be thrown out of work. How are they going to be absorbed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as stage I is concerned, I may give the figures. Stage I consisted of the opening of the Central, Jorasanka and Avenue exchanges with a capacity of 4000, 5600 and 4200 lines. In that, only 24 telephone operators were rendered surplus, and all of them have been absorbed in the Calcutta Trunk Exchange.

On the cut-over of stage II, which is going to take place in May, 120 telephone operators will be spare, to our requirements and it is proposed to absorb them in the West Bengal Circle itself, or if it becomes necessary, to transfer them to adjoining areas for absorption.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether the new telephone directory will be prepared and published prior to the automatisisation of the telephones, in view of the fact that almost all the numbers in Calcutta have been changed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We hope that it will be published by the middle of April.

POSTAL CONCESSIONS FOR FRUIT PARCELS

*1357. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Kulu Fruit Growers Association for the grant of concessional rates for fruit parcels; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A representation from the Punjab State Government has been received asking for concessional rates on fruit parcels sent from Kulu Valley.

(b) No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know by what time the decision will be taken?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In due course.

Shri Hem Raj: What will be the duration of that course?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I will not be able to give a definite date. I shall try to expedite the decision.

नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज और पब्लिक काल आफिस

*१३६०. श्री भक्त वर्शन : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सन् १९५४-५५ के बजट प्राक्कलन में नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज तथा पब्लिक काल आफिस के लिये निश्चित गरीश का अब तक विभिन्न सर्कलों में किस तरह बंटवारा किया गया है ?

संचार उपमंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर): एक विवरण लोक-सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है। [विलेज परीशियट ७, अनुसूच संख्या २१]

श्री भक्त वर्शन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि विभिन्न सर्कलों में जो बंटवारा किया जाता है उस के लिये उन से मांगें ली जाती

हैं या हैंडक्वार्टर्स में ही बैठ कर उस का फैसला कर लिया जाता है और उस के आधार पर बटवारा किया जाता है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : इस की एक निश्चित योजना है कि हम को कहां एक्स्पेन्स खोलना है और कहां पब्लिक काल ऑफिस । जिलों के मुख्य स्थानों पर एक्स्पेन्स और उपजिलों के मुख्य स्थानों पर पब्लिक काल ऑफिस खोले जायेंगे । ऐसा हमारा प्रोग्राम है ।

श्री भक्त वर्धन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस वर्ष जिन सर्कलों को बहुत कम रुपया मिला है उन को क्या अगले वर्ष अधिक रुपया देने का विचार किया जा रहा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : अगर आवश्यकता हुई तो अवश्य मिलेगा ।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STRIKE THREAT BY AIRLINE WORKERS

*1295. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to the dispute between the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Air Corporation Employees' Union over the wage structure and service conditions, there is likelihood of a strike by the Airlines Workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Corporation is enforcing the new pay scales and service conditions contrary to the understanding given to the Union by its Chairman last month; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to bring about a settlement of the dispute?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

चीनी के कारखाने

*1302. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या साधु तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि चालू मौसम में गन्ना न मिलने के कारण अभी तक कितनी चीनी की मिलें काम नहीं कर सकीं ?

कृषि मंत्री (डा० पी० एच० इंदरमुक्त): छः

CALCUTTA PORT

*1302. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent annually since 1947 for dredging the silt deposit in the bed of the river Hooghly to keep the navigational channel open for sea-going vessels from and to Calcutta;

(b) whether this question was discussed at a symposium held recently under the auspices of the Science Club, Calcutta;

(c) if so, who were the participants in the symposium; and

(d) the nature of the suggestions put forward there?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 22].

(b) to (d). A paper on navigational facilities on the river Hooghly was read at the symposium by Shri S. P. Sarathy, an Assistant River Surveyor of the Calcutta Port. The suggestions made in that paper related to the construction of river training works and improvement in the headwater supply.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

*1303. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of foodgrains imported so far on private account since the removal of restrictions on import and export of cereals; and

(b) the names of the cereals handled by the traders?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The quantity and value of foodgrains imported on private account since the import restrictions were removed, upto 31st December, 1954 were as follows:—

	Quantity imported (tons)	Value in '000 Rupees
Rice	9,590	5,816
Wheat	72,588	26,257
Maize	13,197	4,126
Jowar and Bajra	3:4	126

(b) Rice, wheat, maize, jowar and Bajra.

ASSISTANCE FROM FORD FOUNDATION

*1305. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance, technical as well as financial, which is likely to be received from the Ford Foundation for the development of Dairy and other Industries;

(b) whether Government have formulated any co-ordinated scheme in this connection; and

(c) if so, its main features?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) None.

(b) There is no co-ordinated scheme for obtaining assistance from the Ford Foundation in respect of Dairying and other allied industries.

(c) Does not arise.

MEDICAL STUDENTS IN U.K.

*1308. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of medical students who are receiving specialised training in advanced surgery and other medical sciences in the U.K.?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): 586 medical students are reported to be under training in the United Kingdom.

EMPLOYMENT OF GANGMEN

*1310. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to employ some additional permanent-way gangs during the monsoons to guard against Railway accidents; and

(b) If so, the main outline of the proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No new proposals are under consideration as the existing procedure already provides for patrolling of the line during the monsoon wherever necessary.

(b) Does not arise.

NEW RAILWAY LINES

*1311. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to a supplementary on Starred Question No. 1877 on the 19th April, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the survey of the Garo Hill site for the purpose of constructing a Railway line there has since been completed; and

(b) if so, what will be the rail head from where the work will start?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*1312. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of surplus staff of Pandu region on the North Eastern Railway that has been absorbed and that still remains to be absorbed; and

(b) by what time Government expect that the staff will be completely absorbed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Out of about 660 staff of the ex-Assam Railway rendered surplus at Pandu, on the integration of the ex-Assam Railway into the North Eastern Railway Zone, 400 have been absorbed in the expanded cadres of the North Eastern Railway offices in Calcutta and the balance have been absorbed elsewhere.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*1315. **Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees dismissed from Railway service during 1952-54 on account of their taking part in cultural activities;

(b) whether any Railway employee has been removed from service during the years 1952-54 for actively helping any political organisation; and

(c) if so, how many?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Four.

TRANSPORT STUDY GROUP

*1316. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1087 on the 17th September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the Study Group (Transport Planning) has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations;

(c) which of them have been accepted and implemented so far; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on this Study Group?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) Rs. 59,800.

CATERING ON RAILWAYS

*1317. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to follow the policy of not granting a large number of catering contracts to one contractor; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to implement this policy?

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

(b) This policy will be followed while granting or renewing contracts in future.

SUGAR FACTORY AT CHITTOOR

*1320. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to establish a sugar factory at Chittoor;

(b) whether any representation for the establishment of a factory has been

received from the people of that area; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra had intimated sometime back that they were contemplating to start a new sugar factory on co-operative basis at Chittoor, but no application for licence has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

LABOUR BUREAU, SIMLA

***1322. Dr. Satyawadi:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Class I posts reserved in the Labour Bureau, Simla, for war-service candidates;

(b) whether those posts were filled up by the war-service candidates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

***1328. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report of the committee for the equating of ex-State Railway employees has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, its main recommendations; and

(c) when it is expected to be published?

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

(b) and (c). The recommendations are not intended to be made public.

MOKAMAH BRIDGE

***1329. Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 480 on the 29th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the work on the Railcum-Road bridge project at Mokamah-ghat over Ganga is now proceeding satisfactorily; and

(b) the amount spent up to the 28th February, 1955 on the construction of this bridge?

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

(b) Approximately Rs. 198 lakhs have been spent upto 31st January, 1955. Figures up to February 1955 are not available at present.

ANTI-LOCUST SQUADS

***1331. Shri J. R. Mehta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of the anti-locust squads operating at present in Rajasthan; and

(b) the strength of the squads located permanently within 20 or 30 miles of the Pakistan-Rajasthan border?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Seventy four mobile outposts are functioning. Actual operations, however, will be undertaken if and when the locust visit this area.

(b) Nineteen.

POSTAL COMPLAINTS AT AGARTALA

*1335. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints registered at the General Post Office Agartala (Tripura) regarding non-delivery and irregular delivery of postal articles etc. during 1954; and

(b) the steps taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 81 (Eighty-one).

(b) Clerical and delivery staff has been increased. It is also proposed to open a separate Sorting Office to relieve the congestion and rush of sorting work at Agartala Post Office.

VENDING CONTRACTS

*1336. **Shri P. Subha Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Railway has called for tenders for selling tea and light refreshments at certain stations fixing the licence fee from Rs. 500 to Rs. 6,000;

(b) if so, the basis on which the licence fee has been fixed and how it is to be utilised; and

(c) whether Government have ensured that the levy of heavy licence fee would not affect the prices of refreshments offered for sale?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Applications, not tenders, were invited by the Eastern Railway, for sale of tea and light refreshments at certain stations on the railway fixing the licence fees from Rs. 500 to Rs. 6,000 per annum according to the importance of the station.

(b) The licence fee is fixed taking into consideration the local conditions and other relevant factors including the volume of business. It is credited to general revenues and is not earmarked to be utilised for any specific purpose.

(c) The fees are not heavy and they are not such as to affect the prices of refreshments offered for sale.

IMPORT OF FERTILIZERS

*1337. **Shri Gadilingana Gowd:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fertilisers imported from abroad during 1954-55;

(b) the countries from which the fertilisers were imported and their cost; and

(c) how their cost compares with the fertilisers produced at the Sindri Factory?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 94,000 tons.

(b) and (c). A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 23.]

आदिवासियों का मुफ्त वितरण

*१३३८. **श्री अमर सिंह डामर :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आदिवासियों में पेटेंट दवाइयाँ बांटने के लिये कोई धन राशि रखी गई है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस प्रयोजन के लिये कितनी राशि रखी गई है और उसका उपयोग कब होगा ; और

(ग) मध्य भारत के आदिवासियों के लिये कितना अभ्यंश निश्चित किया गया है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (राजकुमारी अमृत कौर): (क) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने आदिवासियों में पेटेंट दवाइयों को बिना दाम लिए बांटने के लिए अलग अलाटमेंट नहीं किया है ।

(ख) तथा (ग): ये प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

TRANSPORT FACILITIES

*1339. **Shri Bimalaprasad Chuliha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any difficulty has been experienced recently in the movement of fertilizers from Sindri Fertilizer Factory to Assam Tea Gardens on account of inadequate Railway transport facilities?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): It has not been feasible to meet fully the requirements of the Assam Tea Gardens for the transport of fertilizers from Sindri mainly due to the limited capacity of the riverine transshipment points and that of the Assam Rail Link route due to the extensive damages caused by floods and consequent restrictions on movement coupled with heavy departmental traffic for rehabilitation.

कछुओं का बुक किया जाना

*१३४४. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५४ में कितने कछुवे गोरखपुर, फैजाबाद, बनारस डिपोजिटों के स्टेशनों से बुक किये गये ।

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि, भेजते समय कछुओं के पैर और मुँह सूओं से छेद कर नाथ दिये जाते हैं : और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि वे धूप में प्लेटफार्मों पर रख दिये जाते हैं और बिना पानी के तड़फते हैं ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री जलराशन):
(क) लगभग १५,००० ।

(ख) उनके मुँह और पैर नहीं नाथे जाते लेकिन कभी कभी पैर बांध दिये जाते हैं ।

(ग) प्रायः उन्हें प्लेटफार्मों पर छायादार जगहों में रखा जाता है । ऐसा कोई उदाहरण नहीं मिला है कि उन्हें पानी के बिना तकलीफ हुई हो ।

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS EXHIBITIONS

*1345. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many Arts and Crafts Exhibitions were held during 1954-55, so far by the various Postal Circles;

(b) whether any new exhibits have been added over and above those exhibited in the last International Posts and Telegraphs Exhibition held in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the expenditure has been incurred from the amenities and recreational funds?

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

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

ZOOLOGICAL cum BOTANICAL PARK

*1352. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 728 on the 10th March, 1955 and state whether there is any proposal to obtain the services of a foreign expert for the layout of the Botanical and Zoological Garden near Purana Qila in New Delhi?

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

NEW RAILWAY LINE

*1354. **Dr. Satyawadi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions for extending the Railway line from Jagadhri to Paunta area in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

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

(b) The proposal has been noted for consideration while selecting new lines for construction during the Second Five Year Plan Period.

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES

*1356. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to un-

starred question No. 60 on the 16th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run diesel locomotives on certain sections of the Indian Railways besides the Kalka-Simla line; and

(b) if so, whether any order for import of additional engines has been placed with any foreign firms?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*1358. **Shri J. R. Mehta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts of Assistant Engineers (Civil), permanent and temporary, in Class I and Class II respectively, on the Indian Railways; and

(b) how many of the incumbents of these posts hold requisite degrees, as are recognised for the I.R.S.E.?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 24].

(b) 171.

बिहार में खाद्यान्न की कमी

*१२५६. **श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्ष की बाढ़ और सूखा के कारण उत्तर बिहार तथा खास कर दरभंगा जिला और सीतामढ़ी सब-डिवीजन में धान और रबी की फसल मारी गई है और उन क्षेत्रों में खाद्यान्न की कमी हो गई है ;

(ख) क्या यह बात भी सच है कि उन क्षेत्रों के सरकारी गोदामों में स्टॉक पहले से ही समाप्त हो गया है तथा भीतर के क्षेत्र में

खाद्यान्न की कमी के कारण उन के भाव बढ़ गये हैं , और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस विषय में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है या करने को सोच रही है ?

कृषि मंत्री (डा० पी० एस० वृंक्षमूल): (क) १९५४ के जुलाई अगस्त मासों में बाढ़ के कारण उत्तर बिहार में चावल की फसल में कुछ नुकसान हुआ था लेकिन पिछले वर्ष से इस वर्ष रबी की फसल अच्छी होने की आशा है। हाल ही के हफ्तों में सरकारी दुकानों की चावल की मांग कुछ बढ़ गई है।

(ख) तथा (ग). जी नहीं। राज्य सरकार के पास चावल का भंडार कम नहीं है तथा मोखमह के केंद्रीय सरकार के गोदामों से उत्तर बिहार को कुछ और चावल भेजने का प्रबन्ध किया जा रहा है। खाद्यान्न के बाजार भावों में कोई चिन्ता जनक बढ़ातरी नहीं हुई है।

दिल्ली और पंजाब में रीढ़ियों टेलीफोन

सम्बन्ध

*१२६९. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली पंजाब के बीच रीढ़ियों टेलीफोन संबंध स्थापित करने में कितना व्यय हुआ है, और

(ख) क्या यह व्यवस्था वित्तीय दृष्टि से सफल सिद्ध हुई है ?

संचार उपमंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर): (क) क्योंकि यह सेवा वर्तमान कर्मचारियों और यंत्रसज्जा द्वारा ही चलाई जा रही है इसलिये इस सेवा के लिये कोई अतिरिक्त व्यय नहीं हुआ।

(ख) यह सेवा केवल २-३-१९५४ से ही प्रारम्भ हुई है और इस के सम्बन्ध में अभी कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता।

RAILWAY TRIBUNAL

*1362. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 309 on the 24th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has since furnished its comments on the Memorandum submitted by the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen which was forwarded to them by the Sankar Saran Tribunal; and

(b) when the Tribunal is likely to finalise its recommendations?

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

(b) It is not possible to state this at present.

ANTI-MALARIA AID TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*1363. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the aid given to the State of Jammu and Kashmir in 1953 and 1954 by the National Malaria Control Committee; and

(b) the progress made in the State till the end of 1954 in this matter?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir State decided to participate in the Scheme in 1954-55. The aid given so far amounts to Rs. 2,03,941 in the form of insecticides and equipment.

(b) Some preliminary survey work has been done.

THEFT OF MAIL

*1364. **Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafie:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of thefts of mail in transit during the year 1954 and the loss suffered as a result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (i) Number of cases—106.

(ii) Loss involved—Rs. 67,094 (approximately) (gross amount).

RESCUE PERSONNEL IN COAL MINES

*1365. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total strength of the Government Rescue Personnel stationed at Rescue Stations in Jharia and Sitarampur Coal-fields?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Jharia. — 9

Sitarampur 15

Total: — 24

TOURIST ASSOCIATION, DHARAMSALA

*1366. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Tourist Association, Dharamsala (Punjab) for recognition and financial aid; and

(b) if so, the grant asked for and the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

FENCING OF RAILWAY TRACK

*377. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the railway line from Bikaner to Lallgarh Junction (Bikaner Division) passes through a residential locality and that there is no fencing of any sort provided on either side of this line with the result that there is always a great danger of serious accidents happening there; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken to fence the area?

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

(b) Provision of fencing on both sides of railway line in this residential locality has been programmed for 1955-56.

COMPLAINT FROM RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

378. Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been received recently from the Kharagpur Railway employees who sat for the S.A.S. examination;

(b) if so, the nature of the complaint; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Representations from two employees of Kharagpur Accounts Office had been received in 1954.

(b) The complaint was that the answer papers had not been properly assessed due to possible errors in the totalling or the tabulation of marks or omission to allot marks to a particular question.

(c) The complaint was found to be without substance and the representations were rejected.

हाक तथा तार विभाग के विनिर्माण

३७६. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या संस्कार मंत्री एक विवरण सभा की टबल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे जिसमें निम्नलिखित बातें दिखाई गई हों :-

(क) हाक तथा तार विभाग की निम्नलिखित मद्दों में से प्रत्येक मद पर अलग अलग (ब्योरा सहित) कितनी कितनी लागत लगी है :-

- (१) भूमि और भवन,
- (२) मशीन, कल पुर्ज तथा सामान,
- (३) अन्य सामान,

(४) फर्नीचर, फिक्सचर्स तथा अन्य सामग्री,

(ख) इन मदों पर प्रति वर्ष कितने प्रतिशत अवक्षयण काटा जाता है;

(ग) क्या मरम्मत आदि पर जो व्यय होता है वह मूलधन में जोड़ा जाता है, और

(घ) सरकार को १९५२-५३ में रद्दित निधि आदि के लिये धन काटकर इन मदों में लगाई गई पूंजी पर कितने प्रतिशत का लाभ हुआ है ?

संस्कार उपमंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर): (क) २१-२-५४ तक विनियोजित धन इस प्रकार था:-

लाख

(१) भूमि व भवन ११.२५

(२) मशीन, कल पुर्ज तथा साज सामान,

(जैसे यंत्र आदि, महायन्त्र) १७.२५

(३) हाक-तार विभाग में प्रयोग किये गये अन्य प्रतिष्ठापन आदि :-

(क) तार व टेलीफोन लाइनें और तार व रीट्रियो मस्तूल और वायवीय) २७.४६

(ख) हाक-घरों की रेलवे-मेल-सर्विस आड़ियां व मोटर्स १२

(ग) स्टॉक में स्था हुआ स्टोर व और बनायी जा रही वस्तुएं ५.४८

(४) फर्नीचर, फिक्सचर्स तथा अन्य सामान । कुछ भी नहीं,

क्योंकि यह राजस्वर के अन्तर्गत चला जाता है और इस पर मूलधन नहीं लगता ।

(ख) नवीकरण-रद्दित-निधि (Renewal Reserve Fund) जिसने १-४-१९२६ से अवक्षयण-रद्दित-निधि (Depreciation Reserve Fund) का स्थान ले लिया है, में वार्षिक दान का हिसाब प्रतिशत दर से नहीं लगाया जाता बल्कि और दूरदर्शिता में जैसे सम्पत्ति के पुनर्स्थापन के लिये संभावनीय अपेक्षित धन तथा वह मूलधन जो कि हिसाब

में व्यय किया जा चुका है। हाल ही में विभागीय सम्पत्ति की आँसट आयु निर्धारित करने और निधि में दान देने के लिये एक वैज्ञानिक ढंग निकालने के लिये एक इंजीनियर और एक लेखाधिकारी की कमेटी नियुक्त की गई थी। इस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट पर सरकार विचार कर रही है। इस निधि में प्रचलित वर्ष (१९५४-५५) में १,२५००० रुपये का दान दे दिया गया है। अगले वर्ष के लिये १,२५००० रुपये का दान निश्चित किया गया है।

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) १९५२-५३ वर्ष के लिये
२.५ प्रतिशत

JUTE

380. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1866 on the 19th April, 1954 and state:

(a) whether any new uses of jute have since been found by Research Institutes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Work on the woollenisation of Jute for making blankets and wrappers in admixture with natural wool was taken up in the Technological Research Laboratories of the Indian Central Jute Committee last year. Various Indian Mills have already produced samples of cheap wrappers and blankets, made of woollenised jute.

मलैरिया

३८१ { श्री बिभूति मिश्र :
डा० राम सुभग सिंह :

क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री एक विवरण सभा की टबल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगी जिसमें विभिन्न राज्यों में उन स्थानों के नाम दिये हों जहाँ भारत-अमरीका मलैरिया निबन्धन कार्यक्रम, जो दो देशों के बीच दिसम्बर, १९५४ में हस्ताक्षरित करार के अन्तर्गत सोचा गया था, क्रियान्वित करने का विचार है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (राजकुमारी अमृत कौर): एक विवरण-पत्र सभा की मंजूर पर रख दिया गया है। [वित्तिये परिशिष्ट ७, अनुबन्ध संख्या २५].

TELEPHONES

382. Shri Amjad Ali: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is the policy of Government to provide (i) a telephone for every thousand of the country's population and (ii) connect every district and sub-divisional Headquarters in the country with a Public Call Office; and

(b) whether the Ministry expects to reach the target figures by the end of the First Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) (i) The aim of the department is even higher than this but the first Five Year Plan target was one telephone per 1,200 persons.

(ii) Yes.

(b) In respect of (a) (i) one telephone per 1,350 persons.
and

(ii) District Headquarters 99 per cent.

Sub-Divisional Headquarter 66 per cent.

ABSORPTION OF NITROGEN FROM AMMONIUM SULPHATE

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

(a) whether any study has been made on the absorption of ammonia from Ammonium Sulphate by different soils in India;

(b) if so, when and by whom; and

(c) whether it is a fact that when small quantities of Ammonium Sulphate are added to soil, the whole of the Ammoniacal Nitrogen is absorbed?

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

(b) Extensive studies have been made by research workers at the various institutions in the country over a number of years. No particular Research Institute of Scientist can be singled out.

(c) A part of the nitrogen applied is absorbed by plants. In the case of soil almost the whole of the nitrogen is absorbed by it.

PLASMIN

384. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Plasmin (human blood plasma) is being imported from Japan; and

(b) if so, the quantity imported in 1954 and how much Government had to pay therefor?

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

(b) 96 lbs. were imported.

Government did not incur any expenditure, as the imports were made by private parties.

BIRTH CONTROL

385. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint "Pracharaks" to propagate the knowledge of sex education, marriage hygiene and advocating birth control in India, especially in rural areas; and

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the people to this effect?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) No.

CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME

386. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the reasons for not making the Contributory Health Scheme applicable to brothers and sisters of a Central Government employees who are wholly and solely dependent on him?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Dependent brothers and sisters of a Government employee could not be made eligible for the benefits of the Contributory Health Service Scheme without increasing the rates of contribution of Government employees in order to meet the consequent increase in the cost of the Scheme. Such an increase in the contribution was not considered desirable.

CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME

**387. { Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:
Seth Govind Das:**

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on the Contributory Health Scheme since it was started up to the end of February 1955, separately on the staff, medicines and other incidental expenses etc.?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The expenditure incurred is as follows:—

- (i) Expenditure on the staff. Rs. 4,05,338/10-
- (ii) Expenditure on medicines. Rs. 8, 38,000
- (iii) Other incidental expenses etc. Rs. 2,80,000- including equipment.

Total! Rs. 15,23,338/10/-

CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME

388. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doctors (male and female) appointed at present in the Willingdon Hospital and the Lodhi

Road Dispensary under the Contributory Health Scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Willingdon Hospital has not been provided with the latest equipments due to which patients have often been sent from there to the Irwin or the Safdarjung Hospitals for special treatment; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to fully equip the Willingdon Hospital?

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

	Male Doctors	Female Doctors
Willingdon Hospital.	12	4
Lodhi Road Dispensary.	4	2

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN PUNJAB

389. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the mileage of National Highways completed in Punjab so far;

(b) the mileage that is under construction;

(c) the target fixed for the 1951—56 period in that State with respect to:

(i) New Roads, (ii) Improvement of existing Roads and (iii) Bridges; and

(d) what are the selected roads and what is their mileage?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 39 miles of roads have been newly constructed so far.

(b) 17 miles.

(c) (i) 45 miles.

(ii) 200 miles.

(iii) 4 major bridges besides a number of minor bridges and culverts.

(d) All the National Highways in the Punjab totalling to 655 miles in length are being developed.

CONDEMNED RAILWAY STOCK

390. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of goods-wagons and passenger coaches on the Northern Railway declared unfit for use and auctioned since 1950;

(b) the reasons for declaring them unfit; and

(c) the amount realized from the auction and the amount required to replace them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (c). A statement is attached. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 26].

(b) Because they are no longer serviceable and are beyond economical repair.

AMRITSAR STATION

391. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction work of the Amritsar Station will be completed;

(b) the total amount sanctioned for the purpose;

(c) the amount spent so far;

(d) whether it is a fact that the construction work is behind schedule; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No work of construction of Amritsar Station is in hand.

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

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICES IN PUNJAB

398. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Posts and Telegraphs Offices in Punjab in August, 1947; and

(b) the number of Posts and Telegraphs Offices opened there (year-wise) since August, 1947?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 2,299.

(b) The figures are given below:

Period	Number opened
(i) August '47 to March '48	70
(ii) 1948-49	150
(iii) 1949-50	219
(iv) 1950-51	270
(v) 1951-52	143
(vi) 1952-53	79
(vii) 1953-54	156
(viii) April '54—December '54 .	49

TEZPUR-RANGIYA RAIL, LINK

393. Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ballasting of the Tezpur-Rangiya Rail Link has been undertaken; and

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

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The section Rangiya-Rangapara is already sand-ballasted. The section Rangapara-Tezpur is earth ballasted and it is proposed to sand ballast this length.

(b) It is expected that the work of ballasting Tezpur section will be completed by the end of 1956.

रिक्ता लीचने वाला

३९४. श्री रघुवीर सिंह : क्या कम मंत्री यह कतन की कृपा करेंगे कि भारत-वर्ष में रिक्ता लीचने वालों की अनुमानित संख्या कितनी है ?

कम उद्योगिकी (श्री अरविन्द अली): लगभग एक लाख और बचीस हजार ।

DACOTIES ON TRAINS

395. Chaudhri Muhammed Shafiq: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state.

(a) the number of thefts, assaults and murders committed in running trains in India, region-wise between the 18th January, 1954 and the 31st January, 1955; and

(b) the number of cases where the criminals were apprehended?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CATERING ON RAILWAYS

396. Ch. Bhabur Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is marked difference in the rents of the vending stalls at Tundla, Kanpur, Allahabad, Aligarh, Delhi and Lucknow Stations;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of rents of the vending stalls on the above stations; and

(c) the reasons for such disparity?

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

(b) A statement giving the required information is attached. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 27].

(c) The reasons for disparity lie in the varying costs of construction of the stalls and also on whether the fees for the salesmen are included in the amount or are separately charged.

RAILWAY COACHES

397. Ch. Bhabur Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the reasons for not attaching Inter and Second class compartments to passenger trains running from Agra to Farrukhabad or Tundla to Farrukhabad and vice-versa?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Trains running between Agra Cantt. and Farrukhabad and Tundla and Farrukhabad are scheduled to carry second, inter and third class accommodation, which is normally provided. Trains running between Tundla and Farrukhabad did not however have inter class accommodation on some days during December, 1954, due to non-availability of suitable type of coaches to replace those which having got damaged were withdrawn from the train rakes. The absence of second class accommodation for a period due to a mistake is being suitably taken up.

नशीली वस्तुओं की खपत

२६८. सेंट गोबिन्धु वास : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) प्रति एक लाख जन संख्या पर किन राज्यों में निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं की सब से अधिक खपत होती है :-

(१) तम्बाकू

(२) चाय

(३) अफीम

(४) शराब, और

(ख) प्रति एक लाख जन संख्या पर उपरोक्त वस्तुओं की कितनी खपत होती है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (राजकुमारी अमृत कौर): (क) भारत सरकार को तम्बाकू, चाय व अफीम के सम्बन्ध में नीचे लिखी सूचनाएं मिली हैं :-

(१) तम्बाकू:- संयुक्त मद्रास राज्य में प्रति लाख आबादी पर सब से अधिक तम्बाकू की खपत होती थी। १९५२ में संस्थापित किये गये आन्ध्र राज्य की अलग संख्या प्राप्त नहीं है।

(२) चाय:- १९५२-५४ के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक पश्चिम बंगाल में (त्रिपुरा व चन्द्र नगर को मिला कर) प्रति लाख आबादी पर चाय की सब से अधिक खपत होती थी।

(३) अफीम :- विभिन्न राज्यों में अफीम की पूरी मात्राओं की खपत के बारे में सूचना

प्राप्त नहीं हैं। लेकिन १९५२-५४ में विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों को दिये गये दश्री अफीम की मात्राओं के आधार पर, यह बताया जा सकता है कि उस वर्ष मध्यभारत में अफीम की खपत सब से ज्यादा हुई।

शराब की खपत के बारे में भारत सरकार को कोई सूचना प्राप्त नहीं है। क्योंकि वस्तुतः यह राज्य का विषय है।

(ख) तम्बाकू :- प्रत्येक राज्य के प्रति लाख आबादी के हिसाब से तम्बाकू की खपत की मात्रा को दिखाते हुए अलग आंकड़े प्राप्त नहीं हैं। पर एंसा अनुमान लगाया जाता है कि दश में प्रति वर्ष, प्रति लाख आबादी पर तम्बाकू की औसत खपत १,४८,००० पाउंड है।

चाय:- १९५२-५४ में पश्चिम बंगाल में (त्रिपुरा व चन्द्रनगर को मिला कर) प्रति लाख की आबादी पर चाय की अनुमानित खपत १,२०,१२४ पाउंड थी।

१९५२-५४ में राज्य सरकारों को दिये गये दश्री अफीम की मात्राओं के आधार पर अनुमान लगाया गया है कि मध्यभारत में प्रति लाख की आबादी पर २.७७ मन था।

(४) शराब :- इस सम्बन्ध में सूचना प्राप्त नहीं है।

जड़ी बूटियां

२६९. सेंट गोबिन्धु वास : क्या स्वास्थ्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार ने १९५४ में हिमाचल प्रदेश तथा आसाम के पूर्वोत्तर रीक्षित क्षेत्रों में जड़ी बूटियां उत्पादन में कितना धन व्यय किया है ?

