

Tuesday
18th December,
1956



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part I- Questions and Answers)

1956

**PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I Questions and Answers)

1607

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 18th December, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Neiveli Lignite Mine

*1275. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the total amount paid so far to Messrs. Powell Duffryn Technical Services Limited for preparing the project report and drawing up the specifications of conventional and specialised equipment required in the initial stage of lignite mining at Neiveli?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): A fee of £12,500 (Twelve thousand five hundred pounds) has been paid to Messrs. Powell Duffryn Technical Services Limited, for drawing up the specifications of conventional and specialised equipment required for the initial development of the lignite mine at Neiveli. A further fee of £20,000 (Twenty thousand pounds) has been sanctioned for the project report submitted by them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if Messrs. Powell Duffryn will continue to act as consultants to the private company which we have formed recently for the development of lignite in Neiveli?

Shri Satish Chandra: The matter is under consideration.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know the estimated cost of the various equipment imported by this Company?

Shri Satish Chandra: Nothing has been imported from Powell Duffryn Technical Services, Ltd. They are merely the technical consultants. Orders have been placed for machinery worth about Rs. 5½ crores after sifting global tenders.

1608

Lower Income Group Housing Scheme

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*1276. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Velayudhan:
Dr. Satyawadi:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many States took advantage of housing loan under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme upto the end of November, 1956; and

(b) what is the amount disbursed as loans against the allotment for 1956-57?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) All States took advantage of the Low Income Group Housing Scheme.

(b) Against an allotment of Rs. 673.84 lakhs, Rs. 195.26 lakhs have been disbursed till the end of November, 1956.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: As a result of the disbursement of this loan, may I know how far there has been an improvement in the housing facilities in the lower income group? Is there any assessment of that?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): About 40,000 houses are expected to be constructed. No detailed information about the progress with regard to each house is available, because all these houses are being constructed by private individuals.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether there are any States who, after spending their allotment, have asked for more loans to construct such houses?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This is correct.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know how many houses are being allotted for the Kerala State and whether it is a fact that some of the houses built are still kept vacant there?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think the hon. Member is confusing this with the Industrial Housing Scheme. So far as the Low Income Group Housing Scheme is concerned, I cannot imagine how a house

could remain vacant, because a person will get a loan and he will be putting up a house of his own. I cannot imagine any house lying vacant under this Scheme.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: It has been said that out of Rs. 6 crores only Rs. 2 crores have been spent. May I know whether this low spending is a result of the defective machinery for giving loans or otherwise?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir. Actually, the disbursement has to be phased with the progress made in construction and that really acts as a lever and an incentive for people to go ahead with their construction.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether it is a fact that these houses are constructed mostly in urban areas and that rural areas are disregarded?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is a fact that a major part of this loan has been advanced to prospective builders in urban areas. The State Governments came to the conclusion that the housing position in urban areas is more acute as compared to that in the rural areas. Therefore, they considered more sympathetically the applicants for loans from urban areas.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the lower grade clerks and the *chaprassis* employed in the Central Government here were included in the Lower Income Housing Scheme and whether money required as loan is disbursed to them?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The Central Government employees can also take advantage of advances on terms which are not less favourable as compared to others.

Goa

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*1277.	Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Shri D. C. Sharma: Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Sardar Iqbal Singh: Sardar Akarpur: Shri Kamath:
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Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2080 on the 12th September 1956 relating to the Government of Portugal's refusal to afford facilities to the Egyptian Embassy in India to look after Indian interests in Portuguese possessions in India and state whether a reply has since been received from the Government of Portugal to India's communication in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Yes. The Government of India has received a communication dated the 3rd December, 1956 from the Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi conveying the Portuguese Government's

willingness to give facilities to a representative of the Egyptian Embassy, New Delhi to visit the Portuguese Possessions in India.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know how, in the absence of facilities, the Indian interests were looked after so far?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have no representatives in the Portuguese possessions, but there is a Christian missionary, Father Carreno, who generally looks after the welfare of the prisoners in Goa.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how early will these facilities be used by the Indian Government?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: In the month of February, the First Secretary of the Egyptian Legation had visited Goa. After that, we had tried to arrange for another visit, but permission has been granted only recently.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that early this year, after the Portuguese Government had refused facilities for the Egyptian Embassy to visit Goa to see the Indian prisoners in Goa, the Government approached the International Red Cross to go and report about the welfare of the prisoners, and that after they had declined to do so—there was some difficulty for them in doing so—the Government asked the Indian Red Cross to depute some officers to Goa and report on the welfare of the prisoners and, if so, have they reported, and what is the gist of the report?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There has been some communication between the Indian Red Cross and the International Red Cross at Geneva and the Portuguese Red Cross.

Shri Kamath: What is the report of the Indian Red Cross?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I believe there is still correspondence going on between those agencies.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government have received any information with regard to a distinguished Member of this House, Shri T. K. Chaudhuri, about this condition in the Goa Jails?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There have been several questions about Shri T. K. Chaudhuri and we have given to the House all the information that we have about him.

Displaced Persons Townships and Colonies

*1280. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been finalised for the promotion of medium-

small scale and large scale industries in Townships and colonies for displaced persons and at other places with heavy concentration of refugees, after the appointment of the Honorary Advisory (Industries); and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the scheme?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). The Honorary Adviser (Industries) was appointed on the 27th September, 1956. He first visited Bangalore and arranged for the training of 200 displaced persons in Government factories there. Thereafter he went to Germany in the middle of October, 1956 on a private visit from where he returned only a few days ago.

Shri Gidwani: Do I understand that he went on a private visit and that he is not a permanent employee of the Government?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I said he is an honorary adviser, and he went to Germany on a private visit.

Shri Gidwani: What are his functions as an honorary adviser? How long does he work in his honorary capacity?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: We are taking advantage of his experience in the matter of setting up industries in refugee colonies with a view to provide gainful employment to displaced persons. As the hon. Member knows, the position in regard to gainful employment for them is really very acute.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : बेटिया में जहां करीब २७,००० रिहायीज को बसाया जाया है कौन सी इन्डस्ट्री चलाने की बात गवर्नमेंट सोच रही है ताकि इवर उधर जो नोंग भटक रहे हैं, उनको काम मिल सके?

श्री मेहर चंद खन्ना : मैं लुद बेटिया गया था और वहां जाकर मैं ने कोशिश की कि कोई न कोई दस्तकारी लग जाये। इस मामले में मैंने डा० श्री कृष्ण मिह से जो वहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर हैं और मुनीमी साहब से, जो वहां के रिहेबिलिटेशन के बड़ी बात की है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मंत्री महोदय ने यह नहीं बताया कि वह कौनसी इन्डस्ट्री वहां लगाने जा रहे हैं?

श्री मेहर चंद खन्ना : मैं ने कहा है कि पिछले महीने में मैं वहां गया था। अब हम देखेंगे कि वहां पर कौनसी इन्डस्ट्री लग सकती है—शूगर मिल लग सकती है या स्प्रिनिंग मिल लग सकती है। वहां पर रा० मैट्रियल की एकेलेबिलिटी और माकेटेबिलिटी बरैह सब बातों को ध्यान में रख कर इस बारे में फैसला किया जायेगा, लेकिन हमारा इरादा जरूर है कि वहां पर कुछ इन्डस्ट्रीज लगाई जानी चाहिये।

श्री राधा रमण : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि पुनर्वास मंत्रालय की ओर से टाउन-शिप्स में इन्डस्ट्रीज को चलाने की जो स्वीकृति है, उसको हम कितने समय के बाद जारी होते देख सकेंगे?

श्री मेहर चंद खन्ना : जहां तक इंडस्ट्रीज लगाने का ताल्लुक है, उसके लिये हम ने पांच साला योजना में साढ़े घ्यारह बारह करोड़ रुपये रखे हैं। हमारा इरादा है कि जितना जल्दी हो सके, इन कालोनीज में इंडस्ट्रीज लगाई जायें ताकि वहां पर जो रेफ्यूजी भाई रहते हों, उनको रोजगार मुहैया हो सके।

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether this honorary adviser will look after the eastern part also?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Yes, Sir. Perhaps more attention can be paid to the eastern part because the problem is a little more acute there than in the west.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether as a result of the experience of this honorary adviser, any scheme has been formulated to give gainful employment to these persons, and if so, whether any assessment of the number that would be employed could be given?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The hon. Member was not attentive, I believe, when I answered that question....

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I was all attentive as much as the hon. Minister....

Mr. Speaker: Let there be no such exchange. Evidently, the hon. Minister says that he answered it and it is possible that the hon. Member may not have noticed it.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: There was no reply to this at all. You can kindly see the record if you like.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: In my reply I made the statement that immediately on his appointment he went down South and there he formulated a scheme for providing employment for 200 displaced persons. On his return, he went to Germany on a private visit, and returned to India only a few days ago.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether any of the schemes in respect of medium, small-scale and large-scale industries, which are to be set up in the townships and colonies in the eastern part of India, have started functioning since the honorary adviser's appointment, and if so, how many?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As regards the honorary adviser's appointment, I said repeatedly that he hardly had any time to help us in the setting up of industries. But as far as the eastern region is concerned, if the hon. Member desires, I shall be able to send her a detailed statement giving the progress that we have made in the setting up of industries in this region.

Mr. Speaker: We have had enough questions on this. Let me go to the next question.

Rehabilitation of Indian Nationals from Ceylon and Malaya

*1281. **Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Malayalees who have so far returned to Kerala State from Ceylon and Malaya owing to the denial of citizenship rights to them either in Ceylon or in Malaya; and

(b) the steps taken by the Kerala State Government to rehabilitate them?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) As regards Ceylon, precise figures cannot be furnished as most persons of Indian origin¹ in Ceylon who apply for Indian travel documents for returning to India are reluctant to state that their applications for Ceylon citizenship had been rejected. People are returning from Ceylon either voluntarily or on quit notices served on them by the Government of Ceylon. The number of repatriates who have so far returned to Kerala State is roughly 3,000.

As regards Malaya no case has yet come to the notice of the Government of India where an Indian has been asked to leave Malaya for the reason that he is not a Federal citizen or a United Kingdom and Colony citizen nor is registered as a State National.

In any event it is not possible to collect figures of repatriates according to their mother tongues.

(b) As most of them return to India with their earnings, whatever it be and have been resettling themselves in their home districts, their rehabilitation has not posed a problem. As such no special steps have been found necessary or taken to rehabilitate them.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni: May I know whether the persons who have come back to India were there for a long time or for a short time?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid I cannot answer this question, but the hon. Member's question was with regard to the economic rehabilitation of the repatriates from Ceylon. We have not been informed by the Kerala State that there has been any problem with regard to that.

Shri Thanu Pillai: The hon. Minister said that repatriates come with their earnings and so the question does not arise for rehabilitation. What is the authenticity of this statement that everybody who is coming from Ceylon is coming with a lot of money for rehabilitating himself?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I never said they are coming with a lot of money. Whatever their earnings, they are generally permitted to bring them back when they come to India.

The Thanu Pillai: Are there cases where people are not able to find any job and they are unemployed and almost beggars in the streets of India?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I indicated in my answers that we have received no information from the State affected that they posed a problem.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether it is not a fact that because almost all the people who have been driven out of Ceylon and Malaya belong to South India, especially Kerala and Tamil Nad, the Central Government have not given any thought over this problem, and have not shown any sympathy towards the people who are suffering....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving more information than trying to get information.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: In fact, the hon. Member has made an accusation.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I also know how many people are suffering for want of any help from the Government?

Mr. Speaker: How many questions is one question? I have not been able to follow the string of questions that have been put into this one question. Hon. Members will kindly refrain from making remarks taking advantage of the question Hour. Let them put a straight question and get a straight answer.

Shri Veerawamy: I put this question straight and I want a straight answer.

Mr. Speaker: Putting the question face to face is not straight. Shri Thomas may now put his question.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether the hon. Deputy Minister stated that no proposal has come from the Kerala Government? This question was raised on the floor of this House both during question time as well as during the discussion on the Travancore-Cochin Proclamation. May I enquire whether any difficult situation has been created because of the refugees from Ceylon and whether the Central Government would be prepared to assist the State Government in case any scheme comes up?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I can only reiterate what I have stated in my answer that according to the view of the State Government, their rehabilitation has not posed a problem. If we are not told by the Government concerned that there is a problem, how can we go and butt in?

गांव के डाकघर

*१२८३. श्री भक्त दश्मनः क्या संचार मंत्री १६ अगस्त, १९५६ के तारांकित प्रश्न अंस्था १११७ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गांवों में डाक की सुविधायें बढ़ाने के लिये नये डाकघर सोलने की शर्तों को शिखिल करने के प्रश्न के बारे में इस बीच अन्तिम निर्णय कर लिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या इस निर्णय की एक प्रति लोक-सभा के पटन पर रखी जायेगी ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक हो जाने की संभावना है ; और

(घ) इस बारे में विलम्ब होने के क्या कारण हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) से (ग). आशा है कि आदेश शीघ्र ही जारी हो जायेंगे।

इस विषय में एक विवरण, जिसमें प्रस्तावित आगामी नीति का उल्लेख है, सभा-पटल पर रखा जाता है। [वैक्षिये पारिशिष्ट ५, अनुबन्ध संख्या २१]

(घ) इस नयी नीति के आर्थिक प्रभाव की जांच की जा रही थी।

श्री भक्त दश्मनः : यह जो विवरण दिया गया है उसमें यह बताया गया है कि अमी भी दो हजार की जन संख्या नये डाकखाना खुलने के लिये अनिवार्य है। क्या गवर्नरेंट के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि पर्वतीय इलाकों में या रेगिस्ट्रानी और सुनसान इलाकों में दो हजार की शर्त पूरा करना कठिन हो जाता है। क्या मरकार ऐसे इलाकों के लिये इस शर्त को ढीला करने पर विचार कर रही है ?

श्री राज बहादुर: इसीलिये इन क्षेत्रों की दो मील की अवधि बढ़ा कर चार मील की अवधि करने से पोस्टमैनों का काम इतना बढ़ जायेगा कि उनको अपना काम करना कठिन होगा। क्या इस दृष्टिकोण से भी इस प्रश्न पर विचार किया गया है ?

श्री भक्त दश्मनः : क्या गवर्नरेंट के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि चार मील की अवधि करने से पोस्टमैनों का काम इतना बढ़ जायेगा कि उनको अपना काम करना कठिन होगा। क्या इस दृष्टिकोण से भी इस प्रश्न पर विचार किया गया है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : यह अनुमान लगाया गया था कि चार मील की अवधि में जो काम होगा वह हरकारे के लिये काफी होगा। अगर आगे ऐसा अनुभव हुआ कि यह काम ज्यादा है तो एक से ज्यादा हरकारा भी रखा जा सकता है।

श्री भक्त दश्मनः : इस विवरण में यह बताया गया है कि इस योजना के अन्तर्गत बहुत से शाला डाकखानों को उपडाकखाना बनाया जायेगा। क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ

कि इसके लिये जो शर्तें रखी गयी थीं क्या उन में डिलाई की जायेगी और किस प्रकार इन डाकखानों को खोला जायेगा ?

श्री राज बहादुर : यह मनुभव किया जा रहा है कि इन डाकखानों पर चिट्ठियों के आने जाने का और मनिअराईरों का काम बहुत बढ़ता जाता है । इसलिये भी इनको उपडाकखानों में बदला जा रहा है ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : आपने यह नहीं बतलाया कि वे शर्तें बद्या हैं ?

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: Sir, this is an important question and I have not been able to understand the reply.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may put a question and ask whatever he wants to ask.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: I want to know the reply to the original question.

Mr. Speaker: He is too late. All the supplementaries cannot be explained hereafter in English.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: I only want to know the original answer.

Mr. Speaker: Not now.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know in how many cases the limit of 2000 has been relaxed ?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is difficult for me to say. I think we may have relaxed in certain cases where it was a Thana, Taluk or other headquarter.

Mr. Speaker : I would suggest to hon. Members that whoever has not been able to understand Hindi, immediately the question is answered in Hindi s/he could rise in his seat and ask for the question to be answered in English. Then I can allow. After a series of four or five questions have been asked, if any Member asked that the first question be answered in English. I cannot allow that.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd : Next time I will do it. I only want the original question to be answered.

Mr. Speaker : This time also he must forgo.

पं० द्वा० ना० तिवारी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि अधिक पोस्ट आफिस खोलते समय इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाता है कि जितने पोस्ट आफिस खोले जायें उन में

कम से कम चिट्ठियां लेकर समय पर वितरित हो सकें और मनीआईर ठीक समय पर दिये जायें । आजकल नये पोस्ट आफिसों में चिट्ठियां दो दो तीन तीन दिन देर से मिलती हैं ।

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं यह विश्वास दिला सकता हूँ कि इसका ध्यान रखा जाता है और इसकी काफी नियराती भी की जाती है । और यह भी सत्य है कि जितनी देर से पहले गांवों में चिट्ठियां पहुँचती थीं उस से कम देर में अब पहुँचती हैं और हजारों लाखों गांवों में जहां पहले कभी चिट्ठियां पहुँचती ही नहीं थीं उनमें भी अब चिट्ठियां पहुँचती हैं ।

श्री कीरोज गांधी : इन डाकखानों को खोलने के लिये जो दरस्वास्तों दी जाती हैं उन पर विचार होने में वर्षों बीत जाते हैं और डाकखाने नहीं खुलते । क्या इस पर भी विचार किया जा रहा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : गंगा गंज का डाकखाना जिसकी ओर शायद मानीय सदस्य इशारा कर रहे हैं शीघ्र ही खुल जायेगा ऐसा मेरा विश्वास है ।

श्रीमती कमलन्दुमति शाह : क्या यह सत्य है कि जब चिट्ठियां डाक में डाली जाती हैं तो उनके टिकट निकाल लिये जाते और उनको बैरंग दिया जाता है ।

श्री राज बहादुर : ऐसा कहीं कहीं हो सकता है । लेकिन डाकखाने का इस से सम्बन्ध नहीं है । दूसरे लोग भी टिकट निकाल सकते हैं ।

Import of Thomas Quality Steel

*1284. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thomas quality of steel has been imported for the use of Railways if so, in what quantity;

(b) how far has the Thomas quality of steel been found suitable for the purpose for which it was imported; and

(c) whether this quality of steel is available for import in a large quantity and likely to ease the position of steel in the country?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir; during the period 1954, 1955, 1956, orders to the extent of 1,11,980 tons of Thomas quality steel have been placed.