कृषि मंत्री (डा० पी० एस० दशमुख): सन् १९५४ में कोई व्यय नहीं किया गया। तो भी अप्रैल १९५२ से तीन वर्ष के लिए १,१०,६२० रुपये के कुल मूल्य की एक योजना शिलांग आसाम में प्रयुक्त करने के लिये स्वीकार की गई थी। वास्तविक खर्च किये हुए व्यय की जानकारी प्राप्त नहीं है। हिमाचल प्रदेश में

१ अप्रैल १९५५ से तीन वर्ष के लिए ६७,००० रुपयों के कुल मूल्य की दूरारी योजना स्वीकार दी गई है।

रंलबे दुर्घटनाओं

४००. सेंट गॉविन्ध दास : क्या रंलबे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अक्टूबर, नवम्बर तथा दिसम्बर, १९५४ में किन किन स्थानों पर रंलों की बड़ी बड़ी दुर्घटनाएँ हुईं ;

(ख) इन दुर्घटनाओं में कितने व्यक्ति मरे ;

(ग) कितने व्यक्ति बुरी तरह घायल हुए और

(घ) कितने व्यक्तियों को अब तक प्रतिकार दिया गया है ?

रंलबे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अलगेशन) :
(क) से (ग) : इसकी सूचना साथ के विवरण में दी गयी है [इतिहास परिशिष्ट ७, अनुबन्ध संख्या २८].

(घ) अभी तक कोई प्रतिकार [Compensation] नहीं दिया गया है।

PURCHASE OF STORES

401. **Shri K. C. Sodhia**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and value of wooden and iron sleepers purchased for Indian Railways during 1954-55 so far;

(b) the sources from which these purchases were made; and

(c) the total number of depots at present for creosoting of timber and their out-turn during the current year so far?

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

(a) The information is not readily available. It will be laid on the Table of the House in due course

(b) Wooden sleepers are purchased through State Forest Department and private contractors. Steel sleepers are purchased from M/S. Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. Calcutta and M/S. Guest, Keen Williams Ltd. Calcutta through Director General Supplies and Disposals.

Cast iron sleepers are procured not only from various indigenous firms but also by manufacturing at the Jamalpur Workshops, Eastern Railway and Mysore Iron and Steel Works Bhadravati.

(c) Three Depots for creosoting of timber are at present functioning and their outturn during the current year is 592,840 sleepers both B.G. and M.G.

AUTOMOBILES IN STATES

402. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary**: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any record is kept of the various types of automobiles plying in the various States; and

(b) If so, the number of private cars, buses and trucks in the various States?

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

(a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the latest information available is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 29].

हाकस्तान के इन्सपेक्टर

४०२. श्री रमचन्द्र सिंह : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हाकस्तान के इन्सपेक्टर का न्यूनतम और अधिकतम वेतन क्या है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि हाकस्तान के इन्सपेक्टरों को केवल ४ रुपये ग्रेड भत्ता दिया जाता है और माइलेंज आदि भत्तों के नियम उन पर लागू नहीं होते ; और

(ग) क्या राज्यों से सरकार के पास प्रतीतिदान आये हैं जिन में उनके वेतन और भत्तों में सुधार करने के सुझाव दिये गये हैं ?

जंघार उचर्नवी (श्री राज बहादुर): (क) ५६८-२५० रुपये ।

(ख) डाकघरों के इन्स्पेक्टरों को दोरें वर, बिना किसी माइलेज भत्ते के, सब मिला कर कम-से-कम ४ रु० प्रतीतिदान भत्ता मिलता है ।

(ग) जी नहीं ।

RECRUITMENT TO ASSISTANTS' CADRE

404. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has decided to recruit some Assistants directly; and

(b) if so, whether any representation has been received from the Clerks working in the Railway Board?

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

(a) The Railway administrations have been asked to recommend names of Graduate Clerks who are considered suitable for appointment as Assistants in the Railway Board's Office.

(b) Yes.

TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN PUNJAB

405. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the post offices connected with telephone facilities in 1954 in the Punjab State;

(b) whether any representations have been received to connect Gagret, Bharwam (Hoshiarpur District) and Nurpur, Shahpur, Nagrota, Bagwan, Paprola, Baijnath, Kulu, Nagar Katrain, and Manali of Kangra District of Punjab State with telephones; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

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

Long distance P.C.Os.

1. Sadaura
2. Mani Manjra
3. Ajnala
4. Khalra
5. Raja Sansi
6. Verka
7. Sohna
8. Taru
9. Jakhal
10. Mandi Dabwali
11. Tohana
12. Goraya
13. Shahpur
14. Gharaunda
15. Nilokheri
16. Samalkha
17. Thanesar
18. Ganaur
19. Kalanaur
20. Murthal.

Local P.C.Os. (P.C.Os. connected to local telephone exchanges).

1. Bhakra Dam (Nangal)
2. Ambala City RMS
3. Kalka RMS
4. Gopal Paper Mill: P. O. Jamnagar
5. Amritsar, Sadar Bazar P. O.
6. Amritsar Majithia P. O.
7. Jullundur, Ramdaspora
8. Jullundur, New Railway Colony
9. Jullundur, Basti Sheikh P. O.
10. Panipat City
11. Hissar City
12. Malaut P. O.

(b) and (c)

Name of place	Whether representation received or not.	Action taken
1. Baijnath	—	PCO already opened.
2. Nagrota-Bagwan	—	" "
3. Paprola	—	" "
4. Shahpur	—	" "
5. Kulu	Yes	PCO sanctioned
6. Nurpur	"	" "
7. Nagar Katrain	"	Will be taken up after opening Kulu PCO
8. Menali	"	" "

Hoshiarpur District

1. Barwain	Yes	Not	feasible
2. Gagret	No	No	examined

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

406. **Shri J. E. Mehta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers recruited directly to Class I post of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers during the period from the 1st April, 1950 to the 28th February, 1955;

(b) the number of temporary engineers confirmed in Class I Service during the same period; and

(c) how many of these temporary engineers belonged to the ex-State Railways and how many to the other Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagasan):

(a) 35.

(b) 11, excluding officers recruited on a temporary basis to the Indian Railway Service of Engineers through Competitive Examination held by the U.P.S.C. on Indian Railways and by the ex-Company Managed Railways during 1942-45.

(c) None belonged to the ex-State Railways.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

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

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the open line staff has been restored to work for twelve hours a day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether they are paid overtime allowance?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagasan):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, if they work beyond the specified hours, in accordance with the Hours of Employment Regulations.

SUGAR FACTORY AT CHODAVARAM

408. **Shri P. Subba Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any application for a licence to open a sugar factory at Chodavaram in Visakhapatnam District (Andhra State) has been received;

(b) whether Government propose to grant the licence;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) the number of sugar factories at present in the Visakhapatnam District and the annual consumption of sugar in that District?

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

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

(d) There are three sugar factories in Visakhapatnam District. Figures of annual consumption of sugar in that District are not available.

EXPLORATORY TUBE-WELLS

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

(a) the number of Exploratory tube-wells sunk so far in Andhra State;

(b) the names of the places where these wells have been sunk;

(c) the cost incurred on each of them; and

(d) whether the Technical Committee has inspected any places in Rayalaseema area to find out whether these tube-wells will be successful there?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) None.

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

(d) The Technical Committee for selection of sites has not visited areas in Rayalaseema as the available geological and hydrological data do not indicate any possibility of tube-well construction being economically successful in those areas.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

410. Shri R. N. Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of clerks recruited in December, 1950 on the Ex-East Punjab Railway were exempted from seeking selection through the Railway Service Commission;

(b) whether there are still a number of clerks with two to six years continuous satisfactory service in the

same scale on the Northern Railway who are now asked to seek selection through the Railway Service Commission; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a), Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) These clerks were recruited on the explicit condition that their services would be purely temporary and their continuance in service would depend upon their qualifying in the selections to be held by the Railway Service Commission.

MIDWIVES

411. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the ratio of trained midwives to the adult female population?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Approximately 1: 7,000.

बामन्या स्टेशन

४१२. श्री अमर सिंह डामर : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बामन्या रेलवे स्टेशन के प्लेटफार्म को बढ़ाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है; और

(ख) क्या वहां माल गोदाम भी बनाया जायेगा ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अलमोहन):
(क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) इस समय ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है । माल का मौजूदा प्लेटफार्म और माल गोदाम वहां के यातायात के लिए काफी समर्थक होते हैं ।

LATE RUNNING OF TRAINS

413. Shri N. L. Joshi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay-Dehradun Express arrived late at Delhi on the 10th March, 1955;

(b) if so, by how many hours;

(c) the causes of late arrival; and

(d) the number of occasions when the engines failed on the same line during the year 1954-55?

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

(a) No.

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

(d) 56 relating to passenger trains, of which 11 related to Bombay-Dehradun express trains.

KATIHAR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

414. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed graduates, under-graduates, matriculates and non-matriculates registered with the Katihar Employment Exchange in the years 1953 and 1954; and

(b) how many of them got employment through that Exchange during the above period?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b): A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha Sec Appendix VII Annexure No. 30].

TELEGRAMS IN HINDI

415. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of Stations in Bihar where arrangements have been made to receive and dispatch telegrams in Hindi:

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase their number especially in the rural areas of Bihar; and

(c) if so, how many and where?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 45. The names of places are indicated in the 'Hindi Tar Nirdeshika' copies of which have been supplied to the Members of the Lok Sabha.

(b) and (c). Yes, the service will be gradually extended into the rural areas all over the country including Bihar.

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)



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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 22nd March, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 Noon.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Monday, the 21st March 1955, passed the enclosed motion concurring in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to make provision for the co-ordination and determination of standards in Universities and for that purpose, to establish a University Grants Commission. The names of the Members nominated by the Rajya Sabha to serve on the said Joint Committee are set out in the motion.'

Motion

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to make provision for the co-ordination and determination of standards in Universities and for

that purpose, to establish a University Grants Commission, and resolves that the following Members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee:

1. Shri Indra Vidyavachaspati, 2. Dr. M. D. D. Gilder, 3. Dr. P. Subbarayan, 4. Dr. Radha Kumud Mookerji, 5. Dr. Raghu Vira, 6. Dr. P. V. Kane, 7. Maulana M. Tayyebulla, 8. Shrimati Mona Hensman, 9. Shri T. V. Kamalaswamy, 10. Shri Kishen Chand, 11. Shri J. V. K. Vallabharao, 12. Dr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, 13. Dr. Zakir Hussain, 14. Shri C. C. Biswas, 15. Dr. K. L. Shrimali."

STATEMENT RE. ACCIDENT TO FRONTIER MAIL

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The House is probably already aware of the accident to 31 Down Frontier Mail which took place at about 14.50 hours on the 21st instant at Fateh Singh pura, an interlocked station, on the Bayana-Gangapur single line section of the Western Railway.

According to the information so far made available to me, the facts reported are as follows:—

The Down Frontier Mail, from Bombay side, with a load of 13 coaches, entered Fateh Singhpura Station on the loop line which was already occupied by No. 1118 up goods train, and collided with it. The two coaches next to the engine of the Frontier Mail remained on the line undamaged, the third, a II class bogie coach, derailed, and the fourth, also a II class bogie coach, telescoped into the former. The fifth coach remained on the line but was slightly damaged, and the remaining 8 coaches remained on the line undamaged. The engines of the two

[Shri Alagesan]

trains and goods wagons are reported to have suffered hardly any damage.

Crowbars had to be used to open out certain doors and windows of the two bogie coaches which were telescoped, in order to take out the passengers.

One, Shri Shiv Charan Singh, retired Principal of Government College, Rupar, a II class passenger in the third coach, unfortunately died, and thirty-four other passengers holding different classes of tickets received minor injuries. The injured were given first aid on the spot by the Guard and further medical attention by the Railway Assistant Medical Officer who arrived with the first relief train at about 16.25 hours from Bayana. The dead body of Shri Shiv Charan Singh was taken over by the Police and it is understood was taken to Ludhiana according to the address found on his person. Our sympathies go to the bereaved family and to the injured.

31 Down Frontier Mail left Fateh Singhpur station about 5 hours 30 minutes late with all the passengers. The three damaged coaches were left behind and the passengers were accommodated in the remaining coaches which came through.

The General Manager of the Western Railway who was also on the train personally supervised the arrangements for giving requisite medical attention and assistance to passengers.

The cause of this accident will be known only after the completion of the enquiry by the Government Inspector of Railways which will be held shortly.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES BILL

—concl'd.

Clause 8.—(False statements)

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed with the business left over from yesterday, that is, clause by clause consideration of the Bill to provide, in the interests of the general public, for the control of the production, supply and

distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain commodities as reported by the Select Committee.

Clauses 2 to 7 have been disposed of. We will now take up clause 8.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): May I request you to fix up the time, taking the sense of the House with regard to this Bill?

Mr. Speaker: As regards the request for a time-limit, I think the matter is not likely to take long, in no circumstances exceeding at the most half an hour. If we can finish earlier, so much the better so that we can discuss the Demands for Grants and we will not have to sit for longer hours for that purpose.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: In that case, what about the time taken up by this Bill? We will have to sit a little longer and finish both the Demands today. Otherwise, the whole thing will be upset.....

Mr. Speaker: The time may be curtailed, if they want to rise at five O'clock, or it may be extended if they want to have the full time.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): We have to rise at 5.30 today.

Mr. Speaker: We will see to it. Let us now proceed with the Bill.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): We cannot sit till 6 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: We will dispose of this Bill first. There are no amendments to clause 8.

The question is:

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9.—(Offences by Companies)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): I beg to move:

- (i) In page 6, lines 5 and 6, for "was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business

of the company" substitute "was under the succeeding section nominated by the company to be responsible for the compliance of direction under the Act"

- (ii) In page 6, lines 17 and 18, omit "or is attributable to any neglect on the part of"
- (iii) In page 6, line 17, for "Any neglect" substitute "any culpable neglect"

With your permission, I propose to move my amendment regarding the new clause 9A as part of these amendments. That will practically save time and will not require any further discussion. I will move all my amendments and then make a speech thereon.

Mr. Speaker: What is the new amendment for?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It is for a new clause—9A. This is referred to in the previous amendment as the 'succeeding section'. So with your permission, I propose to move that also.

I beg to move:

In page 6 after line 26, insert:

"9A. (1) It shall be the duty of every company and other body corporate to nominate any of its directors, managers or other officers of the company or other body corporate to be responsible for the compliance of the orders made under this Act. Such nomination shall be subject to approval by the Government.

- (2) In case the company or other body corporate fails to make nomination as required by sub-section (1) persons in charge of the conduct of the business of the company or other body corporate shall be deemed

to be guilty of the contravention under this Act and shall be liable to be proceeded against under section 9.

- (3) If the person contravening the orders made under this Act is a company or other body corporate any person nominated under sub-section (1) shall be deemed to be guilty of such contravention unless he proves that the contravention took place without his knowledge or that he exercised due diligence to prevent such contravention."

Now, as I submitted yesterday at the time of the consideration of the Bill—I do not want to repeat what I said there—as a matter of fact, the present provisions are certainly an improvement upon the previous provisions and I am thankful to the Minister for kindly taking this line of action and improving the Bill so far. At the same time, I do not think this argument is fair, that because there are two points of view, therefore take the balance, the average out of the two and make a provision which will be satisfactory to both. I plead with the hon. Minister and my hon. friend, Shri Venkataraman, who is said to be responsible for the other view, to kindly consider it on merits and not be guided by any consideration of this nature.

Now, I claim that this amendment is better than the original provisions of this Bill. First of all, if the real purpose of the law is to secure compliance with the directions and to operate this Act rather peacefully, then this is the better course, because if you appoint a person who will be responsible for the due compliance of the directions, then he will realise his responsibilities and you will not have to find out from a number of persons as to who is guilty. I think the real purport of the Act is that it may be complied with and not that certain persons should be brought to book.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

From this point of view, my humble submission is that if you nominate a certain person, then the Company knows who is the responsible person, who is the person on whom the responsibility is fixed. He will realise what is his function and duty; he also will realise that the responsibility becomes his if there is no due compliance. Whereas, if there are a number of persons and each one of them does not realise that he will be responsible or when there is a difference of opinion as to which of them is responsible, in that case there will be no due compliance with the directions of the Act.

The second argument that I propose to give is this. As a matter of fact, it is the business of the law to make the rule clear and at the same time to fix the responsibility. The words in the original provision are:

"Every person, who, at the time the contravention was committed, was in charge of and was responsible to the company for the conduct of the business of the company."

These words 'in charge of' and 'was responsible to' are really very vague. They are not capable of exact definition. At the same time, the words, 'for the conduct of the business of the company' are still more vague. There may be 20 branches of administration in the company and there may be 100 persons in charge of conduct of the business of the company. What is the business of the company? The business of the Company is of a far-reaching nature and any part of its business may be regarded as business of the company. Therefore, when there is a contravention, I should say it may be of a very very unreal nature.

I know that when the Control Orders in regard to cloth were there, it was very difficult to construe any of the rules rightly. Even those who framed the rules were not able to understand the full import and meaning of those rules. I remember

an occasion when the question arose whether a certain piece of cloth, as big as the palm of my hand, was manufactured on a handloom or on a power-loom. If it was manufactured on the handloom then there was no contravention of the rules but if it was manufactured on power-loom there was contravention. Even when they were shown to be experts they could not say whether it was handloom manufacture or power-loom manufacture. Even the addition of a yarn in wasp and woof would make a lot of difference of lakhs and lakhs. The rules are so complex. It is most difficult for any person to know whether they are contravened or not. Therefore to know what the business is not certain. The import of the rule is not certain. It will be most difficult to work out when there is more than one person who will be responsible for or who is in charge of the business of the company. But, if you have got a certain person to whom you can look up to as being responsible, then it will not be difficult to bring conviction home to this person. The same thing will not happen as has been complained by the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry, that the courts do not co-operate with the Government fully in this matter. They let off persons because they do not realise the gravity of the offence and they do not realise in a matter that, in matters of controls, the law has to be strictly enforced. When there are a number of persons from whom they have to make a choice, it will be very difficult for them. The result will be more and more acquittals than even now. Moreover, my submission is that there was one obstacle pointed out in the Select Committee which has been plugged by me.

It was said that demies may be put up and that the really responsible person may not be brought in. I have no soft corner for any person who offends these laws and rules which are rules for the safety of the whole community. My friends are not right

when they ascribe to me motives and say that I am unduly influenced by considerations of jurisprudence and I want to see that every guilty person gets off. It is not right to think so. I am at one with them that so far as these control rules are concerned, they ought to be strictly enforced. I have, therefore, provided the same punishments and there is no difference. The only difference is that I want that no one should be punished who is innocent. From this point of view, my humble submission is that it is not possible to set up dummies because I have said that this nomination will be subject to the approval of the Government. If Government thinks that a spurious person has been put forward, as in Factories Act then the Government will see that right man is nominated. If the Managing Director is not nominated, the Government will say, 'we do not want to have any other person nominated.' It is subject to the approval of the Government that the man will be there. So, there is no point in saying that dummies will be put forward. This is all that I have to submit in respect of clause 9A.

I have got other amendments which I have moved saying that the words 'or is attributable to any neglect on the part of' may be omitted. Only yesterday, we passed an amendment, which we had omitted in the Select Committee, to the effect that any attempt or even abetment of a contravention is an offence. According to section 9, so many persons will be responsible. Firstly, the company, secondly, those persons who are in charge of or responsible for the business of the company and thirdly, managing directors etc. if they consent to the contravention or if they connive at it. I have no objection so far as that is concerned because, as a matter of fact all those persons who offend must be brought to book. What I object to is the words, 'or is attributable to any neglect on the part of' being there. I do take very strong exception to neglect being made an offence in offences of this nature. If

you kindly see the whole of our penal law, so far as neglect is concerned, you will find in the Indian Penal Code, out of 511 sections there are only 5 or 6 sections which relate to this ingredient of an offence and they relate substantially to one principle alone. If you see section 279, it says:

"Whoever drives any vehicle, or rides...in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life...."

and the punishment is six months.

Section 280:

"Whoever navigates any vessel in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life....."

and the punishment is six months.

Section 283:

"Whoever by doing any act, or by omitting to take order with any property....."

Section 284:

"Whoever, does, with any poisonous substance, any act in a manner so rash or negligent...."

Here also the punishment is six months.

Section 285:

"Whoever does, with fire or any combustible matter, any act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life...."

Similarly, 287 and 288. In all these six or seven sections there is the question of neglect apart from two other sections relating again to human life, where a person dies as result of neglect 304A and in respect of 336 and 337. These are the only sections which deal with neglect. My submission is that so far as the jurisprudence of this country or any other country is concerned, in the matter of neglect amounting to an offence there is no question of *mens rea*, there is no question of knowledge, there is no question of intention or any such thing in neglect. According to the notions of

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

jurisprudence, a person does not advert to the consequences unless it is an intentional omission. Intentional omission is different from neglect. Neglect is that state of mind in which a person does not advert to the consequences of what he is doing. He does not remember his duty. My submission is that as a matter of fact neglect should never be penalised in ordinary offences except where human life is endangered.

Kindly look to the nature of the offences that we are dealing with in this Essential Commodities Bill. You will see that certain directions will be issued. Those directions are to be obeyed by the company or other person—some responsible person in the provisions of the Bill and some more responsible in my amendment—I can understand that. They may not have done anything but they shall be deemed to be guilty because they are in charge of the business. First there is the company, then there are the persons who are in charge of the business and then there are directors etc. The only question is when there is neglect. Supposing there is a clerk or a manager. He is ordered to remind the managing director that on the 5th of February, 1956, a certain statement has to go to the Controller. And, if on that day, as a result of routine business, the clerk does not remember it and does not do his part. If he does not remember it, what does he get? He gets one year's imprisonment, if it is a question of information etc. and three years if it is in relation to other contraventions. So far as this is concerned, with your permission, I want to quote a very high authority, that is a *sloka* from *Bhagwat Gita*, Chapter 18, *sloka* 17:

यस्य नाहंकृतो भावो बुद्धिरस्य न लिप्यते ।
ह वापि स इमं श्लोकान्म हन्ति न निबध्यते ॥

I want to submit that, according to this *sloka*, if his mind does not go with the act, even if he kills the three worlds he is not guilty. Do you mean to suggest that when I never thought

of the consequences and I am as innocent as any other person, I should be sent to jail for three years for neglect? But for a neglect of this character to visit a person with three years' imprisonment is simply atrocious. It is not justified by any canons of jurisprudence. After all what would happen? My hon. friends were speaking of dummies. As soon as a case comes to a court the persons in charge will say: "We exercised all diligence, but this devil of a clerk who was ordered to remind us, forgot about it." In such cases, the bigger persons will be let off and the clerk will be punished. So, in their own interests, to get at the right man, this provision should be amended. Otherwise, the courts are not going to punish both the persons. So, even the purpose which they have in view will not be served by a provision of this nature, and I would very humbly beg of the hon. Commerce Minister to kindly look into this matter and not to take up this attitude that because you have a similar provision in several Acts, we should have a provision like this here too. This provision is not justified by any canons of jurisprudence.

I am entirely at one with my hon. friends that we should be strict in regard to control legislation. Therefore, even in matters where ordinary penal law contained in sections 176 and 178 of the Indian Penal Code provides for only one month imprisonment, I am prepared to enhance it to one year. So, while agreeing with them that we should be as strict as possible, I would request them to bring to bear a dispassionate outlook on my amendment.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): I beg to move: In page 6, line 18, after "part of" insert "or is also attributable to the want of deliberate and conscious effort to prevent such contravention which could have been normally or ordinarily done on the part of"

We think that this amendment is necessary in view of what has been

provided for in sub-clause (1) of clause 9. The proviso to sub-clause (1) says that in case a person exercises all due diligence to prevent such a contravention, there would be no punishment. If we are going to retain the proviso the amendment which I have moved should be taken into consideration.

We do not support what has been said by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava with regard to negligence on the part of Director, Manager, etc., of a firm, because we know that in many cases dummies are put up to go through the period of punishment, or suffer any other punishment which may be inflicted for contravention of such orders. In the past it has happened in many cases: where control orders were violated by companies only ordinary persons working under the control of such companies were made to undergo imprisonment or other kinds of punishments. The big bosses like the Directors and Managers invariably escaped. So, in order to make the law effective an amendment of the type I have proposed is very necessary.

Mr. Speaker: All these five amendments are now before the house for discussion.

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukhabad Dist.—North): In regard to the contention of my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, my submission is that *mens rea*, or intention, does not come into the picture of control legislation. Another point which I wish to make is that when the punishment of imprisonment and fine is imposed, I do not know how the company will be punished with imprisonment. Therefore the word "company" should be deleted from clause 9.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): I want to support the amendment No. 13 of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava suggesting the omission of the words "or is attributable to any neglect on the part of". You will see, Sir, that this is a vicarious punishment that is contemplated by this section. Sub-clause (2) of clause 9 begins with the words:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), etc."

Therefore, the only thing that will have to be proved under this clause will simply be that some offence has been committed and it may be attributed to the negligence of one of these people. So, this is very wide and very expansive, particularly when it is a question of a person being held responsible for an offence. "Negligence" is a very general word and anything may be brought within its scope. Almost anybody interested in a concern, or an institution like a company—and we know that firms include joint families—may be brought within the purview of this provision. Therefore, the scope of this provision will be so wide that it is liable certainly to be misused or abused.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid I am unable to accept the amendments proposed by my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. It is not in any spirit of compromise that I suggested yesterday that Government have adopted a course in between the course suggested by my hon. friend Mr. Venkataraman and that of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. Sir, the present provision in regard to clause 9 has been framed after careful thought and in this we are also backed by suggestions made by the Commodities Control Committee which in paragraph 50 has dealt with the provisions of Section 9 of the Act as it stood before the 26th January 1955. The Committee says:

"These provisions are analogous to the provisions contained in the Defence of India Rules, but it was urged that while such provisions may have been necessary during war time, they involve unjustified hardship now. The corresponding provisions in section 15 of the Supply and Prices of Goods Act are different: Under these provisions presumption of guilt arises only in respect of persons who during the

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

relevant period were in charge of and were responsible to the corporation for the conduct of the business of the establishment in or in relation to which the offence is committed. The other officers of the corporation are liable only if it is proved that the offence has been committed with their consent or connivance, or is attributable to any neglect on their part."

That is the basis for the present amendment which has been copied from similar enactments that this House has approved of.

I would now like to deal with the neglect aspect of the provisions. Neglect is a very important factor in a control legislation. It might happen that a firm might have a branch which they might entrust to a person who is illiterate not conversant with the control orders and that man might without knowing the existence of those orders commit a flagrant breach of the control orders. Is it or is not a case of negligence of the person responsible at the Head Office or the nearest office which controls that particular branch?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: So far as neglect is concerned, you do not bring it under 9(1). If you had done so, I would not have said anything.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The point really is that ultimately if the person who is running a firm or the persons who are running the firm do not see that responsible persons having knowledge of the law of the land are placed in charge of the business, I am afraid somebody has got to be brought to book, and it does not necessarily mean that if it is found that the managing director of a company or the general manager of a company has been negligent, that he will be punishable with three years' imprisonment is not likely. The other aspect of the amendment moved by my friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, namely, the question of nominating a person, bristles with difficulties, apart from

anything else. Apart from the merits of the problem, it is a wholly impracticable suggestion, and it is impossible for Government to approve of the nomination of a responsible person in the case of every firm and in the case of every branch of every firm. There may be hundreds of firms involved and each one of them might have four or five branches, and so it is an administrative impossibility to ask Government to approve of names. Therefore, we have naturally to presume certain facts before bringing the parties who are to blame, to book.

Again, my hon. friend has been at pains to try to convince the House that such nomination would not be for the nomination of a stooge. Unfortunately, he has seen the practice of these firms from one point of view, namely, as a person who defended an accused. I have seen the practice of firms from the point of view of one who has had to rub shoulders with them and the question of providing a stooge is a very common occurrence wherever somebody has to be responsible and somebody will ultimately have to go to jail. It is quite easy for a firm to go and find out a person who has gone to prison three times and make him responsible or nominate him; he will go to prison for three months or three years and nothing will happen, but in the meantime, the benefits accruing to the company may be, in terms of lakhs of rupees. It may be high-lighting a picture which may not be a common occurrence but it is quite a possibility and for the same reason I am not in a position to accept the amendment of Shri N. B. Chowdhury to expand 'neglect' into something which is rather difficult of definition, and as lawyers will understand, a provision of this nature will probably defeat the ends that we have in view. I am, therefore, unable to accept the amendments that have been proposed.

Mr. Speaker: Now, I shall put the amendments to the vote of the House. Do I put them separately?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The one amendment moved by me relating to clause 9A may be put separately.

Mr. Speaker: I put the amendments Nos. 12, 13 and 14 together and I shall put No. 15 about clause 9A separately, but there is no need for putting that amendment to the vote if the first three amendments are defeated.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the amendments to clause 9 fall through, there will be no room for putting in the amendment relating to clause 9A.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

In page 6, lines 5 and 6, for "was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company" substitute "was under the succeeding section nominated by the company to be responsible for the compliance of directions under the Act".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

In page 6, lines 17 and 18, omit "or is attributable to any neglect on the part of".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

In page 6, line 17, for "any neglect" substitute "any culpable neglect".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: As the basis for the amendment relating to clause 9A has fallen through, I do not put the amendment to the vote of the House.

What about the amendment of Shri N. B. Chowdhury?

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I would like to withdraw my amendment No. 6.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 to 14 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Has Shri Raghavachari anything to say about clause 15?

Shri Raghavachari: I do not wish to move my amendment No. 16.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I beg to move:

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

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1955-56*

DEMANDS re. MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up discussion of the Demands for Grants, Nos. 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 136, 137 and 138 relating to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. As the House is aware, two hours have been allotted for the Demands of this Ministry.

Regarding the time-limit for speeches, the usual practice has been to fix a time-limit of fifteen minutes for all the Members, including Movers of cut motions, and twenty minutes if necessary, for Leaders of Groups.

There are a number of cut motions to these various Demands. Hon. Members may hand over the numbers of the selected cut motions which they propose to move at the Table within fifteen minutes. I shall treat them as moved, if the Members in whose

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Speaker]

names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the cut motions are otherwise in order.

DEMAND No. 99—MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,15,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND No. 10—SUPPLIES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,56,71,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Supplies'."

DEMAND No. 101—OTHER CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,10,22,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Other Civil Works'."

DEMAND No. 102—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,16,71,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND No. 103—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,01,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND No. 136—NEW DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,28,32,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'New Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND No. 137—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BUILDINGS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,21,35,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Buildings'."

DEMAND No. 138—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,64,97,000 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 of March, 1956, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): I will take up first the Central Public Works Department, not because of the interesting way in which this Department is called by many people all over the country to the effect that the Central P.W.D. is a Colossal Public Waste Department.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

The grievances of the employees of this Department are so important that I will take this up first before I take up the other Demands relating to other Departments. The grievances of the work-charged staff have been there in this Department for a long time. Till 1946, the employees of this Department were not governed by any service conditions, but after 1946, when a strike notice was served, the Government then negotiated and came to a certain understanding with them. It was decided at that time that the staff who had put in a service of ten years and over would be confirmed immediately, and that a thorough job analysis would be carried out and that the number of permanent posts would be worked out. Leaving apart the thorough job analysis promise, the Government, in their own way, have calculated certain posts to be made permanent. This worked out to something like 2,500 posts. Proper job analysis would have resulted in a greater number but even out of these 2,500 posts, hardly 1,000 have been confirmed. Strictly speaking, today when we are said to be in a developing economy, when the need for construction is so great and when we are seeing some buildings coming up at a very fast rate, I fail to understand why such a delay is being entailed in working out such a simple thing as job analysis of the number of posts required in the Central Public Works Department for work-charged staff.

There are a number of grievances. These work-charged employees are not treated on a par with the other Central Government employees, though these people are responsible for the maintenance of essential building work. Take a simple thing: when they are transferred, they are not given even joining time. They are given only a third class fare when they are transferred even to distant places. Unlike in other Central Government Departments where the families of the transferred employee also get paid, the work-charged staff do not get this advantage. When the

work-charged staff are sent on essential work to a distant place, they are not paid the daily allowance commensurate with the expenses incurred by them. These things are very simple. I do not know why these grievances are being allowed to lie over for a pretty long time. Even in the grant of certain allowances like expensive locality allowance, they are not taken into account. There are so many cities in India where the C.P.W.D. employees live. The expensive locality allowance which is being paid to other Central Government servants is not paid to the work-charged staff, for example, in Mandapam in South India.

I now come to the housing conditions. Though 10 per cent. of the pay is being deducted even from persons who draw a salary of Rs. 100 as basic pay, they have been asked to reside in one-room tenement only. The quarters are insufficient, and even when they are provided with quarters, they are given only one-room tenements. The staff who are responsible for the proper maintenance of buildings which can easily be called palaces are allowed to stay only in small one-room tenements with all the difficulties imaginable. At the airports, while those employed under the Civil Aviation Department are provided with accommodation, the C.P.W.D. staff are not provided with such accommodation.

Again, one has to put in a service of 35 years in order to be eligible for gratuity benefits. There is no provision for those members who have reached the age of superannuation. It is common knowledge that in the railways, a person, after attaining the age of superannuation, is entitled to gratuity whether he has completed a certain number of years of service or not. Similarly, in other departments, certain provisions exist, but here, a person, if he does not retire on medical grounds but retires on the attainment of the age of superannuation, is not given gratuity. I would urge that when our basic wage is hardly enough to maintain ourselves, these facilities should not be denied on the plea that

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

they have not put in a required number of years of service.

Look at the other facilities that they are given. These people are allowed only ten days' leave—ten day's gazetted holidays, and 15 days' casual leave. There is no provision for sick leave or earned leave. I need hardly refer here to the Avadi resolution passed recently to the effect that we would advance towards an egalitarian society. When such is the resolution, when the Central Government can command so much of finances, the state of the employees is in this fashion. There is so much to be improved. I earnestly appeal to the hon. Minister that something should be done immediately to improve the conditions of these employees. I do not know what attitude has been taken by the Department. They have been demanding for the constitution of a tribunal to go into the grievances of these employees. They have been demanding this for a very long time, but unfortunately the tribunal has not been appointed. I realise that it is not within the competence of this Ministry to appoint a tribunal. But when there is just demand and when the demand is made by the employees, the matter can be referred to the Labour Minister and this Ministry can at least recommend the constitution of the tribunal. Only the other day the Labour Minister was telling us that whenever the employers and the employees join together and submit an application for the constitution of a tribunal, he would very willingly do so.

Then I take up the question of certain officers. In this Department, as in all other Departments of Government, there is a rule that an officer should be transferred after the completion of three years of service in one place, but in this Department there are officers who stick to their posts for a pretty long time.

Regarding housing for industrial workers under the subsidised scheme, we have made very poor progress. This issue has been debated even during the general discussion of the

Budget. Something should be done in this connection. I am sure that in spite of granting of loans, in spite of granting subsidies, no body has taken advantage of the scheme. Somebody should go into the root cause of these things. Of course our Minister last year, while replying to the debate on this Demand, said that there was no proposal, or, it was not in the contemplation of the Government to enact legislation on this subject in this country. Until and unless a legislation is brought forward making it incumbent on the part of the employer to provide housing for his labour, I am afraid no advance can be made in this direction. We have already seen how originally in the First Five Year Plan we had planned for 3 lakhs of houses for industrial workers and that has been reduced to 30,000. Some houses were constructed during the past two years. We have heard that a huge provision was made last year for industrial housing. But what is happening? We have to see that. For example, in the year 1952 we had provided Rs. 20 lakhs to the Hyderabad State Government for these houses. But, what has been done? Till this day, under the subsidy scheme they have constructed only 2,300 houses and some more are being constructed. But today, in the cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad there are nearly 40,000 industrial workers who have no houses. Therefore, something should be done in this direction. Until and unless some legislation is enacted, I am afraid nothing will be done regarding provision of houses for the workers.

Then I come to the Stores Purchase Enquiry Committee. This Committee was appointed in connection with the review of our import policy—I mean stores purchases from abroad, that is from U.S.A., U.K. etc. This Committee was appointed in the year 1953. Of course, I am all conscious of the cause for the delay in its submitting the report. Due to the passing away of the Chairman of this Committee in October, 1953, there was delay. But instead of making up for that delay, the Committee is likely to submit its report only within a fortnight, if I

have heard the Minister all right yesterday. Sir, I would request the hon. Minister, when the report is submitted, that he may finalise the examination and arrive at a conclusion quickly.

Sir, one more point and I would have finished. That is regarding the Assam Oil Company. Only yesterday we heard that we could not know about the production of kerosene, petroleum and other products. We could not know the capital investment of this company. Some figures were given and those figures related to the year 1948. This industry is one of the key industries in our country. Something must be done to look into its working. Though this House is said to be sovereign you do not disclose information about production and other things; at least some committee should be appointed—a parliamentary committee, Public Accounts Committee or the Estimates Committee—to go into the working of this particular Assam Oil Company and see whether it is serving the interests of our country.

Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik Central): Sir, I rise to congratulate the Minister on the good progress that his Department is making. Anybody who will go through the report will find that in every respect some progress has been made during the last year.

Firstly, if we take into consideration the progress made in building activities in Delhi regarding the residential quarters as well as office accommodation, we find a very satisfactory position there.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Not satisfactory.

Shri G. H. Deshpande: When I say 'satisfactory', I do know that there are a large number of people who are not accommodated as yet, but the hon. Members from the Opposition must remember that, after all, Rome was not built in a day. Whatever reasonable progress is possible is being done. If they want to complain they are at liberty to do so. But, if they will go through the report they will find that considerable progress has been made

so far as the residential quarters are concerned, and also, as I said, with regard to office accommodation. If we will take into consideration the proposals for the construction of quarters in Delhi, we will find that more progress is going to be made in the coming year.

Then, some complaint was made just now regarding the progress that is being made in the direction of industrial housing. Yes; I also think that more progress ought to have been made. But, if progress is to be made in these directions, it is the organisations and other responsible individuals who must come forward, try to understand and appreciate the Government schemes, suggest certain improvements in the schemes if necessary and co-operate in the implementation of those schemes. Unless and until labour organisations come forward, it is no use simply blaming the Government for the little progress that is being made. A few months before I had been to Indore and there I have seen a number of well-built quarters for the labour provided under the scheme. I have seen a number of families who are residing in those quarters and are quite happy there. If efforts would have been made by other labour organisations in other urban and industrial centres, I have no doubt that more progress could have been made. After all, this is a national question. Our industries are increasing and this is no doubt a serious problem which must be tackled by all. So, I have no doubt that if labour leaders and labour organisations would come forward, the Government schemes are there. If certain improvements are necessary, I think they will also be made and more progress in the coming year can be expected.

So far as the industrial labour is concerned, I would like to place before the hon. Minister for his consideration that charity should begin at home. Wherever there are Government concerns, their labour must be very well placed so far as housing is concerned. At Nasik—the place from which I come—there is the India Se-

[Shri G. H. Deshpande]

curity Press. I have found out that during the last seven years nothing has been done so far as the housing of industrial labour in that institution is concerned. The labour is comparatively well placed there, no doubt, but this is a very great difficulty under which the labour in the India Security Press at Nasik is suffering. Most of them are not housed in government houses. A beginning was made a few years before. There are a few barracks and no doubt, a few people are housed. But, a large number of labourers who work there have to come daily from distant quarters. Early in the morning they are required to leave their homes to reach their place of duty. They stay there for more than eight hours and after doing hard work for the whole day they are required to return back to their villages which, as I said, are at a long distance. This has affected their health and their general well-being. I would request the hon. Minister to take into consideration this factor. When we say that industrial housing should be undertaken, so far as the government industries are concerned, a good beginning must be made there and there should be no grievance left on that account.

Then I come to the condition of whatever little housing accommodation has been provided there in the India Security Press at Nasik. Till recently there was no electricity facility. Though the officers' quarters and other quarters had that facility the residential quarters for labour had not that facility. Recently that facility has been granted to the labour, but, they are not provided with meters. That is a very great grievance. That such a small grievance should be there for such a long time and it should be necessary for the labour to carry on a dispute for that is not desirable. I hope and trust that the authorities concerned will take a note of it and see that this unhappy chapter ends soon.

There is another Press at Nasik which is directly under the control

of this Ministry. Here they have constructed very fine buildings and I am glad to say that they have constructed very fine buildings for the labour also, as also the low income groups. They are all very well placed and that place is making very good progress. When it will be housed in the new building, I have no doubt that it will facilitate to a very great extent the work of the Government of India. If the hon. Minister will undertake to expand the Press there, the needs of the Government of India will be met very soon by that establishment.

Regarding the general question of housing, more and more co-operative societies are coming forward. There is provision in the Government of India scheme to advance loans to the State Governments and something is being done by the Government of India themselves. I would suggest that more provision should be made for loans and more provision for the housing of the middle classes, lower middle classes and the low income groups. If this is done and if the co-operative societies that are coming forward will take advantage of that, this huge problem of housing in the rural areas, urban areas, which is facing us today, will be solved in a few years to come. Some progress has been made so far as housing is concerned in the rural areas also in the Community Project Administration. This very Department which is under discussion today has also taken heed of that and it has also suggested certain new patterns. If advantage of that will be taken by those interested in the Community Projects, they will find that even in the rural areas, this cause can be advanced. From every point of view, I say that though there is much room for improvement, no doubt, as there is bound to be room for improvement in everything that we undertake, satisfactory progress has been made in this Department during the last year, and their proposed schemes for the next year also may be said to be satisfactory.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): I have great pleasure in congratulating the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply on the splendid work that they have done during the course of the year which is under review. When I look at the figures of tenements mentioned in the housing scheme, I see that nearly 20,000 tenements have been built so far. I also know that sanction has been given for building about 50,000 tenements. It may not be a very colossal figure for a big country like India. But, when we remember that the scheme came into being about two years ago only, and that everything that is new in this country takes some time to get going, I must say that I am satisfied with this progress. When I see the figure of amounts sanctioned, I find that Rs. 13 crores have been sanctioned so far, out of which Rs. 5 crores have been actually disbursed. When the Government sanctions a loan or subsidy to the extent of Rs. 13 crores, it means that about Rs. 30 crores are going to be spent, because, the people who take loans, whether they are industrialists or co-operative societies or Government, have to put in as much as they receive from the Government of India by way of subsidy or loans. As I have said, about Rs. 30 crores in the course of 3 years on industrial housing alone is no mean achievement. I know much more has to be done. But, I am sure, at the same time, that as time passes on, more and more people will come forward to take advantage of this scheme and we will have even better progress to show in the course of the next year.

When we talk of industrial housing, I cannot help referring to rural housing. It may be a pet theme of mine. It may also be said that rural housing does not come within the purview of the Centre and it is purely a State subject. At the same time, I find from the report itself that the Government of India in this Ministry have set up some sort of a rural cell and that cell has so far drawn up type designs of model houses for adoption in village

centres. These model type designs are being made available to the community project areas so that the people there, who want to build new houses, may take advantage of these new designs. I am one of those who believe that this is not enough. I think that in the context of our next Five Year Plan, when, as the Finance Minister said yesterday, we have to provide jobs for 12 million people during the course of the next five years, a vast programme of rural housing on an ambitious scale will be one of the most effective ways of meeting unemployment, both seasonal and perennial. If in a village two houses could be built every year, I am sure it will provide employment to all the carpenters, brick layers, masons, and other ancillary workers. I would urge on the Minister not to consider my proposal as a mere hare-brained scheme, but consider it carefully and calmly and set up a Central Rural Housing Board, earmark an amount of Rs. 50 crores per year in the next Five Year Plan and go ahead with the scheme in the same manner as he is going ahead with the industrial housing scheme. Considering that a subsidy of only 25 per cent. will be given, this sum of Rs. 50 crores a year means that on rural housing alone, an investment of the order of Rs. 200 crores a year can be envisaged which can itself be a big solution for meeting our unemployment situation particularly in the rural areas. All ideas seem to be rather revolutionary and new when they are put forward in this building. But, I do not think that it is such a revolutionary idea. Once a step is taken to give effect to it, I am sure then it will begin to be treated as a matter of course.

I must also refer to the housing in cities. In that connection I have to mention the great progress that has been made in this city of Delhi itself. I am living here for the last 14 years. I know, only four years back, to get an ordinary house was an absolute impossibility. To get a job was much easier than to get a house. Now I find that everybody who can afford to pay Rs. 50 for an one-room house and

[Shri Bansal]

about Rs. 125 to 150 for a comfortable two-room house with bath room, etc., can get a house. I must say that the credit for that achievement entirely goes to this Ministry. But, there is one difficulty which is still there. Schemes are there for giving loans for the low income groups and middle classes. But, the problem is about the land. For example, if a man of my means wants to build a house, I am sure he will have to spend as much on getting land alone as on the full house. Therefore, my suggestion would be that the Minister should recommend to the State Government to develop land as a State subject, not leaving it in the hands of people who are profiting in land, but to develop land on a co-operative basis so that the lower middle classes and middle classes can get land at a reasonable rate for building their houses.

Having finished with housing, I want to go to the activities of the Department of Supply. I find that in 1953-54, the Director-General of Supply made purchases in the country to the tune of Rs. 68.9 crores, the India Supply Mission in Washington about Rs. 11 crores, and the India Stores Department in London to the tune of Rs. 17 crores. Out of Rs. 69 crores worth of purchases made in India, those of Indian origin were valued at Rs. 41 crores and of foreign origin Rs. 28 crores. But I find in 1954-55 out of the total purchases of Rs. 82 crores, the Directorate-General in India purchased only of the value of Rs. 38 crores. That compares with Rs. 69 crores of 1953-54. As against this, the purchases made in Washington were of the order of Rs. 14 crores, as against Rs. 11 crores in the previous year, and Rs. 30 crores from London as against Rs. 17 crores in the previous year. It may be that we have to import in an increasing measure some of the things which are not available here. They might have included heavy engineering items, but how is it that the purchases from within the country have dropped down so sharply? I think it will be but proper if the Minister would be good enough

to give some explanation of this, because I find that in the past years there has been a steady progress in the purchase of supplies from within the country itself. I do not know why there is a reversal of this trend in the year 1954-55.

I would have had quite a lot to say about the activities of this department, but I would not say it firstly because of the lack of time, and secondly because this has been the subject matter of detailed investigation by the Stores Purchase Enquiry Committee. I find the report of that Enquiry Committee should have been in the hands of the Government by the end of February, and I wonder if the report has been presented, and if so, when it will be placed on the Table of the House so that we might be able to consider that report.

There are only two small points to which I would like to refer. One is about this type design of model houses for adoption in village centres. I find from the report that a manual on rural housing is being prepared and will be published shortly. The same thing is being said about a pamphlet showing the more useful plans which is being published by the Experiment Division attached to the Planning Circle of the C.P.W.D. I would like to know how long it will take for these two publications to be out.

Then I find from the report that the Central Public Works Department have a planning organisation for planning town planning schemes in Part C States. I want to know why it is only for Part C States. What is the peculiarity of town-planning in Part C States that differs so much from others that they have to be given special consideration? I should have thought that towns, whether they are in Part C States or Part A or Part B States will have similar problems and they will be treated in the same manner. Sir, I have done.

Shri G. D. Somani (Nagpur-Pali): I would like to make a few observations about the housing schemes

which are administered by this Ministry.

Sufficient has already been said about the industrial housing schemes. While I appreciate all that has been done and is being done by the Ministry to promote the schemes of housing for the industrial workers, still I think the progress made so far cannot in any way be regarded as satisfactory. There was a provision of Rs. 12 crores in the budget for 1954-55 for granting subsidy and loans for the construction of houses by industries but I find that an amount of only Rs. 5½ crores has been utilised and even out of the amount sanctioned, the disbursement has been smaller. I think the complicated procedure and the difficulty in completing all the formalities is so much that it is coming in the way of various industrial houses taking full benefit of the scheme for industrial workers. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly go into these difficulties under which the industrial employers have found it very difficult to take full benefit from this scheme. There are certain very rigid rules and forms and agreements which take months and months to be completed, and unless the whole process is simplified, I am afraid the progress may continue to be slow.

Now, as regards the scheme which was recently announced for giving loans to low income groups, here again, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the way in which the whole scheme is being administered. When the scheme was announced, the press note did not contain any sort of reservations or restrictions. Indeed, the inference was clear that anybody and everybody in the country with an income of less than Rs. 500 a month would become eligible through the State Government to get a maximum amount of Rs. 8,000 for building a house for his family. Naturally, the scheme looked very ambitious and great expectations were aroused in various States and applications began pouring in. But ultimately it was found and it created a lot of disappointment among the

various States which had sponsored those applications, that the Central Government while giving their sanction for amounts to be disbursed under this scheme impose a lot of restrictions. I am aware that the Government of Rajasthan had initially asked for a loan of Rs. 5 crores out of which a loan of Rs. 1 crore was sanctioned, but here again it was restricted to be spent only in a few cities or towns. My submission to the hon. Minister is that this housing activity is labour-intensive and if everything is done to encourage and promote the construction of houses in the country, then it will lead not only to more employment, but it will also generate additional purchasing power among the people. That being so, and especially in view of the fact that even the amount available to the Ministry has not been properly utilised, there is no reason why in administering the various schemes for promoting the house-building activities, all sorts of restrictions are being put. I think the provision of Rs. 5 crores—i.e. Rs. 1 crore during the last year and Rs. 4 crores that has been made in the current year—is hardly sufficient to cope with the demand that can be envisaged in a vast country like ours for housing to solve the problem of low-income groups. Even in the First Five Year Plan there was a provision of Rs. 38½ crores to be spent for promoting housing throughout the country. Now, that provision remains mostly unutilized and from what one can gather, only 50 per cent. of the amount will probably be utilised in the Plan period. That being so, I would earnestly urge upon the hon. Minister to liberalise the terms under which these housing schemes are being administered and to make it possible for the Central Government to liberally make available loans to the State Governments for being utilised throughout the States irrespective of areas. I do not know why rural areas and especially the community project areas should be denied the facilities for promoting house building activities under this loan and why this loan is being restricted only to the big

[Shri G. D. Somani]

cities and big towns. We have been told, and rightly so, that due to the lack of administrative and technical personnel, our expenditure under the Five Year Plan in several directions falls short of whatever has been earmarked. But here is an item in which Government does not require any elaborate administrative and technical machinery. It is for the individual concerned to make his arrangements and build the house, and therefore, it is quite feasible to usefully utilise any amount that is available to the Ministry in giving loans to the various States for building activities in the country. I would, therefore, urge with all the earnestness at my command that at a time when there is shortfall of expenditure in other directions, opportunities should be taken to liberalise and to increase the amount for loans and subsidies for the construction of houses throughout the country so that on the one hand it will increase employment and on the other it will solve the problem of housing which is so acute not only in the cities and towns, but also in the rural areas where the problem has not even been touched yet.

I hope, therefore, that the whole problem of the administration of the various housing schemes will be considered in its proper perspective, and in the light of the needs of the present circumstances.

The scheme for the middle income groups has not even been announced, nor has any action been taken about the scheme for slum clearance. All these problems require urgent attention, and I hope the hon. Minister will be able to announce the schemes for the middle class people for housing at an early date, so that whatever is contemplated to be done in co-operation with the insurance companies will be forthcoming as early as possible.

Before I close, I would like also to make a reference to the question of fuel oil prices, which are controlled by the Petroleum Division of this Ministry. I find from enquiry that the prices of fuel oil being charged in Pakistan are much lower than what the industrial

units in this country have to pay. I understand the prices of fuel oil in Pakistan are Rs. 79-9-0 plus Rs. 6, i.e. Rs. 85-9-0, which in terms of the Indian rupee comes to Rs. 123 per ton while we here in Bombay have to pay a price of Rs. 138-4-0 per ton of fuel oil. I do not know how this discrimination is taking place. I would request the hon. Minister to make enquiries as to how the consumers in India are being forced to pay such higher prices. Over and above that, now that these oil refineries have started functioning, I would also request the hon. Minister to go into the question of fuel oil prices with those companies. These world companies have got a sort of monopoly, and they dictate prices at their own sweet will, and so far as I am aware, Government have absolutely no voice in the matter. We are consuming so much oil in the country, and the hon. Minister cannot be unaware of the fact that compared to the prices of coal, the present prices of oil are far too unremunerative. The ratio of consumption of coal to that of oil is 2 : 1, and from that point of view, the oil prices that we are paying are absolutely prohibitive, and it is far economical for the industrial units to consume coal rather than oil. But in view of the fact that the transport arrangements are not adequate, several industrial concerns in Bombay and elsewhere are compelled to use fuel oil. But now that these oil refineries have started functioning, I think it will be quite appropriate for this Ministry to just go into the question of fuel oil prices, and to press upon the oil companies this particular aspect, so that they might while fixing the prices for the industries, go into the economics of the whole problem.

In this connection, I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a report about oil prices which appeared in the Press only two or three days ago. There, they say:

"The U.N. Economic Commission for Europe has come to the con-

clusion that oil could and should be sold in Western Europe and elsewhere outside the U.S.A. at prices considerably lower than are current today."

A lot of material has been given in that Commission's report, and I hope the Ministry would kindly look into the whole question of fuel oil prices in a way which will make these prices reasonable to the industrial users in this country.

Shri Sarangadhar Das (Dhenkanal West-Cuttack): In moving my Cut Motion, I wish to say that the purpose for which the Supply Wing of this Ministry is functioning is to purchase all the requirements of Government in India as well as abroad at London and Washington. The main purpose in establishing this Supply Wing was, and is, to patronise Indian business and Indian industry, so that more and more of the materials that are imported from abroad will be available and manufactured in India.

In this connection, I must at the outset pay a handsome tribute to the Supply Department for giving a fillip to Indian business and industry during the last few years. But my complaint is that what is being done is not sufficient, and it is not being carried on as efficiently as business should be carried on.

In the first place, the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals purchases nearly Rs. 100 crores worth of materials of all kinds, about Rs. 70 crores of which are purchased in India, and the rest from London and Washington. Now that the numerous Indian business-houses have excellent connections with the manufacturing concerns and commercial firms both in Europe and in America, I do not see any reason why the purchases have to be made in London or Washington, and why all the purchases should not be made in India. There are advantages in buying in India, that is to say, the same articles from the same makers in America or any country in Europe can be purchased through the Indian business-houses here to the advantage of Government.

I shall now examine what the advantages are, and what the disadvantages are from which the Indian manufacturers are suffering now. For instance, in the first place there is discrimination as between the suppliers in Europe and America and the suppliers in India. When an order is placed by the ISD, London, or the Supply Mission in Washington, the order is placed under an irrevocable letter of credit, and there is only one inspection in the works, by our inspecting staff, I suppose; and then, as soon as the goods are shipped, on the presentation of the shipping documents, full payment is made, while in the case of the Indian businessmen supplying from India probably the same articles and the same equipment as the ones imported from abroad, what happens is this; there is no irrevocable letter of credit in their case. There are three inspections, one inspection in the works abroad, the second one on arrival in India, and the third one after receipt by the consignee or the indenter who originally indented the goods, or after it is erected and run for a little while. This discrimination is really unpardonable, and what happens is this. The advantage that Government lose is this. For the articles supplied by the foreign firms, on payment to them on presentation of the shipping documents, their responsibility ceases, and on arrival here and erection, if there is any defects, there is no one to answer for that. But in the case of the Indian firms, they are responsible for it because ten per cent of the value of their orders are held up until the article is used or the equipment is erected and run. This discrimination must be discontinued; if that is done, it will be also to the advantage of Government.

Then again, there is harassment of the Indian suppliers harassment from all sides, which strikes me as a most unjust thing. That is done to one's own nationals. Orders are placed with Indian firms and if there is any delay in delivery for which the supplier himself is not responsible—it is beyond his control—such as delay in shipment from abroad, or delay in getting rail-

[Shri Sarangadhar Das]

way booking or delay in inspection, the request for extension of the delivery order takes months, sometimes over one year, to be sanctioned and final order given to the supplier. In the meantime, his money—at least 10 per cent. of the value of the order—is locked up and the accounts department in Calcutta does not pay it until the final extension order is received. These are things which are impossible between two business houses and I do not see how this has been going on all this time.

I will give another instance of harassment. There are many cases like this. An offer is kept open by the supplier for a certain period as required by the supply department. Again, a request goes to him to extend the period by another two or three months. That is done. Then by telegram it is intimated that the offer is accepted and the formal order will follow. But, the formal order follows three or four months afterwards. So altogether for six to nine months the supplier has to keep the goods in his custody and the money is locked up, because without the formal order, no inspector will inspect the goods. There is further harassment in the form of inspection. Although there are minute details regarding the execution of the order, a column is not provided for the consignee to state the date on which he received the stores. Naturally, the consignee does not state that date, and for his not stating the date, the D.A.G., Calcutta, rejects the bills. I, therefore, suggest that the department should get the form for the inspection order amended or a circular should be issued to all consignees to enter the date of receipt of stores in the inspection note. This is the experience of several firms that I have come to know about.

Then there is the matter of sales tax. All these goods are liable to pay sales tax in Bombay, Calcutta or Madras, and the agreement provides that the Government will reimburse the sales tax. The sales tax is paid; sometimes it is levied but they are not able to pay it because it amounts to thousands

of rupees. The directorate does not sanction this amount for months and sometimes for over a year. I have here some cases that I can mention. There is one for supplies worth over Rs. 3 lakhs on which sales tax was due in the early part of 1954, but the necessary letter was received by the party in the early part of 1955, that is to say, the party had to pay over Rs. 5,000 sales tax to a State Government and pay the interest on it for one year. Afterwards, it was sanctioned by the department. There was another case concerning goods worth Rs. 75,000 on which Rs. 7,000 was paid; it has taken 11 months and yet the letter has not been received by the party. There is another case of a similar nature; 11 months have gone by and yet the letter has not been received.

In this connection, I would make a constructive suggestion. This sales tax business is worrying everybody, even the merchants and traders all over. I would say that if the party pays the sales tax and gets the receipt from the State Government and submits that receipt, then the money should be immediately paid instead of going into a dispute between the State Government and this Government whether the sales tax should be that much or less—I mean to say there is some dispute between single-point sales tax and multi-point sales tax. This is very necessary. This is worrying the merchants in every city in regard to the supply of goods and materials to the Government. I had approached the Minister once and I was told that what I am alleging is not right. But I know for certain these things are there. Indian firms are being discriminated against, the department is favouring foreign manufactures and white skins, there is trouble about sales tax, there is trouble about getting extension orders—these are all facts. I would suggest to the Minister to have a conference of these people once or twice a year, bring them here, representatives from chambers of commerce from different trades like iron, steel, hardware etc.—about thirty or forty

of them—and find out what their difficulties are. May be the Ministry also will be able to give them some advice as to how to get over those difficulties. Certain other Ministries are doing that and this Ministry should also do it.

Now I come to another point, about the prevalence of nepotism, not necessarily in this department but in other departments of Government with which this department is concerned. Now, an order comes. The specifications of the indent are such that it can be placed only with one firm—one make—and in that firm or their branch here in India, there is the son of the Chief Electrical Engineer or the Chief Mechanical Engineer or somebody, and he gets the order, that firm gets the order.

[SARDAR HUKAM SINGH in the Chair]

Sometimes, it so happens that the son is informed by the father that there is an order for batteries that will come. So the son cables to the office abroad and the goods are shipped. When the goods are on the seas, the indent is sent to the supply department, and the only people who can supply immediately from stock are this firm. So the order goes to them. There are many cases of nepotism. I am mentioning this not because I am jealous of the son of the Chief Electrical Engineer but because we are losing money in this way and we are demoralising our people. This must stop.

Last of all, I want to say something about steam road rollers. Some six years ago, our Government decided to manufacture steam road rollers here and they entered into a contract with a British firm which allowed us to manufacture the rollers by paying £100 royalty per unit. I understand about a thousand of them were manufactured at a very high cost, practically double the cost of those that used to be received from the United Kingdom. Then, someone realised that steam road rollers had gone out of use all over the world and they were using diesel road rollers. Then the manufacture was stopped. Then again, some officers

got it into their heads that they can revive it on the ground that diesel oil is not available in the far interior of the country, in the jungles where the roads are being built. Immediately, the son of a very highly placed officer was sent over to that firm in England. He was paid by the firm that had entered into the "royalty" agreement. He was there for three years and he was paid his salary by the firm and he came back. Now, it has been decided to discontinue the manufacture of steam road rollers. So, all that business is finished and the royalty that we had paid came to somewhere about Rs. 13 lakhs, and that is gone. I particularly want the hon. Minister to explain to us how this happened, and due to whose incompetence such a thing was done. Knowing fully well that steam road rollers were going out of the market, that particular firm was glad to get rid of them because they had already gone into diesel roller manufacturing. So, what was nothing but duds was thrown on our government and our government gladly took it up and sank nearly Rs. 13½ lakhs of the tax payer's money.

I finally want to say one word outside of this supply wing. All that I wish to say is this. There is a great deal of talk here about housing. I have been just now told that the purpose of industrial housing is to eliminate the slums. In Kanpur, the houses are being built five miles away from the factories where the workers work. They have to come from a distance of five miles. What is more important is the fact that in the factory premises, whatever slum tenements they had, the workers were paying only Rs. 2 or Rs. 2/8/- per month as rent. But, in the houses built by the Government they have to pay Rs. 12 as rent per month. It is impossible for a worker to pay this rent of Rs. 12 per month. So, what happens is this. Five or six people join together and crowd in that room, that little space, which is intended only for one family. So, the same slum is being created here in the houses built by the Government.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Gorakhpur Distt. North): Sir, I am very sorry I cannot join Mr. Bansal in the congratulations he has given to the hon. Minister. I have carefully gone through the report which he has submitted. But, as I said the other day in the general discussion of the Budget, I judge the progress from its rate and compare it with our neighbouring countries. After much searching, I have not been able to find any such figures which could compare favourably with other countries. In fact, yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister said that there are no figures available about China. I was really surprised at that. I have got the figures. About housing, I will say in China they have constructed about 12 million square metres of living space in the year 1954. I think this is nothing as compared to Russia where they have done about 72 million sq. metres of living space. So, what I say is this. We have to judge our progress just in comparison with other countries.

Secondly, everybody knows that in every city the dearth of housing is so very great that people are compelled to live on the floors of the streets because they have no houses to live in. Then, as my hon. friend Mr. Somani said you have got yourself a scheme for building houses for Rs. 12 crores. I was in Banaras and I found that the Improvement Trust put all sorts of obstacles in the way of people making or building houses. Unless the plans are approved they will not allow any person to build a house and they put all sorts of obstacles in the way. So, I feel that unless it is done as if there is an emergency, unless red-tapism is not allowed to interfere, we cannot compete with our neighbouring countries. Therefore, I think that the actual progress that we have made is most unsatisfactory and even our humble Five Year Plan cannot be fulfilled in this manner.