(b) The technical mission that visited the countries using Thomas Quality Steel has reported that for a large varieties of steel used in Railways, Thomas Quality Steel will be acceptable.

(c) Availability of large quantities of steel from abroad present difficulties. Acceptance of Thomas Quality Steel for use by Indian Railways will enlarge the field of availability and to that extent ease the position.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know whether it has been examined if this quality of steel is capable of being produced here also?

Shri M. M. Shah: It has been examined and found that it can be produced. As a matter of fact Tata Iron and Steel Company was producing this quality for a number of years but being a slightly inferior quality we have gone in for open-hearth and other qualities of steel.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know if the Government has ascertained by analysis the actual difference between this Thomas Quality Steel and the other ordinary steel as regards strength, durability and chemical composition?

Shri M. M. Shah: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: When we were not accepting Thomas Quality Steel the prices of other varieties were soaring high. Now that we have accepted this variety, may I know whether prices of other varieties have come down to some extent?

Shri M. M. Shah: Thomas Quality Steel is about 10 dollars that is about Rs. 50, cheaper than the other quality of steel. But since various countries in the world, including India, have gone in for Thomas Quality Steel. The price of Thomas Quality Steel is also rising. No appreciable reduction has come about in the price of the other qualities of steel.

West Bengal Postal Circle

*1284. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large portion of the areas under the West Bengal Postal Circle is controlled and managed by the Orissa Circle as regards construction of Telegraph and Telephone lines?

(b) if so, whether construction work is being hampered by the dual control and

(c) whether Government propose to review and re-organise these things and hasten the construction work?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No Sir, only two sections of Telegraph lines, viz. (i) Hijli to Lakshnath Road along railway and (ii) Egra to Bagwanpur along road, falling in with the Contai Sub-division of the Midnapur District in West Bengal are placed within the Engineering jurisdiction of the Orissa P. & T. Circle for convenience of technical control and maintenance. Works relating to construction of telegraph and telephone lines in those sections are accordingly carried out by the Orissa Circle.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The proposal to review and re-organise the relative jurisdictions of the Circle concerned so as to be co-terminus with the boundaries of the reorganised States is under examination.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In reply to part (b) of the question, the hon. Minister said : "No." May I know whether opening of a telegraph office at Khedgree was sanctioned two years back and due to lack of co-ordination between the Orissa Circle and the West Bengal Circle the thing has not yet been done?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not exactly aware of this particular case, but I can assure my hon. friend that it shall not be on account of lack of liaison or something like that; it may be largely due to want of stores because of shortages on so many items.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any such re-organisation will take place as to include these areas in the Circle where they exist?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Our policy at the moment is that we terminate the jurisdictions of these divisions wherever a repeater station exists. In this case a repeater station exists at Hijli. Therefore, the two sub-sections or sections terminate at that particular point. Due note will be taken of the circle boundaries when the question is put under broader examination.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the question has ever been examined to see whether greater efficiency and economy will be effected if these parts which are in the Orissa Circle are brought under West Bengal Circle?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I have already said, for the purpose of maintenance

and technical control we have got to terminate these sections wherever a repeater station exists. The length of these sections is only 26 miles in the case of Hijli to Laksanath Road and 48 miles in the case of Egra to Bagwanpur. Such conditions obtain in regard to other Circles too; it is not peculiar to West Bengal Circle alone. Many lines of sub-sections of other Circles extend their jurisdiction on some other Circles.

Optical Glass Plant

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***1287.** **Shri R. P. Garg :**
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha :
Shri Wodeyar :
Shri Bibhuti Mishra :

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) the location of the proposed optical glass plant to be installed in the country;

(b) whether the technical man-power to man the plant is available in the country;

(c) whether any technicians have been sent abroad for specialized training to man the optical glass plant;

(d) if so, their number;

(e) whether any foreign country is willing to help in setting up this plant; and

(f) if so, on what terms and conditions?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) No decision has so far been taken.

(b) A few technicians may have to be trained abroad.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Some offers have been received.

(f) The terms and conditions are yet to be negotiated.

Shri R. P. Garg : What is the proposed cost of the plant and what would be the capacity of the plant?

Shri Satish Chandra : It is intended that the capacity of the plant should be 50 tons of optical glass and 250 tons of ophthalmic glass per year.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : May I know whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister for Production when he last visited Russia got some offer of help for this optical plant and if so, what is the exact offer that Russia has made?

Shri Satish Chandra : It is correct that the Minister for Production when he went to Russia visited an optical glass factory

near Moscow. A Soviet team has arrived four days ago in our country to negotiate the terms and conditions. In the long-term credit that has been given by Russia a sum of about Rs. 1,75,00,000 is included to cover the cost of this project.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : May I know whether the experts committee which the hon. Deputy Minister has mentioned will also submit any report about the site and other details of the plant after conducting the preliminary negotiations about the plant?

Shri Satish Chandra : The team which has arrived here has to look into the cost of manufacturing optical glass in the country, and to discuss other details with our experts. The difficulty in this case is that the manufacture of optical glass is the exclusive preserve of a few factories in the world and we are not aware of the details. We have just to start from the scratch. We have to discuss and then draw out our plans.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra : क्या सरकार इस कार्यालय रखेगी कि यह आप्टिकल ग्लास फैक्टरी एक ऐसे एरिया में लगाइ जाय जो बहुत ही बैकवर्ड हो ताकि गांव वालों को उससे कुछ लाभ हो सके?

Shri Satish Chandra : यह फैक्टरी तो ऐसी जगह लगानी पड़ेगी जो इंडस्ट्रीयली बहुत डेवलप्ड हो क्योंकि उसमें काफी टेक्निकल सवाल पैदा होंगे। सरकार की इस्ट्रॉमेंट्स फैक्टरी और दूसरे शीशे के बड़े कारखाने ज्यादातर जहां तक में समझता हूँ कलकत्ते या उसके आस पास में हैं और यह वहीं लागेगी ऐसा मेरा अन्दाज है।

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether any people have been selected for training abroad and the countries to which they will be sent?

Shri Satish Chandra : In the main answer I have said that this question does not arise at this stage.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : May I know if Government have compared the manufacturing methods and the products of the Russian factories with the celebrated glass manufacturers of Austria and Germany?

Shri Satish Chandra : I visited the only big optical glass factory in West Germany when I was there. My impression is that they are not interested in collaborating with us in the manufacture of optical glass in this country.

Mr. Speaker : There is a team which has come; let us wait and see what the team says. Next question.

Purchase and Development Board

*1288. { **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha :**

Shri Shivananjappa :

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to form a Purchase and Development Board as recommended by the Stores Purchase Committee; and

(b) what will be its composition and functions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) No, Sir. Instead Government have decided to set up a Standing Committee to advise the Central Purchase Organisation with particular reference to development of indigenous industry to meet Government requirements of stores which are hitherto wholly or partly imported.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 22].

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : Is it a fact that one of the causes of delay in the purchases made by the various Ministries is the centralisation of purchases in the hands of the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals? If so, may I know how far this Standing committee will remove the difficulties of the various departments?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) : The actual progress with regard to any particular purchase proposal will remain the administrative responsibility of the Purchase Organisation itself. The Standing Committee, as will be clear to the hon. Lady Member from the lengthy statement placed on the Table of the House, will advise the Purchase Organisation and the Government about general matters of policy and the like.

Shri Velayudhan : May I know whether the purchase missions abroad will come under this and also whether it is a fact that many officials want to go or prefer to go to these purchasing missions? If so, what is the reason?

Sardar Swaran Singh : I think many people here and outside also prefer to go out, if they can get an opportunity.

Shri Velayudhan : I am referring to the purchase missions abroad.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister says that not only in this case, but in other cases, also, people prefer to go out.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The postings to the foreign purchase missions in London as well as in Washington are made by rotation; people are sent there on deputation and then they come back. This process continues.

Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme

*1289. { **Pandit D. N. Tiwary :**

Dr. Satyawadi :

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports from the State Governments about the number of houses constructed under the Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme ; and

(b) whether the target under the scheme has been achieved during the First Plan period?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) Yes, Sir. Reports indicating progress on construction of houses sanctioned under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme are received at regular intervals.

(b) Out of a sum of Rs. 25 crores earmarked for the construction of houses under the Scheme during the first Plan Period, a sum of Rs. 22.32 crores (both in the shape of loans and subsidies) was sanctioned for construction of 78,029 houses. Construction of 43,831 houses was completed during the Plan period.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know, after the construction of the subsidised housing in industrial areas, how far the housing situation in those areas has been eased?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) : It is bound to ease. As to the percentage, it is anybody's guess.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know how far the housing problem in the coal fields has been solved, because we always hear complaints from there?

Sardar Swaran Singh : That is being handled by the Labour Ministry. They have undertaken the construction of some houses. This is a problem about which one cannot say it has been solved cent per cent; but, very visible effects of improvement are there.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd : May I know the number of houses constructed in Andhra State with the loan granted to the Andhra State?

At Hon. Member : There are no industries there.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Certain new areas have been added to Andhra Pradesh; I would require notice to collect the information.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd : I want to know the number of houses constructed in Andhra State and Hyderabad State.

Mr. Speaker : He wants notice for both.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I am more particular about new things rather than old.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty : The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said that out of 78,000 houses and odd, 43,000 houses and odd have been constructed, but almost the entire sum allotted for this industrial housing has been used up. I think out of Rs. 25 crores, Rs. 22 crores have been used up. Does it indicate that the expenditure on these houses has been far in excess of the original estimate?

Sardar Swaran Singh : No; that conclusion is not correct.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty : The figures show it.

Sardar Swaran Singh : They do not show; that is a wrong interpretation of the figures.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : May I know the sum allotted to Orissa, the number of houses built there and whether the target set for Orissa has been reached?

Sardar Swaran Singh : For any particular State, I would require notice.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : May I know the amount sanctioned for the scheme of building houses for the tea industry in Assam?

Sardar Swaran Singh : That is covered by my earlier answer.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister has said that for individual States, he wants notice.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : To question how far the housing position has eased, the Minister replied, "it is anybody's guess". Now that Rs. 22 crores have been spent out of Rs. 25 crores, may I know whether the Ministry has got any figures to show the actual percentage?

Sardar Swaran Singh : The actual percentage is not available; but, I have already given the number of houses that have been constructed.

Import of Locomotives

***1290. Shri Shivananjappa :** Will Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tata Iron and Steel Company of India has ordered seven industrial locomotives from the international General Electric Company;

(b) if so, the cost of these locomotives; and

(c) the type of the locomotives?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) Yes, Sir. ■

(b) \$696,955.00 F. A. S. New York.

(c) Diesel Electric type.

Shri Shivananjappa : May I know the specific purposes for which the locomotives are imported?

Shri M. M. Shah : These are imported by the Tata Iron and Steel Company for their internal movement and shunting operations.

Shri Shivananjappa : May I know whether any attempt is made by the Government to manufacture industrial locomotives in this country?

Shri M. M. Shah : Yes, Sir; but not of this kind.

Shri U. M. Trivedi : May I know whether the hauling power of these industrial locomotives costing about 66,000 dollars will be the same as that of the W.P. engines manufactured in India? ■

Shri M. M. Shah : Here is very little comparison between the two. This locomotive is of the new diesel electric type, which generates its own power by diesel oil.

Shri U. M. Trivedi : My question was different. What will be the hauling power of the engines now being imported in terms of H.P.?

Shri M. M. Shah : 4 engines are 80 tonnes; 2 engines are 150 tonnes and one engine is a 25 tonner.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy : May I know whether it is a fact that our factories manufacturing locomotives have been asked to limit their production and not to produce to their full capacity?

Shri M. M. Shah : It is only the physical limitation of the machinery involved there which may limit production.

Indian Delegation to Japan

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*1291. { Shri Shree Narayan Das :
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad :
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh
 Shri Shivananjanappa :

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official Indian delegation which visited Japan to discuss the supply of Indian ore to Japan has returned to India;

(b) if so, the result of such discussions; and

(c) the decision in this respect, if any?

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

(b) and (c). An understanding has been reached between Japan and India for purchase and sale of iron ore for the period from 1957-58 to 1961-62.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : May I know whether the deal will be on Government to Government basis or Government to private agency basis?

Shri Karmarkar : So far as I can see at the moment it is between the State Trading Corporation on our side and a combination of purchasers on the other in Japan.

Shri Kamath : Was the possibility of negotiating this matter with the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi explored before it was decided to waste public money on sending a delegation abroad?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member could as well omit the words "waste public money".

Shri Kamath : All right I will say "spend" public money.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member ought not to come to a conclusion before he hears the answer and decides whether it is a waste or otherwise.

Shri Karmarkar : I am very sorry he is much in a wrong box on this question, because the delegation went to Japan for a conference and along with that work without any extra expenditure they could conclude this deal.

Shri Kamath : No expenditure?

Mr. Speaker : They went for another purpose; they did this incidentally. Therefore, no extra expenditure was incurred.

Shri R. P. Garg : Since Japan is a permanent buyer of our iron ores, May I know whether the possibility was explored of Japan putting up a smelting plant in India, exporting a portion of the finished goods to Japan, leaving the remaining portions in India for home consumption.

Shri Karmarkar : That is a suggestion which I shall convey to the relevant quarters.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : What are the terms of agreement of this deal? Will Japan supply consumer goods to India?

Shri Karmarkar : It is not correlated to other conditions. But we do expect Japan to respond by supplying whatever we want.

Shri R. P. Garg : May I know whether Japan sometime back gave this offer to India?

Shri Karmarkar : Let me make it quite clear that on our side this particular deal has been entered into by the State Trading Corporation and on the other side by private purchasers. So there is no question of a deal between India and Japan interpreted in terms of two States.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : May I know if some Japanese companies in return for cars to be imported by them from Orissa are planning to build the Paradip Port?

Shri Karmarkar : Some talks about helping the transport situation in Orissa went on last year but I do not think that it has progressed now.

Oil Supplies

*1293. Shri Kajrolkar : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Suez Canal crisis has affected the supplies of oil to this country;

(b) whether the supplies of crude oil to the refineries set up in this country have been kept up;

(c) if not, what alternative sources Government propose to tap in order to keep the refineries in operation to full capacity; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to build up sufficient stocks of oil to meet the requirements of the country in all eventualities?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). There has been no deterioration in the supply position of Petroleum and its products, but the position is reviewed from time to time.

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

Shri Kajrolkar: When is the Suez Canal expected to be reopened for navigation?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I am sorry I cannot enlighten the hon. Member on that.

Shri Kajrolkar: How long is the existing stock of crude oil expected to last?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know what the hon. Member means by "existing stock" as if it were lying anywhere. Our sources of crude oil are Persia, Saudi Arabia and other places.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: What is the stock position of petroleum and crude oil in the country at present and how far can it feed the country at the present rate of consumption?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got the figures, but she should not have any concern over that.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know whether there is any prospect of petrol rationing during the coming elections?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is this any suggestion for action? If it is, I shall consider it.

Shri Kamath: Is there any apprehension?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There need not be any apprehension.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister must have seen from the morning papers that petrol is proposed to be rationed in England. Suez being midway between us, there are naturally apprehensive as to what will happen in the elections. Therefore, they are anxious to know whether there will be a shortage of petrol during the elections and there will be rationing. It is only the hon. Minister who can give an answer here.

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no apprehension.

Mr. Speaker: So, there need be no apprehension.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Mैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि स्वेच कैनाल के द्वारा हर साल कितना तेल आता है?

Sarbadar Swarup Singh: कहां का आता है? स्वेच कैनाल के रात तो योरप को जाता है क्योंकि सोस तो ज्यादातर पर्शिया और सउदी अरब है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: यहां सीधे आता है।

Trade with Afghanistan

*1295. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) how the inclusion of Afghanistan in the "transferable account area" has affected the Indian export trade to that country; and

(b) If adversely the steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) There has been some decline in our exports since 1954 but it is difficult to say whether this decline has resulted from Afghanistan's inclusion in the Transferable Account Area.

(b) Measures to promote exports to Afghanistan are under consideration.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether it is a fact that due to inclusion of Afghanistan in the 'transferable account area' the export of green tea of the Kangra valley has declined?

Shri Karmarkar: As I have said, it is difficult to say whether decline in the export of green tea like other items has been directly due to inclusion of Afghanistan in the 'transferable account area'. But it is a fact that green tea has suffered so far as our exports to Afghanistan are concerned. We are seized of that problem and we are taking measures which are possible to see whether exports of tea could not be further increased.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know by what time the steps which Government are contemplating to take will be completed, so that stocks which are lying at Amritsar may be disposed of?

Shri Karmarkar: Our information, subject to correction, is that one of the difficulties in the way of selling our green tea to Afghanistan is the competitive prices at which Japan is offering. So, if the Amritsar merchants offer our tea at competitive prices that may be a solution. But, as I said, we are having this matter considered.

Manufacture of Matches

***1296. Shri Debendra Nath Sarma :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the number of cottage industry centres for manufacturing matches proposed to be established in Assam as per recommendation of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R.G. Dubey) : Five 'D' class match factories are proposed to be established in Assam during the current financial year.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : A the raw materials for manufacture of matches in Assam are quite sufficient would it not be proper on the part of Government to start more centre?

Shri R. G. Dubey : I think the Khadi and Village Industries Board are thinking on similar lines of using the cheapest materials available locally.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : What will be the total allotment per centre?