I may here give an instance of our utter indifference towards industrial housing. I am surprised that in my State of U.P. there are large funds

lying from the sale of sugar molasses and it was decided that they will be used for building houses for sugar workers. But the funds have not been released and if any millowner wants to go ahead with the building of houses he is not allowed to draw from the fund and the workers are not getting the houses. This red-tapism is something atrocious.

I propose to deal now with the Supply Ministry. My hon. friend, Shri Sarangadhar Das, just now gave some reasons why we should not call tenders in Washington and London. I personally feel that this matter has now become a scandal. In the previous years, we have had the jeep scandal, the railway engine scandal and all those things. Now, I am happy that even our Indian firms have raised their protest against this practice. In fact, by inviting tenders in Washington and London, we are at a great disadvantage. First of all, when we invite tenders in Washington, we get only the American manufacturers to tender. We do not get continental competitors or Japanese competitors to tender there. The result is that the Americans combine together and demand high prices.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I only want to add that factually this is not correct, because the tenders called for by the ISM there are generally on the global basis.

Shri S. L. Saksena: It is true but generally we do not get tenders on a global basis. When you invite tenders for a specific thing which is manufactured only in Washington, generally the Washington factories or the American factories alone can tender. They are not produced here and it is required here then everybody can tender. One thing may be produced in Washington or America and if you can have similar things produced in Germany and Japan and then you can have a tender on global basis. If you specify a particular item nobody else can tender for it. What I want is

that you must ask all the world factories to tender and when you get all the tenders you should pick and choose. If you invite tenders in this way in India, you will get things at competitive rates and they will be much cheaper than they will be if you purchase them after calling for tenders in London and Washington. There are many firms having their agents in India and if we can purchase things through them, we will be at a great advantage. For, by purchasing things abroad Government are losing a lot of income-tax, which they can easily collect by purchasing things through agency firms here. At present Indian business houses are not able to compete, because tenders are called in Washington and London. If they were called here, our industries can compete with foreign firms who tender and we might get Indian goods to satisfy our needs at a cheaper rate.

The most important question is the quality of the goods we purchase. When you get things from outside, they are shipped from there and you have to pay there before goods are shipped. After payment, you cannot say that the things are not according to specifications for your inspectors who certified their quality had been bribed and won over. This is one of the most important defects of the present arrangements. If you get tenders here, they will have to supply goods here and payment will be made after we satisfy ourselves that the goods supplied are according to specifications. It has been our experience on many occasions in the past that things purchased from abroad have not been to our specifications, or satisfaction. A lot of valuable money has been lost in these transactions. The inspectors could either not see them properly or, they were bribed when they certified them. For example, we suffered considerable losses in wheat purchases from America.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member must at least look to the Chair some times.

Shri S. L. Saksena: I am sorry, Sir. Then again, the delay that ensues in purchase by the Supply Department is very great. In fact, the Railways do not purchase much of their requirements through the Supply Department, because they are not able to ensure supply of things in time and if they depend upon the Supply Department their whole programme would be upset. The Supply Department is perhaps too bureaucratic or red tape ridden, with the result that deliveries are not made in time, or according to schedule. I, therefore, think that the system of purchasing our requirements in Washington and London should be given up, and arrangements should be made to call tenders here and also to have deliveries made here. Our prestige in the world market is very high now and if we do not close our eyes to the Soviet bloc, there will be good competition and we can get our requirements from the cheapest and best market in the world.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of staff. The other day I was going through the telephone directory and I found at least the names of more than a hundred people mentioned there under the Supply Department. In fact, this Department was created by the British Government when there was a great cry for the purchase of Indian stores. It was originally called the India Stores Department. At that time the staff was small; there were only one Controller and thirty-six clerks. The idea underlying the creation of this Department was to purchase Indian goods. Now, I do not see any reason for the continuance of this Department. If the Railways can purchase their requirements direct, I do not see any reason why the other Departments cannot do likewise. If the Departments can be permitted to purchase their requirements themselves, the staff of this Department can be reduced. In fact, individual Departments will be in a better position to purchase their requirements. Much of the functions of this Department should be decentralised and many things which are purchased

[Shri S. L. Saxena]

through it should be allowed to be purchased by the Departments themselves direct. Of course, the Supply Department may continue to purchase those items which require specialised purchasing agents.

Now I come to disposals. This section has continued to exist since 1954. Ever since 1947 when I was a Member here, repeated assurances were given that this section would be soon wound up. Still the Disposals Department is going on and they have now got Rs. 14 crores worth of goods still to be disposed of from other Government Departments. I think it is time this Department was wound up. My own information is that it is not functioning properly. Many items which are sold by the Disposals to the merchants as unserviceable scrap, are purchased by Government themselves at enhanced prices from these very merchants immediately after.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): This is something extraordinary!

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is there any particular case in the mind of the hon. Member?

Shri S. L. Saxena: I shall give you some cases, if necessary. But that is my information from very reliable sources.

Then I shall say a few words about the system of calling for tenders for supply of goods. From my experience as a Member of the last Parliament, I can say that there are two departments which are full of corruption: one is the license issuing section of the Import and Export Department and the other is the Department dealing with the placing of orders by the Supply Department. I am very sorry to have to say that things in these Departments are still going on in the same way. Tenders are invited and they are only accepted after the people who have the power to grant them are satisfied. In fact, I know of tenders which were opened as long back as six or seven months and still they are pending, because the officials

responsible for accepting them are still waiting for the black money. If my hon. friend wants particulars, I am prepared to give him the information confidentially. This is the biggest den of corruption and I think it requires a very strong hand to clean this Augean stable. Now in the new India that all of us are trying to build, we must not be afraid of anybody and we must be strong and strict. Unfortunately, there are many persons who are doing regular business of securing orders for industrial firms from the authorities in the Supply Department. This is a matter which requires a full probe: as to whether orders are not placed after all the intermediaries are satisfied. This is a scandal and must be stopped.

I do not wish to take any more time, because I find there are several friends who are anxious to speak.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब (गृधगांव):

जनाब चेयरमैन साहब, मेरा इरादा इस मिनिस्ट्र के मुतालिक कुछ ज्यादा कहने का नहीं था, लेकिन फिर भी एक बात कहे बगैर नहीं रह सकता। जहां तक सक्सेना साहब का सवाल है, उन्होंने अभी एक दो बातें ऐसी कही हैं जिनका थोड़ा सा जवाब देने की मुझे जरूरत पड़ी। एक वक्त था जब कि हमारी डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री, रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री और एग्जीक्यूटिव मिनिस्ट्री बहुत सी चीजें खरीदा करती थीं। और अपने डिपार्टमेंट के जरिये खरीदा करती थीं। मैं जिस वक्त का जिक्र कर रहा हूं उस वक्त एक फाइनेंस कमेटी हुआ करती थी। हम में से चन्द लोगों ने यह उच्च किया कि जब एक चीज खरीदना है, या गल्ला ही खरीदना है, तो अगर अपने अपने डिपार्टमेंट के मार्फत कोई चीज खरीदी जायेगी तो जो खरीदने वाला है वह ठीक टर्म्स हासिल नहीं कर सकेगा। अगर चार डिपार्टमेंट्स अलाहदा अलाहदा खरीदेंगे तो अलाहदा अलाहदा कीमतें उनको देनी पड़ेगी और यह दुरुस्त नहीं होगा। उस

पालिसी को खत्म करके यह पालिसी अख्तियार की गई कि एक सप्लाइ डिपार्टमेंट ऐसा बने जो खुद सब चीजों को खरीद कर सब डिपार्टमेंट्स को सप्लाइ किया करे। अब आज हमारे लायक दोस्त यह कहते हैं कि इस डिपार्टमेंट को डिसेन्ट्रलाइज कर दो। थोड़े अर्से के बाद जब यह डिसेन्ट्रलाइज हो जायेगा तो फिर कहेंगे कि इसको सेन्ट्रलाइज कर दिया जाय। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि एक चीज को जिसको कि गवर्नमेंट ने बहुत तजुबे के बाद कबूल किया है आपको महज थ्रिटिसिज्म की वजह से खत्म नहीं कर देना चाहिये।

इसके बाद मैं थोड़ा सा हाउसिंग के बारे में अर्ज करना चाहता हूं। कभी मुनाई दिया था कि गवर्नमेंट का दस लाख इन्डस्ट्रियल मकान बनाने का इरादा है, अगर हम ब्रीफ नोट के दूसरे सफे पर देखें तो पता चलता है कि अभी तक २०,००० टेनमेंट्स बने हैं। मैं बहुत अदब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि आखिर वह दिन कौनसा होगा जब दस लाख मकान बन जायेंगे, वह कौनसा दिन होगा कि एक एक लेबरर के लिये मकान होगा जिसके लिये आप रोज शिकायत करते हैं कि उसकी एफिशिएन्सी ठीक नहीं है, वह काम ठीक से नहीं करता है। उसके लिये कम से कम रहने का मकान तो दीजिये। जब तक उसकी हाउसिंग प्राब्लेम ठीक नहीं होगी तब तक वह लोग अपना काम ठीक तरह से नहीं कर सकते, जो लेबर्स आज हैं अगर उनको रहने का आराम भी नहीं हो तो ऐसी हालत में वह क्या कर सकते हैं? इसके इलावा मैं स्लम्ज के बारे में एक दो लफ्ज कहना चाहता हूं। स्लम्ज बहुत ज्यादा जगह हैं और उनके बारे में यह कहा गया है कि इस तजवीज पर सोच विचार हो रहा है कि अगर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स इनके बारे में कुछ न कर सकें तो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट उनकी मदद करे। मुझे अफसोस है कि यह ड्रीम कंसिड्रेशन की स्टेज

से अभी नहीं निकली और अभी तक इसको एक्चुअल प्रैक्टिश में नहीं लाया गया। पता नहीं कब तक इस पर सोच विचार चलता रहेगा। यह एक ऐसा काम है कि जिसको गवर्नमेंट को फौरन मान लेना चाहिये।

2 P.M.

१९५२ में हमारी यह मिनिस्ट्री बनी और हमारी यह खुशकिस्मती है कि सरदार साहब इस मिनिस्ट्री के इंचार्ज हुये। हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि जैसे वे मशहूर हैं और जैसे वे काम करते हैं वे इस मिनिस्ट्री को चार चांद लगा देंगे। एक उम्मीद दी गई है कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में जो लो इन्कम ग्रुप के लिये मकानात बनवाये जायेंगे। जब ऐसा हो जायेगा तो लोग यह महसूस करेंगे कि उन का एक स्वप्न पूरा हो गया है और उनको पता लगेगा कि सोशलिस्टिक स्टेट इस तरह से काम करती है। इस स्कीम के तहत सरदार साहब किसी हद तक स्टेटों की मदद कर के इस स्कीम को कामयाब बनाने की कोशिश भी करेंगे। लेकिन इस स्कीम के बारे में एक अर्ज करना चाहता हूं। इस स्कीम के अन्दर तीस बरस तक रुपया बनाये गये मकानों के मुत्तल्लिक वसूल किया जायेगा। यह ठीक है लेकिन इससे मैं सैटिसफाइड नहीं हूं कि जमीन अच्छी तरह से डिवैलप करके सिर्फ तीन साल के बाद डिवैलप जमीन के मुत्तल्लिक रुपया वसूल कर लिया जाये। जैसा इस नोट में दर्ज है मैं चाहता हूं कि वह रुपया भी किराये को लीज के जरिये तीस साल के अन्दर लिया जाये।

मैं जिस मतलब के लिये बोलने खड़ा हुआ था वह कुछ और था। मैं जितनी सरदार साहब की तारीफ करूं उतनी थोड़ी है। लो इन्कम ग्रुप को एक उम्मीद की शुभा जिन्होंने दिखलाई। १९५० में जो मकानात बने थे उन पर रिफ्यूजीज ने अपना खून पसीना एक करके और जो कुछ भी उनके पास यहां पहुंचने पर बचा था सब कुछ लगा दिया।

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

१९५२ से पहले हमारे सरदार साहब के जो प्रेडिसेसर थे उन्होंने एक एशोरेंस दी थी कि इन के मकानात नहीं गिराये जायेंगे। इस एशोरेंस के बावजूद १२०० मकान गिरा दिये गये हैं और वह एशोरेंस जो कि मिनिस्टर साहब ने दी थी इस हाउस के अन्दर उस पर चला नहीं गया, उसकी कोई परवाह नहीं की गई। वे बेचारे मिनिस्टर्स के पास पहुंचे, सरदार साहब से अर्ज किया, राजकुमारी जी के पास गये, रिहैबिलिटेशन वालों के पास गये किसी ने भी उनकी तकलीफों की तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया, किसी के कान पर जू तक न रींघी। मैं तो कहता हूं कि क्योंकि वे बेचारे गरीब थे, मुसीबत के मारे हुये थे, कुचले हुये थे, उनके पास कोई ताकत नहीं थी इस वास्ते उनकी तरफ किसी का ध्यान नहीं गया। इतना जरूर कहना था कि नो प्रोफिट नो लौस पर इनको मकान दिये जायेंगे। अब नई स्कीम की रू से मकानात उनको दिये जायेंगे जिनकी आमदनी ६,००० तक की है और जिनको गवर्नमेंट कर्जा देगी। नो प्रोफिट नो लौस पर ये मकानात दिये जायेंगे हम जानते हैं कि सात आठ रुपये से ज्यादा डिवलपमेंट चांजिज नहीं आते लेकिन अब जो इम्प्रूवमेंट ट्रस्ट ने किया है वह यह किया है कि इस जमीन की कीमत तीस रुपया और चालीस रुपया फ्री गज के हिसाब से वसूल की जायेगी। यह बेचारे दबे हुये और कुचले हुये जो रिफ्यूजीज हैं अगर वे चालीस रुपये फ्री गज के हिसाब से जमीन की कीमत देने के काबिल होते तो जरूर दे देते। मकान तो हर एक को चाहिये। रोटी के बाद मकान का सवाल पैदा होता है और इस मसले को हल करना सरदार साहब के हाथ में है। इसके वास्ते हमें किसी और के पास जाने की जरूरत नहीं है हमें तो सिर्फ सरदार साहब की खिदमत में ही हाजिर होना पड़ता है। मैं अब से

अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इन लोगों के साथ इन्साफ होना चाहिये। इनको आठ रुपये फ्री गज के हिसाब से जमीन दे दी जाये और आप कोई मुनाफा न लें। इस हाउस में दिये गये वायदे में अर्ज करता हूं, कानून से ज्यादा सेक्रिड और मजबूत होते हैं। जब ये लोग अदालतों में जाते हैं तो कहा जाता है कि यह एशोरेंसिस ला की हैसियत नहीं रखते इस वास्ते अदालत इस मामले में कुछ नहीं कर सकती। मैं सरदार साहब की खिदमत में इतना अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यह एशोरेंसिस कानून से ज्यादा एहमियत रखते हैं। अगर जो एशोरेंसिस दिये जाते हैं उन को इम्पलिमेंट न करके उनको फलाउट किया गया तो मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इससे लोगों का आप में कान्फिडेंस नहीं रहेगा और इस पार्लियामेंट की, इस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की देश में और दुनिया में कोई वुक्कत नहीं रहेगी। इसलिये मेरी प्रार्थना है कि गाडगिल साहब ने, जिन'के कि आप एकसेसर हैं, जो एशोरेंस दिये थे उनको पूरा करने की जिम्मेदारी अब आप पर आ गई है और आप ही को उन एशोरेंसिस को पूरा करना है। जहां मकान मौजूद हैं उन को आपने नो प्रोफिट नो लौस के बेसिस पर देने के लिये रखा है। आज रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट ने जो पालिसी इन मकानात के बारे में तै की है उससे रिफ्यूजीज तबाह हो जायेंगे। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यह जो मकानात बनाये गये हैं इनको आप उनको दे दीजिये और उन से तीस बरस में इनकी आप कीमत वसूल कीजिये। जितने भी मकानात बनाये गये हैं इनको भी आप रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट से अपने कब्जे में ले लीजिये क्योंकि हाउसिंग आपका सब्जेक्ट है और जिस तरह कम्पेंसेशन देने की खातिर उनको घरों से निकाल कर बेघरबार किया जा रहा है उस के बजाये फायदे

के नुकसान ही होगा। मैं अर्ज करता हूँ कि यह सवाल अकेली एक मिनस्ट्री का नहीं है बल्कि सारी गवर्नमेंट का है और उनको इस पर गौर करना चाहिये। मैं गवर्नमेंट को यह संदेशा भेजना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह से सारी कम्पेन्सेशन स्कीम नाकामयाब होगी और यह चल नहीं सकती। इसका एक ही इलाज है कि आप ४०-५० करोड़ रुपया उस की डिस्पोजल पर रख दें। आपने इस साल के लिये ३८ करोड़ रुपये रखे हैं। आपको हर एक आदमी को जो कि दिल्ली में रहता है मकान मुहैया करना है चाहे वह डिस्प्लेस्ड परसन हो चाहे न हो। ऐसा करने से आप एक स्टोन से दो बर्तन मार सकेंगे। इससे एक तो रिफ्यूजीज का मसला हल होगा और दूसरे जो लो इनकम ग्रुप्स के लिये मकान बनवाने की स्कीम भी ठीक ढंग से चलेगी। मैं अपने सबजेक्ट से परे चला गया हूँ। मैं लोगों को जो ऐशोरेंस दी गई थी उसके बारे में अर्ज कर रहा था। आप उन से ८ रुपये या १० रुपये पर यार्ड से ज्यादा चार्ज न कीजिये हालांकि चार पांच रुपये डिबलेपमेंट कास्ट आती है। जब ऐशोरेंस दिये गये थे तो कहा गया था कि कोस्ट आफ एक्वी-जीशन लेंगे वह कोस्ट तो २ या ४ आने की गज से ज्यादा नहीं है। आप रुपये के पीछे न जायें। आपने जो वायदे किये थे उन को पूरा कीजिये। अगर वे वायदे जो पालियामेंट के अन्दर किये गये थे पूरे नहीं किये जाते तो आप की कोई वक्कत नहीं रह जायेगी।

दूसरी चीज जो मैं अर्ज करने जा रहा हूँ उसके बारे में मेरी मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना है कि वे इसको ज़रा ध्यान से सुनें। पटेल नगर, झंडेवाला में जिन रिफ्यूजीज ने मकान बनाये हुये थे और जिनको गवर्नमेंट ने खिलाफ़ कायदा समझा उनको रिहैबिलिटेशन ने गिरवा दिया और उसके बारे में जो ऐशोरेंस दी गई थी उस पर ऐशोरेंस कमिटी

विचार कर रही है। इस ज़मीन में से आधी ज़मीन इम्प्रूवमेंट ट्रस्ट ने रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट से ले ली है और कहा कि यहां पर मकान बना कर किराये पर दिये जायेंगे। हम सब जानते हैं एक आदमी जो अपने मकान में रहता है और दूसरा जो कि एक महल की ऊपर की मंजिल में रहता है उन दोनों में कितना फरक है। मैं ने एक ऐशोरेंस ली थी कि इस ज़मीन पर डिस्प्लेस्ड परसन्स को बसाया जाये और जितना रुपया इस ज़मीन को डिबलेप करने पर खर्च आता है वह उनसे लिया जाये जिससे कि हर एक डिस्प्लेस्ड परसन्स अपने बनाये हुये मकान में रहें। इसके बाद यह ज़मीन रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट ने अपने कब्जे में ले ली इस गर्ज से कि वहां पर डिस्प्लेस्ड परसन्स को बसाया जायेगा। आज तक उस ज़मीन के बारे में सोच विचार किया जा रहा है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करता हूँ कि जिन लोगों के मकान गिराये गये थे उनको आधी ज़मीन ही दे दी जाये तो भी वह अपने आपको खुशकिस्मत समझेंगे। आप कम्पेन्सेशन न दें, उनको नो प्रोफ़िट नो लूस पर उस ज़मीन को दे दें, आप को इस में कोई तकलीफ़ नहीं होगी। वे अपने आप मकानात के नक्शे बनवा कर पास करा लेंगे। उन मकानों के आस पास काफी ज़मीन मौजूद है। अपने जाती मुफ़ाद के लिये मैं कुछ नहीं चाहता। मैं तो इन दुखी आदमियों की तरफ से बोल रहा हूँ। ये दुखी आदमी हैं, बेघरबार हैं वे आपसे कम्पेन्सेशन नहीं मांगते।

मैं तो भिलारी की तरह आपकी सिदमत में उन की तरफ से यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जो ऐशोरेंस आपने मुझे दिये हैं उन को पूरा करें। आप मुझे ज़मीन दीजिये जिस पर मैं आपके नक्शे के मुताबिक अपना झोंपड़ा बना लूँ। आपके डिपार्टमेंट के कब्जे में ज़मीन खाली पड़ी है। आस पास बहुत सी

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

जमीनें पड़ी हैं जिन में आप मुझे बिठा सकते हैं। जिन को आप ऐश्योरेंस दे चुके हैं उनको आप अपने ऐश्योरेंसेज से बाउंड हैं और गवर्नमेंट की आनर आप के हाथ में सेफ है। यह लफ्ज देश के अन्दर न जाने दीजिये कि जो यहां कहा जाता है उसके खिलाफ गवर्नमेंट या कोई अफसर जा सकता है।

दूसरी चीज में और अर्ज करना चाहता हूं। यह स्लम्स के बारे में है। आपने स्लम्स को ठीक करना शुरू किया है। दिल्ली में गवर्नमेंट का प्रेमिसेज बिल है। आप स्लम्स को साफ कीजिये। मैं यह चाहता हूं। आपने इस बिल को सिलेक्ट कमिटी के सुपुर्द किया था। उस कमिटी के मेम्बर की है सियत से मैं भी उन स्लम्स को देखने गया था। मैं स्लम्स का उतना ही दुश्मन हूं जितना कि कोई और हो सकता है। मैं अपने भाइयों को अपने अपने मकानों में प्रिसेज की तरह रहते हुये देखना चाहता हूं। हर एक का मकान उसका सिटेडिल हो यह मैं चाहता हूं। जिस दिन आप उन गरीबों को मकान बना कर रहने के लिये देंगे उस दिन मैं समझूंगा कि हमारा स्वराज्य का स्वप्न पूरा हो रहा है। लेकिन मैं यह नहीं समझता था कि आप गरीब आदमियों के मकान ले कर उनको या उन में से ज्यादातर को दस दस मील के फासले पर फेंक देंगे जहां कि वे अपनी रोजी न कमा सकें। यह तो उन गरीब आदमियों के साथ निहायत सक्ती का बरताव होगा कि उनको इतने फासले पर भेज दिया जाये कि वे अपनी रोजी भी पैदा न कर सकें। उन के मकान लिये गये हैं जिनका उनको पूरा मुआवजा नहीं दिया गया और उन्हें इतनी दूर दूर फेंक दिया गया है। स्लम क्लियरेंस का मशा तो यह होना चाहिये कि आप उनको अच्छे मकान बना कर रहने के लिये दें, न कि उनको

अपने रोजी कमाने के मुकाम से दूर फेंक कर उनको तबाह कर दें। अगर स्लम क्लियरेंस का यह मतलब है कि आप उसी जगह उनको अच्छे मकान बना कर देना चाहते हैं तब तो यह काम मुबारक है, नहीं तो यह अच्छा है कि आप मुझे स्लम में रहने दें, मुझे सड़ने दें और मरने दें, मुझे तबाह न करें, मुझे दस मील दूर न फेंकें जहां कि मैं अपनी रोजी न कमा सकूं। स्लम में रहना और रोजी कमाना अच्छा है बनिस्पत महल में रह कर भस्मे मरने के।

इन अलफाज के साथ मैं आपकी खिदमत में अर्ज करूंगा कि आप कम से कम हमको यह उम्मीद तो दिला दीजिये कि आपने जो वायदे किये थे वे पूरे होंगे। उनको दिल्ली स्टेट पूरा करेगी। इसमें रुपये का सवाल नहीं है। बिला कोई रुपया खर्च किये हुये आप हमको यह रिलीफ दे सकते हैं। चूंकि यह मसला आपकी मिनिस्ट्री के मुतालिक है इसलिये मैंने यह चन्द लफ्ज आपकी खिदमत में अर्ज किये।

Mr. Chairman: Shri Tek Chand,

Sardar Swaran Singh: Only less than half an hour is left now.

Mr. Chairman: I wanted to accommodate one more hon. Member if the Minister would agree.

Sardar Swaran Singh: If that hon. Member takes only five minutes I have no objection.

Mr. Chairman: Yes; the hon. Member will only be given a few minutes.

Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla): Sir, at the fag end of this debate I am deeply grateful to you and to the hon. Minister for giving me a brief opportunity. I felt like offering him my felicitations for the good work that he has done, but I will not choke him with an over-dose of sugar lest it gives him an indigestion of self-complacency.

He has referred to one or two matters which I shall deal with. He says there is still a pressure of accommodation in Delhi and he is making efforts to relieve that pressure. I feel that there are a number of places—what to say of pressure—where properties remain untenanted and unoccupied with the result that those towns are going to rack and ruin but for the fact that they are not being tenanted. If the Government diverts its attention to those sub-towns on the healthy himalayan fringes, it will be relieving congestion here and helping the people of those places which desire that larger number of population should go there. In particular I wish to invite the Minister's pointed attention to the town of Simla. That queen of hill resorts, which, as a result of inactivity of the State Government—State Government I should say because there are two State Governments—Himachal Pradesh and Punjab—and as a result of inertia on the part of the Central Government, is going to rack and ruin. That beautiful town is going to ruin because sufficient number of government departments could not be sent up there in order to occupy crores worth of house property belonging to the Government of India as well as to the Government of Punjab. Besides, there is so much private property lying untenanted there, waiting for tenants and which will not be tenanted unless Government decides to do something in the matter.

Apart from Simla this is the sad state of virtually every hill resort, health giving sports where people are not being attracted because of the inertia on the part of the Government. Whether it happens to be Mussoorie, Kasauli, Dagshai or Dalhousie, the houses of these pretty towns are there remaining absolutely neglected. They ought to have been properly developed when they would have attracted hosts of tourists and thereby put lots of money into the coffers of the people and the Government. But, this is the state of affairs. In the short time at my disposal I want to implore the hon.

Minister to devote some thought and attention to this very vital matter.

There is one more point and that is regarding de-requisitioning. It is stated that this policy of de-requisitioning is being pursued and so far as many as 30 houses have been de-requisitioned I think the Government at the Centre will certainly beat even a snail if there was a competition as to the slowness of the pace. This matter deserves to be attended to at a faster and a speedier pace.

Regarding supplies I have got one short submission to make. It is stated that some sort of careful screening goes on. Well, 'screening' is a very ambiguous equivocal word and I am frightened of it. I hope 'screening' means scrutiny rather than 'concealment'. But, look at this curious screening which is very desirable and which goes on. Kindly turn to annexure A on page 33 of this booklet supplied by the Ministry which deals with important purchases made abroad as well as in India. I find on this page, item 20—foodstuffs purchased by ISM at Washington are to the tune of Rs. 5,18,00,000 and from London Rs. 6,05,00,000 worth of foodstuffs had been imported. No doubt, this report is skimpy and there may be many details missing, but I am amazed to find that from America this country needs foodstuffs of the value of Rs. 5,18,00,000 and England supplies to this country foodstuffs to the value of Rs. 6,05,00,000. What are these remarkable foodstuffs which the poor people of this country are consuming and which are being manufactured there. If the reference is to tinned fish and other tinned goods I hope we are far better off without their tinned stuff. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this matter. I suppose this is not one of those 'screening' things that are being done. I would like to enter behind the screen and find out what are the foodstuffs worth several crores that are being imported into this country.

Lastly, Sir, there is something said

[Shri Tek Chand]

about explosives and something about petroleum. Regarding explosives I wish to say that Rs. 1½ crores worth of explosives for blasting have been imported. They were absolutely necessary and one and a half crores has been blasted in mines and quarries. But, I do hope that surely our resources are not altogether bankrupt with the result that we cannot manufacture these explosives.

I do wish to plead from the point of view of sportsmen that the prices of cartridges for short guns are absolutely prohibitive.

Regarding petroleum there were surcharges because of the high charges of bringing in petrol from places far off. It is high time when we should be able to produce our own petroleum tankers so that we may be able to import all our petrol in our own tankers.

With these remarks I conclude and I thank you.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, I have to thank the hon. Members who have given thought to the various problems that face this Ministry and most of them have been good enough to shower some bouquets, although I am fully cognisant of the brick-bats too. But, I must say that most of the important aspects that are handled in this Ministry have been touched upon in one form or another. Some of the suggestions that have been made, in a constructive spirit and I greatly value these suggestions. I will try within the short time at my disposal to reply to some of the points that have been raised and if there are some questions or arguments that have been raised to which I cannot give a detailed reply, I want to assure the House that it is not because I do not attach importance to them, but the short time at my disposal is responsible for such a shortcoming.

I heard with great expectancy the opening remarks of my hon. friend Shri T. B. Vittal Rao. When he described the Central Public Works De-

partment as a department of colossal public waste, I was expecting that he will make some suggestions for cutting out that waste. I was imagining that he was going to suggest that either the pay scales should be revised or the pay should be reduced or some other economies should be effected. But, I strained my ear in vain because nothing of that type was suggested. All that was said about this Department was a repetition of what the hon. Member was pleased to say at the time of this discussion last year.

About the grievances of the work-charged staff, the question has been before this Lok Sabha on occasions more than one in the form of questions and answers and in the form of discussions. The basic thing behind all this criticism is the difference in the service conditions that obtains between the employees of the work-charged staff and the regular permanent employees of the Government whether in this Department or elsewhere. If the terms and conditions were exactly the same, this name "work-charged staff" will not be there and they will be like all other employees and normal rules with regard to all the amenities by way of leave, by way of allowances, by way of gratuity benefits, will automatically apply. There is a certain basic difference between the terms and conditions of service of this staff as compared to the permanent staff. As I said last year, the real question is as to how much out of this staff could be made permanent so that the fraction or portion that is made permanent will automatically get all the advantages which are enjoyed by the members of the permanent services. Then, this criticism will obviously come to an end. That visualises that there is a constant work-load which justifies the absorption on a permanent basis all the members of the work-charged staff. I submit that the basis of such a presumption is incorrect and it will not be wise to commit the finances of the country in a way which really is not justified. So long as that distinction

is understood, every effort is still being made to improve the conditions under which the members of the work-charged staff carry on their duties.

A number of points have been raised. I do not propose to go into the details noticing each point. But, most of the points that have been raised are contained in the various memoranda that have been submitted from time to time....

श्री पी० एन० राजभाज (शोलापुर-रहित-
अनुसूचित जातियाँ): हरिजन और शेखरूह
कास्ट्स के बारे में कुछ नहीं बतलाया ।

सभापति महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर, माननीय
सदस्य, मिनिस्टर साहब को जो कुछ कहना है,
कह लेने दें और उसको सुनें ।

श्री पी० एन० राजभाज : बहुत अच्छा ।

Sardar Swaran Singh: I can assure the hon. Member that the work-charged staff of the Scheduled Castes as also non-Scheduled Castes are treated on a par. There is no discrimination against members of the Scheduled Castes even where the work-charged staff is concerned .