Shri R. G. Dubey : The total allotment by way of grant would be Rs. 3,600 and way of loan Rs. 5,400.

Shri S. C. Deb : Where will be the location of those industries?

Shri R. G. Dubey : In Assam. I could say anything about the location.

Chemical Industries

***1297. Shri Viswanatha Reddy :** Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether any chemical industries are being planned to be erected to utilise the huge products of the oil refinery at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, what are the plans?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M.M. Shah) : (a) and (b). No. Sir. It is understood that according to the present programme no oil sludges will be available from the refinery for use in subsidiary chemical industries. Regarding refinery gases, the waste gases are being used in their own refinery and no proposals have been yet formulated for the use of the gases in the chemical industry.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy : It has been said on behalf of the oil company that unless the waste products of these refineries are utilised by the Government or by private agencies, the price of oil and its products cannot be reduced in this country. If that is so, may

I know what special plans Government are making to utilise all these by-products?

Shri M. M. Shah : The actual position is the reverse of what the hon. Member suggests. Government has been trying with the refineries to utilise the gases for the chemical industry. As the House is aware, there have been prolonged negotiations with Standard Vacuum Oil Co. and Burma Shall, and they could not finalise the plans. A plan to utilise the gases for fertilizers is already under consideration by the Government.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy : In view of the experience that has been gained in Trombay regarding the utilisation of these waste gases, may I know whether there is any advance plan with regard to the refinery that is being set up in Visakhapatnam?

Shri M. M. Shah : In Trombay they are not being used for the chemical industry; they are burnt in their own fuel cycles. And it is the endeavour of the Government to utilise them for the fertilizer plant in Trombay through a central fertiliser plant producing 4 lakh tons of fertilizer every year.

Shri B. S. Murthy : What exactly are the impediments for the Government and these two companies to reach an agreement in making these gases available for the chemical industries?

Shri M. M. Shah : There have been very long correspondence and discussions in this behalf between the refinery people and the Government and their main difficulty is that they want to settle the price on the basis of the thermal value of the gases against fuel oil and other fuels. Government is prepared to go to a certain extent to meet their point of view. But we have not been able yet to settle the price at which these gases could be sold to the fertilizer plant.

Shri Kamath : Has Government assessed the extent to which the activities of Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Limited constitute a hurdle in the development of indigenous chemical industries and, if so, how does Government propose to overcome this hurdle?

Shri M. M. Shah : Sir, this question does not really arise out of the question on the order paper. But I can say that the activities of Imperial Chemical Industries in this country do not come in any way against any development of chemical industries in the country.

Shri Kamath : I hope so.

**हिन्द-चीन में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यंवकाक
आयोग**

*१२६६. श्री लू० चं० सोविया : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिन्द-चीन में भेजे गये अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यंवकाक आयोग के उस देश में और कितने समय तक रहने का अनुमान है ?

(ख) यह आयोग आजकल किस प्रकार के काम में लगा हुआ है ; और

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) It is not possible at present to say how long the International Supervisory Commission will be required to stay in Indo-China.

(b) In Viet-Nam the Commission has been busy in the work of supervision over the demarcation line, demilitarized zone and control over the entry of war material and personnel from abroad. The main task of Commission in Cambodia is the supervision of the entry of war material and personnel and assist in the implementation of the Cambodia Government's declaration not to enter into military alliances or permit foreign military bases. In Laos the Commission is engaged with the work of supervising the cease-fire arrangements and in assisting the two parties viz. Royal Lao Government and the Pathet Lao Forces to arrive at a political settlement.

श्री लू० चं० सोविया : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस फोर्स की कुल तादाद कितनी है ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I would require separate notice for that.

श्री लू० चं० सोविया : इस फोर्स पर कुल कितने रुपये सालाना खर्च होता है ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The local expenses are all met from the United Nations funds. We only pay the salaries and allowances admissible in India.

Shri Kamath: Has the Government of South Viet-Nam finally agreed to implement the Geneva Agreement of 1954, particularly with regard to elections in the South and North ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: They have simply agreed to offer effective co-operation

to the International Supervisory Commission, but they refused to take the legal responsibility of the Geneva Agreement.

Shri Kamath: About elections in South and North Viet-Nam.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There have up-till now been no consultations between Viet-Nam and the Government of the North.

All India Khadi and Village Industries Board

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*१३०१. { **Shri Dhusiya:**
 { **Shri B. N. Kureel:**

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted the Members of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board to travel by air to attend the meeting of the Board; and

(b) if so, on what grounds ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) The Chairman of the Khadi Board is entitled to travel by air. Cases of airtravel by other non-official members of the Board are referred to Government for approval which is granted on merits of each case.

(b) The members of the Board work in an honorary capacity and are sometimes pressed for time or are far removed from the venue of the meetings.

Shri Dhusiya: May I know the number of meetings attended by the Board representatives during 1956 up to this time, and how many times they had to travel by air ?

Shri R. G. Dubey: There are several meetings which were attended by some Members of the Board....

Shri Dhusiya: I want to know the exact number of the meetings.

Shri R. G. Dubey: I could give the information, but it is a long list, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has to gather count of the number of meetings.

Shri Dhusiya: My hon. friend is replying that there are several meetings. I want to know the exact number.

Mr. Speaker: The exact number he is unable to give.

Shri Kamath: What were the considerations that impelled the Government to allow this free air travel facility to the Chairman of this Board, and has this been applied to other Chairmen, that is of other Boards also ?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Only because of the heavy responsibilities that the Chairman of the Board has to discharge, for constant travel from one end of the country to the other this facility was given.

Shri Kamath: Is the House to understand that only the Chairman of this board has heavy responsibilities and that no other person in this country has heavy responsibilities in any matter?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary is in charge of only one particular Section of one Department. What is the good of asking him about all the commissions and boards that are there?

Shri Kamath: On a point of order, Sir. May I request that if the Parliamentary Secretary is unable to answer the question, somebody else from the Treasury Bench may answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is not as if he is unable to answer the question. The Parliamentary Secretary is not God himself, all knowing. One Parliamentary Secretary is in charge of a particular Department, and of one Section. If the hon. Member wants, he can always put down a question. It is not that he is not able. It is not that all the Members should be present on the Treasury Benches to answer the questions. Questions are allotted to particular Ministries and particular departments. Therefore, he can put down a question.

Shri Kamath: May I ask him what are the very heavy responsibilities that the Chairman has entitling him to this special facility?

Mr. Speaker: He has already said that the country is so big and so large, there is a single All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, one cannot go on travelling at a snail's pace.

Shri Kamath: What is the name of the Chairman?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): Shri Vaikunthlal Lallubhai Mehta. He works in an honorary capacity and has to run from one part of the country to another. I think the House should be considerate and generous enough towards him.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

National Industries Development Corporation

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*1302. { Sardar Akarpuri:
 { Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Blackiston, a British expert, has been appointed Technical

Adviser to the National Industries Development Corporation to design the foundries and forges to be built under the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the nature of his duties?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). Mr. John Blackiston has been appointed as Technical Adviser on the foundry/forge project of the National Industrial Development Corporation. His services will be available to the Government for other consultation also.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Shri Velayudhan: No supplementaries?

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary has not been asked.

American Textile Experts on Handloom Industry

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*1303. { Shri Shivananjappa:
 { Shri Bheekha Bhai:
 { Dr. Ram Subbag Singh :

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state the reaction of Government to the views expressed by the team of American textile experts who have been on a tour of important handloom weaving centres of India?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): Government are awaiting the full report of the team.

Shri Shivananjappa: As a result of the visit of these experts, may I know whether Indian handloom products are likely to get a better market in America?

Shri Karmarkar: I think in their preliminary report they have made some suggestions, and as a result of our attempts the exports will increase. That is our expectation.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the recommendation of the team that there should be improvement in the quality standard of Indian handloom products to be sent to export markets, may I know whether Government propose to establish a Handloom Export Service Corporation in the future?

Shri Karmarkar: It is a little too early. As I said, the final report is awaited. After it is received, we will very carefully consider all the steps necessary to put up the export of the products.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Suicide by an Officer of Jabalpur Training Centre

S. N. Q. No. 10. Shri Kamath : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri J. S. Matade, officiating Assistant Engineer, Wireless, Jabalpur Training Centre, recently committed suicide;

(b) if so, when and in what manner (daughter) Not a matter for laughter?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member will continue. It is a serious case. The manner of putting the question evoked laughter: what manner and so on. There is no harm. I have admitted the question. I am one with the hon. Member. He may continue.

Shri Kamath : (c) whether he has left behind him a letter or statement containing serious allegations against some officers at the Centre and demanding an investigation and even expressing a fear that matters might be hushed up;

(d) if so, whether an enquiry is being or will be held; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) On 3-12-1956. His body was found in a well.

(c) The deceased is alleged to have left behind a statement containing allegations of harassment at the hands of one subordinate (Supervisor) and of connivance on the part of the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, in charge of the Training Centre.

(d) A departmental enquiry has been ordered.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri Kamath : Who is conducting the enquiry?

Shri Raj Bahadur : The P.M.G., Nagpur Circle has been asked to do it.

Shri Kamath : Has the Government got the statement left behind him, captioned, "My final statement before ending my life" and also the letter that he left behind addressed to his wife?

Shri Raj Bahadur : The documents alleged to have been left by the deceased were taken possession of by the police and they are in police custody. The enquiring officer as well as the Additional Chief Engineer have been advised

to obtain these documents from the police.

Shri Kamath : May I expect that this enquiry will be expedited?

Shri Raj Bahadur : It is my earnest desire that it should be expedited.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know why this enquiry was entrusted to the P.M.G., Nagpur Circle in view of the fact that both the subordinates belong to the same circle?

Shri Raj Bahadur : That is wrong. The unfortunate deceased officer was under the Training Centre over which the P.M.G., Nagpur, has got no official control.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether these two officers concerned are still in their own old posts or they have been transferred? Or, are they being kept under suspension?

Shri Raj Bahadur : They are where they were.

Shri U. M. Trivedi : May I know if the allegations contained in the letters and in the statement made by the person who has committed suicide were ever communicated to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, and if an action before the suicide was taken?

Shri Raj Bahadur : I would not like to express any opinion in regard to the merits of these two documents. I can only say that no written representation of any kind was made by Shri Matade against the alleged, harassment at the hands of the Divisional Engineer before the said occurrence. Nor were any of the normal steps taken by him, that are usually taken by aggrieved officials in such cases.

Shri Kamath : Does not the Minister think that Shri Matade might have made representations addressed to the D.E.T. who may not have forwarded them?

Shri Raj Bahadur : I have said that these matters are subjects of enquiry. It will not be proper for me to make categorical statements in regard to that.

Shri B. S. Murthy : In view of the seriousness of the matter, why not these officers concerned be transferred to some other area so as not to allow any suppression of detailed information?

Shri Raj Bahadur : The documents are the very basis on which the enquiry will proceed. These have got to be tested. Their authenticity has got to be verified. The allegations contained in the statement are such as can occur any day. Even so, whatever be the mental state of the unfortunate officer, we have got to bear

in mind that after all we do not want to prejudice the enquiry or the result of the enquiry one way or the other by taking precipitate action against the officers against whom complaints have been made.

Hunger Strike by Workers of Damodar Valley Corporation

S.N.Q.No.11 { Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy:
Shri M. K. Moitra:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers in Damodar Valley Corporation have gone on hunger strike from the 29th November, 1956;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nine workers have been arrested;

(c) what is the immediate reason for hunger strike; and

(d) what steps have been taken to settle the grievances of the workers?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) Yes, Sir. About nine workers of Panchet Dam including some discharged workers went on hunger strike in batches of three. They have now given up the hunger strike.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 23].

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: In the statement it is not clear whether the Corporation has agreed to provide alternative employment prior to retrenchment and also immediate upgradation of muster roll to work charged category. May I understand that these two things have been accepted when the settlement was made?

Shri Nanda: The settlement relates primarily to the question of the merits of the action taken against those employees. Regarding the various other demands, enquiries have been made from time to time and action is being taken.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I take it that the demands made by these workers have been properly taken into consideration and the workers themselves are satisfied as a result of the settlement?

Shri Nanda: I cannot vouch for every worker there being satisfied. I am satisfied personally that the administration has looked into these grievances and taken action.

Shri M. K. Moitra: In September last, the hon. Minister of Planning was pleased to state that he was persuading the West Bengal Government to take up

2000 of these employees of the D. V. C. May I know how many of them have been absorbed by this time by the West Bengal Government?

Shri Nanda: According to my information, about 400 remained, at the time when this information was supplied to me, who had not still been absorbed. After that, offers of employment came from the Railway. In pursuance of certain notifications, interviews were held and I believe quite a number of the retrenched employees might have been absorbed by now. I have not got the details about the remaining 400.

Shri K. K. Basu: Today's position is not found in the answer. There are other grievances which have not yet been fully settled. May we know the time by which the disputes between the workers and the D. V. C. management, including the finding of alternative employment, will be finally settled?

Shri Nanda: Very good progress has been made in finding out alternative employment for a large number who had been retrenched. I do not want to enter into details as to what happened recently. If the staff association and the workers had co-operated better, there would have been more satisfactory results regarding re-absorption of these people. I cannot give any definite, rigid, precise date, but I believe it should not take very long now.

Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha: What was the total number of extra hands that became unemployed by the completion of work in the D. V. C. and how many of them have been re-employed?

Shri Nanda: It was about 2,000—I cannot give the precise figures—and about 400 I said remained.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Porbilia Colliery

***1274. Shri Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 917 on the 16th December, 1955 and state:

(a) whether Porbilia Colliery of Bengal Coal Company has since been re-opened;

(b) if so, what is the present output; and

(c) how many workers have been appointed?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) The working in the Dishergarh seam which were sealed off have not yet been re-opened.

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

Chandigarh Aerodrome

*1278. *Shri Ram Krishan:*
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of Aerodrome at Chandigarh has been completed;

(b) if so, to what important places it will be linked with in the country; and

(c) when the service will be operated?

The Minister of Legal Affairs and Civil Aviation (Shri Patakar):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Airlines Corporation are considering a plan to airlink Chandigarh by recasting the Delhi/Amritsar/Jammu/Srinagar service to operate via Chandigarh on Fridays in the outward direction and on Mondays in the incoming direction, omitting Amritsar on these days. By such a service, Chandigarh would be airlinked directly with Delhi, Jammu and Srinagar. It would be also linked with the rest of India through the other air services operating from Delhi.

(c) The Indian Airlines Corporation hope to connect Chandigarh by Air before the end of January 1957.

Goa

*1279. *Shri D. C. Sharma:*
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Parshuram Acharya, administrative head of the Portugal *Math* in Goa and two other inmates of the *Math* were tortured to death by Portuguese police in the last week of September, 1956; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 24].

Chinese in Ladakh

*1282. *Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:*
Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a party of some Chinese Nationals had recently illegally crossed into Ladakh; and

(b) if so, the number of persons in that party?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). A party of nine traders from Yarkand crossed without properly vised passports into Leh on the 5th August, 1956, bringing with them some merchandise. As a special case they were permitted to sell their goods and buy Indian goods and were then sent back across the border under an escort.

तिहाड़ में विस्थापितों के मकान

*1286. *Shri Nandlal Prabhakar:* क्या पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करें कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि तिहाड़ ग्राम, दिल्ली में रहने वाले विस्थापितों के बहुत से मकान हाल में हुई भारी वर्षा के कारण गिर गये हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उन्हें रहने के लिये अन्य मकान दिये गये हैं?

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री लंहर चन्द लन्ना):
(क) कुछ मकान १९५५ की मानसून में और कुछ इस साल की मानसून में गिर गये हैं।

(ख) जी हां। जिनके मकान १९५५ में गिरे थे, उन्हें तिहाड़ कालोनी में २६६ ए टाइप टेनीमेंट्स आर्डी तौर पर दिये गये थे। इस साल उसी कालोनी में तिहाड़ गांव के उन व्यक्तियों ने ५३ टेनीमेंट्स पर नाजायज तौर पर कंजा कर लिया था जिनके मकान सम्भवतः पिछले मानसून में गिर गये थे।

Border Incident

*1292. *Shri M. Islamuddin:* Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 924 on the 9th August, 1956 regarding the shooting of an Indian National by Pakistani Police near Purnea (now transferred to West Bengal) border in November, 1953 and state:

(a) whether Government of Pakistan have since communicated their decision to the Government of India on the findings submitted by their representatives at the joint enquiry into the incident; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken by them?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Government of Pakistan have not yet communicated their decision regarding the incident. The Indian High Commission in Karachi have been pressing them for a reply.

**Khadi-Gramodyog Bhavan,
New Delhi**

*1294. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the amount received by Khadi-Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi as subsidy on retail sale of Khadi during the financial year 1955-56 and how that amount has been utilised by the Bhavan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): The following amounts have been paid to the Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi for Khadi sales during 1955-56:

(i) Rs. 2,22,098/- on account of the rebate of -/3/- in a rupee passed on to the consumers.

(ii) Rs. 28,812/- on account of subsidy of -/-6. per rupee allowed to the Bhawan.

It may be added that the accounts for that year have not yet been finalized and are liable to be adjusted.

Films

*1298. **Dr. J. N. Parekh:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government propose to set up during the Second Five Year Plan a well-equipped studio for colour films to meet the need of the country in view of its great utility and high cost?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): No separate studio is required for the production of colour films and there is no proposal in the Second Five Year Plan for setting up an establishment for colour films to meet the needs of the country. The proposal is for the Films Division to set up a processing laboratory including colour processes for its own needs, and also to set up a Film Service Centre to make available to the industry on hire specialised articles of equipment.

Agreement with Messrs. Oerlikons Ltd.

*1300. **Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations with Messrs. Oerlikons Ltd., have been completed for the revision of their agreement; and

(b) if so, the terms of the new agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 25].