I was submitting that the points of grievances which have been put forward by the hon. Member have been culled out from the memoranda that have been submitted from time to time by the associations which represent a certain section of the Central P.W.D. work-charged staff. These points have been examined from time to time.

With regard to some of the suggestions that had been put forward and which, on examination, were found to be reasonable, action has already been taken. For instance, my hon. friend's information about the expensive locality allowance for Mandapam in South India was a little stale because that allowance has already been sanctioned. Probably his informants have not given him the latest information on that point. Then, again, the house rent at Konagarh has also been sanctioned.

This was also one of the demands. The merger of half of the dearness allowance with pay in accordance with the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee has already taken place. That has been appreciated by the members of the work-charged staff. I was mentioning these points only to indicate that we do not wait for these points to be raised in the course of a debate, to examine them. These points are before the Government from time to time and we have been examining them with the greatest sympathy. I may also assure the hon. Member that the same amount of sympathy will still continue to be shown towards the various demands or grievances that are put forward from time to time.

I may also submit that a fairly reasonable proportion of this work-charged staff has already been made either permanent or semi-permanent. As many as 2529 members of the work-charged staff have been made permanent, and 2516 of the work-charged staff have been given the status of "semi-permanent" as a special case as this point was urged on occasions more than one by the associations. I can say that there is still a fairly good proportion, practically a half, of the members of the work-charged staff which is temporary. But, as I submitted, when the work-load is not a constant factor, it will not be very wise to confirm all of them on a permanent basis and take them on the pay rolls of the exchequer, because, that, I submit, will not be in the interests of the country.

I may also add that so far as other reasonable facilities which might make the working conditions better are concerned, the matter has been engaging our attention from time to time. The paying of reasonable expenses by way of travelling allowances or payment of expensive locality allowances, provision of accommodation at air ports where it is not provided, also provision of suitable medical facilities—these are points about which decisions have already been taken in a favourable manner, and where the decisions have not already been taken, steps will

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

be taken to expedite appropriate decisions. I would submit, therefore, that in this background, the prelude with which the hon. Member started by using that fairly stiff expression "a colossal waste" certainly was unjustified and he himself was not good enough to suggest any way to remove that colossal waste. He added a minor point and raised the question of the non-observance of the rule of transfer after three years of service at a particular place. In a department like the Central Public Works Department most of the work is concentrated in Delhi. Secondly, there are certain types of employees for whom there is no work outside Delhi—for instance, the huge number of employees in the Horticultural Department or a large number of employees who are employed, for instance, in the *Rashtra-pati Bhavan*. The work-load that is handled by the Central Public Works Department outside Delhi is not of such a proportion that we can find suitable work, appropriate work, the right type of work, the type of work that he is doing here at Delhi, at places outside Delhi, but within that limitation every effort is made to enforce this rule unless exigencies of service required action to the contrary.

So far as my memory goes, none of the other hon. Members had said anything about this work-charged staff, and I will now pass on to the question of housing.

A number of hon. Members have discussed this important question. The pattern that is emerging as a result of the implementation of the various schemes can be looked upon with a certain amount of confidence. My hon. friend who was quite lavish, in the shower of brick-bats was extremely critical, by the comparison of figures and he said that figures of construction should be compared with a country like China and he also added, perhaps with a country like Russia. I have got nothing to say against those countries and I do not want to criticise any of their policies. If they are going ahead

at a greater speed, I wish them even still greater speed. But I do submit that this comparison of conditions and figures should be on a comparable basis and not on a theoretical basis. For instance, in a country like China a particular type of institutional set-up is functioning, a unitary, highly centralised form of Government is functioning. I do not go into the other political aspects thereof, but to cull out figures from the reports of the Central Government there and to compare them with the Central Government's figures here where we are functioning under a different pattern, is to say the least absolutely unjustified, because the housing activity in India is not to be judged by what we actually produce in the industrial housing sector or the housing that we put up for the Central Government employees, or even for the rehabilitation housing. The figure which he has in mind when he talks of China should be compared with the sum-total of the entire housing activity that is going on in the country, both in the public sector at the centre as well as in the States plus the huge private sector. That makes all the difference. To pick out just one item from here and to compare that China has done so much was not a very happy way of jumping to conclusions. Essentially, the housing in India has been carried on at a very huge rate in the private sector. Private houses all over the country have sprung up in huge numbers. I am sure even in his own State they have come up in very large numbers.

Then again...

Shri S. L. Saxena: Have you got the sum-total for the whole country?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That could be reserved for some future discussion. Now, I am replying to what he has said already. I cannot go into a sort of supplementary debate.

I was submitting that this comparison was absolutely unreal.

Then again, he had some grievance about the non-spending of some Sugar Molasses Fund. That is a matter

which is being dealt with by the Uttar Pradesh Government, and I could not say anything in favour of or against it.

Some of the hon. Members including Shri Somani have pointed out about some administrative difficulties or obstacles that are being experienced in the implementation of the housing schemes in the industrial housing sector as also in the low income group sector. I would not have bothered this hon. House with any details but I do want to place before the House the administrative structure under which we are functioning. The construction of these industrial housing tenements is the responsibility either of the State Governments or of the employers or the co-operative societies of the workers. Therefore, we have primarily to depend upon the administrative structure of the States or in the private sector, whether it is that of the employer or of the employee. In a way, therefore, our progress also is contingent upon what others do, and we cannot be flogged for something for which we are not entirely responsible. Now, the Budget provisions were made on expectations that in the country such and such a number of houses would be required. So, in the industrial sector the expectation was that the employers would come up with schemes covering a particular number, the State Governments would take advantage to a certain tune and the co-operative societies of the workers would take advantage with regard to a certain number. If that expectation has not been fully realised, it can be explained on two grounds: either their requirements, on scrutiny, were not found to be of the same order as we originally thought or originally estimated, or it may be that the natural inertia that we unfortunately find when any new scheme comes into operation either in the employers' sector or employees' is responsible for that short-fall. But it is not something which we ourselves have to do and which we have failed to do. We have to cater to certain needs and demands which have to come from other sources

and if that demand has fallen short of the original expectations, it is not something for which we could really be blamed, unless it were pointed out that while dealing with those various schemes coming from the various sources we have shown any slackness. I can say with a certain amount of confidence that our handling of these proposals from the States, from the employers as well as from the workers has been very expeditious, and I actually want to pay a compliment to the Housing Section in our Ministry, who have evoked considerable amount of enthusiasm, and have also produced a certain amount of streamlining in the States also, because this was a new subject for the States, and the States had to be given all the help in building up a suitable organisation for utilising this assistance. I am glad to say that the 50,000 and odd tenements that have been sanctioned, out of which half the number has actually been completed, is a fairly good progress.

Something has been said about the lapse of the budgetary provisions. That is a matter which comes up for discussion not only in this Ministry, but in other Ministries as well; and the Finance Minister had to say a lot about that while replying to the general discussion on the Budget yesterday. In this particular case, the actual shortfall has to be properly appreciated. Our payments to the various constructing agencies are made according to a phased programme dependent on the stage of construction. It was easy for me, if I were keen only to produce some figures, to have made all the disbursements to the States or the employers or the workers' co-operatives, and then come here and say, I have spent the amount. But I have not done that, because I was more keen on the houses coming up rather than merely showing on paper that I have spent that amount. Therefore, my commitment is there, and the remainder which is being surrendered now will actually be utilised for making the payments as soon as the tenements reach a particular stage in their construction. Therefore, this shortfall

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

has really to be viewed in that context.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

The new scheme in regard to low income group housing has been examined at some length by the various hon. Members. All that I want to say at this stage is that we have just introduced it. The funds at our disposal that we can spend on this score are not unlimited. But I am sure that with the resources that are available to us, this scheme will really produce the results, and the enthusiasm that has been invoked in the country will be fully justified by the results; and I am sure that there will not be any disappointment on that score.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: What about housing for the poor classes, i.e. the Scheduled Caste people?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as the Scheduled Caste people are concerned—I am grateful to the hon. Member for having reminded me of that—in this low income group housing scheme, there is a provision under which the them. That was a demand which was municipal authorities and local bodies can construct houses for their sweeper employees, and the Centre will assist put forward from a number of States, and I am glad to say that the low income group scheme has been extended to cover the case of municipal employees, particularly the low-paid staff; and I am sure that the municipal sweepers, most of whom would be Harijans, would derive some benefit out of this.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: What is the definite amount? That is what I want to know.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I shall be able to give as much amount as my hon. friend can persuade the municipal committees to ask me to give. He need not waste his breath for converting me, because I am already converted. He should really persuade others to take advantage of this scheme, and not merely go on in this manner and ask me to make commitments.

Actually, in the low income group housing scheme, where there is only a ceiling of Rs. 8000, there is no limit by way of any minimum.

श्री पी० एन० राजभाज : म्यूनिसिपल कमिटी के बाहर जो लोग हैं और जो गरीब हैं उनके बारे में आप क्या कर रहे हैं ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : आप ने सुनने की कोशिश नहीं की, मैं तो इन के बारे में ही कहने वाला था ।

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: That was a vague reply.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I was saying that so far as the low income group housing scheme is concerned, Rs. 8000 is the maximum loan that can be given, while smaller amounts of loans depending upon the local requirements can also be given. From the very nature of things, initially, more congested areas have to be tackled, but there is nothing in the scheme which confines it only to cities. The Harijans and others of even the poorest class can take advantage of it, if the State Governments put forward concrete schemes whereby they can acquire lands, give them plots of land, and then give them money to finance the construction of the houses that might come up on those plots of land.

Then, something was said about rural housing. My esteemed friend Shri Bansal was showing some anxiety about the outcome of the pamphlets which had been promised to be published. I think one of these pamphlets has already been published, and I will place copies of that in the Library of the House. The printing and the bringing out of the other pamphlet also will be expedited.

About slum clearance, the scheme as it exists today does visualise the giving of assistance by way of long term loans to the various State Governments, but the State Governments have not been able to utilise that, because they feel that a quantum of subsidy should be there. So far as the general

question of the slum dwellers getting advantage from the industrial housing scheme, from the low income group housing scheme and from the other general schemes, is concerned, that indirect effect is there. But to tackle directly the slums without subsidy for putting up the alternative tenements, the State Governments have indicated their inability; they have expressed their inability to go ahead with the direct slum clearance schemes, unless some element of subsidy were there. And on that point, the discussions are still going on, and Government have not been able for financial reasons to agree straightaway to give subsidy for this thing; and it is considered that we should wait and see what the effect of the implementation of the other schemes would be on slum clearance. But the matter is not finally closed, and the matter is still under discussion between the Finance Ministry, the Planning Commission, and this Ministry.

I would like to say a few words now with your kind permission about certain points that have been raised about the supply side, in which a number of hon. Members have shown interest. The functioning of the supply organisations abroad, whether it is the ISD, London, or the Supply Mission, Washington, has come in for a certain amount of criticism. I submit that most of it is based on a slightly wrong appraisal of the actual functioning of these organisations.

It is presumed in those criticisms that automatically a thing is sent across either to London or to Washington for making purchases abroad. That, I submit, is entirely incorrect. My hon. friend Shri Tek Chand talked of screening, and said that screening is essential. When any indent comes to the supply organisation, it is screened in the sense that a scrutiny is held to find out whether it cannot be procured from inside the country; if the conclusion is that it can be procured from inside the country even though by paying a slightly higher price, it is not transmitted across either to London or to Washington.

It is after the scrutiny that a certain indent is sent across for procurement of the stuff abroad. It is significant to note that none of the hon. Members has been able to point out that anything has been purchased from abroad which could be procured in India except what has been said by my esteemed friend, Shri Tek Chand, about food-stuffs. I will request him to kindly reserve his remarks when the Demands for Grants relating to the Food and Agriculture Ministry come up for discussion, because I am only a purchaser, an agent; when a man asks me to purchase, I purchase. But as a member of the Government, I can say that even in the matter of those articles of food, where it was not a question of tinned stuff or the delicacies to which he is accustomed as a result of his European tour, so far as things of basic necessity like, for instance, sugar and wheat are concerned, it is for building reserves to meet certain local shortages that we have gone abroad for making these purchases. Therefore, the Food and Agriculture Ministry have a good defence for making these purchases abroad, and it cannot be said that we actually have purchased on government account something by way of machinery or anything which could be procured in India. Therefore, the basic thing is not the agency that is employed for purchase, but any grievance as to whether we have imported something which we could raise from inside the country.

Actually, I have got great satisfaction in reporting to Parliament that every effort is being made not only to procure something which is manufactured in India but to take steps to develop the manufacturing capacity in respect of articles which are not hitherto manufactured in India, and our purchase policy, as also our import policy, is fully co-ordinated in such a way as to ensure the development of manufacturing capacity even in items which are not being manufactured in India. Therefore, if that is not the grievance, then the only grievance could be as to what is the more expeditious, what is the more

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

economical, way of buying. If I have to buy certain capital goods from abroad, which I have to buy to cope with the huge developmental programme upon which the country has embarked. The only question then is whether I can buy them more economically, on better terms, by going out on a global tender from inside the country or whether it is necessary to keep those foreign missions. Whatever may be the pros and cons of going out on global tenders in India—and I need hardly add that I am personally all in favour of such a course—still a residue is left in which by inviting tenders in India, we do not get good competitive quotations either on account of there being less of competition in any particular line or the quantity for which we go out for purchase is too small, and it is not sufficiently attractive for foreign manufacturers to send out their representatives and to tender, if we go on a global tender here. Then again, we have got our strategic and defence requirements for which we do not go out on a global sort of tender, and sometimes special efforts have to be made to procure those articles. For instance, my communist friends know that we will have to procure some of the machinery for our new steel plant from Russia. We have to make some arrangement for inspection thereof to arrange shipment, to arrange clearance etc. Therefore, a certain nucleus of organisation will have to be maintained to cope with the developmental programme, as we will have to depend upon imports from abroad to industrialise the country and to go ahead with our development programme. So, so long as the functioning is economic, no argument can really be built up merely because we have got an organisation which is functioning abroad.

In regard to most of the items, we go out on global tender from India itself. For instance, during the last year, while purchasing locomotives, we went out on a global tender and we had tenderers from all over the country. In other cases also, for instance, in the case of fertilizers, we went out on more or less global tender and the

enquiry originated from India. Therefore, it is really the best way of procurement that governs policy and not the location of a staff in London or in Washington. They are the employees of the Government and they function under the instructions of the Government and the mere fact that their bodies are actually located at a particular place does not detract from the value or the efficiency of those organisations.

Shri Saragadhar Das: What about the agency here of those firms with whom the missions in London and Washington place orders?

Shri Sarangadhar Das: What about the hon. Member to be a little patient because this point is going to be examined in very great detail by the Stores Purchase Committee whose recommendations are expected to be in the hands of Government in another fortnight's time. They have given considerable thought to this and now that the labours of that Committee have been more or less finalised, I want to pay a tribute to the splendid work done by the Chairman of that Committee. Shri Kotak, who had undertaken this work at my persuasion at considerable personal inconvenience. He has gone into very minute details of the functioning of these organisations here and abroad and it is expected that as a result of the recommendations of that Committee, the organisation will be strengthened.

With regard to the point which has been raised by Shri Sarangadhar Das, namely, articles which are manufactured by firms who have got local agents, their recommendation is likely to be to the effect that we should originate purchase action in India. But, as I have said, I need not be converted on that score because for such of the articles for which competitive quotations can be available in India, the policy is really to originate purchase action in India and not to push on those tenders either to London or Washington.

I am sorry I have taken a little more time. But there are one or two points which I might touch, though very

briefly, before resuming my seat. One relates to the oil petroleum products about which two or three hon. Members have put forward certain suggestions. So far as the functioning of the Assam Oil Company is concerned, there is nothing very secret about it and there is no need for appointing any parliamentary committee or any committee to go into the working thereof. Actually, the company has gone ahead on the side of development also and there is a very bright prospect of fresh oil finds in the Naharkatia oil-field. I am sure that suitable exploitation of oil resources by that company will materially increase our resources in the matter of this vital supply. I may also add that surveys for locating oil are being carried on by other companies also and recently a decision has been taken in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research to undertake some work by way of exploration even at government level. Therefore, with all these factors combined, one can look ahead with a certain amount of buoyancy about the future of oil and petroleum products in India.

Shri G. D. Somani raised a point about the disparity of prices as they prevail in India and Pakistan. This is a point which has just been raised and the little inquiry that I have been able to make on it shows that in Pakistan their valued stock account, which is similar to that we have, has been settled after a long-standing dispute between the oil companies and the Pak Government, and on going into those accounts, they have given a benefit of about one crore of rupees which has now been passed on to the consumer. So this appears to be more a localised thing rather than any general question of principle. But I may assure him that this point will be gone into further and if there is any disparity in which the oil companies are charging our consumer more than they should reasonably charge, no effort will be spared to straighten that matter out.

I am sorry have not been able to reply to some of the detailed points which are raised by Shri Sarangadhar Das. But I may assure him that these

are the types of matters about which the Stores Purchase Committee are expected to give us a report. They have already given an interim report and some of the recommendations have been examined and after consultation with other Ministries, some action has already been initiated on those proposals. So it is not a case in which we are likely to take long to arrive at decisions, but, as was pointed out by another hon. Member, we should expedite our decisions on the recommendations of the Stores Purchase Committee. I may assure him that this is engaging the attention of the Government and when those recommendations are implemented, I am sure that these types of difficulties which appear to be genuine, as pointed out by Shri Das, will have to obviate because it is the intention of the Government to create conditions in which the suppliers may have confidence so that the Government ultimately is not compelled to pay more.

3 P.M.

Shri Bansal: May I know if the hon. Minister would like to state the reason as to why the purchases by the Director-General of Supply in India have declined during the last year?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as purchases from abroad are concerned, a summary is given in this report that has been put out and most of those purchases have been made in order to procure supplies for the developmental programme on which we have embarked. It is not for strictly consumer goods or articles of such a nature which can be procured in India but really to fulfil the targets which have been laid down in the Five Year Plan that we have gone out for these foreign purchases.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I request the hon. Minister.....

Mr. Chairman: May I tell the hon. Member that so far as this Ministry is concerned, we had only two hours allotted and we have exceeded that

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[Mr. Chairman]

time and I do not think I should allow any further questions because that will take more time.

The following are the selected cut motions relating to various Demands under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply which the hon. Members may move now:

Demand No.	No. of cut motions.
99	205,278,279,341.
100	280,281.
101	282, 344, 345, 347, 357, 361, 414, and 418

Inadequate measures for Industrial Housing

Shri Tushar Chatterjea (Serampore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to encourage private Housing Schemes

Shri Sivamurthi Swami (Kustagi): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to draw a plan to private houses to Harijans and tribal people

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure of Government to conduct affairs of Supply Wing in a business like manner

Shri Sarangadhar Das: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Establishment of small scale units to provide cheap yarn to the Handloom Weavers

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

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

Failure of the Ministry to purchase cloth only from Khadi and handloom industrial concerns

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

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

Defective system of entering into contracts resulting in heavy losses to Government

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works, be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to give Sunday off to Chowkidars

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

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to apply contributory Health Scheme of 'works-charged' staff of C.P.W.D. in Delhi.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to work out permanent posts required for maintenance of permanent works.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Provision of quarters for 'works-charged' staff according to scales of pay

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

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to reduce working hours of Chowkidars

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

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to appoint a Committee to remove anomalies in scales of pay of workers

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

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Grant of retirement benefits to 'works-charged' staff similar to Central Government employees

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

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Chairman: Now, I would like to know from the hon. Members which of the cut motions they want to be put to the House.

Several Hon. Members: All.

Mr. Chairman: Now, I will put all the cut motions to the House.

The motions were negatived.

Mr. Chairman: Now, I will put the Demands to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of the following heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof:

Demand Nos: 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 136, 137, and 138."

The motion was adopted.

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

DEMAND NO. 99—MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,15,000 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 March, 1956, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND NO. 100—SUPPLIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,56,71,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Supplies'."

DEMAND NO. 101—OTHER CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,10,22,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Other Civil Works'."

DEMAND NO. 102—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,16,71,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND NO. 103—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING & SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,01,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum neces-

sary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMAND No. 136—NEW DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,28,32,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'New Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND No. 137—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BUILDINGS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,21,35,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Buildings'."

DEMAND No. 138—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING & SUPPLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,64,97,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply'."

DEMANDS RE. MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Mr. Chairman: The House will now take up discussion of the Demands for Grants Nos. 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 and 129 relating to the Ministry of Labour. As the House is aware, 4 hours have been allotted for the Demands of this Ministry.

There are a number of cut motions to these various Demands. Hon. Members may hand over the numbers

of the selected cut motions which they propose to move at the Table within 15 minutes. I shall treat them as moved, if the Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

DEMAND No. 69—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,44,000 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, 1956, in respect of Ministry of Labour'."

DEMAND No. 70—CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,45,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Chief Inspector of Mines'."

DEMAND No. 71—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,12,25,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Labour'."

DEMAND No. 72—EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND RESETTLEMENT

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,59,68,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Employment Exchanges and Re-settlement'."

DEMAND NO. 73—CIVIL DEFENCE

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

DEMAND NO. 129—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 47,07,000 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, 1956, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Labour'."

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): **Mr. Chairman,** I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject. I have given notice of cut motions 317 and 318. The first motion deals with the policy of the Ministry of Labour and the second, of course, deals with the non-implementation of the two pieces of legislation this House had passed, the Minimum Wages Act and the Plantation Labour Act.

With regard to the policy of the Labour Ministry, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the incidents in the past. Several Labour Ministers have come and gone.

An. Hon. Member: Only one has gone.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: When they came they had high hopes of doing something for the working classes and when they went, of course, naturally, they went without their consent,

perhaps; but they were not satisfied with what they had done, or, they went with a feeling of not having done anything. They continued to stick on as far as possible and then they went out of the Ministry or changed the Portfolios as the case may be.

With regard to the latest ex-Labour Minister at least there is the consolation for him that he voluntarily paid the penalty for not having done his job. He will fully gave up his exalted position and has been received with very great honour and respect throughout the country by workers of all sections. Really and sincerely speaking, there is a very great fear in the minds of other trade union sections in this country about that future Labour Policy of the Government in spite of the fact that we have now a very eminent trade union leader, who did yeomen service for the cause of labour in this country, as the new Labour Minister **Mr. Giri** was at least known to be a non-party man, at least one who would not put his party interests above the interests of the working classes. But because of the unfortunate incidents in Asansol and other areas of the country, we Members sitting on this side anyhow do not feel that we would get a fair deal we fear that trade union movement will not get a fair deal if politics is brought forth into trade unions, in the governmental sphere also. Anyhow, I hope the hon. the Labour Minister would give us an assurance on the floor of this House that he would rather give greater attention to the national aspect of questions than the political or party aspects.

Now, I come to the working of the Labour Ministry. We have got the report of the Ministry in which last year they claim to have brought forward 3 or 4 legislative measures. We know there are only three minor Amending Acts and even those Acts were not up to the mark. Regarding the Minimum Wages (Amendment) Act, 1954, we know that the Act was enacted as early as 1948. There have been 3 successive amendments of the

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Act and yet it has been openly admitted in page 4 of the report that even now the State Governments and the Central Government have not been successful in properly wording out the provisions of this Act. As regards Schedule I, it is claimed that most of the industries enumerated therein have had their minimum wages fixed by the various State Governments. How they were fixed and what was the proportion between the new rates and the original rates and what is the relation between the Minimum wage rates in the several States in the same industry;—all these deserve greater study and deserve to be co-ordinated beforehand by the Centre. I know that there are vast variation in the Minimum wage industry in the various States and the wages which have been fixed have not been properly implemented in most areas also.

As regards Schedule II, regarding wages in agriculture, the amending Act itself gives abundant scope to the various State Governments to defeat the purpose of this Act. They may fix minimum wages in certain particular areas and leave out the other areas. They may fix these wages for certain types of work and leave the other types alone, so that where the labour or the working classes are organised they may bring them down to accept those wages and where they are not properly organised they can leave them to the hard mercies of the employers. Such legislation does not redound to our credit. But unfortunately that has been the legislation in the past. Let us see how it has worked. At page 4, the Report says:

"As for employments in Agriculture [Part II(1) of the Schedule], wages were fixed only in those areas where wages had been fixed by the respective State Governments."

Can any statement by any Government be more vague than this? Have they been fixed in any States at all? If they have been fixed in some of the States which are

the States? Even this information the Central Government do not—have, and we claim to be a unitary type of Government which control the various States all over India.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House our own experience in one of the most advanced States in India in the matter of fixing minimum wages in agriculture. As early as 1946 we had a Tripartite Committee. The Government convened a Tripartite Committee to settle minimum wages and other important questions. There were as a matter of fact two Tripartite Committees, one in 1946 and the other in 1948. In between, when there was general confusion in the country, when for about two years the trade union organisations in the country were banned during the last phases of Shri C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar's regime, a Tripartite Committee was convened which attempted to fix the minimum wages for harvesting workers in the State. Till that time the remuneration for harvesting was 1/10th of the crop plus one heavy sheaf of corn for every two days' harvesting. In that conference when all of us were in jails or underground when the labour movement was almost in its nascent stages, it was decided that there need be only one sheaf for every three harvests; that is, every worker who works on three harvesting days would get one sheaf only. But that was never accepted by the workers and it had never come into force. In those days when paddy was getting very high prices in the black market, even that one sheaf for every three harvesting days would have fetched something substantial. But, now, the price of paddy has gone so low that it is almost impossible for the agricultural workers getting his wages in kind to make both ends meet.

But very recently, an ex-Minister of the State, one Mr. K. M. Kona, carrying on cultivation on a large scale, refused to give one sheaf for every two harvests. Naturally there was a

dispute, the workers refused to work. What happened was certainly a matter of shame to our country. Immediately the reserve police was rushed in. A law graduate—of course, he is a Communist—who is the President of the Workers' Union there—went to the spot to enquire. By that time scores of workers, including women, had been arrested and beaten; this poor fellow also was arrested and beaten very badly. The very report of the inhuman man-handling shook the whole State and evoked sympathy even in those who had very little sympathy for the movement. I have received a copy of the petition sent by him to the Prime Minister along with a photo of his body which shows marks on every inch of his body; scars all over his body; due to the beating given by the police. This, Sir, is the method followed in regard to the fixation of minimum wages for agricultural labourers in most of the States.

Powerful landed interests are involved in this and naturally the Police in most of the States rush to their aid. Without fixing minimum agricultural wages on a very reasonable basis, we will not be able to solve the question of agitation in the countryside where agricultural workers now mute, now disorganised would take up a very strong militant attitude in future and it may be also a crucial test as to whether socialism can be brought about by an Avadi resolution or by some other method.

Now I come to another piece of legislation, the Plantation Labour Act. That again, Sir, is another wonderful piece of legislation which had been kept in cold storage for a pretty long time. It was enacted in 1951, but it was withheld; it was not enforced, because the plantation-owners said they were having a hard time. Our Government never cared to enquire what profits these very plantation owners made when the plantation industry had a boom. But because there was a fall in prices our Government withheld the application of the Act.

Not only that, they allowed the employers to cut down the wages. Page 4 of this Report says:

"The cuts imposed on wages of tea garden workers in Assam and West Bengal in 1953 have been fully restored in all the gardens except those in Cachar (Assam) which yield less than 7½ maunds per acre and where, therefore, the cuts have been restored only partially. The Government of Assam are, however, contemplating further steps with a view to restoring fully the cuts in all the gardens in Cachar as well."

If this is not the time when the Government of Assam could restore these cuts, I do not know when they could do it. By the time they contemplate doing it, the prices of tea may perhaps once again fall and the employers will again refuse to restore the wage-cuts.

Anyhow I would like to point out that the minimum wage is not something which is dependent on the price of the material as such. It must necessarily be based on the cost of living and no worker must be paid anything below the minimum wages. This attitude has been taken not only by speakers on this side, but also by the trade union workers on the other side. So the restoration of the cuts and the enforcement of the Minimum wages and the Plantation Labour Act are matters for the Government to consider very seriously, especially after the declaration of the socialistic pattern of society at the Avadi session of the Congress.

About the implementation of the Plantation Labour Act, the report blatantly says that they have implemented such of those items as could be implemented without rules. Why did the Government not frame rules during the last three or four years? What did they do with the Rules sent by the State Governments? I know, as a matter of fact, that the Travancore-Cochin Government did send their rules. But they were sent back with-

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out ratification. These rules cannot be brought into force because the Act itself prohibits the State Governments from having their own rules as per section 43(3) of the Act. So, such legislative measures do not only not give any relief to the workers, but they also prevent such progressive States as are anxious to do something.

The state of affairs in the plantations is a very interesting study. In one of the plantations in Travancore-Cochin recently I had a very bitter experience in organising the workers. Till now the *goondas* used to drive away the trade unionists who go there. Six months ago we had succeeded in forming a union and a committee. The employers changed their tactics. They invited the union leaders to go and meet them. On the 2nd of March some five or six trade union leaders were going to meet them. When they went towards the bungalow, they were felled with stones. Then four of them were stabbed and one died immediately on the spot. This is the rule of the jungle that prevails in the plantations. To say the least, it is cruel not to bring relief to those workers.

There is another section of workers whose condition is still worse and they are in the coal-mines. They are almost slaves. We know what the employers are in the coal-mines. We know from the very tragic fate of Prof. Abdul Bari and from the position which compelled Shri Shah-nawaz Khan to escape from the Bihar collieries what the employers are in the collieries. We know the fate of the organisers of the Hindusthan Khan Mazdoor Sangh; they were pursued till three of them ended their lives in the gallows. We know the fate of Sadhan Gupta who was sentenced for life imprisonment. Last year, he went on a hunger-strike for 120 days for getting human treatment for the prisoners. But the Bihar Government promised to give him better treatment if and when he stopped his hunger-strike and so at the request of the leaders of all the political parties he

had to call off the strike. But the promises were not fulfilled and Sadhan Gupta is again on hunger-strike from the first of this month. I would request the hon. Labour Minister to intercede on behalf of one of his old colleagues in the trade union movement and especially to write to the Bihar Government not only to do something for him but to see that at least human treatment is meted out to his fellow convicts and to see also that some relief to the workers in the coal-mines is afforded. The conditions of labour which are already bad are the worst in the coal-mines. They must be improved. With these words, I conclude.

Shri Thimmalah (Kolar—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I restrict my remarks to labour conditions in the Kolar Gold Fields. There are about 36,000 labourers there and it is the biggest mining centre in South India. In this mining area, there is no mining school for training people in mining work. There are mining schools in Banaras and Dhanbad which are far away from the mining centres. Of course there is one junior course centre at Bangalore which is also far away from the Kolar Gold Fields. I request the Labour Minister to kindly see that a mining school is opened at Kolar Gold Fields.