Central Sericultural Research Station, Berhampore

*1304. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether there is any programme in the Second Five Year Plan period, for the improvement in the working of the Central Sericultural Research Station, Berhampore, West Bengal?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): A sum of Rs. 39.27 lakhs has been provided in the Second Five Year Plan for the reorganisation and expansion of the Central Sericultural Research Station at Berhampore and its sub-station at Kalimpong. The detailed programme is being worked out in consultation with the Central Silk Board.

Export of Indian Fruits

*1305. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand of Indian fruits in other countries; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken for developing the export of Indian mangoes and guavas?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Some exports have been taking place mostly to neighbouring countries.

(b) A scheme for the marketing of Indian mangoes overseas is under consideration and the details are being worked out. No steps have yet been taken in respect of guavas.

यूरोपियां से इस्पात

*1306. **Shri Rambabu Singh:** क्या भारतीय उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि यह सच है कि भारत यूरोपियां से एक करोड़ रुपये का इस्पात स्वरीद रहा है, जिस में से ११,००० टन इस्पात स्वयं सरकार स्वरीद रही है?

भारतीय उद्योग मंत्री (श्री श्री म० शाह): साधारण व्यापारिक सूची के जरिये यूरोपियां से १ जनवरी से ३० नवम्बर १९५६

तक ८८६ लाख रुपये का इस्पात भारत ने आयात किया है। इसके अतिरिक्त सरकार ने ७६ लाख रुपये का करीब १०,५०० टन इस्पात आयात करने का सीदा भी किया है।

Hooghly District Urban Colonies

*1307. Shri Tushar Chatterjee: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the problem of gainful employment has attained serious proportions in the urban colonies of displaced persons in Hooghly District (West Bengal);

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to tackle the problem; and

(c) how far the projects of (i) starting an Iron and Steel Factory in Kapasdanga-Miarber, (ii) starting of glass-blowing factory and steel trunk manufacturing factory in Chander Nagore and (iii) giving direct employment in J. K. Steel factory and Lakshminarayan Cotton Mill in Rishra have proceeded?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Government are aware that the problem of gainful employment in some refugee colonies is acute. They have no information that the problem has attained serious proportions in all the urban colonies of displaced persons in Hooghly district.

(b) In the colonies where the problem is acute, apart from extending the normal rehabilitation benefits, it is also intended to set up industries.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, Annexure No. 26].

चीन के साथ व्यापार

*१३०८. श्री रवदमन सिंह: क्या वार्तालाय और उपभोग वस्तु उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि १९५६ के प्रथम १० महीनों में भारत और चीन के बीच व्यापार में २० प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो जित वस्तुओं के व्यापार में यह वृद्धि हुई है उनका परिमाण और मूल्य कितना कितना है; और

(ग) वर्तमान व्यापारिक सम्बंध को भी बढ़ाने के लिये क्या दोनों देशों के बीच कोई बातचीत चल रही है?

व्यापार मंत्री (श्री कर्मसुख): (क) जी हां, लेकिन चीन से हमारे आयात के सम्बन्ध में ही।

(ख) एक विवरण सदन की मेज पर रखा जाता है [देखिये परिशिष्ट ५, अनुबंध संस्था २७]

(ग) जी हां।

Alleged Plan to Attack India

*1310. Shri M. L. Agrawal: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the publication of a Plan in the Pakistani Urdu Daily 'Pa'am' for a multi-pronged attack on India from Goa and the occupied Kashmir on 27th December, 1956; and

(b) what information, if any, Government have on this matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Sir, Yes.

(b) Apart from what appeared in the Press, Government have no information.

Inspection of Mines

*1311. { Shri Chattpadhyaya:
Shrimati Renu
Chakravarty:

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have since been issued by the Chief Inspector of Mines asking the inspection staff to increase the number of inspections during the second and third shifts; and

(b) if so, how the percentage of inspections carried out during 1956 compares with that of 1955?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) Yes.

(b) As the instructions were issued only recently, the progress will be apparent only hereafter.

Employees' Provident Fund

*1312. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Ques-

tion No. 2095 on the 10th May, 1956, and state:

(a) whether any decision has been reached with regard to enhancing the rate of contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund from 6½ to 8½ per cent, under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952;

(b) if so, when this will be given effect to; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is still under consideration.

Training in Meteorology

*1313. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to send some officers to Australia for the training in Meteorology; and

(b) if so, when will they be sent there?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). It is not proposed to depute any officer to Australia for training in Meteorology, but the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have deputed a Radio Physicist to Australia for training in Rain and Cloud Physics and they also propose to send another officer for training in that country as soon as necessary arrangements are completed.

Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement

*1314. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 345 on the 1st August, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the terms of the Indo-Japanese Agreement which expired on the 27th April, 1956 have been extended; and

(b) if so, the changes, if any that have been made?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The Hon. Member is presumably referring to the most-favoured-nation treatment clause in article 2 of the Treaty of Peace between India and Japan. If so, the provisions thereof have been extended upto 31st March 1957.

Pakistan Raids in Kashmir

*1315. **Shri Gidwani:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwary :
Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids carried out by Pakistan into the Indian side of the cease-fire line in Kashmir from January, 1956 to August, 1956;

(b) the loss of life and Property caused by these raids; and

(c) whether any relief had been given to the sufferers from these raids?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) There were no raids but some incidents under the category of "cease fire violations" were reported to the United Nations Military Observers.

(b) There was no loss of life or property.

(c) Does not arise.]

Dye-stuffs

*1316. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the dye-stuffs needed in the country is imported from abroad;

(b) whether there is any programme of stepping up production of dye-stuffs during the Second Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether the execution of that programme will enable the country to be self-sufficient in dye-stuffs?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) About 85.

(b) and (c). It is proposed to work out a programme in consultation with the parties interested in developing this industry. According to the present plans, the country's 60% to 70% requirements of dye-stuffs may be met by indigenous production by the end of Second Plan period.

Atomic Energy for Industrial Purposes

*1317. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any scheme for producing atomic energy for industrial purposes has been formulated?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): India's main need is power for industrial development, which must be given priority. Indian efforts has, therefore, been con-

centrated on seeing that some electricity from atomic power is available in India within the next few years. The economic feasibility of setting up one or more atomic power stations during the Second Five Year Plan period is under study. The Indian atomic energy programme is being planned so that India will not have to depend on other countries for its atomic raw materials.

Loans for House-building

***1318. Shrimati Tarkehwari Sinha :** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any change in the policy of Government in regard to giving loans to Government employees for house-building ; and

(b) if so, the nature of the change in advancing loan for this purpose ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sanekatta Salt Works

***1319. Shri Kajrolkar :** Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether any investigation has so far been made into the possibilities of production of by-products at the Sanekatta Salt Works in North Kanara District; and

(b) whether Government have received any suggestions for setting up a caustic soda industry in Sanekatta ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) and (b). No Sir.

Dry Fruit Imports

***1320. Dr. J. N. Parekh :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the import quota system has recently been introduced for the import of dry fruits from Afghanistan ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ;

(c) whether it is a fact that because of quota system, prices of dry fruits have shot up in the country ;

(d) if so, to what extent ; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to normalize the position ?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarker) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign exchange considerations.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Mandi Rock Salt Mines

***1321. Shri Hem Raj :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 488 on 30th November, 1956 and to state the causes which have led to the stoppage of the drilling operations in the Mandi Rock Salt Mines ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey) : Core drilling operations undertaken to ascertain the reserves of rock salt at Mandi, revealed the existence of sufficient reserves to justify development of the Mines on scientific lines. Further drilling operations were not considered necessary after June, 1955.

Training of Indian Scientists in Nuclear Science

***1322. Shri H. N. Mukerjee :** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the present position in regard to the training of Indian scientists in nuclear science, engineering and reactor technology ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : The Department of Atomic Energy is organising a school for training 250 post-graduate students annually in Chemistry, Engineering, Metallurgy and Physics to meet the requirements of the atomic energy programme. The Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay has some 300 scientists and engineers on its staff and the number will grow to some 800 by 1958.

Demarcation of Indo-Pakistan Border

***1323. Shri M. Islamuddin :** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 479 on the 29th March, 1955 and state :

(a) whether the demarcation by means of *pucca* pillars of the Indo-Pakistan land riverine boundary between Bihar and East Bengal has been completed by now ; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : (a) and (b). The boundary between East Pakistan and the Indian territory formerly in Bihar and now merged in West Bengal is about 140 miles long, out of which abou

46 miles is land boundary and the rest is along various rivers. So far 31 miles of the land boundary has been demarcated by construction of pillars. Work for demarcating the rest of this boundary is proceeding.

As demarcation of the boundary is a joint operation, its progress is largely dependent on the co-operation extended by Pakistan authorities and the settlement of disputes arising between the two parties during the course of demarcation.

मोटर गाड़ियां आदि का आयात

*1324. श्री शू. चं. सोविया : क्या बाहिनी और उपभोग बत्तु उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष १९५५ और वर्ष १९५६ के आरम्भ के १० महीनों में मोटरगाड़ियों स्टेशन बैगनों और जीप गाड़ियों को यात्रियों के निजी सामान के रूप में लाने के लिये कुल किटने-किटने लाइसेंस दिये गये थे ; और

(ख) इस प्रकार के लाइसेंस देना बन्द कर देने के क्या कारण हैं ?

आपार मंत्री (श्री करमरकर) :

(क) एक विवरण सदन की बेज पर रखा जाता है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट ५, अनुबन्ध संख्या २८]

(ख) मोटर गाड़ियों का देशीय उत्पादन बढ़ जाने तथा विदेशी मुद्रा बचाने की जरूरत के कारण लाइसेंस देना बन्द किया गया है।

Manufacture of Radio Sets

*1325. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad :
Shri D. C. Sharma :

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved a scheme for the expansion of capacity for manufacture of radio sets in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme ?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarker) : (a) and (b). The target of production fixed under the Second Plan period is 300,000 sets per annum. As a result of re-assessment of existing capacity made by the Government in June last, it was found that there was room for allowing further capacity to the extent of 63,000 per annum. Since then 5 schemes for expansion involving a total capacity of 52,200 have been licensed.

Hindustan Machine Tools, Ltd.

*1326. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals to step up production in the Hindustan Machine Tools, Ltd. Bangalore ; and

(b) what will be additional capital investment ?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) It is not possible at this stage to give an estimate of the additional capital investment required for the purpose.

Indo-Pakistan Agreement on Moveable Property

*1327. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) how the Indo-Pakistan Agreement on moveable property has worked during the current year so far ; and

(b) what are the difficulties, if any, in its working ?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) and (b). The Government of India are not satisfied with the progress of the implementation of the moveable Property Agreement. A number of statements were due to be exchanged as a prelude to the exchange of the moveables.

While the Government of India have been ready with all the required statements according to the time schedule mutually agreed upon, the Pakistan Government have kept on postponing the dates for exchange. This has resulted in the hold-up of transfer from Pakistan to India of Postal Savings Bank Accounts, Postal Certificates, Merchandise, Valuables in the Lockers, Bank Accounts, Court Deposits, Sale proceeds etc. The Government of India had proposed to Pakistan that all pending statements should be exchanged at the meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Moveable Property Agreement, which was scheduled to be held on the 22nd to 24th November, 1956. This meeting had

to be postponed at the request of the Government of Pakistan. They have now suggested that the meeting may be held at Karachi in January, 1957. It is hoped that all the outstanding statements would be exchanged at this meeting.

लखनऊ के बड़े डाकघर में घन की हानि

*१३२८. डा० राम सुभग स्त्वः : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जून, १९५६ में लखनऊ के बड़े डाकघर (जनरल पोस्ट अफिस) का एक पोस्टल क्लर्क बहुत बड़ी रकम से कर पाकिस्तान भाग गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वह रकम कितनी थी ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि कुछ मास पूर्व वहीं का एक टेलीफोन इन्स्पेक्टर भी इतनी ही रकम से कर पाकिस्तान भाग गया था ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इन दोनों कर्मचारियों से रुपये वसूल करने के बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ; और

(ङ) भविष्य में ऐसे कर्मचारियों पर निगरानी रखने के लिये क्या कोई उपाय सोचे गये हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री राम बहादुर) :

(क) यह ठीक है कि लखनऊ के बड़े डाकघर (G.P.O.) के एक मुस्लिम पोस्टल क्लर्क ने जून, १९५६ में बड़ी रकम का गवन किया। यह शक किया जाता है कि वह गवन करने के बाद पाकिस्तान चला गया, परन्तु इस बात की पुष्टि, न तो पुलिस द्वारा और न जिले के अधिकारियों द्वारा ही प्राप्त हुई है।

(ख) अब तक लगभग १२,००० रुपयों की हानि का पता चला है।

(ग) जी नहीं। यह मुस्लिम टेलीफोन इन्स्पेक्टर दो महीने की छुट्टी पर पाकिस्तान

गया और इन्हें उसने स्थाग पत्र दे दिया। उसके जिम्मे ८४ रुपये की एक रकम जो कि बाड़ के सम्बन्ध में उसे पेशगी दी गई थी, बाकी है।

(घ) भाग (क) के विषय में पुलिस तथा विभाग द्वारा जांच की जा रही है। भाग (ग) के बारे में बाड़ सम्बन्धी पेशगी द्वारा हुई रकम इस कर्मचारी के बाकी बेतन में से सम्बंधन (adjust) की जा रही है।

(ङ) यह विषय विचाराधीन है।

Import of Steel

*१३२९. श्री भगवत् ज्ञ अरादः : Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether the supply of steel has been held up due to Suez Crisis ; and

(b) whether the expected supplies between the months of July and September, 1956 have reached the Indian ports ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) Due to shipments being diverted through the Cape of Good Hope there have been some delays in the arrival of iron and steel in the country.

(b) 227,731 tons out of a quantity of 396,870 tons expected, have arrived. Part of this back log can also be attributed for lack of shipping space.

Gendalal Mills, Jalgaon

*१३३०. श्री H. N. Mukerjee : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to allegations that the Gendalal Mills of Jalgaon, Bombay State, has been unwarrantedly closed down since August, 1954 and also that the Management had taken recourse to certain malpractices; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken in this regard ?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karimkar) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 29].

Dye-Stuffs

1033. { **Shri Ram Krishan :**
Sardar Iqbal Singh :
Sardar Akarpuri :

Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 930 on the 9th August, 1956 and state :

(a) whether Government have received the report from M/S. A. C. N. A. (Mentacatini) Milan, Italy in regard to the productions of the intermediates for dye-stuffs ; and

(b) if so, the nature of the report received ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is in the nature of a preliminary study of the scope for an orderly development of the diverse types of intermediates required by the dyestuffs industry in India. It has outlined a list of intermediates which may be produced on a rational basis. But the experts have themselves stated that in practice other material factors and circumstances will need consideration.

The latest estimates of demand for dye-stuffs by 1960 are given in the statement which is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix V, annexure No. 30]. Another statement gives a list of primary organic intermediates under consideration for manufacture in the central plant or plants. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 30].

Development of Industries

1034. **Shri Ram Krishna :** Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state :

(a) the number of missions of foreign experts, which visited India during this year to make enquiry into the development of different industries;

(b) the number of such missions which have submitted their reports ; and

(c) the nature of reports submitted by these missions separately ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) to (c). a statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 31].

Tin

1035. Shri Ram Krishan : Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of tin in India at present ;

(b) the quantity produced in the country ; and

(c) how much is imported from other countries and the value thereof ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) 4000 to 5000 tons per annum.

(b) Virgin tin is not produced in the country.

However, secondary tin is produced from tin plate scrap and the production figures since 1953 are given below :

Year	Production
	(tons)
1953	20.9
1954	36.91
1955	41.44
1956 (upto August)	26.54

(c) A statement showing imports of tin unwrought (blocks, ingots, bars and slabs) and Tin wrought during 1954-55 to 1956-57 is attached. [See Appendix V, annexure 32].

Development of Pondicherry

1036. **Shri Ram Krishna :** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for development of Pondicherry during Second Five Year Plan has been finalised ; and

(b) if so, will Government lay a copy of the scheme on the Table ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : (a) and (b). The schemes for development of the State of Pondicherry during the Second Five Year Plan have been finalised and a detailed list of these schemes is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. S-598/56].

Trade with China

1037. **Shri Ram Krishan :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussions on trade arrangements between India and China including Tibet, have taken place ; and

(b) if so, at what stage they are ?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The matter is expected to be finalised before the end of the year.

C.P.W.D. Workshops

1038. Shri Achalu : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) the names of workshops under the Central Public Works Department and the number of workers employed by each of them ;

(b) which of these are registered under the Factories Act ; and

(c) the reason for not registering the remaining workshops under the Factories Act ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) : (a) and (c). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 33].

Khadi and Village Industries

1039. Shri Bheekha Bhai : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for introducing khadi and village industry activities in the scheduled areas of various States ;

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

(c) whether any target date has been fixed for the introduction of industrial activities ?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) to (c) A sum of Rs. 1.18 crores has been provided in the Second Five Year Plan for the development of Scheduled areas and for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes through cottage industry programmes under the scheme "Tribal Economy." Khadi and Village Industry programmes are included in this scheme. In addition schemes for the development of khadi and village industries which are implemented either by the State Governments or directly by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board through its recognised institutions largely benefit the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. In certain cases, such as leather and tanning industries, pottery and weaving, because of traditional occupations, the benefit is primarily derived by the Scheduled and other Backward Classes.

Bull-Dozer Drivers in Manipur P.W.D.

1040. Shri Rishang Keishing : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the bull-dozer drivers of Manipur P.W.D. will be paid Rs. 74 p.m. instead of Rs. 40 p.m. as they are now paid ;

(b) if so, whether the increment of their pay will be with retrospective effect from the 4th January, 1950 as in the case of other employees in Manipur; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) : (a) to (c). The question of rationalisation of scales of pay of the various types of automobile drivers, the bull-dozer drivers included, is still under consideration.

War Casualty Compensations, Manipur

1041. Shri Rishang Keishing : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of civilians belonging to the State of Manipur who were killed during the Second World War as a result of the allied and enemy action.

(b) how many families of the persons killed were paid compensation ;

(c) the amount of compensation paid per head and for how long the payment of compensation is to be continued ;

(d) whether it is a fact that many families of such killed persons were not compensated and their cases have been brought to the notice of the State Government and the Government of India; and

(e) if so, the action taken theron ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai K. Desai) : (a) Information is not available.

(b) The Chief Commissioner, Manipur, has reported that 114 awards are known to have been made under the War Injuries Scheme 1942, on account of persons killed as a result of qualifying injuries.

(c) Subject to the provisions of the War Injuries Scheme, a family pension of Rs. 8/- p.m. (with a temporary increase of Rs. 4) to one eligible member of the family and a children's allowance Rs. 2/- or Rs. 3/- p.m. per legitimate child (with a temporary increase of Rs. 2/-)

were payable in cases of death. The family pension is paid so long as the beneficiary continues to be eligible therefor under the Scheme while the children's allowance normally ceases to be payable—

- (i) to a male on attaining the age of fifteen, and
- (ii) to a female on attaining the age of sixteen or on her marriage, whichever is later.
- (d) and (e). No such case has been recently brought to the notice of the Government of India or the Manipur Administration.

Cement

1042. Shri C. R. Iyyunni : Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of cement applied for by the public in the Travancore-Cochin State from the time the Advisor took charge till the 1st November, 1956 ;

(b) the quantity sanctioned during that period ;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the ordinary requirements of the people in the Kerala State ; and

(d) whether Government propose to start any Cement Factories in the State to meet the shortage ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) and (b). The total demand for cement received from Travancore-Cochin during the period 1st April to 31st October, 1956, was for 109,540 tons, against which 55,170 tons were allotted.

(c) Government have sanctioned a number of schemes in States of Madras, Andhra, Mysore, Pondicherry, etc. for increasing the production of cement. This along with such new schemes in other parts of the country will improve progressively the supply position in the country including Kerala State.

(d) Government have not received any proposal from any party for starting a new cement factory in Kerala.

Sale of Handloom and Mill Cloth

1043. Shri Dasaratha Deb : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no licence for the sale of handloom and mill cloth, has been issued to the merchants of Sabroom town, particularly to merchants of Raniganj Bazar commonly known as Chhotaknil (Tripura) for the year 1956;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such licence holders in 1955;

(d) whether any representation has been made to the local authority as well as to the Government of India for obtaining licenses for sale of cloth in general and for obtaining special permission during the Durgapuja; and

- (e) if so, the steps taken in the matter ?

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

(b) It is not considered advisable to issue such licences having regard to the geographical situation of the Bazar.

(c) Sixty licenses for handloom cloth combined with sixty seven licences for mill-made cloth were issued by the Tripura Government in 1955.

(d) and (e). Two representations were made by the merchants of the Sabroom town and the Raniganj Bazar to the District Magistrate, Tripura. Three temporary permits were, therefore, issued by the State Government to merchants of the Sabroom town for meeting the Durga puja demand.

S.D.O.'s Office in Kamalpur

1045. Shri Dasaratha Deb : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of S.D.O. Kamalpur of Tripura State is made of aluminium with the result that it is difficult for the staff to work in that office during the day time due to excessive heat; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove such condition ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) : (a) The office has aluminium roofs; it may be uncomfortable but the working conditions are not very difficult.

(b) Does not arise.

आकाशवाणी नागपुर

१०४६. श्रीमती मिनीमाता : वय सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५५ और १९५६ में आकाशवाणी के नागपुर केन्द्र से छत्तीसगढ़ी भाषा के किंतु कलाकारों के कार्यक्रमों को प्रसारित किया गया और उनके क्या विषय थे ?

तुच्छा और प्रसाररत मंत्री द्वारा केस कर) : कलाकारों की संख्या १९५५ में १२ और १९५६ में (नवम्बर के अन्त तक) २२ थी। यह कार्यक्रम संगीत-रूपक, नाटक, चर्चा और चर्चा आदि के रूप में थे और उनके विषय थे क्षेत्र की संस्कृति और साहित्य, लोकगीत, नृत्य, लोक साहित्य, सामाजिक विषय, स्वास्थ्य तथा खेती।

राज सुविधाय (मध्य प्रदेश)

१०४७. श्री राज चं० शर्मा : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य भारत के मुरैना मिष्ट जिले के किन-किन स्थानों पर तार, टेलीफोन और डाकघर ३१ मार्च, १९५६ तक नहीं लोते जा सके यद्यपि उनके खोलने की योजना थी; और

(ख) वर्ष १९५६-५७ में मुरैना मिष्ट जिले में इसके प्रतिक्रिया जो अन्य कार्य किये जाने वाले थे या किये जाने वाले हैं उनका विवरण क्या है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क)

तारघर	टलीफोन-घर डाक-घर
	(अधिक दूरी के सावंजनिक टलीफोन घर)

१. विजयपुर	जोरा	मिरजपुर*
२. जोरा	सबलगढ़	मुरलीकपुरा*
३. सबलगढ़	शिवपुर	
४. शिवपुर		
५. लाहड़*		

(ख)

१. भद्राली*
२. धमकन*
३. दन्दो*
४. तिला-वडी
५. देवगढ़
६. गोटा

*ये १९५६-५७ में खोले गये।

७. जबरोल
८. नेकपुरा
९. राठौर कला
१०. अन्नार*
११. बरेड़ा सापो
१२. सुन्दरसुरा
१३. साड़ा
१४. किशूपारा

शिलिंगों की बरोबरगारी (मध्यभारत)

१०४८. श्री राज चं० शर्मा : क्या अब मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि मध्य प्रदेश में विलीन होने वाले मध्य भारत राज्य में पढ़े लिखे बेकार लोगों की संख्या ३१ अक्टूबर, १९५६ को क्या थी?

अब मंत्री (श्री खण्ड भाई बेलाई) : भूतपूर्व मध्य भारत राज्य में, पढ़े लिखे बेकारों की संख्या, ३० सितम्बर, १९५६ को एम्लायमेंट एक्सचेंजों के रजिस्टरों के अनुसार निम्न लिखित थी :—

मैट्रीकुलेट्स	१,१०७
इन्टरप्रीडियेट्स	३६३
ग्रेन एट्स	२७५
कुल	१,७४५

उपरोक्त जानकारी १ जनवरी से आरम्भ होने वाली हर तिमाही के अन्त में इकट्ठा की जाती है, अतः ३१ अक्टूबर, १९५६ तक की संख्या प्राप्त नहीं है।

Ambar Charkha Programme

१०४९. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the progress of so far made by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board regarding the following

items in the implementation of Ambar Charkha programme:

- (i) the number of Ambar Charkhas manufactured by decentralised Saravjam Karyalayas and the commercial firms;
- (ii) the total amount spent on the manufacture of the same;
- (iii) the total number of persons given training on Ambar charkha
- (iv) the total number of *parishra malayas* opened in the country with their names and locations;
- (v) the total number of *Saravjam Karyalayas* opened in the country especially for the purpose of manufacture of Ambar Charkha (State-wise);
- (vi) the estimated quantity of Ambar yarn spun on these charkhas; and
- (vii) the total amount spent so far on the production of khadi and handloom cloth out of Ambar Yarn separately?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): On the basis of the information available as on 30-11-1956 the position is as follows:

(i) Decentralized Karayalayas	23,537
Commercial firms	4,855
TOTAL	28,392
 (ii) Rs. 33,71,400/-.	
(iii) <i>Trained</i> ¹	<i>Under training</i>
Instructors .	1094
Spinners .	7371
Mistris .	254
TOTAL .	8719
 (iv) and (v) 242 Parishramalayas and 56 Saravjam Karyalayas. The lists are attached [See Appendix V, annexure No 34].	
(vi) 70,312 lbs.	
(vii) The expenditure is met out of the revolving capital granted for the trading operations. Actual figure is not available.	

All India Khadi and Village Industries Board

1050. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the governing principles on the basis of which All India Khadi and

Village Industries Board starts new centres for the production of village industries in the country,

(b) the reasons why the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board lays emphasis for the starting of new production centres of village industries in Bombay State and why no new production centres for village industries are opened throughout the country in an equitable way;

(c) how many new production centres for village industries have been opened and financed by the Khadi Board since its inception giving their locations and the names of industries started in each of these centres; and

(d) how many new production centres for village industries are proposed to be opened during the current financial year (giving figure for each village industry)?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The following are the main considerations which are kept in view in locating new centres for the production of village industry articles:

(i) availability of constructive village level workers and trained and skilled personnel;

(ii) availability of raw materials and scope for expansion of production;

(iii) marketing facilities.

(b) Centres are distributed throughout the country and not located in Bombay State alone. The requirements of every State are taken into account and the assumption of the hon. Member is not correct.

(c) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Labour Awards

1051. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to doubts about procedural matters Labour Awards have been stayed by Labour Appellate Tribunal, State High Courts and the Supreme Court of India in certain States recently; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases and the names of the States?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai K. Desai): (a) and (b) The information is not available, and collection of the particulars will involve labour incommensurate with the results.

Jute Mills

1052. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total unused capacity in the jute mills at present; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to enable the jute mills to employ their unused capacity?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) About 7842 looms with an approximate capacity of 12,000 tons of jute goods a month representing 12½% of the looms in the jute mills are at present unused.

(b) The unused looms can be employed only by increasing exports of jute goods. A statement showing the measures taken by Government in this direction is laid on the Table. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 35].

Coffee Plantations

1053. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of the Coffee plantation owned by the Europeans and the Indians separately in South India at present; and

(b) the total area under actual plantation?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) The estimated area under coffee owned by European and Indians in South India as in 1954-55 was:

Europeans	...	7,919 acres.
Indians	...	2,44,555 acres.

(b) The total area under coffee in India in the year 1954-55 was 2,52,686 acres.]

Post Offices in Kangra, Punjab

1054. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any programme has been chalked out to open Post Offices in all villages of Kangra district (Punjab) having a population of one thousand and above?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : All the villages having a population of one thousand or more in Kangra District are already provided with Post Offices.

Salt Production

1055. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government proposed to take for expanding production of salt in the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) whether salt producers have submitted plans for more production of salt; and

(c) if so, whether Government have approved their plans?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) In order to achieve the target of production of ten crores maunds of salt per annum by 1960-61, Government have decided to take the following steps:—

Private Salt Sources

(1) Issue of more licences to private manufacturers.]

(2) Tapping new sources in Bengal and Assam, where production is very low at present.

Government Salt Sources

(1) Use of sub-terranean brine at Sambar by digging additional pits and percolation canals.

(2) Construction of additional plants at Sambar Lake.

(3) Sinking of shafts at Drang (Mandi).

(4) Expansion of the condensers and crystallisers at Maigal (Mandi) to utilise more brine.

(5) Construction of new chambers and tunnels at Guma (Mandi).

(b) and (c). 54 applications for new licences received from private parties are at present being scrutinized.

India's Foreign Trade

1056. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state whether export of commodities has increased till the end of September this year in comparison with the corresponding period of the last year?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : Yes. Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix V, annexure No. 36].

Estate Office

1057. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether O & M procedure introduced by the Government of India has also been enforced in the Estate Office;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether any re-adjustments have been made in the working and maintenance of records; and

(d) if so, whether a report on the working of the O & M Unit in the Estate Office will be laid on the Table of the Sabha?

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

(a) Yes; Sir. O & M procedure has been introduced on the allotment side of the Estate Office.

(b) The O & M Unit was set up in full strength only about a couple of months ago, and it is too early to assess its achievements.

(c) A proposal for the weeding out of old records etc., is under examination of the O & M Unit of the Estate Office.

(d) The report when ready can be shown to the Hon'ble Member if he expresses a desire to that effect but it does not seem necessary that a copy be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Estate Office

1058. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the records in the Estate Office relating to allotment of quarters, realisation and adjustments of rents etc. are not being maintained in a proper manner; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposed to take to improve matters?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) : (a) No, Sir. The records are being properly maintained.

(b) Does not arise.

Quarters in Gole Market

1059. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1707 on 12th September, 1956 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rain water continued to enter the residential

quarters in Gole Market area during the recent rains in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what positive preventive measures are proposed to be taken;

(c) how the question of re-building the quarters stands at present; and

(d) when a final decision is likely to be arrived at?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Due to excessive rains the water did enter in some quarters on Market Road which are situated on a low laying area.

(b) Improving drainage and providing necessary masonry dwarf walls in the exterior openings to act as barriers.

(c) and (d). The question is still under examination and is likely to take some time before final decision is taken.

Collieries in Raniganj

1060.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh :
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:
Shri Asthana:
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an advancing under-ground fire on both sides of the Jotimotook branch line of the Eastern Railway is threatening to engulf about a dozen Collieries in Raniganj;

(b) if so, when did this fire break out and how; and

(c) the steps so far taken to extinguish the fire?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) :

(a) Although there are some dormant and active under ground fires in the Raniganj coal fields none of them is at present threatening to engulf any colliery in that area.

(b) The fire on both sides of the Jotimotook branch line is an old fire which broke out about 20 years ago. Its origin and history are not known at this distance of time.

(c) it is not always possible to completely extinguish a colliery fire and it has usually to be sealed off. Blanketing operations and flooding underground are carried out to prevent extension of such fires. In addition to carrying out certain protective works directly, the Coal Board grants financial assistance to collieries for measures taken to tackle such fires.

Scientific Instruments

1061. Shri Shivananjappa : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) in how many States there are establishments for the manufacture of scientific instruments;

(b) whether these establishments are capable of meeting the country's demands;

(c) what are the schemes approved in the Second Five Year Plan for their development?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) In 9 States, namely, Delhi, Bombay, Punjab, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Mysore, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Not fully.

(c) These schemes approved so far are as under:—

- (i) National Instruments Factory, Calcutta (Expansion scheme) for manufacture of microscopes for engineering and geological use and of optical components for Pathological Microscopes, Clinical Thermometers, Medical Diagnostic Instruments and Spectacle Lenses.
- (ii) Government Precision Instruments Factory, Lucknow, (Expansion scheme) for manufacture of Microscopes.
- (iii) Scientific Glass Apparatus Works, Madras, for manufacture of scientific glass apparatus.

Co-operative Societies for Displaced Persons in Delhi

1062. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons Co-operative Societies in Delhi;

(b) whether there are Government officials in the executive committees of these societies;

(c) if so their number in each Co-operative society;

(d) the reasons for appointing Government Officials as head of the executive of these Co-operative Societies compulsorily;

(e) whether any financial aid has been given to any of these societies; and

(f) if so, the number of such societies which have received aid and the total amount of aid given to them in 1955-56 and upto October, 1956?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khana) : (a) 283.

(b) Yes, only in three societies;

(c) One in Jheel Khurania Milk Producers Co-operative Society Ltd. and two each in Geeta and Mahilla House Building Co-operative Societies.

(d) To safeguard the interest of the Government;

(e) Yes.

(f) 3 house building societies have received aid amounting to Rs. 1,70,100/- upto 31-3-55. No aid was given during 1955-56, nor has any been given upto date during the current financial year.

Indian Jagirdars in Pakistan

1063. Shri Gadilingana Gowd : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some petty Jagirdars of Gujarat and Rajasthan are getting training in modern fire-arms in the Pakistan village of Pithapur, which is 12 miles from the Indian border in Jodhpur Division; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government of India have taken to stop such activities?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : (a) and (b). Our information is that some petty Jagirdars including 4 or 5 associates of dacoit Balwan Singh of Bhakhar (Rajasthan) are taking shelter in village Pithapur in West Pakistan. No information has been received that they are getting training in modern fire arms at Pithapur. Pakistan authorities have been requested to send these individuals back to India.

Khadi and Gram Odyog Board

1064. { Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:
Shri Deogam:
Shri Kamath:

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Khadi and Gram Odyog Board has circulated model bye-laws for the organisation of Oilmen Co-operative Society at different

levels which *inter alia* includes the following:—

- (i) membership is restricted to the oilmen by profession,
- (ii) the Chairman and Secretary of the said oilmen co-operative organisation will be *ex-officio* nominees of the Khadi Gram Udyog Board,
- (iii) the *ex-officio* members of different organisation will be more than one third of the total strength of the society;
- (b) whether there has been some protest against such provisions by the delegates of the Conference of the Oilmen Co-operative Societies held at Patna recently;
- (c) whether any steps are being taken to prepare model bye-laws on democratic lines?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) According to the draft bye-laws circulated by the Khadi and Village Industries Board, men in the profession as well as their sympathisers could become members of the primary societies. As regard the nomination of the Chairman and the Secretary, the intention is that these appointments should be subject to the approval of the Board. The number of the representatives of official and semi-official agencies will be more than one-third in the Managing Committees of District and Regional Societies only and not in primary societies.

(b) Yes.

(c) These model bye-laws are proposed to be suitably amended in the light of the discussions held at the conference and in consultation with the State Co-operative Departments.

Manufacture of Bicycles and Sewing Machines

1065. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
 { Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scope for starting the manufacture of Bicycles and sewing machines in the State of Punjab in the co-operative sphere;

(b) whether any company has applied for the same from that State; and

(c) if so, with what result?

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

(b) Yes, One co-operative organisation has applied for manufacturing bicycles.

(c) The application is under consideration.

Post Offices (Kerala State)

1066. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices proposed to be set up in Kerala State during the rest of the Second Five Year Plan period;

(b) the locations thereof?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Approximately, the following number of post offices are proposed to be opened in Kerala State during the rest of the Second Plan period:—

Sub-Offices	20
Extra Departmental Branch Offices	604
Extra Departmental Branch Offices proposed to be upgraded to Sub Offices	41

(b) The locations of the Post Offices will be decided by the Head of the Circle after examination of the individual proposals.