Coming to labour, as the Minister is aware, there are frequent accidents in the mines of Kolar Gold Fields, and the mines are becoming deeper day to day, and so the accidents have become frequent. The victims of the accidents are too many and their dependents get a very low rate of compensation whenever such accidents take place. The rate of compensation that at present exists was fixed some ten or 15 years ago and still it is in force. Therefore, I request the Labour Minister to see that the rate of compensation payable to the dependants of the victims is enhanced. Not only should the compensation be in the form of cash, but I would request the

Labour Minister to consider a proposal to give the dependants some lands in the form of compensation. Most of the labourers are Scheduled Caste people. They can live upon the land with a little portion of money given in the form of cash.

The Kolar Gold Field is an area coming under the prohibition scheme. The health of the labourer is decaying day by day, and there is nobody to give relief to him. Not even the State Government has taken any step to conduct a health survey among those labourers. I request the Labour Minister to conduct a health survey among the labourers and see how many people are suffering from tuberculosis and enquire into the incidence of tuberculosis prevailing among the labourers. I request the Labour Minister to conduct the survey as early as possible and open a tuberculosis hospital in that area and see that the health of the labourers is kept up.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): What is the relevancy of prohibition here?

Shri Thimmaiah: On account of prohibition, illicit distillation is going on and so their health is becoming worse. I do not say that prohibition should be abolished. But in the beginning, there will be some sort of mischief, and you cannot avoid it. There are thefts in the country though there is the Indian Penal Code. Therefore, gradually, drinking will vanish.

In the Kolar Gold Fields, in the mining area, there are money-lenders and particularly they are the Marwaris. They lend money to these labourers at the rate of 200 per cent. interest, and at the time when the labourer gets his bonus the bonus is attached by the company at the request of these money-lenders. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to see that some sort of legislation is introduced in regard to the attachment of this bonus of these labourers at the request of the money-lenders. There is regular exploitation going on and these money-lenders are merely de-

pending upon the blood of these labourers and all this exploitation should stop.

The Mining Enquiry Committee has submitted its report. We know it has condemned the working of the gold mines and the authorities of the mines. The cost works out to more than the profit because they pay high salaries to the officers. They say that they are not in a position to pay higher wages for the labourers and also that they are not in a position to pay gratuity to the labourers. This sort of management really hinders the interests of the labour and also to some extent it hinders the interests of the Mysore State Government. This sort of management must be enquired into by the Government and the Government should take note of the views expressed by the Mining Enquiry Committee and take immediate action and set right this sort of arrangement so that the Mysore Government can be benefited and also the labour be benefited to some extent.

Coming to agricultural labour, in this country the vast majority of the people belong to agricultural labour. They are really the backbone of the country. If you cannot enthuse agricultural labour in this country, if you cannot try to improve their economic condition, I do not think any citizen in this country can boldly say that our country is progressing. No doubt, if you take into consideration the position of agricultural labour and the condition of industrial labour, you can see that the industrial labour is thousand times better than the agricultural labour. Today agricultural labour is in an utterly helpless condition and the workers are subject to the uncontrolled economic exploitation by their masters and by the landlords. Though the Minimum Wages Act has been passed, I do not think it is implemented in a majority of the States. Of course, some small States like Coorg have fixed the minimum wages for agricultural labour but many States have not fixed the minimum wages for agricultural labour. This is an important matter. It is agricultural

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labourers who are uneducated, illiterate and so can be exploited very well by the different political parties for their own ends. Therefore, it is in the interests of the country that their condition should be improved and a statistical survey as to the population of agricultural labour should be made and ways and means of improving their condition be devised and those measures must be implemented. I know a sample survey has been made, but I do not know how far they have taken measures to improve the conditions of agricultural labour. It is high time that the Government should give thought to this problem and try to improve the condition of agricultural labour.

Next I come to the employment exchanges. The employment exchanges register the names of unemployed people and send them to places where vacancies are available. If you see the Press Note 'hat is being issued every month and also the one issued yearly by these employment exchanges, you cannot find how many Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people are enlisted for appointment, how many were actually appointed and how many still remain to be found jobs. These figures cannot be traced from these notes. Previously—some years back—I used to see such figures in the Press Notes issued by the employment exchanges. Even now, I think our Labour Minister can see that separate figures are shown as to how many Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people were enlisted and how many were got employment through the employment exchanges. I do not think it is a very difficult job for the Labour Minister and I hope he will see that it is done.

Shri Ramananda Das (Barrackpore). That is given in the booklet of the Labour Ministry.

Shri Thimmaiah: Then I come to the industrial training centres. There is an industrial training centre in Bangalore. It was closed for some time and then again it was opened, but it has no proper housing accommodation.

It is functioning in a rented building in the centre of Bangalore City. I submit that such a training centre must always be near an industrial factory so that it will be very useful for the students who are getting trained there to be in touch with the actual working. They will be in a position to be in touch with the industry and get some practical training. Though the Principal is managing the industrial training centre very efficiently, he has only limited facilities. One day he complained to me that there is no proper accommodation to conduct classes and there are no facilities to give practical training to the students. Therefore, I request the Labour Minister to see that at least a building is constructed in Bangalore near the industrial suburbs where the industries are located to house the industrial training centre and see that the students who are getting training there are also in touch with the working of the factories.

I think the industrial training centres are doing a lot of good work to the poor people because the poor uneducated and under-educated people get themselves trained in different jobs and get themselves absorbed in different industries. Therefore, I would request the Labour Minister to see that these training centres are opened throughout the country in every State so that the people may be trained in certain types of work and they can be employed in different industries. There should be more of these training centres in the country and they should be encouraged.

श्री शिव बवाल उपाध्याय (जिला बांदा व जिला फतहपुर) : सभापति महोदय, आज वह समय आ गया है जब हम श्रम के महत्व को समझने लगे हैं। एक समय था कि श्रमिकों की संज्ञा शूद्रों में की जाती थी। किन्तु कार्ल मार्क्स और अन्य पश्चिमी विद्वानों को इसका श्रेय है कि उन्होंने ऐसी आवाज बुलन्द की कि जिसके कारण आज श्रमिकों के राज्य कायम हैं। "वर्कर्स प्राफ़ गाल दी

कंट्रीज यूनाइटेड" यह एक ऐसा जयघोष था जिसके कारण संसार में बड़े बड़े परिवर्तन हो गये और भागे भी परिवर्तन होने की सम्भावना है। इसमें आश्चर्य नहीं कि इसके कारण अब संसार में श्रम का महत्व स्वीकार कर लिया गया है।

जहां तक हमारे देश का सम्बन्ध है अभी तक हमारी सरकार का ध्यान केवल फैक्टरियों और मिलों के श्रमिकों की ओर विशेष रूप से गया है। अभी देहातों में बहुत बड़ी संख्या में ऐसी जनता पड़ी है जो शायद मिल के मजदूरों से अधिक श्रम करती है परन्तु अपनी जीविका अच्छी तरह से पैदा नहीं कर पाती। मुझे ऐसे उदाहरण मालूम हैं कि तीन मन भनाज देकर के उस समय के जमींदारों ने एक श्रमिक से बीस साल काम करवाया और फिर भी उसको उन्मृण नहीं किया। उस श्रमिक को बराबर उस जमींदार का काम करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ता था। यद्यपि इस समय यह अवस्था अपने पुराने रूप में मौजूद नहीं है लेकिन फिर भी देहातों में कुछ भागों में अभी भी मौजूद है।

मेरा सम्बन्ध विशेषतः देहात से है और मैं अधिकार के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि वहां एक श्रमिक की मासिक आय दस पंद्रह रुपये से अधिक नहीं है। मुझे ऐसे उदाहरण मालूम हैं कि जहां एक श्रमिक दो तीन रुपया महीना पाता है और इसके पहले जो कुछ उसने खाने के लिए भनाज लिया है उसमें वह अपनी तनखाह को कटवाया करता है। इस प्रकार के उदाहरण देहातों में भरे पड़े हैं। यह श्रम की समस्या जो हमारी सरकार हल करना चाहती है, वह तब तक हल नहीं समझी जा सकती जब तक कि उसका ध्यान देहात की ओर विशेषतः खेती में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों की ओर नहीं होगा।

मैं सुझाव के तौर पर सरकार के सामने

यह रखूंगा कि चीन की सरकार की तरह वह अपनी योजनाओं में देहात के श्रमिकों को काम के लिए रखे और उनको साधारण तनखाह दे जैसे कि चीन की सरकार देती है। इससे एक ओर देहात की बेकारी की समस्या हल होगी और दूसरी ओर सरकार की जो बड़ी बड़ी योजनाएँ हैं उनके बढ़ाने में भी सरकार को मदद मिलेगी।

श्री उपसंचायी (श्री ज. बिहारी अली) : क्या कहा आपने। मैं ने सुना नहीं।

श्री शिव बयाल उपाध्याय : देहात में जो श्रमिक हैं उनको सरकार अपनी बड़ी बड़ी योजनाओं पर लगावे, उनकी एक सेना बनावे, जैसा कि चीन की सरकार ने किया है और उनके निर्वाह के लिए उचित बेतन दे।

श्री आबिद अली : जैसा कि हम कोसी में कर रहे हैं ?

श्री शिव बयाल उपाध्याय : अगर आप कोसी में ऐसा कर रहे हैं तो ठीक है। इस तरह से सरकार देहात की बेकारी की समस्या को हल करने के लिए बहुत कुछ कर सकती है।

दूसरी बात जो मैं सरकार के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि देहात के जो श्रमिक हैं उनको जो बेतन मिलता है उसकी कोई निम्नतम सीमा निर्धारित कर दी जाय। जब तक ऐसा नहीं होता तब तक इस तरह के अत्याचार जैसे कि मैं ने आपके सामने रखे हैं (यद्यपि जमींदार नहीं रहे हैं) दूसरे लोगों के द्वारा बराबर होते रहेंगे।

यह कह कर मैं सरकार से यह अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वह इसके लिए कोई ऐसा कानून बनावे जिससे कि देहात के श्रमिकों की आय निर्धारित हो जाय।

तीसरी सुझाव की बात जो मेरे दिल में है वह भी मैं सरकार के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। पहले हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में एक तरीका था कि जिससे एक श्रमिक खेतों को बटाई पर ले करके उनकी पैदावार का कुछ हिस्सा

[श्री शिव दयाल उराड्यार]

प्राप्त कर सकता था। किंतु अब नये कानून के मुताबिक जिन लोगों के पास खेत हैं वे श्रमिकों को बटाई पर देना पसन्द नहीं करते क्योंकि यदि वे ऐसा करते हैं तो उनको संदेह है कि उनके बं खेत उनके पास नहीं रह सकेंगे।

उनका अधिकार उन खेतों से चला जावेगा। इसलिए प्रायः देखा जाता है कि बटाई की शकल में श्रमिकों को जिनके पास जमीन है वे नहीं देना चाहते। ऐसी दशा में मेरी सरकार से प्रार्थना यह है कि वह चीन की तरह कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था कर दे कि जिससे एक श्रमिक खेतों में काम करने के लिए किसी तरह सुविधा या हिस्सेदारी पा जाय। मेरे स्थान में इस तरह से गल्ले की उपज भी ज्यादा हो सकती है और श्रमिकों की जो इस समय कठिनाई है वह भी दूर हो सकती है।

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : सभापति जी, प्रस्तुत डिमांड चूंकि श्रम मंत्रालय से सम्बन्ध रखती है और चूंकि हमारे लोग काफी तादाद में श्रमिकों के रूप में काम करते हैं, इसलिए मैं उनके सम्बन्ध में कुछ कहने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। हमारे अछूत भाइयों और कामगर लोगों की जो बम्बई और शोलापुर आदि स्थानों पर मजदूरी कर रहे हैं, उनकी आर्थिक अवस्था बहुत दयनीय है, मजदूरों के लिए जो बस्तियां बनाई गई हैं, वहां की हालत बहुत ही खराब है, गंदी बस्तियां हैं, मकान बहुत छोटे और इंसान के रहने लायक नहीं हैं, वहां का सैनिटेशन ठीक नहीं है और उन मकानों में हवा, पानी और रोशनी का इंतजाम ठीक नहीं है, दिये बत्ती का इंतजाम ठीक नहीं है। कुत्तों और जानवरों के समान वहां पर अपने दिन काट रहे हैं।

वहां पर जाति पांत का मामला बहुत आता है, हाथीकि सब लोग कहते हैं, मजदूर नेता और सोशलिस्ट सब यही कहते हैं कि मजदूर और हम भाई भाई हैं—एक हैं लेकिन

जब उनको नौकरी देने का सवाल आता है, गेनफुल एम्प्लायमेंट का सवाल आता है तो जाति पांत का भेद बर्ता जाता है और उनको इगनोर किया जाता है और ऊंची जाति वालों को काम पर लगाया जाता है। इस दिशा में कुछ काम हो रहा है और भेदभाव मिटाने की कोशिश की जा रही है लेकिन अभी तक हम अपने मकसद में कामयाब नहीं हो पाये हैं।

देश में इंडस्ट्रियल डेवलपमेंट हो रहा है और देश इस बारे में प्रगति पथ पर चलता जा रहा है लेकिन मुझे यह कहते हुए दुःख होता है कि अभी तक मजदूरों के लिए जिनकी कि संख्या रोज ब रोज बढ़ रही है, उनकी हालत बेहतर बनाने और उनकी तनखाह बढ़ाने आदि के विषय में गवर्नमेंट के पास कोई स्कीम नहीं है। देश में इंडस्ट्रियल डेवलपमेंट करने के लिए तो बड़ी बड़ी स्कीमें हैं, यांत्रिक विकास देश का हो रहा है, मुझे तो डर है कि ऐसी हालत में उन गरीब मजदूरों की क्या हालत होगी। काफी संख्या में हमारे कामगर भाई लोग मजदूरी करके अपनी जीविका निर्वाह कर रहे हैं। देश में बड़े बड़े कारखाने करीब ३४ हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इन कारखानों में जैसे चित्तरंजन, सिध्दरी आदि में मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि हम हरिजनों और अछूतों का नौकरियों में परिमाण क्या है, आया जो रिजर्वेशन हमें दिया हुआ है वह एफैक्ट में भी लाया गया है या नहीं।

अभी थोड़े दिन पहले मैं इंग्लैंड और अमरीका आदि देशों में घूम कर आया हूं और वहां के मजदूरों की हालत कई तरह से सुधर गई है, लेकिन मैं यह भी जानता हूं कि भारत को आजादी मिले अभी केवल सात ही वर्ष हुए हैं और यह सब काम इतनी जल्दी नहीं हो सकता है लेकिन इतना मैं जरूर कहूंगा कि सरकार को इस दिशा में ध्यान देना चाहिए और उनकी आर्थिक अवस्था बेहतर करने और रहन सहन, उनके मकान

आदि का उचित प्रबन्ध करने के लिए अधिक तेजी से कदम उठाना चाहिए। वहां एक मजदूर की औसत आमदनी ३० या ४० रुपये रोज है, जब कि यहां हमारे देश में देहातों में तीन आने भी मिलने मुश्किल हो जाते हैं। इंडस्ट्रियल लेबरर्स से एग्रीकलचरल लेबरर्स की हालत ज्यादा खराब है और देहातों में उनको दो दो और तीन तीन आने पर काम करने के लिए रक्खा जाता है और जमींदार लोग गुलाम की तरह से उनको रखते हैं। इंडस्ट्रियल लेबरर्स की ओर तो सरकार का ध्यान गया भी है और वह उनकी दशा सुधार रही है, लेकिन हमारी जो एग्रीकलचरल लेबर है, उसकी तरफ ध्यान नहीं गया है और उनके लिए कुछ ठीक से नहीं हो रहा है और मैं अपने श्रम मंत्री से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह हमारे देहातों में जो मजदूर लोग काम करते हैं, उनकी आर्थिक अवस्था सुधारने का प्रयत्न करें। जिस प्रकार से इंडस्ट्रियल लेबरर्स के लिए कानून बन रहे हैं, मैं चाहता हूं कि एग्रीकलचरल लेबरर्स के लिए भी कानून बनाये जाने चाहिए। देहात में मैं पैदा हुआ हूं इसलिए जानता हूं कि हमारे उन भाइयों की जो देहातों में मजदूरी करते हैं, उनकी हालत कितनी खराब है और काबिले रहम है, उनकी कोई युनिफार्म मजदूरी की रेट नहीं है, कहीं चार आने मिल जाते हैं तो कहीं पर आठ आने मिल जाते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त मजदूरों में भी जातिपात रहती है और हमने देखा है कि हमारे चमार, धूसिया, महार, भंगी आदि जाति के लोगों का, जब कभी कोई गांव में हिन्दू-अस्पृश्य का झगड़ा हो जाता है, उनका बहिष्कार किया जाता है और उनको मजदूरी नहीं मिलती है और गांवों में उनका जीवन दूबर हो जाता है क्योंकि उनको कोई काम नहीं मिलता है, इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि इस ओर ध्यान दिया जाये ताकि उनको ऐसी कठिनाई का सामना न करना पड़े।

यह बड़े हर्ष का विषय है कि हमारे देश में प्रोडक्शन बढ़ रहा है लेकिन इसके साथ ही मजदूरों की तनख्वाह भी बढ़नी चाहिए, क्योंकि जब तक उनकी तनख्वाह नहीं बढ़ेगी और उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति नहीं सुधरेगी तब तक सही मानों में जो ध्येय आपका है वह पूरा नहीं होगा और देश का कल्याण नहीं हो सकता है। इन लोगों के लिए आप जो काम कर रहे हैं वह "गो स्लो पालिसी" है, मंद गति से चल रही है और उसमें तेजी लाने की जरूरत है।

श्रमिकों की अवस्था में सुधार करने के लिए हम देखते हैं कि कई कानून बने हैं। लेबर रिलेशंस ऐक्ट बना है और ट्रेड डिसप्यूट्स ऐक्ट बना है, इनके अलावा कुछ स्टेट्स ने भी लेजिस्लेशन किया है, बम्बई स्टेट ने श्रमिकों के लिए एक कानून बनाया है, मैं चाहता हूं कि श्रमिकों के वास्ते एक ही कानून युनिफार्म होना चाहिए चाहे वह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट बनाये या यूनियन गवर्नमेंट बनाये, इस सम्बन्ध में एक युनिफार्म लेजिस्लेशन होना जरूरी है, क्योंकि करीब करीब मजदूरों की सब जगह एक सी समस्याएं हैं, छेड़ छेड़ महीने लग जाते हैं, कैसेज कोर्ट्स में जाते हैं और वहां काफी समय लग जाता है और गरीब आदमियों का फैसला नहीं हो पाता है और उनको बेहब परेशानी और कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है, इसीलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि यूनियन गवर्नमेंट या तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स कोई ऐसा युनिफार्म लेबर लेजिस्लेशन रखें जिसके द्वारा श्रमिकों को राहत पहुंचाई जाये। आज मजदूर लोग कोर्ट्स में जाकर जैसा कि लम्बा वहां का प्रोसेस है, काफी कठिनाई अनुभव करते हैं और उनका समय और पैसा दोनों बर्बाद होता है और न्याय मिलने में अत्यधिक देरी होती है। एक युनिफार्म पालिसी मजदूरों के बारे में रहनी चाहिए, यह मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है। हमारे देहातों में जो प्लान्ट्स और

[श्री पी० एन० राजभोज]

टैनर्स और अछूत भाई हैं उन लोगों के वास्ते देहातों में जो मकान बने हैं, उनमें सुधार करने के लिए एक जनरल स्कीम बनानी चाहिए। स्कीम के लिए उधर से कहा जाता है कि आप बताइये, लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि आखिर आप वहां पर बैठे किस लिए हैं, अगर आप से स्कीम नहीं बन सकती और आप सुधार नहीं कर सकते तो वहां से निकलिये। कल फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर को मैंने कहा कि कितनी मर्त्तबा मैंने उनको स्कीम समझाई, लेकिन अमल में तो उनको लाना है, उनके पास इतना सारा स्टाफ पड़ा है, वह अमल में तो लाबें हमें विश्वास में लें मैं स्कीम बताने को तैयार हूँ। कुछ बतलाते हैं तो भूल जाते हैं। इसलिये मैं नहीं चाहता हूँ कि दूसरों की दया पर हमारा वर्ग निर्भर रहे। देश में कई प्रकार के रीति रिवाज हैं, आचार विचार हैं और संस्कृति है। इसलिये हमारे मजदूरों का भी भला होना चाहिये, जब सब गरीबों का भला किया जाये तो साथ साथ हमारा भी भला होना चाहिए। अभी एक भाई ने कुछ फिगर्स दिये लेकिन हमें तलाश करने पर भी फिगर्स मिलते नहीं हैं।

यहां पर अनएम्प्लायमेन्ट के बारे में कई माननीय सदस्य बोल चुके हैं। वह कहते हैं कि सब से ज्यादा अनएम्प्लायमेन्ट हम लोगों में है, जब मिडल क्लास वाला बोलता है तो कहता है कि सब से ज्यादा अनएम्प्लायमेन्ट मिडल क्लास में है, जब पैसे वाला बोलता है तो कहता है कि सब से ज्यादा अनएम्प्लायमेन्ट पैसे वालों में है। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि सब से ज्यादा अनएम्प्लायमेन्ट हम दलित वर्ग के लोगों में है और उन के लिये कोई स्कीम अवश्य निकलनी चाहिये। इन्डस्ट्रीज बगैरह चला कर जिस से दलित वर्गों का भला हो सके। नौकरियों में जितना परसेन्टेज उन का होना चाहिये वह आज नहीं है। यहां बहुत से कैपिटल बनाने वाले हैं, वह कहते हैं

कि अगर हमारा विचार नहीं करोगे तो हम इधर से उधर चले जायेंगे, उधर वाले कहते हैं कि अगर हमारा विचार नहीं करोगे तो हम इधर चले जायेंगे। लेकिन हम कोई कैपिटल नहीं बनाना चाहते। हम देखते हैं कि हम से ही लोग कैपिटल बनाते हैं। हम लोगों से जा कर वोट मांगते हैं और कहते हैं कि हम तुम्हारे भले के लिये काम करेंगे, लेकिन वोट मिलने के बाद पांच वर्ष तक वह बिल्कुल मजदूरों और छतों को भूल जाते हैं और अपना ही काम चलाते रहते हैं। इसलिये आज सब से ज्यादा जरूरत इस बात की है कि हम अगले 10 की आर्थिक दशा में सुधार किया जाय, हमारे लिये मकान बनें और तनखाह भी ठीक हो हमारे सैनिटेशन का भी ध्यान रक्खा जाये। आज जहां जहां पर उन की बस्तियां हैं, जहां जहां ऐंग्लिकल्चरल लेबर रहती है उनकी ओर ध्यान देने की जरूरत है, मैं समझता हूँ कि जो सब प्रकार की बातें यहां कही गई हैं, दूसरे सदस्यों ने भी कहा है और मैं ने भी कहा है, उन पर विचार किया जायेगा और अमल किया जायेगा।

मैं कुछ एम्प्लायमेन्ट एक्सचेंज के बारे में भी कहना चाहता हूँ। जब भी हम पूछने जाते हैं कि हमारे लोगों का कितना परसेन्टेज लिया और कितना बाकी है तो वह लोग नहीं बताते हैं। जब भी उन से कुछ कहो तो कहते हैं कि इतना एक्स्पीरिएन्स होना चाहिए तब किसी आदमी को नौकरी मिल सकती है। यह तो वही बात हो गई कि मां खाने को नहीं देती है और बाप भीख नहीं मांगने देता है हम लोगों की यह हालत हो गई है। इस लिये मैं यह प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि हम को जो परसेन्टेज कानून से मिला है उन पर पूरी तरह अमल होना चाहिये और मिनीमम क्वालिफिकेशन रखो और एम्प्लायमेंट को सख्त आर्डर देना चाहिये कि वह अपने यहां

जाति पांत की बात न चढ़ायेँ । जद भी वहां हम जाते हैं तो कभी कहते हैं कि तुम्हारा नम्बर नहीं आया, कभी कहते हैं तुम्हारा कागज नहीं आया, तुम जल्दी क्यों नहीं आये, अभी लेटर नहीं मिला, तुम आते हो और चले जाते हो, एम्प्लायमेन्ट एक्स्चेंज का क्लर्क इस तरह से बात किया करता है । मुझे जलगांव का बड़ा खराब एक्स्पीरिएन्स है कि वहां किस तरह से जाति पांत के मामले चलते रहते हैं । हमारे यहां मैट्रिक पास लड़के मौजूद हैं, एम. ए., बी. एस. सी. और एल. एल. बी. लड़के मौजूद हैं लेकिन उनको नौकरी नहीं मिलती । कह दिया जाता है कि तुम्हारा एक्स्पीरिएन्स कुछ नहीं है । हमारे यहां इतने पढ़े लिखे आदमी भी बेकार पड़े रहते हैं । आप कहते हैं कि हरिजनों का उद्धार हो रहा है, हरिजनों के लिये सब कुछ किया जा रहा है लेकिन मैं देख रहा हूं उन के लिये कुछ ठीक दृष्टि से काम नहीं हो रहा है । मुझे मेरी बातों का जवाब नहीं मिलता है, लेकिन फिर भी मैं इन बातों की ओर ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं ।

Shri P. C. Bose (Manbhum North): I rise to support to Budget Demands for the Labour Ministry. With the advancement of the industrialisation of the country, labour has become a very important portfolio, and with further increase and development of industries, I think it will become more important.

We all know that most of the labour legislations were enacted after the Second Great War or after independence. Before that virtually there were no healthy labour legislations. There were some, but they were defective, and they have also been amended after independence.

The Acts that have been passed and are being administered, are many. A full enumeration of these Acts will make a long list, but the more important amongst them are: The Coal Mines Welfare Fund Act, The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act,

The Mines Maternity Benefit Act, The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Act, the Employees' Provident Fund Act, the Employees State Insurance Act, the Mines Act (as amended later on), The Factories Act (as amended later on) The Plantation Act, the Dock Workers Act, the Indian Railways Act etc.

The States have also got some Acts, but we are concerned with the Central Acts. Some of the State organisations have also been handed over partly to the Centre just as the Health Board of the Jharia Coalfields, the Waterworks of Jharia Coalfields etc. The Chairman is an officer of the Central Government.

With these large number of Acts which are being administered by the Labour Department I think the responsibility of the Department may be realised.

I do not say that all these organisations under these Acts are being administered quite happily and satisfactorily, but I have got some idea of one or two of these organisations, and I can say that they are being administered quite well and fairly satisfactorily. I am speaking of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. This fund covers all the coal fields of India wherever they exist, except in Jammu and Kashmir. It is financed through a cess levied on all despatches of coal and coke, yielding about one crore of rupees per year. Though the Central Government is ultimately responsible for the administration of the Fund, it is advised in all matters by a tripartite committee including representatives of Government, both Central and State, the employers and the workers. There is a Housing Board and several local sub-committees for different regions to advise on matters assigned to them. The functions of the Fund are divided under two heads, housing and general welfare for which funds are separately provided on a fixed ratio. Under the housing scheme, substantial loans and subsidies are given to the employers for construction of houses to a standard

[Shri P. C. Bose]

specification so as to replace the old houses which still exist in very large numbers. The Fund has also built some townships in healthy surroundings near about different coalfields for the accommodation of coal mine workers. The activities under general welfare schemes are many. Two well-equipped central hospitals and a number of regional hospitals are now functioning for the treatment of the mine workers. Subsidies are granted to employers for constructing hospitals and dispensaries on the collieries. The Fund also operates schemes for anti-malarial and other preventive measures. It runs multi-purpose institutes for adult education, and schools for the wives and children of the workers to teach them handicrafts etc. Mobile cinemas and recreational facilities are also provided by the Fund.

4 P.M.

A beginning has been made towards rehabilitation of disabled workers on scientific methods. Maternity and child welfare work is also undertaken either directly or in collaboration with other agencies like the Mines Board of Health etc. Subsidies are also granted to leprosy clinics and T. B. hospitals for treatment of the suffering miners. Occasionally, grants are also made to the coal field medical associations who work for the welfare of the miners. Recently, the Fund has granted pension to widows and children of some miners who died of accidents in the collieries. I do not know the detailed workings of other welfare funds, but I think they are also operated on the same lines within their scope and resources.

As regards the working of the other Acts, my information is that it is going on fairly satisfactorily, but it is not altogether free from blames and defects. Even in respect of the coal Mines Welfare Fund, about which I have just spoken, there are some defects. For instance, the resources and organisation which it has got should help it to work more speedily and more rapidly. But in some respects, as for instance in respect of housing,

the progress is not as satisfactory as was expected. Even in matters of adult education through the multi-purpose institutes which they have organised all over the coalfields of India, I am not personally very much satisfied with the work that has been done, and I hope that the hon. Ministers, while they have done so much to organise these funds and organisations, will look into these defects and see that progress is made at least to the satisfaction of the people concerned.