Industrial Disputes

1067. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of industrial disputes relating to plantations and textile factories that arose in the former Malabar area of the Madras State and the former Travancore-Cochin State from the 1st July upto the 31st October, 1956;

(b) the total number of factories and workers involved; and

(c) the main points of disputes?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

विदेशी पर्वतारोहण दल

१०६८. श्री भक्त दस्तान : क्या प्रधान मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी का एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) वर्ष १९५६ में अब तक हिमालय पर किन-किन विदेशी पर्वतारोहण दलों ने अभियान किये ;

(ख) दलों ने हिमालय की किन-किन चोटियों और प्रदेशों को अपना लक्ष्य बनाया था ;

(ग) उनके अभियानों के उद्देश्य क्या थे ;

(घ) उन्हें अपने उद्देश्यों में कहां तक सकलता मिली ;

(ङ) इन में से प्रत्येक दल के साथ कितने कितने भारतीयों को सम्पर्क पदाविकारी नियुक्त किया गया था ; और

(च) इन दलों को किस प्रकार की सहायता और सुविधायें दी गईं ?

विदेशीक-कार्य उपलंब्धी (श्री अविल कृष्ण चन्द्रा) : १९५६ में कुल ८ अभियान दल हिमालय गये थे । इसके विवरण की एक सूची साथ लगी है । [वेस्टिंग परिविष्ट ५, अनुबन्ध संख्या ३७]

Passports

१०६९. Shri M. Iftaamuddin: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who applied for passport as well as for their renewals for East Pakistan from Purnea District (Bihar) during 1955-56; and

(b) the number to whom passports were issued and renewals were made during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House when available.

Bee-Keeping Centres

१०७०. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bee-keeping centres opened in the Kangra District and Himachal Pradesh during the First Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the number of such centres proposed to be opened during the Second Five Year Plan in these regions?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No centre has been opened in Kangra. Two centres were set up by Himachal Pradesh Government.

(b) The Khadi and Village Industries Board have set up one model apairy and 10 sub-stations in Kangra District and propose to set up five sub-stations in Himachal Pradesh during the current financial year. The programme for the remaining period has not been finalised.

Khadi Board

१०७१. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1715 on the 12th September 1956 and state:

(a) the number of exhibitions organised by the Khadi Board during the year 1955-56 and their venue;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Board on those exhibitions;

(c) the number of Seminars and Conferences organised by the Board during 1955-56 and their venue; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on these Seminars and Conferences?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). 55 Exhibitions were held during 1955-56 at the following places:—

Place	Size of the Exhibition	
	1	2
1. Amritsar	·	All India Exhi.
2. Surat	·	Medium
3. Bhuj	·	"
4. Kumbakonam	·	"
5. Ajmer	·	Small Exhi.
6. Rajahmundry	·	"
7. Kumbakonam	·	Medium
8. Sabashapalli	·	"
9. Nandigram	·	"
10. Calcutta	·	"
11. Nawadah	·	"
12. Wardha	·	"
13. Khamgaon	·	"
14. Gwalior	·	"

I	2
15. Jaisalmer	"
16. Agartala	"
17. Trichur	"
18. Dantia	"
19. Rewa	"
20. Pepsu	State 3 Small
21. Saurashtra	State 5 "
22. Ajagara	"
23. Sahasaon	"
24. Banaras	"
25. Allahabad	"
26. Nainital	"
27. Mohemadpur	"
28. Garhmukteshwar	"
29. Etawah	Small
30. Puri	"
31. Surat	"
32. Jalgaon	"
33. Poona City	"
34. Bombay City	"
35. Gundi	"
36. Borkhadi	"
37. Talsgaon	"
38. Charan	"
39. Sangli	"
40. Tanccha	"
41. Vaghodia	"
42. Kavitha	"
43. Bhojawa	"
44. Dammagar	"
45. Kumtha	"
46. Tatnagiri	"
47. Kokkamate	"
48. Veshvi	"
49. Badalepur	"
50. Pandhapur	"
51. Kopargaoon	"
52. Raveli	"
53. Dharwar	"
54. Mudalgi	"
55. Shamlaaji	"

The total expenditure incurred on these exhibitions amounted to Rs. 9,13,186/-

(c) and (d). Seven Conferences were held at the following places. The expenditure incurred is indicated against each below:—

Name of the Conference	Expenditure Incurred
I	2
1. All India Potters Conference Wardha	Rs. 1,875/-
2. Seventh Palm Gur Workers Conference, Pushkar	4,973/-
3. Conference on Soap-making with non-edible oils at Amravati	3,133/-
4. State Khadi & Village Industries Boards Conference at Poona (approximately)	Rs. 5000/-

I	2	Rs.
5. Hand-pounding of Rice Conference at Nandiad		999/15/-
6. Intensive Area Workers Conference Ajagara		(Not available)
—do— Sahason		5,000/- (approximately)
7. Bee-keepers Conference Bangalore		3,000/-

Films Exhibited by Khadi Board

1072. Shri Nambari: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the topics on which films and lantern slides were exhibited by the Khadi Board during 1955-56;

(b) the venue of these films and lantern slide exhibitions; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Board on these exhibitions?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Palm gur and palm gur products.

(b) 1. The Bharatiya Tad Gur Shilpa Bhawan, Dahanu (Bombay State).

2. The Central Palmyra Palm Gur Pilot Model Demonstration Station, Udangudi (Madras).

3. The Central Sago Palm Gur Pilot Model Demonstration Station, Kunnumkulam (Kerala).

4. Kharchiya Village (Saurashtra), Bombay State.

5. The Palm Gur Section of the office of the All India Khadi & Village Industries Board, Bombay.

6. The main office of the All India Khadi & Village Industries Board, Bombay.

7. Dadar, Bombay.

8. Manganwadi, Wardha.

9. Abhyankar Hall, Nagpur.

10. The Bihar Palm Gur Cooperative Conference, Patna.

11. The Gazipur Palm Gur Centre, Punjab.

12. The All India Palm Gur Workers Conference, Pushkar, Ajmer.

(c) Rs. 3,348/-.

Landing Strips in N.E.F.A.

1073. Shri Gohain: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) how many landing strips have been constructed so far in the North East Frontier Agency areas;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to extend passenger air services to Lohit Frontier and other Divisions of North East Frontier Agency; and
- (c) if so, when

The Minister of Legal Affairs and Civil Aviation (Shri Pataskar): (a) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

- (b) Not at present, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Industrial Development

1074. Shri Debendra Nath Sarma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of starting some small-scale manufacturing industries in Assam, has been considered with a view to develop the State during the Second Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the number of industries which will be developed and the amount to be invested?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Kamarkar): (a) and (b). A provision of Rs. 80 lakhs has been made in the Second Five Year Plan for the development of various small-scale industries in Assam. This is exclusive of the provision for the Industrial Estate proposed to be set up in Guwahati, at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 lakhs (approximately).

डाकघर (राजस्थान)

१०७५. श्री प० ला० बाब्पाल : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५५-५६ में राजस्थान में कितने नये डाकघर खोले गये और १९५६ के अन्त तक कितने और डाकघर खोले जाने वाले हैं, और कहां-कहां पर; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि जैसलमेर के गांव नाचना और जिला श्री गंगानगर

के गांव पीर कामड़िया ग्राम कई स्थानों से नये डाकघर खोलने की मांगें आई हैं और वहां के लोग डाक और तार विभाग की होने वाली स्थिति को भी पूरा करने को तैयार हैं किर भी वहां अभी तक डाकघर खोलने की स्वीकृति नहीं मिली है ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) :

(क) १९५५ में राजस्थान में २६५ डाकघर खोले गये। १९५६-५७ में नवम्बर, १९५६ के अन्त तक ६२ डाकघर खोले जा चुके हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त दिसम्बर, १९५६ के अन्त तक ५ तथा जनवरी से मार्च १९५७ तक ६४ और डाकघर खोलने का प्रस्ताव है।

एक विवरण जिसमें खोले गये डाकघरों के नाम दिये हुए हैं, सभा-पट्टन पर रखा जाता है।

[वैक्षिये पर्टिशिप ५, अनुष्ठान संख्या ३८]

(ख) श्री गंगानगर के जिले में पीर कामड़िया गांव में बिना अनिवार्तनीय रकम (Non-returnable Contribution) लिये हुये एक डाकघर खोलने की मंजूरी दी जा चुकी है, और आशा है कि यह डाकघर चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में खुल जायेगा। नचना के बारे में भी, डाकघर खोलने की मंजूरी दी जा चुकी थी, परन्तु वह डाकघर अभी तक इस कारण से न खोला जा सका कि वह नजदीक से नजदीक डाकघर से ४० मील की दूरी पर है। साथ ही कोई ऊंटों का ठेकेदार ७० रुपये महीने पर हर दूसरे दिन डाक ले जाने के लिये नहीं मिलता था। स्थानीय अधिकारियों ने अब एक ठेकेदार की सिफारिश की है, जो कि ७० रुपये महीने पर सप्ताह में दो बार डाक ले जाने के लिये तैयार है। आशा है कि यह डाकघर जल्दी ही खुल जायेगा और डाक सप्ताह में दो बार [आया-जाया करेगी।

डाक-घर हनुमानगढ़

१०७६. श्री व० ला० बाबूपाल : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हनुमानगढ़ जंक्शन की आबादी से डाकघर को हटा कर केनाल कालीनी, हनुमानगढ़ में रख दिया गया है जबकि कालीनी की बजाय जंक्शन आबादी की डाक अधिक होती है ; और

(ख) क्या उक्त डाकखाने को फिर से हनुमानगढ़ जंक्शन में रखने के लिये जनता द्वारा कोई मांग आई है ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) और (ख). सितम्बर, १९४४ में हनुमानगढ़ जंक्शन के इलाके में एक अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाला डाक-घर (E.D. Branch Office), जो कि वहाँ के अतिरिक्त विभागीय कर्मचारी के भवन में खुला हुआ था, एक विभागीय शाला डाकघर में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया। चूंकि विभागीय डाक-घरों के लिये जगह का प्रबन्ध विभाग द्वारा ही किया जाता है, अतः इस डाक-घर को सिचन विभाग (Irrigation Department) की कालीनी में एक उपयुक्त भवन में जगह दे दी गई। यह जगह सिचन विभाग ने बिना किराये के दे दी है। बाद में यह शाला डाक-घर फिर एक अतिरिक्त विभागीय उप डाक-घर (E. D. Sub-Office) में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया और यह उत्तीर्ण कालीनी में बिना किराये बाले भवन में चल रहा है। जन-साधारण के आग्रह पर इस डाक-घर को हनुमानगढ़ जंक्शन के समीप फिर हटाने की कोशिश की गई, परन्तु उपयुक्त स्थान न मिलने के कारण यह काम न हो सका। प्रबल

किया जा रहा है कि कोई उपयुक्त भवन मिल जाय। यह भी देखा जा रहा है कि यदि हो सके तो एक डाक-घर किसी स्थानीय अतिरिक्त विभागीय कर्मचारी के अधिकार में हनुमानगढ़ जंक्शन के इलाके में खोल दिया जाय। ऐसी स्थिति में डाक-घर के लिये जगह का प्रबन्ध करना अतिरिक्त विभागीय कर्मचारी की अपनी जिम्मेदारी होगी।

राजस्वान में जमीनों का अवैधत

१०७७. श्री व० ला० बाबूपाल : क्या पुर्णवास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

क्या यह सच है कि जिला गंगानगर की तहसील रायसिंह नगर में श्री खानूराम हरिजन के मुप के बत्तीस परिवारों को जो जमीनें दी गई थीं उनको स्थानीय तहसीलदार ने किन्हीं अन्य व्यक्तियों को दे दिया है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त परिवारों से और अधिक किश्तें मांगी जा रही हैं जब कि उन्होंने ५५० रुपये की किश्तें सरकार को दे दी है ; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इसी प्रकार तहसील हनुमानगढ़ के गांव किरारावासी के हरिजन शरणार्थियों की जमीनें स्थानीय पदाधिकारियों ने पाकिस्तान से बिना परमिट आये मुसलमानों को उन हरिजनों से छीन कर दे दी है और किश्तें हरिजन शरणार्थियों से मांगी जा रही हैं ?

पुर्णवास मंत्री (श्री मेहर बन्द शर्मा) :

(क) से (ग). अपेक्षित जानकारी एकत्रित की जा रही है और उपलब्ध होने पर सभा पट्टा पर रख दी जायेगी।

Manufacture of Soap

1078. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the number of production centres recognised by the All India Khadi Board which are engaged in manufacturing Soap on Cottage Industry basis in India now and their location (State-wise).

(b) the amount sanctioned to the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board for development of this Industry during the years (i) 1953-54, (ii) 1954-55, (iii) 1955-56, and (iv) 1956-57 and how those amounts have been utilized by the Board; and

(c) the number of new production centres proposed to be opened by the Board and their location (State-wise);

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (c). 3 statements are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 39].

लन्दन में भारतीय उच्चायुक्त

१०७६. श्री छूटू छूटू सोधिया : क्या वार्षिक और उपभोग-वस्तु उत्पोग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कामसं डिपार्टमेंट, लन्दन में कुल कितने पदाधिकारी और कर्मचारी हैं ;

(ख) इन दोनों श्रेणियों में कितने प्रभारीय हैं ;

(ग) इस विभाग के विशेष कर्तव्य क्या हैं और लन्दन स्थित हमारे उच्चायुक्त और इन्डियन स्टोर परवेज डिपार्टमेंट के साथ उसका क्या सम्बन्ध है ; और

(घ) इस विभाग के वार्षिक व्यय का व्योरा क्या है ?

व्यापार मंत्री (श्री करमरकर) :

(क) लन्दन स्थित भारतीय उच्च आयोग के कामसं विभाग में १ अप्रैल, १९५६ को कर्मचारियों की कुल संख्या इस प्रकार थी :—

पदाधिकारी—२२

कर्मचारी—४३*

*इनमें टेलीकोन पर काम करने वाले कर्मचारी, संवाद-वाहक, सफाई करने वाले कर्मचारी आदि सम्मिलित नहीं हैं। इनकी नियुक्ति जब जैसी आवश्यकता होती है तब कर ली जाती है) ।

(ख) इन में से प्रभारीयों की संख्या निम्न है—

पदाधिकारी—४

कर्मचारी—१८

(ग) कामसं विभाग का मुख्य काम भारत और ब्रिटेन के बीच व्यापारिक सम्बन्ध बढ़ाना है। वह विशेष रूप से उस देश के साथ भारत का व्यापार बढ़ाता है और इस देश के सामान्य औद्योगिक विकास के लिये ब्रिटिश फर्मों तथा भारतीय फर्मों के बीच टेक्निकल तथा अन्य प्रकार के सहयोग की संभावनायें खोजता है। चूंकि ब्रिटेन पौज्ड-क्लैव का एक प्रधान सदस्य है जिसके अन्दर भारत भी है, इसलिये कामसं विभाग, ब्रिटिश कोष विभाग, व्यापार बोर्ड तथा राष्ट्र मण्डलीय सम्पर्क समिति जैसी समितियों से घनिष्ठ सम्पर्क रखता है और सभी महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं की जानकारी सरकार को कराता रहता है। भारतीय उच्च आयोग का इंडिया स्टोर विभाग सरकारी इंडेन्टों का माल खरीद करता है। सभी विभागों पर लन्दन स्थित भारतीय उच्चायुक्त का नियंत्रण रहता है।

(घ) १९५५-५६ के वर्ष में कामसं विभाग का वार्षिक लंबे तनख्वाहों पर ६,५४,४३१ रु या तथा अन्य आकस्मिक लंबे ८८,१६८ रु थे।

डाक व्यवस्था बैंक में गवर्नर

१०८०. श्री धू. लाल बोकपाल : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एक व्यक्ति की जिसने डिला गंगानगर रायलिंह नगर

तहसील के डाकखाने के बचत बैंक के हिसाब में कुछ बन जमा किया था, मृत्यु हो जाने पर वहां के पोस्ट मास्टर ने खुद उसका बन निकाल लिया; और

(ल) क्या यह भी सच है कि उस पोस्ट-मास्टर के विरुद्ध शब्दन करने के लिये भारतीय पीनल कोड की बारा ४०६ के अधीन मुकदमा भी चलाया गया था ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) :
(क) भीर (ल). बटना इस प्रकार है कि गंगानगर जिले में रायसिंह नगर का एक सब रोस्ट मास्टर (Sub-Postmaster) बचत-बैंक लेसों से दो मामलों में घोला देकर रुपया निकालने के अपराध में लिप्त था। पहले मामले में एक जीवित जमाकर्ता के बचत बैंक के हिसाब से २२ फरवरी १९५४ को २०० रुपये निकाले गये और दूसरे में १० अप्रैल, १९५४ को ३०० रुपये एक मृत जमा कर्ता के हिसाब में से निकाले गये। दोनों मामलों की रिपोर्ट पुलिस में कर दी गई, जिसमें कि केवल पहले मामले में पुलिस ने चालान किया; परन्तु नीचे की अदालत से अपराधी छठ गया। विभाग द्वारा पुनरीक्षण (revision) की दरस्वात्त भी संशेष जज की अदालत से रद्द हो गयी। अब एक अग्रील हाई कोर्ट में की जा रही है।

दूसरे मामले में पुलिस ने अपराधी का चालान नहीं किया, परन्तु इस विषय में कार्यवाही जारी है।

गंगानगर टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज

१०८१. श्री व० ला० बाल्पाल : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि गंगानगर टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज में बहुत गड़बड़ी है और आपरेटर

वहां के स्थानीय व्यापारियों के हाथों के लिलौने बने हुये हैं और वहां के व्यापारियों को ट्रूक काल पहले देते हैं और जनता को बाद में?