As regards these multipurpose institutes, the complaint is that the labourers for whom these institutes have been organised, and to whom education is to be imparted, are not coming there in good numbers. So, my suggestion is that local committees of the institutes should be formed with representatives of the labourers and the employers as for instance the Sirdars and managers, to advise the teachers. I think such a committee will help the institutes to collect more people. Otherwise, after spending so much money and making so much of arrangements, if the people for whom these things are being done are not coming there in good numbers, it will be an unsatisfactory state of things. Similarly in other spheres also I would suggest that the local people should be associated as far as possible.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

श्री सी० के० नायर (बाह्य दिल्ली):

मिस्टर चैयरमैन, जब हम लेबर के बारे में सोचने लगते हैं तो सबसे पहले हिन्दुस्तान में जो गरीब से गरीब लेबरर्स यहां रहते हैं उनकी तरफ हमारा ध्यान जाता है। कई भाइयों ने कहा कि हमारे यहां असली लेबर प्राबलेम जो है वह देहातों में है और जितने भी इंडस्ट्रियल सेक्टर हैं उनमें काम करने वाले मजदूरों की तादाद ज्यादा से ज्यादा ५० लाख हो सकती है। मुझे तो शक है कि इतनी ज्यादा तादाद है लेकिन

अगर आप ज्यादा से ज्यादा भ्रंदाजा लगाएं तो इससे ज्यादा नहीं है। इस तरह से हिन्दुस्तान की कुल आबादी जो कि ३६ करोड़ है इन ५० लाख लोगों को निकालने के बाद जो साढ़े ३५ करोड़ रह जाती है वह सचमुच देहातों में और छोटे-छोटे कसबों में रहती है। इसलिए असली लेबर प्राबल्लेम जो है वह देहातों में है। अब जब कि आवडी के कांग्रेस सेशन में समाजवादी समाज के निर्माण का एलान किया गया है हमारा ध्यान ज्यादा तर देहातों की तरफ जानी चाहिए। हाउसिंग प्राबल्लेम अगर हमें साल्व करना था तो इसको इंडस्ट्रियल लेबर से साल्व करने के बजाय नीचे से साल्व करना चाहिए था। ऊंचे-ऊंचे टीलों को गिरा कर हमें छोटे-छोटे गढ़े भरने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। इसी प्रकार डिवलपमेंट के लिए अब जो इंडस्ट्रियल फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन वगैरह हम बना रहे हैं और करोड़ों रुपया खर्च कर रहे हैं मेरे विचार में वह रुपया प्राइवेट सेक्टर के लोगों के हाथों में चला जाएगा या कम्पनियों के हाथों में चला जाएगा जिन सबकी तादाद अगर ज्यादा से ज्यादा भी गिनी जाए तो ५०,००० से ज्यादा नहीं होगी। मैं अर्ज करता हूं कि हमारे साढ़े छः लाख गांवों में जो गरीब बस रहे हैं उन गरीबों की क्या हालत है इस तरफ हमारा ध्यान नहीं गया है। अगर एक इंडस्ट्रियल कंसर्न को हम पांच लाख या दस लाख रुपया या पंद्रह लाख रुपया कर्ज के रूप में दे देते हैं और उनके मुकाबले में पांच-पांच सौ रुपया देहातियों में बांटें तो आप भ्रंदाजा लगा सकते हैं कि इन गरीबों में किस हद तक बेकारी दूर हो सकती है। इसी तरह साढ़े सात करोड़ रुपया जो इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स में कर्ज के रूप में बांटा जाएगा अगर उसको देहातों में बांटा

जाय तो हजारों और लाखों गांवों में बेकारी दूर हो सकती है। हां यह सवाल जरूर गौर करने के काबिल है कि इस प्रकार इंडिविजुअल लेबरर्ज के पास हम कैसे पहुंच सकते हैं। देहातों में इस वक्त जो गरीबी पाई जाती है उसको दूर करने के लिए हमें योजनाएं बनानी चाहिए। हमारे यहां हरिजन भी हैं जो कि हिन्दुस्तान की आबादी का १/५ है और यदि उनमें बैकवर्ड क्लासिस और ट्राइबल पीपल को भी मिला दिया जाए तो उनकी आबादी १/४ हो जाती है। हमें उनके भलाई के कामों की तरफ सबसे पहले ध्यान देना चाहिए।

हाउसिंग के बारे में भी यही हिसाब है। शहरों में बसने वालों के लिए हम तीन-तीन, चार-चार और पांच-पांच हजार की स्कीमें बना रहे हैं लेकिन मैं कहता हूं कि वही पांच हजार रुपया अगर हम देहातों में बांटे, इन गरीब हरिजनों में बांटे जिनको रहने के लिए झोंपड़ी तक मुश्किल से नसीब होती है तो कितना ज्यादा भला हम उन लोगों का कर सकते हैं। मैं नहीं चाहता कि हजारों की तादाद में रुपया इन देहातियों में बांटा जाए, आप सिर्फ ५००, ३०० या २०० के हिसाब से जितना रुपया आपने रखा है अगर उन गरीब लोगों में बांटें तो हमारे कई हजारों और लाखों गरीब हरिजनों को रहने के लिए मकान मुहैया हो सकते हैं। ऐसा करने से सारे देश में एक नई जागृति दौड़ जाएगी और गवर्नमेंट के प्रति उनकी श्रद्धा भी बढ़ेगी और वे सचमुच स्वराज्य की गरमायिश को महसूस करने लग जाएंगे आज तक गरमायिश उन तक नहीं पहुंची। हम जितनी भी भलाई की स्कीमें चला रहे हैं ऊपर वाले लोगों के लिए ही चला रहे हैं। कई दफा मैं बैठ कर सोचता हूं तो सचमुच में हैरान होता हूं कि हम पढ़े लिखे लोगों

[श्री सी० के नायर]

में इतनी खुद गर्जी आ गई है कि हम गांव वालों को भूलते ही जाते हैं। मैं सच्चे दिल से कहता हूं कि उनके साथ बहुत भारी अन्याय हो रहा है। मैं समझता हूं कि श्रमजीवियों की तरफ सब से ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए और मेरा विचार है कि इसके लिए सबसे ज्यादा जिम्मेवारी श्रम मंत्री की होनी चाहिए। मैं चाहता हूं कि हाउसिंग मिनिस्ट्री की जो मकान बनाने की योजना है इसका सारा काम श्रममंत्री या श्रम विभाग की भारफत ही होना चाहिए। सबसे पहली चीज जो मैं अर्ज करना चाहता था वह देहाती भाइयों के बारे में ही अर्ज करना चाहता था और इसको मैं सबसे ज्यादा महत्व देता हूं।

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं वह स्वराज्य प्राप्ति के बाद जो श्रमजीवियों के लिए, मजदूरों के वास्ते जो उपयोगी कानून बनाए गए हैं उनके बारे में कहना चाहता हूं। सबसे पहले तो यह उपयोगी कानून बनाने का जो प्रयास किया गया है उसके लिए मैं गवर्नमेंट को बधाई देता हूं। लेकिन मुझे अफसोस है कि इन कानूनों को ठीक तौर से इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं किया जा रहा है और इसकी तरफ गवर्नमेंट को ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि इंडस्ट्रियल डिस्प्यूट सम्बन्धी जो अवार्ड ट्रिब्यूनल्स द्वारा या एपेलेट ट्रिब्यूनल्स द्वारा दिए गए हैं उनको इम्प्लेमेंट नहीं किया जा रहा है। इसलिए मैं लेबर मिनिस्टर का ध्यान इस चीज की ओर भी खींचना चाहता हूं।

इंडस्ट्रियल सेक्टर में सबसे ज्यादा मुख्य हम टेक्सटाइल को मानते हैं। वैसे स्टील, कैमिकल्स, कोल इत्यादि चीजें भी हैं जो

कि कम महत्व नहीं रखतीं, लेकिन सबसे ज्यादा महत्व हम टेक्सटाइल को ही देते हैं। लेकिन मुझे अफसोस से कहना पड़ता है कि आज तक टेक्सटाइल वर्कर्स को कितना बोनस मिलना चाहिए, इसका फैसला नहीं हुआ है। यह एक बहुत बड़े अफसोस की बात है और उसके बारे में पूरे तौर पर, डेफिनिट तौर पर, और निश्चित रूप से एक कानून बन जाना चाहिए, या कोई ऐसा फारमूला पेश किया जाना चाहिए कि जिससे चाहे फैक्टरी लेबर हो या कोई दूसरी किसी प्रकार की लेबर हो उसके बोनस के बारे में किसी प्रकार की डिस्प्यूट की गुंजाइश कम से कम रहे। यह ठीक है कि अगर इस तरह की गुंजाइश हो तो हम इंडस्ट्रियल ट्रिब्यूनल में जा सकते हैं, अपीलेट ट्रिब्यूनल में जा सकते हैं। लेकिन गवर्नमेंट को यह मालूम होना चाहिए कि एक गरीब मजदूर को अदालत में जाने से कितनी परेशानियां उठानी पड़ती हैं।

एक मुख्य चीज और है कि हमारे यहां ट्रेड यूनियन्स की तादाद बहुत बढ़नी चाहिए जिससे हर क्षेत्र के मजदूर अपनी मुश्किलातों का यूनियन्स के द्वारा हल कर सकें। इस तरफ भी मैं सरकार का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूं।

दिल्ली शहर में रहते हुए मैं एक चीज और कहे बगैर नहीं रह सकता वह है हमारे थर्ड डिवीजन क्लर्क्स के बारे में। जब हमारे यहां पे कमीशन नियुक्त किया गया तो उन्होंने बड़े-बड़े अफसरों की तनखाह को तो बढ़ाने की बहुत फिक्र की लेकिन जो असली मेहनतकश हैं, जो थर्ड डिवीजन क्लर्क्स हैं, जिनके ऊपर यह तमाम सेक्रेटेरियट चल रही है, उनके

बारे में पे कमीशन ने बिल्कुल बेपरवाही से फैसला किया। ६० और ६८ तक की तनखाह वालों को उन्होंने ५५ रुपये का कर दिया। यह सही है कि उन्होंने ३५ वालों को भी ५५ का कर दिया और सारे हिन्दुस्तान में इन जूनियर क्लर्कों की एक ही ग्रेड रखने की कोशिश की गयी। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि इन बड़ी-बड़ी तनखाहों के मुकाबले यह ५५ रुपये बहुत ही थोड़े हैं हाँ अगर पहले के मेयार से नापा जाय तब तो यह भी बहुत ज्यादा है। पहले मुझे मालूम हुआ कि हमारे चपरासी को और टीचर को दस, पन्द्रह या २० रुपये मासिक मिलते थे। लेकिन वह जमाना गुजर गया। उस वक्त आई० सी० एस० अफसरों को क्या मिलता था? उनको भी डेढ़-डेढ़, दो-दो, तीन-तीन हजार मिलता था। उनकी तनखाह तो वहाँ की वहाँ है लेकिन और जो बीच के अफसर हैं उनकी तनखाह बढ़ायी गयी है। लेकिन इन थर्ड डिवीजन क्लर्कों की तनखाह नहीं बढ़ायी गयी जो कि सुबह से साइकिल पर आते हैं शाम तक काम करते हैं और ओवर टाइम भी काम करते हैं। और थकन की वजह से उनको घर लौटना मुश्किल होता है। इनके बारे में हमको पूरी तवज्जह देनी चाहिए और मैं कहूँगा कि खास करके दिल्ली के लिए। देहातों की और बात है। दिल्ली का मेरा अपना अनुभव है। जब मैं दिल्ली की देहातों में रहता था तो मेरा माहवार खर्च दस, पन्द्रह या बीस रुपया पड़ता था। दिल्ली में मैं अकेला रहता हूँ लेकिन फिर भी मेरा खर्च कम से कम डेढ़ दो सौ रुपये माहवार हो जाता है मैं थर्ड डिवीजन क्लर्क से ज्यादा अच्छी जिव्दगी नहीं बसर करता यह मैं यकीन के साथ कह सकता हूँ। मैं अकेला हूँ

और बे शादी शुदा हूँ, तब यह हाल है। अब आप ज़रा अनुमान कीजिये किये गरीब थर्ड डिवीजन क्लर्क किस प्रकार अपनी गुज़र करते होंगे। इनके चार-चार पांच-पांच बच्चे हैं और आजकल की फैशन-दार बीबियाँ हैं। यह उनके खर्च को किस तरह से पूरा करते होंगे यह सोच कर तो मैं कभी-कभी हैरान हो जाता हूँ। लेकिन मैं उनकी कार्यक्षमता पर उनको बधाई देता हूँ। इतना अन्याय उनके ऊपर होते हुए भी वह अपने काम को तमाम अफसरों के मुकाबले में ज्यादा क्षमता से, श्रद्धा से, देश भक्ति के साथ और कर्तव्य परायण होकर करते हैं। उनको हम बिल्कुल निगलेक्ट करते हैं। यह बहुत बड़ा अन्याय है और मैं समझता हूँ कि इसके बारे में श्रम मंत्रालय को बहुत सीरियसली काम करना चाहिए। मैं खास करके यह दिल्ली के लिए कहता हूँ। बाकी स्टेट्स के बारे में नहीं कहता। ५५ रुपया सारे हिन्दुस्तान के क्लर्कों को मिल सकता है। पर दिल्ली में इतने से काम कैसे चलेगा। यहाँ पर शहर के एक कोने से दूसरे कोने तक बिना टैक्सी के जाना मुश्किल है। अगर कोई बाजार में निकल जाय तो दो रुपया खर्च करना बहुत मामूली बात है। इसलिए आपको इस ५५ रुपये वाले क्लर्क के लिए तो बहुत सीरियसली सोचना चाहिए खास कर के आवडी रिजोल्यूशन के बावजूद तो आपको इनका स्तर ऊँचा उठाना चाहिए और इन क्लर्कों के ऊपर वालों की तनखाह को कुछ कम करना चाहिए। तभी हम सोशलिस्टिक समाज की आदर्श तक पहुँच सकेंगे।

अब एक चीज़ इंडस्ट्रियल सेक्टर के बारे में भी कहना चाहता हूँ हम बार-बार गवर्नमेंट की मार्फत इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स को सहुलियतें देने का फैसला करते हैं। हम

मजदूरों के प्रति इतना ध्यान नहीं देते जितनी कि हम प्राइवेट सेक्टर की या पब्लिक सेक्टर की पैदावारी बढ़ाने की फिर है। इन गरीब मजदूरों की ओर भी हमको ध्यान देना चाहिए। आपने सारे हिन्दुस्तान भर के लिए टैक्स्टाइल मजदूरों के लिए मिनिमम वेज ३० रुपया रखा है और उनको तीन-तीन चार-चार महीने का बोनस मिलता है। यह बोनस आता कहाँ से है? यह मुनाफे में से आता है। यदि मालिक लोग अपने मुनाफे का ५० प्रतिशत भी मजदूरों को दें तो वे उनको ६ महीने का बोनस दे सकते हैं। लेबर को ६ महीने की तनखाह बोनस की शक्ति में दी जा सकती है। इतना मुनाफा है। लेकिन आपने मजदूरों की मिनिमम वेज ३० रुपया रखी है और उसके बाद उनकी कोई स्केल नहीं और कोई तरक्की नहीं। इसके बारे में भी मैं अपने माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान खीचना चाहता हूँ। इस मिनिमम वेज को हमको और बढ़ाना चाहिए। और थर्ड डिवीजन के क्लर्कों को कम से कम दिल्ली में अपने जीवन का मेयार कायम रखने के लिए सौ रुपया तो मिलना ही चाहिए। यह रुपया आप ऊपर के अफसरों की तनखाह कम करके निकाल सकते हैं और अगर वह काफी न हो तो दूसरे सोर्सज से भी आप वह रुपया मुहय्या कर सकते हैं।

इतना ही मुझे कहना है।

Shrimati Ua Palchoudhury (Nabad-wip): When we have a Labour Ministry at all, I think it makes labour feel that they are going to be cared for I am sure that is true to a very great extent.

I will confine my remarks particularly to the welfare of plantation workers with whom I have had occasion to deal with and live with to a great extent. It is more and more realised that labour must get their

welfare and their rights as a matter of civic rights and not as goodwill and charity. As employers must learn to bear this in mind, so must there be at government level administration and machinery to enforce this, so that labourers do come in for their rightful place in the scheme of things. It is heartening to note that the Tea Board has given Rs. 1 lakh to West Bengal for labour welfare purposes, and also Rs. 57,500—which I find from this summary—for building a chest clinic in Darjeeling for concessional treatment for labourers. Schemes like the latter, good and necessary as they are, often seem to me like running after a thief after the theft has been committed. Would it not be better to guard your house? I think if provision for giving free milk and good food to labourers were there, may be the beds in chest clinic would not be so full.

As regards the plantation housing schemes that are suggested, I submit, having been in the Terai districts—I am sure the Minister also knows it—that the region is very damp. If there could be some sort of arrangement in the housing schemes suggested to have, for example, built-in beds for the labourers to sleep on, it would be a very good thing. I have seen myself that babies and children, when they have been left to lie on the floor have suffered from colds and pneumonia to a very great extent in the tea garden districts. When they are advised to use *cahrpois* it does not really work because they never do it. If there were built-in beds, I am sure the health of the labourers would certainly benefit and the children would have a better chance. Government might consider suggesting building built-in sleeping accommodation in the scheme of housing that are going to be taken up for Plantation Labour.

I have only a few points to make about labour welfare. Amongst them, one, I think will come in for a lot of criticism from many quarters. I am aware that drunkenness is bad and prohibition is good. But there is such a thing as having prohibition before

we have put something in its place. I speak with great urgency about putting something in place of prohibition before we try to enforce prohibition on plantation labour. Labour, by and large, cannot be classed as if it were all the same. Their psychological make-up is very different. The needs of Factory labour and plantation labour may be very different! Factory labour, in spite of all hardships, may have a certain amount of amenities, as quite often they are nearer towns. Plantation labour burns in the sun in summer, is drenched in the rains and is perilously cold in winter. In the evening when the labourer comes back, there is very little ease in his life. There are no amenities that have been brought to him. If prohibition is to be introduced, then a vast stream of entertainment he will learn to enjoy and like, must be made available to him. Cinema shows, musical programmes, jattras, and all sorts of means of relaxation that he can understand and appreciate must be brought to him constantly and freely, before prohibition can be introduced effectively. His mind must first be made receptive, and practical benefits must be there. Imagine the end of the day, when the plantation labourer comes back after a hard days work! Drums beat, in winter the fires burn, and round the fire he sits and drinks a bowl of his own particular brew, he sings and dances and is happy. The women with flowers in their dark hair, are part of this picture and life—unlike conditions in factory areas. I would enjoin on the Ministry and all welfare schemes and welfare workers that they must consider what they have to put in its place before they try to enforce prohibition.

My last submission is that welfare schemes, when they are worked should take the employers into consultation. Even today, as regards tea plantation labour, in Bengal, it is in the hands of private owners. Private owners should be taken into confidence and if that is done, I am sure, they will come forward more than half-way to meet the Government

everywhere, for the welfare of the workers.

Shri R. N. S. Deo (Kalahandi—Bolangir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have tabled cut motions Nos. 452, 456, 457, 458, 459 and 460. The first of my cut motions refers to the exploitation of labour in Rourkela. A peculiar situation prevails at Rourkela, which as you know, is the site of the Hindustan Steels Limited, where the steel plant is going to be set up. Now, buildings are going to be put up there and contracts for brick making have been given out. Taking advantage of the distress that is prevailing in that area, due to drought conditions this year, the contractors are not paying proper wages. They are also victimising labourers who have the tenacity or the courage to complain and, as a result, there is much distress.

Shri Abid Ali: Where?

Shri R. N. S. Deo: At Rourkela.

Shri Abid Ali: Brick contractors?

Shri R. N. S. Deo: Yes. It is unfortunate that the Ministry of Production takes the view that this is not the concern of the Production Ministry because this pertains to the Hindustan Steels Limited. Now, whatever be the technical responsibility either of the Production Ministry or of Hindustan Steels Limited, I do not think the Ministry of Labour can shirk its moral responsibility to see that labourers everywhere get a fair and a square deal.

The other cut motions that I have tabled refer to exploitation of labour in the Lanjiberna quarry. That also is situated in the Sudergarh district of Orissa where Rourkela is situated. In this Lanjiberna quarry, the labourers are being exploited by contractors. This exploitation by the contractors is an evil that is very widespread in many of the industries. But, in this particular case, I find there are 13 contractors employed in that quarry though the length of the quarry is not very much; it is only about half a mile to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, and the work could be conducted much more economically

[Shri R. N. S. Deo]

with a few supervisors. But yet the contractorship is not abolished or done away with because the management have got a vested interest in those contractors. They get all sorts of amenities and all sorts of perquisites and advantages from these contractors and that is why they are not at all keen to abolish these contractors. The result is that the labourers are deprived of fair wages; they have no water facilities, no hutments, there are no other amenities provided there and the wages are also low. The wages paid there are only 1/3/- for female workers and 1/5/- for male workers, though, in the neighbouring district, in a similar quarry, near, Jhinkpani, I understand the rates are much higher. It has been calculated that if this contractorship is abolished, the profit that goes to the contractors would suffice to raise the wages of these labourers by at least eight annas without any further expenses on the company.

Now, there is another aspect of this question. This quarry belongs to and is controlled and operated by the Orissa Cements Limited. This Orissa Cements Ltd., is a big concern controlled by a big businessman who is most fortunate because he runs a business of 113 lakhs worth of capital, with about Rs. 90 lakhs of other people's money. Out of the capital of Rs. 113 lakhs, Rs. 50 lakhs is interest free loan given by the Government of Orissa and Rs. 40 lakhs shares of the Orissa Government. Now, perhaps you know that this Rs. 50 lakhs which is given to this company as interest-free loan has been taken by the Orissa Government as loan from the Central Government on which the Orissa Government is paying interest. The condition was that this company would give a rebate of Rs. 7/8 per ton on the cement supplied to Hirakud. But our Government is so very solicitous for the capitalist and the big businessman that recently the selling price of cement from that particular factory has been raised by Rs. 7 thereby vir-

tually wiping out the rebate. Of course, I am not concerned with that here, but with how this big business is exploiting labour. That is a problem that must draw the attention of the Labour Ministry. The management had agreed with the Union, they have in fact signed an agreement, that the wages of the labourers at Lanjiberna would be raised if the Tribunal awarded an increase of rates in Orissa Cement Factory at Rajgangpur. Though, in fact, the Tribunal award has given an increase of two annas for the factory labourers and according to the agreement the labourers at Lanjiberna should automatically get this, yet the management is not giving them that increment. Now, these are things which must be looked into by the Ministry of Labour, because after all the Labour Ministry has got the overall supervision and responsibility for labour welfare in the country.

Another fact to which I would like to draw the attention of the Labour Minister is that for Orissa there was in the last year's budget provision for Regional Commissioner and his staff, about Rs. 17,000. In the revised budget it was reduced to Rs. 2,000 and this year's budget shows no provision at all. That is, probably the proposal of appointment of separate labour officers in Orissa has been given up. Now, I do not understand why that has been done. You know, Sir, that the Northern districts of Orissa are going to become one of the most developed industrial belts in this country. There are mining operations going on in Mayurbunj, Keonjhar and Sundergarh; then there is going to be the steel plant at Rourkela; along with that many subsidiary industries are likely to spring up. There are proposals for the setting up of aluminium factory, cotton textile mill etc. Various other industries are likely to develop there. It is really necessary that for tackling the problems of labour in those areas there should be adequate staff and there should be

separate officers appointed for that region.

Then again, a large area is going to be acquired for the steel factory site. A very large number of people are likely to be displaced.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): How is that a labour problem?

Shri R. N. S. Deo: It is not possible that all of them can be rehabilitated on land. There is already considerable pressure on land and most of these people should be rehabilitated in the industries that are going to grow up. So, my suggestion is that the Ministry of Labour should take the initiative in developing training centres.

Shri Abid Ali: It is already on. The scheme is there.

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I am very glad to hear that the Ministry has taken the initiative. In that case I have nothing further to suggest in regard to that, but I do suggest that the Ministry should pay a little more attention to this exploitation of labour that is going on both at Rourkela and in the Lanjiberna quarry. I would say that the Labour Ministry should labour a little more for the welfare of labour.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Sir, I have given notice of a cut motion No. 402 with a view to inviting the attention of the Government to the sad plight of the mica mining labour in Andhra, Bihar and Rajasthan. I am closely acquainted with the circumstances in Andhra and I would, therefore, confine my remarks to that particular aspect only.

The Government knows that the mica industry has been going down for a couple of years. It had its own affluence for three or four years and later on the decline has come in. As such, a number of mica mine labourers have been thrown out of work and they have no other alternative means of livelihood, no other alternative means of employment also. In fact, these mines are situated in more or less desert-like regions and they can-

not even cultivate lands, because they are not available there. Even if there is a possibility of cultivating the lands, that are within the leased area granted to each mica mine-owner, they are leased out only for the purpose of mining and not for cultivation. I would suggest that the matter should be taken in hand with greater seriousness. I had some time back represented to the Ministry of Labour certain aspects of this question. I had suggested that alternative means of employment should be provided there. I had also suggested that one or two good mines might be taken over and the labour employed there. The Government, whether it is the Central or the State, need not advance any money, because we have got the Labour Welfare Fund. But these things have probably not been thought of, or from the point of view of Government they are not feasible. I quite realise that Government in business is a failure. But there are other people who will be able to advise Government with regard to the running of these mines, but nothing has been done. Even with regard to the question of unemployment, on the suggestion made by me a reference was made to the Collector of Nellore where the mica mines flourish. A committee was appointed. What report they have been able to submit to the Government I have not been able to gather. On the other hand I got the reply from the Government that the Collector of Nellore has reported to the Government that labourers have not come to the Collector to put forth their grievances. This is a very peculiar reply. Probably Government wants that labour should make a nuisance of itself by going to the Collector in hunger marches in the way in which some of the agitators indulge in. As a matter of fact, I know that the mica associations of both the employers as well as employees have represented this matter to the State Government, the Collector and also to the Central Government; but to what conclusion the Government has come

to, we are not able to know, except the fact that the Collector has not been approached by the labourers and as such the labour problems does not exist there. This is a very peculiar position and probably the Nellore labour is not so very aggressive in its attitude and perhaps the authorities will wait until labour gets aggressive and begins to force its influence upon the notice of the local authorities. The general impression that is created by the working of the departments seems to be this: they do not care what happens to the unemployed labour. They do not want to know what happens to the labour that has been thrown out of employment especially in this mica sector which is able to secure to the Government several crores of rupees worth of dollars from other countries. Mica is a material which is not locally used much. It has to be exported and that export will have to be paid for elsewhere. It is not consumed locally. The entire establishment will have to be paid indirectly by a foreign government. I have suggested to Shri Giri when he was in office that whatever funds are available with the mica mines' labour welfare fund should be invested in such investments as would secure some interest. This is money which is not contributed by the Government. This is money that has actually been paid by the mine-owners as well as the dealers on their successful productive capacity with the help of the labourers. So, the Government does not pay anything; it is purely labourers' money that has been collected. Not even a few rupees have been spent over the collection work. Perhaps even the administrative expenses are borne by that Fund. When this money is available to the extent of nearly a crore of rupees with the Government, I do not see any reason why it should not be invested in good interest-bearing deposits. Probably within the last ten years. During which this Act has been working, they would have been able to

secure at least Rs. 10 lakhs by way of interest even if it is 3 per cent. I think there is an accumulation of the labour welfare cess fund to the extent of about a crore of rupees today. I have looked into the chapter devoted to the mica mines labour welfare fund in the report given to us, with some amusement. They have provided for the year 1954-55 nearly Rs. 11 lakhs odd. But I think this provision has been made from year to year, mostly on the capital side, but on the capital side much expense is not being incurred for the simple reason that there is a conflict between the Central Government and the local Government. To quote an instance, provision has been made from year to year for the construction of Hospitals maternity homes in three or four places. A contract has not been probably finally settled. At one stage I know the District Collector has entrusted the work to the Public Works Department—the Executive Engineer of the district. But there came an order from the Central Government that it should be undertaken by the Central Public Works Department. I see no reason why there should be a differentiation between the activities and the capacity of the Central Public Works Department and the local Public Works Department. The schedule of rates is the same. The management would be probably more or less the same and labour that will be available there would be in plenty. Even in the work of construction of these buildings, we could employ labour to some extent, out of the labour that has been recently thrown out. That has not been considered. Evidently the controversy whether it should be the Central Government or the local Government that should take up the building work is still going on.

Unfortunately, we have been witnessing the want of co-ordination between the labour, the NRSR and also the Commerce Ministry. In the winning of this particular material, unless the Commerce Ministry helps

the promotion of trade in this material, it is not possible for the miner to mine more and for the dealer to purchase more and export more. In reply to questions put on the floor of this House we have been told that there is no slump. If they look into the annual production as well as export figures, they will know that production is going on but the export has not been very much appreciable. Something must be done by the Commerce Ministry to see that this trade is helped not with any subsidies but with the finding out of probable markets for the commodity in other countries which are consuming this valuable material. The NRSR has not taken any responsibility of looking into that aspect. It will only think of the prospecting of mines or finding out a mineral here and there. Unless there is definite co-ordination between these three Departments, the labour cannot be served in the way it is expected to be served.

You might remember that the Planning Commission has devoted one full chapter for the development of mica and the mica mining industry. Till now I have been very closely watching the progress of that objective, but I am sorry to observe that nothing has been done. I wonder whether any department in the Centre has been able to appreciate the difficulties of this particular sector which produces a commodity for export and gets money to the country and whether any sustained thought has been bestowed upon that till now. I have been trying to contact the several Departments with ideas and suggestions but nobody seems to be in a mood to appreciate the difficulties and also to appreciate our own requirements as well as the requirements of labour. There is a feeling in the establishments working under the Labour Ministry that as long as labour is employed, it is only then that their duty lies to protect their interests. The moment it is thrown out of employment, it is not their duty to look after them! It is this particular mode of

thinking as well as acting that has affected rather adversely the position of labour in other sectors also. They are more anxious to construct creches where there are no children; to find out maternity homes where there are no women working. Even if the family woman occupying the next house goes and works in the factory, they want that there should be a maternity home or something like that should be constructed in the factory area. These are all aspects which have to be looked in greater detail and also tackled with that wisdom which Government is always credited with.

श्री एम० बी० बंश्य (अहमदाबाद, रक्षित, अनुसूचित जातियां) सभापति महोदय, मजदूर मंत्रालय के बारे में जो ग्रांट आयी है उसके विषय में मुझे थोड़ी सी बातें कहनी हैं।

मजदूरों के सम्बन्ध में जब कहीं बात होती है तो हमारे मन में यह आ जाता है कि मजदूर वह प्रजा हैं जो दुनिया में सबसे नीचे गिनी जाती है। पूज्य महात्मा जी ने हमको यह सिखाया कि मजदूरी हममें से हर एक को करनी चाहिए। जब तक हम अपने आप मजदूरी नहीं करेंगे और स्वयं मजदूरी की इज्जत नहीं करेंगे तब तक यह देश आगे नहीं बढ़ेगा। प्रश्न यह होता है कि मजदूरों की इज्जत कैसे हो सकती है। जिन मजदूरों की मेहनत से हमारे पूंजीपति आज धनी बने हुए हैं यदि हम उनके रहने की जगह को जाकर देखें तो हमको पता लगेगा कि वे कितनी बुरी हालत में रह रहे हैं। जिनके खून और पसीने की कमाई से आज पूंजीपति धनी बने हुए हैं वे कौसी गन्दी हालत में रहते हैं। और क्या खाते हैं यह हमको देखना चाहिए। जो मजदूर स्वयं कपड़े बनाते हैं उनके बच्चों के पास अच्छे कपड़े नहीं होते। हम तो केवल टैक्स्टाइल

[श्री एम० बी० वश्य]

मजदूरों की बात करते हैं और उन्हीं के लिए काम करते हैं। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान तो गांवों में बसा हुआ है। हमारे लाखों गांवों में रहने वाले खेत मजदूर किस प्रकार अपना जीवन बिताते हैं इसकी ओर भी हमारी गवर्नमेंट को ध्यान देना चाहिए। हम तो आज समाजवादी ढांचे का समाज बनाना चाहते हैं। वह तो ऊपर से नहीं बनेगा। वह तो नीचे से बनेगा। जब हम एक मकान बनाते हैं तो उसकी नींव अच्छी बनाते हैं। अगर नींव अच्छी नहीं होगी तो मकान कैसे अच्छा हो सकता है। देश को उठाने के लिए आपको देश के मजदूरों और गरीबों को पहले उठाना होगा जिनको खाने की मुसीबत है। अभी हमारे एक मित्र ने बतलाया कि यू० पी० में कई गांवों में गरीब मजदूरों को ६ पैसा रोज भी नहीं मिलता है। हमारे नायर जी ने कहा कि दिल्ली में क्लर्कों को ५५ रुपया देना ठीक नहीं है, यह बहुत कम है। इसमें उनका गुजारा नहीं हो सकता। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उन ६ पैसा रोज वालों का गुजारा कैसे होता होगा इस ओर हमको ध्यान देना चाहिए। जब तक हमारी दृष्टि उन गरीबों पर नहीं जायगी तब तक देश की तरक्की नहीं हो सकती। हम इन लाखों गांवों के मजदूरों की मदद से ही यहां पर आये हैं। लेकिन आज उनकी क्या दशा है?