संचार मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : इस विषय में जांच हो रही है।

Export Promotion Councils

१०८२. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:

{ Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been prepared by each of the Export Promotion Councils set up by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The programme of work of the following Export Promotion Councils had been approved by Government:—

- (1) Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council
- (2) Silk & Rayon Export Promotion Council
- (3) Plastics Export Promotion Council
- (4) Cashew & Pepper Export Promotion Council
- (5) Engineering Export Promotion Council
- (6) Tobacco Export Promotion Council

Export Promotion Councils for Mica and leather have been formed very recently. Their programmes have not yet been drawn up.

(b) The programmes of these Councils broadly provide for:—

- (1) Opening of overseas offices.
- (2) Appointment of correspondents overseas
- (3) Market research with the help of surveyors appointed in overseas markets on an *ad hoc* basis
4. Publicity abroad through newspapers, Cinema and Radio. Publicity at home through display of samples of goods in demand in foreign markets.
5. Organising and participating in Exhibitions and showrooms.
6. Organising trade delegations.

- 7. Dissemination of statistical data about the industry and material obtained from overseas offices, overseas correspondents and overseas surveys, through monthly bulletins, both in the country and abroad.
- 8. Attending to trade disputes.
- 9. Ensuring conformity with reasonable standards of quality and packing for export.

मंत्री का दोरा

१०८३. श्री भक्त दश्मनः क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अभी हाल में उन्होंने जो विदेश का दोरा किया था, उसमें वह किस-किस देश में गय और प्रत्येक देश में कितने-कितने दिन ठहरे ; और

(ख) उनके विदेशी दोरे में कुल कितना खर्च हुआ ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (डा० केस-कर) : (क)

देश जिनका दोरा किया जितना समय ठहरे

(१) सोवियत संघ	७ दिन
(२) पोलैंड	१ दिन
(३) परिचमी जर्मनी	३ दिन
(४) स्विटजरलैंड	२ दिन
(५) फ्रांस	३ दिन

योडे समय के लिये पूर्वी जर्मनी का भी दोरा किया गया ।

(ख) लगभग ११,५०० रुपये ।

Tea Exports

१०८४. Dr. J. N. Parekh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for tea from several foreign countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the demand; and

(c) what is the impact on price-structure internally due to this heavy demand?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Kar-markar): (a) Yes.

(b) The maximum quantity available, after providing for internal requirements, will be released for export.

(c) There has been some rise in the internal auction prices since September 1956 following a rise in price in the export auctions in India and at auctions at other centres. Recent changes in the internal auction prices have not yet been reflected in the retail market to any appreciable extent.

Mails

१०८५. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the proportion of mail carried by runners at present?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The information is not available and considerable time and effort, incommensurate with the benefit to be derived therefrom, will be involved in collecting the necessary statistics.

Public Call Office, Nimta

१०८६. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1559 on the 27th April, 1956 and state the reasons for the delay in opening a Public Call Office at Nimta, West Bengal?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The Public Call Office has since been opened on the 11th December, 1956. The work was delayed on account of shortage of cables.

West Asia Market

१०८७. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is losing West Asia market due to lack of publicity and organisation?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Kar-markar): No, Sir. The level of our exports to West Asian countries has been fairly well-maintained. No declining trend is perceptible though during the period April-September, 1956 a small fall in figures has been noticed. It would be unwise to draw conclusions on the basis of fluctuations in trade during short periods.

Residence of Ministers

1088. Shri Kamath: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the payments made each month since April, 1956, on account of electric light and power at the residence of every Minister (Cabinet or otherwise), Deputy Minister and Parliamentary Secretary?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): The information in regard to bills for consumption of electricity at the residence of all the Ministers and Deputy Ministers is not yet complete and a statement will be placed on the table of the House when necessary information has been collected.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons from East Pakistan

1089. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many displaced persons from East Pakistan have entered into Tripura with migration certificate so far after the 12th September, 1956?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): 938 persons from September to November, 1956.

Kamalpur Post Office

1090. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of Post peons, in the Kamalpur Town, Tripura State Post Office;

(b) the number of peons working at present in the Kamalpur Post Office ; and

(c) what immediate steps Government propose to remove such difficulties?

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

(b) 1 Postman.

i. Extra Departmental Packer.

i. Runner.

i. Chowkidar.

(c) Orders have already issued for appointment of one more Postman.

Closure of Post Office, Lakhipur

1091. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Post Office at village Lakhipur in West Dinajpur District (before transfer to Purnea District) was closed down at a time when the area was transferred to West Bengal from Bihar;

(b) if so, why;

(c) whether resentment prevails among the people of the village and the adjacent areas on account of the closure; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take immediate steps for its re-opening?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Post Offices situated in Purnea District have not yet been transferred from Bihar to West Bengal Circle. Lakhipur Extra Departmental Branch Office was closed from 6-11-1956 as the Extra Departmental Agent of the Office had tendered his resignation and no suitable substitute could be secured.

(c) and (d). Efforts are being made with the assistance of local authorities to secure the services of a suitable Extra Departmental Agent and the post office will be opened as soon as one is available.

सरकारी क्वार्टर

१०९२. भक्त दशन: क्या निर्माण आवास और संभरण मंत्री २० दिसम्बर, १९५५ के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ७१३ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इस बीच दिल्ली में चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों के सब क्वार्टरों में विजली की व्यवस्था कर दी गई है ;

(ल) यदि नहीं, तो अभी तक किन-किन बस्तियों में विजली की व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई है ;

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में विलम्ब होने का क्या कारण है ; और

(घ) देर से देर कर तक शेष बस्तियों में विजली की व्यवस्था हो जाने की आशा है ?

निर्माण, आवास और संभरण मंत्री (सरकार स्वर्ण तिह) : (क) से (घ). स्थिति वही है जो २०-१२-५५ को अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ७१३ के उत्तर म बतलाई गई थी। नई दिल्ली म्यूनिसिपल कमेटी और दिल्ली स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड

को इन ब्वार्टरों में बिजली पहुंचाने के लिये राजी करने की कोशिश की जा रही है।

आकाशवाणी

१०९३. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आकाशवाणी के दिल्ली केन्द्र से हिन्दी की विभिन्न बोलियों में लोक-गीतों और संवादों को प्रसारित करने का कार्यक्रम १९५६-५७ के चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में भी जारी रखा गया;

(ख) यदि हां, तो बर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष में अब तक भिन्न भिन्न बोलियों में कितने कार्यक्रमों को प्रसारित किया जा चुका है; और

(ग) उनका सुधार और उनकी संख्या में वृद्धि करने के बारे में कौन से कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (डा० केसर) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) एक विवरण में पर रखा जा रहा है। [वेसिये परिशिष्ट ५, अनुबन्ध संख्या ४०]

(ग) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के आठ महीनों में १७३५ कार्यक्रम हो चुके हैं जब कि १९५५-५६ के सारे वर्ष में इनकी संख्या केवल ५१४ थी। कार्यक्रम का सुधार हमेशा जारी रहता है, और इस सम्बन्ध में लगातार कोशिश की जाती है जैसे नये कलाकारों की तलाश करना, स्थान पर रिकार्ड तैयार करवाना तथा कार्यक्रम तैयार करने के लिये विशेषज्ञों को नियुक्त करना।

क्षतिप्रस्त डकोटा

१०६४. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ३ दिसम्बर, १९५६ को दोपहर के बाद नागपुर के सभी प

एक भयंकर पक्षी के आक्रमण के कारण इंडियन एयरलाइंस का एक डकोटा विमान क्षतिप्रस्त हो गया; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो दुर्घटना का विवरण क्या है?

विधि-कार्य तथा असंनिक उद्देश्य मंत्री (श्री पाट्टस्कर) : (क) और (ख). यह सच है कि ३ दिसम्बर, सन् १९५६ को भारतीय समय के अनुसार १० बज कर ५२ मिनट पर भारतीय विमान वाहिनी निगम (Indian Airlines Corporation) का डकोटा विमान वी० टी०-८० एक्स० वी० जो दिक्षिण की ओर मद्रास को जा रहा था जैसे ही नागपुर से हैदराबाद के लिये उड़ा तो ऊपर उठते समय एक पक्षी से जो संभवतः गिर या चील थी, टकरा गया। विमान का एक पंख क्षतिप्रस्त हो गया और इसके परिणाम स्वरूप विमान को १० बज कर ५८ मिनट पर नागपुर विमान क्षेत्र पर फिर बापस आ जाना पड़ा। इसलिये सहायक विमान द्वारा सेवा को चलाया गया।

Loans to Displaced Families

१०९५. श्री Tushar Chatterjee: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to remove the difficulties due to absence of adequate number of latrines in the urban colonies of Hooghly District Government have granted an extra loan to displaced families requiring the same;

(b) if so, how many families have got such extra loan;

(c) whether it is a fact that about 1,000 applications for such grant are still pending consideration; and

(d) if so, when they will be disposed of?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes.

(b) Loans for 1209 families have been sanctioned and payment is being made.

(c) No, only about 140 are under consideration.

(d) The State Government is being requested to expedite disposal.

Urban Colonies in Hooghly District

1096. Shri Tushar Chatterjee: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to recent floods the condition of the urban colonies of displaced persons in Hooghly District (West Bengal) has so much deteriorated that construction of proper roads, tube wells and such other things are urgently called for;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in that direction; and

(c) how far the development plans made by Government for such urban colonies have been acted upon?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Government are aware that there has been wide spread damage in certain parts of West Bengal including certain urban refugee colonies in Hooghly District due to heavy rains and floods.

(b) and (c). In the matter of providing relief to the flood affected people no discrimination is being made between displaced and non-displaced persons. Schemes for the flood affected areas will be formulated by the State Government. However, the normal development schemes, costing Rs. 5.40 lakhs for construction of roads etc. in respect of five such urban colonies have already been sanctioned by the Central Government. Implementation of the sanctioned schemes was delayed by the floods.

भारतीय वैदेशिक सेवा

१०६७. श्री लू० चं० सोबिया : क्या प्रशान्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतीय वैदेशिक सेवा के प्रोबेशनर्स के प्रशिक्षण की वर्तमान प्रविधि और उनके पाठ्यक्रम की स्थूल रूपरेखा क्या है, और

(ख) इस समय कितने व्यक्ति प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त कर रहे हैं?

वैदेशिक कार्य उपमंत्री (श्री अनिल के० चन्द्रा) : (क) भारतीय वैदेशिक सेवा

में नियुक्ति होने के बाद प्राइ० एफ० एस० प्रोबेशनर्स को ६ महीने के लिये आई० ए० एस० ट्रेनिंग स्कूल, दिल्ली में, भारत के संविधान, भारत के इतिहास, आर्थिक प्रयोजना, एशिया के इतिहास और हिन्दी की पढ़ाइयों का कोर्स पूरा करने के लिये भेजा जाता है। स्कूल में रह कर ये प्रोबेशनर्स मोटर चलाना और बुड़सवारी करना भी सीखते हैं।

उन्हें ६ महीनों के बाद, पढ़ाये गये विषयों की परीक्षा देनी पड़ती है।

इसके बाद उनको भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों में, जिला प्रशिक्षा (डिस्ट्रिक्ट ट्रेनिंग) के लिये भेजा जाता है, जो ४ महीने तक होती है।

जिलों से, प्रोबेशनर विदेश मंत्रालय भेजे जाते हैं, जहां उनको साढ़े पांच महीने की विभागीय प्रशिक्षा दी जाती है।

संचिवालय- प्रशिक्षा पूरी होने पर, थोड़ी सी छुट्टी मनाने के बाद, प्रोबेशनर बाहर के किसी रेजीडेन्चल विद्विद्यालय में भेजे जाते हैं, जहां वे राजनयिक और विश्व इतिहास, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून, उच्च अर्थ शास्त्र, और निर्वाचित की गई भ्रनिवार्य विदेशी भाषाओं का शिक्षण कोर्स पूरा करते हैं। यह प्रशिक्षा ६ महीने की होती है। उसके बाद वे विदेश-स्थित किसी भारतीय मिशन में वाणिज्य-व्यापार की प्रशिक्षा का एक संक्षिप्त कोर्स पूरा करते हैं। वे, ६ हफ्तों के त्रिटिश विदेश विभाग कोर्स में भी जाते हैं। इसके बाद प्रोबेशनरों की नियुक्ति बाहर के मिशनों में कर दी जाती है।

(ख) इस समय २३ आई० एफ० एस० प्रोबेशनर है।

Loans to Manipur Refugees

1098. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Manipuri refugees applied for building, professional and agricultural loan;
- (b) if so, the number of applications received;
- (c) the number of applications rejected;
- (d) the amount so far granted as loans;
- (e) on what grounds the applications have been rejected; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to grant more loans to the Manipuri refugees?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (f). The information is being collected and

will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Postal Facilities in Gorakhpur Division

1099. Shri Dhusiya: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the names of places in the Gorakhpur Division where following facilities have been provided during the First Five Year Plan.

- (i) Post Offices and Extra Departmental Post Offices;
- (ii) Telegraph offices;
- (iii) Public Call Offices and Telephone exchanges; and
- (iv) Extra Departmental Post Offices converted into Departmental Post Offices ?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The required information is furnished in the statements placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix V, annexure No 41].

DAILY DIGEST
 [TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER, 1956]

COLUMNS		S. Q. No.	Subject	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION 16C7-40				
<i>S.Q. No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>			
1275.	Neiveli Lignite Mine	1607	1282. Chinese in Ladakh	1641-42
1276.	Lower Income Group Housing Scheme	1608-9	1286. Displaced Persons' Houses in Tehar	1642
1277.	Goa	1609-10	1292. Border incident	1642-43
1280.	Displaced Persons Townships and Colonies	1610-13	1294. Khadi-Gramodyog Bhawan, New Delhi	1643
1281.	Rehabilitation of Indian Nationals from Ceylon and Malaya	1613-15	1298. Films	1643
1283.	Rural Post Offices	1615-18	1300. Agreement with Messrs Oerlikons Ltd.	1643-44
1284.	Import of Thomas Quality Steel	1618-19	1304. Central Sericultural Research Station Berhampore	1644
1285.	West Bengal Postal Circle	1619-21	1305. Export of Indian Fruits	1644
1287.	Optical Glass Plant	1621-23	1306. Steel from Yugoslavia	1644-45
1288.	Purchase and Development Board	1623-24	1307. Hooghly District Urban Colonies	1645
1289.	Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme	1624-25	1309. Trade with China	1645-46
1290.	Import of Locomotives	1626	1310. Alleged plan to attack India	1646
1291.	Indian Delegation to Japan	1627-28	1311. Inspection of Mines	1646
1293.	Oil Supplies	1628-30	1312. Employees' Provident Fund	1646-47
1295.	Trade with Afghanistan	1630	1313. Training in Meteorology	1647
1296.	Manufacture of Matches	1631	1314. Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement	1647
1297.	Chemical Industries	1631-32	1315. Pakistan Raids in Kashmir	1648
1299.	International Supervisory Commission in Indo-China	1633-34	1316. Dye-stuffs	1648
1301.	All India Khadi and Village Industries Board	1634-35	1317. Atomic Energy for Industrial Purposes	1648-49
1302.	National Industries Development Corporation	1635-36	1318. Loans for House-building	1649
1303.	American Textiles Experts on Handloom Industry	1636	1319. Sanekatta Salt Works	1649
SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS				
<i>S. N.Q.No.</i>				
10.	Suicide by an Officer of Jabalpur Training Centre	1637-29	1320. Dry Fruit Imports	1649-50
11.	Hunger Strike by Workers of Damodar Valley Corporation	1639-40	1321. Mandi Rock Salt Mines	1650
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS				
<i>S.Q.No.</i>				
1274.	Porbilia Colliery	1640	1322. Training of Indian Scientists in Nuclear Science	1650
1273.	Chandigarh Aerodrome	1641	1323. Demarcation of Indo-Pakistan Border	1650-51
1279.	Goa	1641	1324. Import of Vehicles	1651
			1325. Manufacture of Radio Sets	1651-52
			1326. Hindustan Machine Tools, Ltd.	1652
			1327. Indo-Pakistan Agreement on Moveable Property	1652-53
			1328. Loss of Cash in Lucknow G.P.O.	1653-54
			1329. Import of Steel	1654
			1330. Gendalal Mills, Jalgaon	1654

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUES-
TIONS—*contd.*

<i>U.S.Q.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>COLUMNS</i>	<i>U.S.Q.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>COLUMNS</i>
1033.	Dye-stuffs	.	1655	1066.	Post Offices (Kerala State)	.	1672
1034.	Development of Industries.	.	1655	1067.	Industrial Disputes	.	1672
1035.	Tin.	.	1656	1068.	Foreign Mountaineering Teams	.	1673
1036.	Development of Pondicherry	.	1656	1069.	Passports	.	1673
1037.	Trade with China	.	1656-57	1070.	Bee-keeping Centres	.	1674
1038.	C.P.W.D. Workshops	.	1657	1071.	Khadi Board	.	1674-76
1039.	Khadi and Village Industries.	.	1657	1072.	Films exhibited by Khadi Board	.	1676
1040.	Bull-dozer Drivers in Manipur P.W.D.	.	1658	1073.	Landing strips in N.E. F.A.	.	1677
1041.	War Casualty Compensation, Manipur.	.	1658-59	1074.	Industrial Development	.	1677
1042.	Cement.	.	1659	1075.	Post Offices (Rajasthan).	1677-78	
1043.	Sale of Handloom and Mill Cloth	.	1659-60	1076.	Post Office Hanumangarh	1679-80	
1045.	S.D.O.s' Office in Kamalpur	.	1660	1077.	Allotment of Plots in Rajasthan	.	1680
1046.	A.I.R. Nagpur	.	1660-61	1078.	Manufacture of Soap	.	1681
1047.	Postal facilities (Madhya Pradesh)	.	1661-62	1079.	Indian High Commission in London	.	1681-82
1048.	Educated Unemployment (Madhya Bharat)	.	1662	1080.	Embezzlement in Postal Savings Bank	.	1682-83
1049.	Ambar Charkha Programme	.	1662-63	1081.	Ganganagar Telephone Exchange	.	1683-84
1050.	All India Khadi Village Industries Board	.	1663-64	1082.	Export Promotion Councils	.	1684-85
1051.	Labour awards	.	1664	1083.	Tour of the Minister	.	1685
1052.	Jute Mills	.	1665	1084.	Tea Exports	.	1685-86
1053.	Coffee Plantations	.	1665	1085.	Mails	.	1686
1054.	Post Offices in Kangra, Punjab.	.	1665	1086.	Public Call Office, Nimgta	.	1686
1055.	Salt production	.	1666	1087.	West Asia Market	.	1686
1056.	India's Foreign Trade	.	1666	1088.	Residence of Ministers	.	1687
1057.	Estate Office	.	1667	1089.	Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons from East Pakistan	.	1687
1058.	Estate Office	.	1667	1090.	Kamalpur Post Office	.	1687
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1061.	Scientific Instruments	.	1669	1093.	A.I.R.	.	1689
1062.	Co-operative Societies for Displaced Persons in Delhi	.	1669-70	1094.	Dakota Damage	.	1689-90
1063.	Indian Jagirdars in Pakistan	.	1670	1095.	Loans to Displaced families	.	1690-91
1064.	Khadi and Gram Udyog Board	.	1670-71	1096.	Urban Colonies in Hooghly District	.	1691
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Tuesday
18th December, 1956

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

SIX ANNAS (INLAND)

TWO SHILLINGS (FOREIGN)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES Dated.....23.3.201

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 18th December, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12-10 hrs.