हमारे भाई राजभोज चिल्लाते हैं तो हम हंसते हैं कि वह बार-बार क्या चिल्लाता है, यह बार-बार कैसे हरिजनों और सिड्डयूल्ड कास्ट की बातें करता है। उनके दिल में कुछ बातें हैं कि हमारी प्रजा दुखी है, इसलिए वे यह बातें कहते हैं। आपने बतला दिया कि हरिजनों को पढ़ना-लिखना चाहिए ताकि उनको नौकरियां

मिल सकें। लेकिन वह लोग बैरिस्टर हैं, डबल एल० एल० बी० हैं लेकिन उनको नौकरी नहीं मिलती। यह सब बातें हमने किताबों में तो लिख दी हैं लेकिन वे अमल में नहीं आती हैं। उनको नौकरी देने वाला कौन है? हमारा अधिकारी वर्ग। भगवान उमको सद्बुद्धि दे और वे समझें कि गवर्नमेंट ने हरिजनों को नौकरी देने के बारे में जो तै किया है, इस पर उनको ध्यान देना चाहिए। जब हरिजनों की बात आती है तो वे कहते हैं कि हरिजनों को मामलतेदार बना द यह कैसे हो सकता है। इसलिए मरी विनती है कि हमारे लेबर मिनिस्टर साहब, जिनका सारा जीवन मजदूरों के कार्य में गया है, अब देहाती मजदूरों की ओर ध्यान दें और उनका जीवन सुखी बनावें खेत मजदूर के मिनिमम वेज के बारे में भी अभी तक हमारी गवर्नमेंट ने कुछ नहीं किया है। उस के बारे में हमको कुछ न कुछ जल्दी से जल्दी करना चाहिए। उनका गुजारा हो सके कम से कम इतना तो मजदूरों को मिलना चाहिए।

टैक्स्टाइल मजदूरों का जब प्रश्न आता है तो बहुत से लोग कहते हैं कि वह तो बहुत पैसे वाले हो गये। कहा जाता है कि उनको तो सौ रुपये मिलते हैं। आप देखें कि जो हजारों कमाते हैं वे तो पैसे वाले नहीं हो सके तो यह सौ रुपये वाले कैसे पैसे वाले हो सकते हैं। उनके जो बच्चे होते हैं उनको भी इसी सौ रुपये में उनको पालना होता है। कहा जाता है कि मजदूरों को ज्यादा मिल गया है यह बहुत आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। वास्तव में मजदूर कोई आगे नहीं बढ़ रहे हैं। जितनी आप

मजदूर को देखभाल करेंगे उतना ही देश तगड़ा बनेगा। अगर मजदूर गरीब और कमजोर रहे तो देश भी कमजोर रहेगा। इसलिए देश को ऊपर उठाने के लिए हमें मजदूरों और गरीबों को ऊंचा उठाना होगा। पैसे वाले तो आगे बढ़ ही रहे हैं, हमको तो इन गरीबों को आगे बढ़ाना होगा। कुछ लोग कहते हैं कि पैसे वालों का पैसा बंट जाय। लेकिन हमारे मजदूर कहते हैं कि हम बिना मेहनत के पैसा नहीं लेना चाहते हम अपना पसीना बहाकर पैसा पैदा करना चाहते हैं। मजदूर काम करने के लिए तैयार हैं लेकिन देश में काम कहां है। हिन्दुस्तान के मजदूर भिखमंगे नहीं हैं। आपने देखा होगा कि मजदूरों ने सन् १९४२ में क्या करके दिखा दिया था। उनकी ही वदौलत हम आज यहां पार्लियामेंट में बैठे हुए हैं। मेरा अनुभव है कि इन मजदूरों ने अहमदाबाद में साढ़े तीन महीने तक हड़ताल रखी थी। क्यों हड़ताल रखी? क्योंकि उनको देश को उन्नत बनाना था। उन्होंने कहा था कि महात्मा जी जेल में बैठे हुए और हम मजदूरी करें। उन्होंने कहा था कि जबतक देश आजाद नहीं हो जायगा हम मिलों में काम करने नहीं जायेंगे। वे लोग साढ़े तीन महीने तक हड़ताल पर रहे, गांवों में चले गये और उस समय उनको कठिनाई से भरपेट खाना भी नहीं मिलता था। लेकिन उन्होंने यह सब देश को आगे बढ़ाने के लिये किया। आपको उनका आदर करना होगा। आपको यह देखना पड़ेगा कि वे कैसे घरों में रहते हैं। आप रुपये की गिनती न कीजिये कि इतना रुपया हमने उनके हाउसिंग के लिए दे दिया है। ये मजदूर लाखों की तादाद में हैं। जो गांवों में रहने वाले मजदूर हैं आप उनकी दशा को भी देखिये।

बाहर के बड़े-बड़े लोग आते हैं और वे दिल्ली के आजू-बाजू देखते हैं तो प्रसन्न हो जाते हैं। वह समझते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान आगे बढ़ रहा है। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान तो छोटे छोटे गांवों में बसा हुआ है। दिल्ली के इर्द-गिर्द के गांवों में हिन्दुस्तान नहीं बसा हुआ है। उस क्षेत्र को तो दिल्ली ही गिना जाता है। तो जो गांवों के लोग हैं उनकी दशा सुधारने की हम सब को मिल कर कोशिश करनी होगी।

आवड़ी का रिजोल्यूशन तो पास हो गया और सारे हिन्दुस्तान में यह बात मालूम हो गयी कि हम अपने देश में समाजवादी ढांचे का समाज बनाना चाहते हैं। लेकिन उसके लिए काम करना होगा। हम कहते तो बहुत हैं। हमारे यहां एक कहावत है कि कहना तो बड़ा आसान है लेकिन काम तो करने से ही होगा। लेकिन यह काम करे कौन? केवल सरकार ही इसे नहीं कर सकती। हम सब को मिलकर देश को आगे बढ़ाना होगा। यह कांग्रेस की गवर्नमेंट है इसलिए कहा जा सकता है कि कांग्रेस वाले इसे करें। लेकिन अकेले वे भी इसे नहीं कर सकते। जितने लोग इस देश में बसते हैं उन सब को मिल कर यह काम करना चाहिए। हमारे देश के ३६ करोड़ लोग मिल कर यह काम करेंगे तो इसमें सफलता मिल सकती है। और खास तौर से जो लोग इस मकान की नींव में हैं उनको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए हमको विशेष रूप से प्रयत्न करना होगा।

हरिजनों के बारे में कहा जाता है...

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member want to continue?

Sri M. B. Vaidya: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Then he may continue tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: The following are the selected cut motions relating to.

[Mr. Chairman]

various Demands under the Ministry of Labour which the hon. Members may now move:

<i>Demand No.</i>	<i>No. of Cut Motions</i>
69	168, 170, 171, 197, 198, 201, 260, 261, 262, 317, 318, 340, 402, 403, 404, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 454, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 462, 463, 464, 465, 172, 455
70	263, 469
71	472
72	264, 265

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta South-East): I have got my Cut Motions Nos. 172 and 455.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may move these two cut motions also at the end.

Refusal to set up Industrial Tribunals for settlement of genuine disputes

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I beg to move:

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

Refusal to set up an all India Industrial Tribunal for the Insurance Industry

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I beg to move:

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

Government's attitude towards rationalisation in industries

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I beg to move:

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

Failure to adopt a correct labour policy

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I beg to move:

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

Failure to guarantee proper housing facilities to labour

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I beg to move:

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

Need for full implementation of Plantation Labour Act

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I beg to move:

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

Policy of Government towards agricultural labourers

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

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

Unemployment problem among handloom labourers

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

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

Employees State Insurance policy of Government

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

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

Labour policy of Government

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I beg to move:

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

Failure to implement effectively Minimum Wages Act, Plantation Labour Act and other measures

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I beg to move:

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

Labour policy of Government

Shri R. R. Shastri (Kanpur Distt. Central): I beg to move:

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

Condition of mica labour

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I beg to move:

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

Lockout in Mahabir Jute Mills, Sahjanwa since 13-1-1955 and dismissal of its workers and sale of its raw jute stocks

Shri S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

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

Condition of weavers in the handloom industry in U.P.

Shri S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

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

Delays in working of conciliation machinery

Shri S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

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

Treatment of Labour recruited in Gorakhpur for mines etc.

Shri S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

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

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Need to provide for the right of parties to take cases which cannot be settled by conciliation Boards to adjudication or Industrial Tribunals

Shri S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

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

Corruption in Employment Exchanges

Shri S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

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

Retrenchment and rationalisation in industry

Shri S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:

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

Need for providing unemployment relief

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

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

Delays in disposal of cases referred to Chief Labour Commissioner by Regional Labour Commissioners or Conciliation Officers

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

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

Failure to constitute an All India Industrial Tribunal to go into grievances and demands of the employees of the various Insurance Companies

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

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

Delay in framing rules under Plantation Labour Act, 1951

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

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

Exploitation of labour by contractors at Raurkela

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

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

Rehabilitation of workers in the Mines disabled due to accidents

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

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

Non-implementation of increase in wages to labourers in Lanjiberna quarry (Dist. Sundergarh-Orissa) according to the agreement of Orissa Cement Limited

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

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

Employment of labour contractors in Lanjiberna quarry and the need for their abolition

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

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

Exploitation of labour by contractors in Lanjiberna quarry

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

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

Adoption of unfair practices by Orissa Cement Limited to hamper legitimate Trade Union activities in Lanjiberna quarry

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

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

Victimisation of labour against terms of conciliation settlements of strike in January, 1955 in Lanjiberna quarry

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

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

Necessity to include dependents of employees under purview of Employees State Insurance Scheme

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

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

Failure to refer grievances of 'work charged' staff to a tribunal

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

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

Question of superseding All India Industries (Colliery Disputes) Tribunal constituted in February, 1954 by another constituted in February, 1955

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

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

Question of extension of the Provident Fund facilities to all Industrial workers

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

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

*Shelter and water facilities to labour-
ers of Hatti-Gold Mines and Kolar
Gold Mines in Hyderabad and Mysore
States respectively*

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Chief Inspector of Mines' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Urgent need to improve working conditions in Coal Mines

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

"That the demand under the head 'Chief Inspector of Mines' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct at least 20,000 quarters for Miners during current year out of Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund

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

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure' under the Ministry of Labour be reduced by Rs. 100."

Growing unemployment in country and slow and inadequate process of registering unemployed persons

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Employment Exchanges and Resettlement' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Employment schemes and their effective implementation

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Employment Exchanges and Resettlement' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Numerous accidents in coal mines in different parts of the country

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I beg to move:

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

Attitude of Regional Labour Directorates and particularly of the Regional Labour Directorates in Calcutta towards INTUC unions in connection with conciliation proceedings and appointment of industrial tribunals

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I beg to move:

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

5 P.M.

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES

Mr. Chairman: The House will now take up the Half-an-hour Discussion.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): This discussion relates to the Labour Ministry. I suggest that the time taken by the Members in this Half-an-hour Discussion should be set off against the time allotted for these Demands. Otherwise, the House will have to sit late hours. The House has already taken one hour more on the other Demands. The question that you want to discuss may be discussed in relation to a certain Demand and combined with the general discussion.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): There was a special reason for raising this discussion. The Speaker has admitted it.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I am not objecting to that.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister is not objecting to that. He has not objected to the admissibility of the motion. Half-an-hour has been allotted for that. There is no doubt about that. The suggestion is only this. We are now criticising the Labour Ministry. The Labour Ministry is under discussion. If it is possible, this discussion may continue on the same lines as the question may be taken

up in relation to a Demand. After all, there must be some Demand which will be relevant to this particular motion.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I submit, Sir, that there are special reasons for raising this half-an-hour discussion. I knew that this comes under the Labour Ministry. There are so many other subjects to be covered. This subject has to be given special attention. That is why this matter has been specially raised. There are certain subjects which cannot be covered in the reply of the Labour Minister.

Mr. Chairman: So far as this question is concerned, it may be covered in the reply of the hon. Minister. The suggestion is that if any further cut motions are to be moved, this may be regarded as one of the matters in regard to that cut motion and the discussion may go on. It is not meant to shut out any discussion; on the contrary, time will be made up. That is the only point.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): On a point of clarification, are we to understand that this will mean that the half-an-hour will be subtracted from the four hours?

Mr. Chairman: That is the suggestion.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: This should not be included in that time.

Mr. Chairman: As a matter of fact, the House will realise that we have spent half-an-hour or one hour more on another Ministry: the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry. Since we are now discussing the Labour Ministry, if the hon. Member could give notice of this motion, I shall treat it as a cut motion and allow discussion tomorrow.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I make a submission? I think as it is, the Demands for Grants have been squeezed into the smallest number of hours possible. Therefore, I think that as far as the Labour Ministry is

concerned, these four hours should not be taken away.

Mr. Chairman: This is a suggestion made by the hon. Minister. If the Mover of this motion is not agreeable, I am in his hands. If he likes, he may continue.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I thank you for having permitted this discussion. The number of accidents that have taken place in the coal mines has been causing a great concern. Firstly, this is a key industry, an industry of national importance. Recently there was a disaster and there was not a single newspaper in Northern India which has not written an editorial. Even in a distant place like Nagpur, the *Nagpur Times* while welcoming the appointment of a judicial enquiry committee for the mine disaster at Parasia and the explosion at Amlabad, said that a mere enquiry is not enough but something more has to be done, and this has got to be done quickly if we wanted to save this industry. It is not merely a question of accidents. It is on this industry that our whole Five Year Plan is based. Anything jeopardising this industry will naturally jeopardise our Five Year Plan also. The number of workers killed is 331 in 1954. This has been increasing from year to year. For example, the rate per thousand workers employed—that is how we calculate the death rate—was in 1950—72 in 1951—90, in 1952—100, in 1953—97, there was a slight reduction and there was also fall in the production, in 1954 it was 98. You see it is progressively going up. For a million tons of coal extracted, in 1950, it was 7, in 1951 9, in 1952 10, in 1953 9 and in 1954 it was 9. The number of workers killed in 1950 was 241; in 1951, 319; in 1952, 353; in 1953 it was 330 and in 1954 it was 331. I do not know what it will be this year. Already in the beginning of the year, we have had a great disaster, the explosion in Amlabad killing 50 workers. During 1954 our production increased by 1 million tons. From 35 million tons of coal in 1953, it is today a little

over 36 million tons. The increase is worth about Rs. 160. Can we minimise these accidents? About 340,000 workers are employed in this industry.

The position can be improved in two ways. One is effective legislation and the other is effective implementation of the legislation. What has the Government done? As long ago as 1952, we passed the Indian Mines Act. Today, in 1955, that is, exactly three years after the Indian Mines Act was passed, rules have not been framed still. The rules and regulations which govern mines are the Regulations of 1926 which were framed under the Indian Mines Act of 1923 which was repealed by the Indian Mines Act of 1952. In this very House, we have been raising question after question as to when these rules are going to be finalised. They say, very shortly. Very shortly means three years. Even to this day we are carrying on under outmoded rules and regulations of 1926. During this period, Mining Engineering has advanced. So many things could have been done.

The other thing is inspection. Whenever an Inspector finds that a certain provision of the regulation of the Mines Act is violated, the Manager is prosecuted. Even those prosecutions are very few. I shall take only fatal accidents, leaving alone many accidents which have caused minor disabilities. There were as many as 270 such cases: I do not have the exact number; it may be a little more on this side or that. Prosecutions have been launched in 14 cases. What is the inference? Either the safety measures are not enough or action is not taken. The safety measures provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, or the regulations of 1926 or the rules or bye-laws of the Government have not been sufficient. Otherwise, whereas there have been 270 accidents, why should there be only 14 prosecutions? There may be cases of misadventure in a very few cases. That shows that two things are defective. Either the safety measures

are not enough or the inspection is not being done properly.

Mr. Chairman: Before the hon. Member proceeds further, I may just submit for his consideration as well as the consideration of the House that there is only half an hour available, and it would be better if we apportion the time. I think the hon. Member will finish within ten minutes and then there are two or three speakers who wish to speak. I will give them three minutes each, and I will request the Minister in charge to give a reply within ten minutes. Will that be satisfactory?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I will take fifteen minutes.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. Member takes 15 minutes, then neither will the reply be complete, nor can the other Members who are anxious to speak be satisfied. I would request him to take eleven to twelve minutes.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Thank you, Sir.

Last time when the explosion took place in Asansol mines, we were lucky enough. We were very fortunate in the fact that the explosion took place on a holiday. Only ten people died. If it had taken place on a working day, three hundred or four hundred people would have been killed. In the Amlabad accident also, luckily for us the States Reorganisation Commission was visiting that place and all the people were mobilised by the Government and the employers to put up a demonstration before that Commission. That is why instead of 400 people going down the mines, only 90 people went and 50 died.

What was the reason given after the Asansol explosion?—that they found somebody smoking and biris were found. So many bodies were charred, so many people were burnt, but these biris have been there as fresh as they could be.

There are so many steps which have to be taken and I will enumerate them quickly.

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

Under the Mines Act they should provide for tripartite Mining Boards. I have told you that three years have elapsed since the Act was passed, and till now those Mining Boards have not been constituted. These Mining Boards with the representatives of the workers, the owners and the Government should be constituted and a thorough inspection of mines to the satisfaction of the workers should be carried out on a complaint made by the workers. This is sometimes not attended to. They say that the complaint is very frivolous. But when life is involved, whenever there is a complaint from the workers, they should immediately inspect it.

Judicial or non-official enquiry should be held into all the cases of fatal accidents, and deterrent punishment should be meted out to the owners wherever there is contravention of the Act and the provisions of the regulations, bye-laws and rules. According to the Act, there is a punishment of only one year. Even though 60 people died and the owner is prosecuted, he could be sentenced only for one year and fined Rs. 1,000. So, deterrent punishment should be provided by amending the Act.

The Indian Bureau of Mines should inspect these mines, because one of their functions, they say, is to inspect the mines.

All enquiries should be public and the findings of the Inspector should be made known to the trade unions.

The strength of the inspecting staff should be increased. There is an absolute shortage of these inspectors. That is why it should be increased.

Security of service should be there for the Manager, who is responsible for the safety measures in the mine. His life should not be left to the whims and fancies of the owners who dispense with the services of the Manager whenever they like with the result that in a mine within three months three Managers come and go.

The publication of rules, by-laws and regulations should be done in Indian languages.

Mr. Chairman: Shri Mukerjee.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahabad South): He does not want to speak.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

डा० राम सुभग सिंह: सभापति जी, यह बड़े दुख की बात है कि कोयले की खानों में प्रति वर्ष प्रायः ३०० से ज्यादा मजदूरों की मृत्यु होती है और प्रति वर्ष कोयले की खानों में बहुतेरी दुर्घटनाएँ होती हैं। सन् १९५५ के पिछले महीनों में परसिया, भमलाबाद और धर्मावान्ध में जो दुर्घटनाएँ हुई उस से बहुत बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा और इन दुर्घटनाओं का कारण मेरी समझ से यह है कि इन्स्पेक्टरों की ओर से जो इन्स्पेक्शन किये जाते हैं वह ठीक नहीं होते हैं। मैं चाहूँगा कि जब प्रति हजार मजदूरों पर प्रायः एक मजदूर हर वर्ष मरता है और दस लाख टन कोयला निकलने में जब करीब करीब ६ व्यक्ति मरते हैं तो सरकार इस पर ध्यान दे कि इस स्थिति में सुधार हो। मरने वाले व्यक्तियों में एक भी खान का मालिक नहीं होता है, जितने भी मरते हैं सब के सब मजदूर होते हैं, इसलिये मालिक की भी जवाबदेही है कि वह ठीक से कोयला खानों की जांच करावे। सरकार भी इसकी जवाबदेह है कि वह अपने इन्स्पेक्टरों से इस बात की जांच करवाये कि खानों की अवस्था काम करने लायक है या नहीं। खास कर जो ग्रन्डरग्राउन्ड काम करने वाले मजदूर हैं उनकी हालत बहुत खतरनाक है पर खान के ऊपर भी ग्राज वहाँ की अवस्था ऐसी नहीं है कि वहाँ पर मजदूर रह कर काम करें।

भाज सुबडू मा भनीय श्री सारंगधर दास जी ने सवाल उठाया था कि किउनझार की खानों में गोरखपुर के जो काम करने वाले हैं वे वहां के लोगों को मारते हैं और उनको हटाने का बन्दोबस्त किया जाये। इस पर सरकार की ओर से जवाब दिया गया कि रिपोर्ट आने पर इस पर गौर किया जायगा। हुकुमत जवाबदेह है इसके लिये कि वह खान के मालिकों से कहे कि किस प्रकार से एक जगह के गरीब मजदूरों को, जिनको रोजी नहीं मिलती, न रख कर दूसरे जगहों के मजदूरों को अपने फायदे के लिये रखते हैं। वे वहां पर दूसरे स्थानों के मजदूरों को इसलिये रखते हैं कि ताकि वहां के लोग उनको शोषण करने से रोक न सकें। ऐसी हालत में सरकार को और खास कर सारंगधर बाबू जैसे नेताओं को चाये कि मजदूरों को दुस्त करने के कबल वह इसको तय करे कि किस तरह से उन खानों के मालिकों को दुस्त किया जाये जो कि डिवाइड ऐंड रूल की पालिसी अस्त्यार करते हैं।

साथ ही साथ इस समय करीब १० कोयले की खानें सरकार की हैं, बाकी सब प्राइवेट व्यक्तियों अथवा पूंजीपतियों का हैं, सरकार जैसे अपनी खानों पर आदमी भेज कर दिखवाती है, वैसे ही उस को दूसरी खानों पर भी आदमी भेज कर वहां की अवस्था को दिखवाना चाहिये कि कहीं ऐसी अवस्था तो नहीं है, खास कर भीतर की ओर, कि जिसमें मजदूर सुरक्षित न हों। भाज मजदूरों को मजदूरी की जरूरत होती है, घर बैठे खाना नहीं मिलता तो वह खानों में अपने प्राणों की बाजी लगा कर काम करते हैं, और जो इन्स्पेक्टर लोग हैं वे जब खानों में जाते हैं तो जैसा खानों के मालिक कह देते हैं वैसी रिपोर्ट दे देते हैं। मैं आमतौर से सभी इन्स्पेक्टरों पर चार्ज नहीं लगाता हूं, लेकिन अक्सर यह होता है कि वह रिपोर्ट दे देते

हैं कि खान की अवस्था अच्छी है और मजदूरों को वहां पर काम करने दो फिर चाहे मजदूर मरे या उसका कुछ भी हो। भाज जो स्थिति है कि १९५४ में ३३१ आदमी मर गये और ३०० से ज्यादा आदमी प्रति वर्ष मरते हैं उसमें सरकार को सोचना चाहिये कि इस स्थिति में कैसे सुधार किया जाय। अभी करीब ४० लाख टन कोयला निकलता है और ४० लाख टन पर यदि ४०० आदमियों की आहुति देनी पड़े तो द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना के काल में रुककेला या दूसरी जगहों में जो कारखाने सरकार खोलेंगी उन को चलाने के लिये कोयले का उत्पादन दुगुना करना पड़ेगा। इस हिसाब से जो गरीब मजदूर हैं उनकी भी दुगुनी आहुति सरकार को देनी पड़ेगी, अगर कोई हिफाजत की कार्यवाही नहीं की गई। इसलिये इस चीज पर सरकार को ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये

अभी परसिया, धर्माबान्ध और भमलाबाद में जो दुर्घटनायें हुई हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने तत्काल हर आहत के लिये २००, २०० रु० भेज दिये, इसके लिये मैं उनको धन्यवाद देता हूं, और इसके लिये भी कि वहां के लिये उन्होंने एक जज नियुक्त कर दिया है जांच करने के लिये, लेकिन खानों के मालिक वहां से भाग गये हैं, उनका कुछ पता नहीं है कि वे कहाँ हैं। लेकिन जब वे देश में ही हैं तो उन के विरुद्ध ऐसी कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं की जाती कि उनको पकड़ लिया जाये। वह तो बड़े मजे में हैं, और मजदूर बेचारे मर रहे हैं। उनके घर बरबाद हो रहे हैं मालिक जो भाग गये उनकी खान के फाटे हुये कोयले की बिन्नी हुई है। सरकार को पता लगाना चाहिये कि किसने उस कोयले को बेचा। भमलाबाद में यही स्थिति है। जब वहां पर चीफ माइन्स इन्स्पेक्टर गये तो यह पता लगता है कि ५५ आदमी मर गये, लेकिन यह पता नहीं चलता है कि

[डा० राम सुभग सिंह]

कुल कितने आदमी काम करने गये थे । हम लोगों को इस बात का भी दुख है कि आप के सेप्टी स्टेशनों के आदमियों ने भी इसमें कुछ मदद नहीं पहुंचाई । उन को फौरन जाकर इस बात का प्रयत्न करना चाहिये था, दिखलाना चाहिये था कि उन्होंने इतने आदमियों को बचा लिया । यदि वहां पर ५५ आदमी मर रहे थे और उन के रोने की आवाज सुनाई पड़ रही थी तो उन्होंने क्यों नहीं अपनी जान को खतरे में डाल कर दो चार आदमियों को वहां से निकाला ? ऐसे प्रयास में आपके कितने सेप्टी स्टेशंस के अफसर या कर्मचारी मरे हैं । १९५४ में ३३१ व्यक्ति मरे थे । मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि इन लोगों को बचाते समय आपके कितने सेप्टी अफसर या कर्मचारी मरे हैं । आपके मातहत कोल बोर्ड भी है.....

श्री पं० एन० राजभोज (शोलापुर-रक्षित-अनुमूचित जातियां) : और कितने मालिक मरे हैं ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : हां, और कितने मालिक मरे हैं । कोल बोर्ड की स्थापना की गई है । आपने कोल बोर्ड की हिफाजत के लिये स्थापना की है । स्टोइंग आपरेशंस भी जरूरी हैं लेकिन ६० प्रति शत कोयला खानों में स्टोइंग आपरेशंस का काम नहीं होता है । यह इसलिये नहीं होता क्योंकि मालिकों को ज्यादा खर्चा पड़ता है । इन्स्पेक्टर अपनी रिपोर्ट दे देता है कि उन खानों में कंडिशंस अच्छी हैं लेकिन असल में हालत अच्छी नहीं रहती । कोल बोर्ड को यह देखना है कि यह स्टोइंग आपरेशंस क्यों नहीं हो पाते । अगर कोई ऐसा करने से इंकार करता है तो उसके खिलाफ सख्त कार्यवाही करनी चाहिये और कोयला खान को उस से छीन कर सरकार को अपने हाथ में ले लेना चाहिये । हम देखते हैं कि वहां पर पानी का कोई इंतजाम

नहीं होता है । क्रेवेल हैं पर दूध, खिलौने आदि के अभाव में वहां कोई अपना बच्चा नहीं रखता । जो वहां पर पिटहेड्स बाथ बनाये गये हैं उन का भी लाइ वेवल के जमाने की तरह कोई प्रयोग नहीं होता है । हो भी कैसे वे तो बिल्कुल अंग्रेजी ढंग के बनाये गये हैं । अतः वे बेकार पड़े रहते हैं । सबसे ज्यादा जरूरी जो बात है वह है कि दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में हम उत्पादन तो बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं लेकिन उस के साथ ही साथ आपको इन गरीब मजदूरों की, जिनका कोई ठिकाना नहीं है और जिन के मरने के बाद उनके बीबी बच्चों की देख भाल करने वाला कोई नहीं होगा, हिफाजत होनी चाहिये । जैसे जैसे प्रोडक्शन बढ़े उसके साथ ही साथ सरकार को उन की रक्षा का पूरा पूरा इंतजाम करना चाहिये ।

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): After the last two tragedies at Parasia and Amlabad, naturally the attention of the country is drawn to the question of safety in the coal mines. We are also as much concerned with these tragedies as anyone else in the House.

As has already been pointed out, in order to find out whether the regulations in the mines as are in existence were adhered to by the mine-owners, or not, we have appointed two courts of enquiries, and we are awaiting their reports. In the meanwhile, Government have already written to the departments to be more vigilant about the working of the existing mining regulations. The existing regulations are also being revised according to the Act of 1952. I am quite sure that these new and revised mining regulations will be further improved as a result of whatever suggestions we might receive from these two courts of enquiry; but we would not wait for that, because the mining regulations have already been circulated for opinion among the public

organisations as well as the mine-owners' organisations, and their comments have already been received, and I can assure the House that those regulations will be immediately finalised.

Again, I would also assure the House that vigilance is being exercised in this regard. The staff of the mining inspection department have been considerably strengthened during the last two months, even before these unfortunate tragedies happened. It was true that the mining inspection department was under-staffed. But that was not the fault of Government. We always send requisition to the Public Service Commission for recruitment. But what unfortunately happened was that only very few applicants came before them, and so, we were under-staffed. Recently, we have added seven inspectors to our mining inspectorate staff, and we would still further like to strengthen it.

As far as these accidents are concerned, I shall give you a few figures. Even though the number of deaths per thousand of miners employed in the industry has gone down since 1944 onwards, I do not mean to say that the position is satisfactory. The figures for the different years are as follows:

Year	Number of deaths per thousand
1944	1.33
1945	0.95
1946	0.91
1947	0.74
1948	0.82
1949	0.75
1950	0.72
1951	0.90
1952	1.00
1953	0.97
1954	0.98

For 1954, had that unfortunate accident in Parasia not happened, the figure would have been still less. But I do not mean to say that this is satisfactory. If there is anything lacking in the matter of inspection or otherwise, Government must look into the matter very carefully.

11 LSD—6.

As compared to the deaths in other countries, of course, we are in a little satisfactory position but still we should not be complacent or negligent about it. I have got the figures for 1950 for India and certain other countries. The figures are as follows:

Country	Number of deaths per thousand
India	.. 0.72
Japan	.. 1.86
U. K.	.. 0.83
France	.. 1.10
U. S. A.	.. 2.15
Canada	.. 3.19
South Africa	.. 1.86

I am one of those who believe that even though the rate of accidents per thousand in our mines is comparatively less than that in other countries, still we should arrange that even this may be made lesser and lesser. I have no doubt that as a result of the last two tragedies as well as the constructive criticisms, which have been made on the floor of this House not only today but also in the course of the various interpellations addressed to us, the Labour Ministry will be more careful and will see that the rate of accidents is minimised as much as is humanly possible to do so.

With regard to that, there is one other arrangement that we have made, and that is that we have issued instructions that as far as possible in the areas where such accidents happen, a special magistrate should be there to look after these cases, and that in cases of breach of regulations, deterrent punishment should be inflicted, so that it will be a good lesson.

Shri Ramananda Das (Barrackpore): What about the employer who has fled away, and has not been arrested as yet?

Shri Khandubhai Desai: He has not fled away; according to my information, he is here. As a result of the enquiry, if it is found that that employer or any of his subordinates is really responsible for the Parasia mines tragedy.....

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: This is about the Dharmabad mine-owner.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: That case where there was slippage, and about 11 people or so died?

Shri Kelappan (Ponnani): No. The case where there was subsidence.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: The case where it was caved in, and so many people died? I shall look into that case, and find out whether he has run away. If he is really responsible according to the mining regulations, then Government would not have any

mercy on him. That is all that I can say.

Finally, I would like to assure the House that as far as the accidents in mines or anywhere else, which occur as a result of the negligence of the employer, occupier, factory or mine-owners are concerned, all the regulations will be very strictly adhered to, and action will be taken against them.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 23rd March, 1955.