FORMATION OF A RUPEE OIL COMPANY IN ASSAM

Mr. Speaker: Shri K. D. Malaviya. I have given him permission to make a statement regarding the oil refineries.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I am glad to inform the House that subject to final ratification agreement has been reached between the Government of India and the Assam Oil Company regarding the formation of a rupee company in Assam to carry out exploration and production of crude oil in the Nahorkatiya area.

The House will recollect that negotiations have been going on for nearly a year for the formation of this company following the issue of prospecting licences for the Nahorkatiya Extension, Hugrijan and Moran areas to the company subject to the conditions that the mining leases will not be issued except to the new rupee company in which there will be participation of Indian capital. According to the agreement reached, a new rupee company will be formed in which $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of the share capital will be contributed by the Government of India and $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.

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by the Assam Oil Company. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company will be as approved by the Government of India and will contain provision for the appointment of special Directors on behalf of the Government who will be entitled to reserve, for the approval of Government, important matters of policy including such matters as contracts and agreements with persons in foreign States, the disposal of oil and oil products in India, the appointment of foreigners etc.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

12-14 hrs.

In particular, it has been agreed that the price of crude oil produced by the new rupee company will be fixed only with the approval of the Government of India and I am glad to announce further that the crude oil that will be needed for the proposed refinery to be set up in the eastern part of our country will be sold at a concessional price to the refinery. This concessional price will be fixed in due course with the consent of the Government. Other important features of the agreement are that the new rupee company will provide certain facilities for the training of technical personnel and the foreign exchange required for the project will be found by the contributions of the Assam Oil Company to its share of the share capital in sterling. The control which Government has arranged brings this enterprise generally into accord with the revised industrial policy of the Government of India. Some of the details that flow from this Agreement have still to be examined and approved by the Government.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West cum Rae Bareli Distt.—East): In connection with this agreement and the proposed refinery, some

[Shri Feroze Gandhi]

statements have appeared in the press with regard to the location of the refinery which do not seem to be authoritative, and therefore will the Government kindly issue some sort of authoritative statement and declare what their final position is?

Secondly, before this refinery is set up, before the final decision is taken, will the Minister consent to bring this thing before the House so that we too can take some part in suggesting where this refinery should be located?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yesterday a statement was made by the Finance Minister that the report of some committee had been received and that was being considered. For the present no location could be given.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Some reports have appeared in the press which are creating trouble and difficulties. I want some authoritative statement by the Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would that not be an authoritative statement which has been made by the Finance Minister himself? Yesterday it was made clear here in answer to a question that for the present the Government could not give the exact place where it might be located. A report from some committee had been received. That was being studied, and after that an indication could be given as to where it would be located. That statement was made yesterday by the Finance Minister, and I hope that is the answer.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir. I have nothing more to add to what my colleague has said yesterday.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): May I request that a copy of the agreement may be laid on the Table of the House so that we can look through it.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As soon as the agreement is fully prepared, it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): At the tail end of the statement, he referred, if I heard him aright, to certain details which are under consideration. May we expect that the details would be worked out before the session comes to a close?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): On a point of order. The Question Hour is over. Is this again a Question Hour?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would that be a point of order?

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar—Rewari): The hon. Minister stated that this new rupee company will supply to the refinery crude oil at concessional price. May I know what is the meaning of "concessional price", and how it will be worked out?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not yet able to answer that question. I am not ready with it, and I will ask the hon. Member to wait a little more till he knows much more about it.

Some Hon. Members rose.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Perhaps the latest advice may be accepted. The House might wait a little longer.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEES' PROVI-
DENT FUNDS SCHEME

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): On behalf of Shri Khandhubhai Desai, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, a copy of S.R.O. No. 2981 dated the 7th December, 1956, making certain amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. (Placed in Library. See No. S-575/56)

REPORT OF UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, 1955-56 AND GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM THEREON.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I beg to lay on the Table, under Article 323(1) of the Constitution, a copy of each of the following papers:

(1) Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the year 1955-56; and

(2) Memorandum explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's advice during 1955-56.

[Placed in Library. See No. S-577/56]

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I invite your attention and the attention of the House, to the fact that it is becoming a practice, fast becoming an inveterate practice now for the Government to lay a copy of the report of the U.P.S.C. on the Table of the House and not afford any opportunity to discuss it? Last time also I raised this point when the report for 1954-55 was presented. My motion was admitted as a no-day-yet-named motion and put in the Bulletin, and later on I was told that the Government could not find any time for the discussion of that report. It is very important for the U.P.S.C. itself, and the Commission itself has suggested that it is very necessary for Parliament to discuss these reports and find out whether Government's action thereon is right or wrong. It is a matter of Public, even national importance. It is too late again, I suppose. I would expect, I would demand rather, that this report at least may be discussed before this session comes to a close, on Friday or Saturday. Let us have at least one report discussed before this Parliament comes to a close.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree with the hon. Member that it is of national importance. I would only suggest to him that it is open to him to send a requisition or notice that it should be discussed. Certainly that would be considered very sympathetically if it comes in time, and there is time enough.

Shri Kamath: My difficulty which I lay before you for your earnest consideration is that I did so on the last occasion and repeated it also; it was admitted in two sessions as a no-day-yet-named motion, and finally it was deleted because there was no time. That will happen again, I am sure, and we will have to go without a discussion here, and this matter will, again, not be discussed. There is going to be no discussion again in this session.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has my sympathies but I would advise him not to lose hopes.

Pandit G. B. Pant: May I say that so far as this report is concerned, I would welcome a discussion on this report as well as on the previous reports? It would convince everyone that Government have been dealing with the Union Public Service Commission in an excellent way, and everyone ought to be satisfied that we have done more than anyone else could have done in order to carry out the wishes and to meet the advice and also the suggestions of the Public Service Commission.

Shri Kamath: Please do not pre-judge or anticipate.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 14th December, 1956, agreed without any amendment to the Standards of Weights and Measures Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th December, 1956."

(ii) "I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Faridabad

[Secretary]

Development Corporation Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th November, 1956, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th December, 1956, with the following amendment:

New Clause 31A

That at page 7, after line 36, the following new clause 31A be inserted, namely:

'Removal of disqualification for membership of Parliament.'

31A. It is hereby declared that the office of the member of the Corporation shall not disqualify its holder for being chosen as, or for being, a member of either House of Parliament.'

I am, therefore, to return here-with the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 126 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendment be communicated to this House."

FARIDABAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Faridabad Development Corporation Bill, 1956 which has been returned by Rajya Sabha with an amendment.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE Sittings OF THE HOUSE

NINETEENTH REPORT

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to present the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

POINTS OF INFORMATION

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of information. When can the House expect the long-awaited statement of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting regarding the use of the All India Radio and the facilities for political parties? It was expected last week, but he has not yet made the statement.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): He said that he would make the statement in the next two or three days.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): The statement is practically ready, and I propose to give it tomorrow.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS 1956-57—Contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Supplementary Grants relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and the remaining Demands (Demands Nos. 92, 93, 94 and 23, 33, 35, 40, 41, 44, 63, 67, 77, 102, 109, 121, 129, 140 and 141). As hon. Members are aware one hour has been allotted for the purpose.

May I have a rough idea as to how many Members would like to participate in the discussion? I find that there are 11 persons who want to speak.

Shri M. K. Mitra (Calcutta North-West): I have got some cut motions in my name.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, within 1 hour, 11 Members have to speak.

Some Hon. Members: Five minutes for each.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): But we have saved some time from the earlier discussions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. Rather, we have got only 36 minutes, and we are going to spend one hour on these Supplementary Demands. So far as the total time is concerned, we have already trespassed the limit.

May I know how much time the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation would require?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I shall know it only after the Members have spoken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, 11 Members have to share in that one hour, and the Minister also has to reply to them.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I would take about ten to fifteen minutes.

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Am I to understand that no other Supplementary Demands would be taken up for discussion today?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All are here for discussion. If something crops up, certainly the hon. Minister shall have to reply.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): That means that we can discuss the other Supplementary Demands also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If there is time. The period of one hour is for all the Supplementary Demands that I have now mentioned.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): May I point out that in the Business Advisory Committee, it was definitely stated that we shall need at least one hour for the Supplementary Demands relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, and the chairman told us at that time that he would put all together in the expectation that the other Ministries would perhaps not come in for a great deal of comment at this stage? It was on that understanding that many of us in the Business Advisory Committee agreed to the allocation of

one hour, that is to say, on the assumption that we shall get at least one hour, if it comes to that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. Let us proceed and see.

DEMAND NO. 92—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,17,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of Ministry of Rehabilitation.”

DEMAND NO. 92—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,27,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of ‘Expenditure on Displaced Persons’.”

DEMAND NO. 94—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Rehabilitation’.”

DEMAND NO. 23—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 78,32,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year end-

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]
ing the 31st day of March, 1957, in
respect of 'External Affairs'."

DEMAND No. 33—AUDIT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND NO. 35—MINT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,00,00 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND NO. 40—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between Union and State Governments'."

DEMAND NO. 41—PREPARATION PAY-
MENTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,76,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Pre-partition payments'."

DEMAND No. 44—Agriculture

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to

the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957 in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 63—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 75,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

DEMAND NO. 67—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 77—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER MINISTRY OF LAW.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 61,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under Ministry of Law'."

DEMAND No. 102—SUPPLIES.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,87,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Supplies'."

DEMAND No. 109—LOK SABHA

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Lok Sabha'."

DEMAND No. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON
CURRENCY AND COINAGE.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,34,33,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency and Coinage'."

DEMAND No. 129—OTHER CAPITAL OUT-
LAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:
"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,19,01,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 140—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON
PORTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 85,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Ports'."

DEMAND No. 141—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON
ROADS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the

charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Roads'."

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: It was only six months ago that we in this House discussed the Demands for Grants relating to the Rehabilitation Ministry. From that time up till today, after having reviewed the work done by the Ministry during the last few years, I must say that I am deeply dissatisfied with the work of this Ministry, because when Shri Mehr Chand Khanna came to deal with the problems of the East Pakistan refugees, he came with the very big reputation that he had solved the problem of the West Pakistan refugees. He had told us on the floor of this House that more or less their problem had been solved. Today, of course, those of us who have been in Delhi realise that that was too tall a claim to make, and that even in the west, the smaller people, that is, those who have been living on allotments of Rs. 10,000 or so have been demanding that their instalments should be increased, and that they have not yet been fully rehabilitated in the sense that they have not been able to get the shelter and the employment which are so necessary for true rehabilitation.

I shall take only a very short time, although I have a lot to say on this Ministry, because on every aspect of the work of this Ministry, I find that nothing seems to be going ahead. We get a lot of statistics; we get a lot of figures; we get a lot of promises; we are told that a large number of advisers and secretaries have been appointed, and we are asked to vote on Demand No. 92 saying that so many officers have been appointed, so many establishments have been set up, and so on. But, actually, if you come to brass tracks with the refugees who are there in the different areas, you will find that almost in every area the whole position is at a standstill. That is why today I am going to be very

[Shrimati Renu Chakravarty]

sharp in my criticism. I am afraid that up till now, I have tried to give a long rope to Shri Mehr Chand Khanna....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: To hand himself.

An Hon. Member: He is still alive.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: although on one occasion I did say that I was very deeply perturbed at the way....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But this sharp criticism also shall have to be confined to a short interval.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: That is the tragedy of the thing, that many things which would have shown the inefficiency and the wrong policies touched by me now.

I shall say only one word about the secretariat. Today, the Rehabilitation Ministry, at least as far as East Pakistan is concerned, does not suffer from lack of funds. It has been given enough funds, in the sense that in comparison with many other Ministries, it is quite well off, and even the Minister of Rehabilitation himself has admitted this. But, what do we find? We find that even today, to sanction a scheme, it takes such a long time. The West Bengal Secretariat says, it is the Central Government which is at fault. The Central Government says, 'What can I do? I do not know. My agency is the West Bengal Government.' If we ask the West Bengal Government again, they say, we do not know.

Therefore, I feel that it is time that we have to overhaul this whole directorate, whether at the State Government level or at the Centre. I say it with a full sense of responsibility, I do not want to damn anybody, but I do feel that although people talk about corruption in various departments of Government, the refugees suffer most from the corruption in the Auckland House secretariat. I

do not know much about the Central Government but this much I am finding, namely that the schemes are not going through.

Let me give one or two examples. There is example of the Basdroni New colony, where people were sent three years ago by Government, from the Baliganj Maidan camp. Development committees have been set up, and we have been told all about the development committees. But we are now told after three years that an estimate of nearly Rs. 2 15 lakhs was proposed by the Chief Engineer, Construction Board, Development Department of West Bengal, and had been forwarded to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Government of India, for their sanction, in the month of March further sent reminders to the Union Rehabilitation Ministry in the month of July 1956. Since then, four months have passed. The matter still remains pending before the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation. This is just one small example.

Then, take the case of industries. Just a little while ago, we have had a reply to one of the questions. I have looked into the reply, regarding the factories that are to be set up in Hooghly district. Although a whole year and a half has passed, yet we do not see any of these factories coming up. We are told that factories cannot come up in a day. That is quite right; factories cannot come up in a day. But, surely, we have to see at least some results by now. Rs. 29 lakhs have been put into some factory in Rishra, the Laxmi Narayan Cotton Mills; out of that, only Rs. 1.2 lakhs have been spent, and only 50 displaced persons have been employed. That is the maximum amount that has been spent. Then, take the case of the JK Steel Factory at Rishra; nothing has yet been done; only 43 bighas of land have been acquired. Regarding glass blowing factory, they are not aware of these schemes. As for the iron and steel factory, the matter is

under the consideration of the State Government!

Again, take another small instance. A sum of Rs. 8000 was given to a small waste-silk spinning centre at Nawjiban Colong at Moshyangram to train 50 women. Shri Mehr Chand Khanna was kind enough to go over to that area, and he promised that for another year, the training centre would continue, and that there should also be a production centre. Six months have passed, and nothing has been done so far for these poor women, these poor widows—the Minister has seen how terribly poor they are—who have been doing very good work up till now. They have been continuing there for the last three or four months on their own, but there is no sanction of funds as yet. They do not know when that production centre is going to be sanctioned, or when the training centre is going to get the sanction. This is the way the whole thing is moving.

I have no objection to sanctioning any amount of money for any secretariat expansion. But I feel that we should not sanction anything when we are seeing that things are not improving and that there is constant friction between Centre and State, between the departments themselves. The refugee rehabilitation schemes are not going ahead.

I will come immediately to the question of land. We are now being asked to vote an expenditure for displaced persons of Rs. 44,27,000 extra to the Rs. 21,42,00,000 which we originally voted. Here it says the reason is:

"Slower progress than anticipated in the dispersal of displaced persons from Camps to places of rehabilitation due to paucity of land..."

There is nothing new in this. Paucity of land is there and has been there. And there has been no unexpected rise in the influx of displaced

persons from East Pakistan. But what is it that has held up the whole process of rehabilitation? The wrong policies of Government; I repeat that point regarding land.

I do not want the Minister to regale us with the fact of the terrible influx and the problems it is creating. All that is there. We accept it. But I want him to come to concrete measures and to concrete issues. For the last 1½ years, I have been persisting in one issue. We have got 11,000 refugees living in tents for the last 3 years in Bagjora-Haroa—area. Land has been acquired over there in the Bogjola-Haroa area where it was the land of the peasantry. At one stage, Shri Khanna said, 'We have won the land from courts. We are going to keep it'. At first, he said, "We shall not consider giving up this land." At another stage, he said, 'If it is the land of the peasantry, we will allow them to take it, provided they can prove that they do not own more than 6 bighas of land'. The third time, he said, 'Yes, we will give only 6 bighas of land because we are not giving more than 6 bighas to refugees'. Yes, you give only 6 bighas of land, 2 acres of land to refugees. I will ask any Member from the Punjab to consider what this means? They are all shocked when you say that you will give to the refugee 6 bighas of land. Now you want to reduce the local peasantry to the same state of beggary. People have been on that land for generations. You will now acquire that land and say, "If you can, only have 6 bighas of land, we are prepared to accommodate you", otherwise not".

Only one month ago, again you sent all your people there and tried to take over the land. There was a big movement there, and for three months—for the time being—it has been put off, I suppose in view of the general elections. You say that there is not enough land. When I ask about the huge amount of land, some thousands of acres, which are being acquired in Dhapa Manpur right up to Tollyganj

[Shrimati Renu Chakravarty]

area, you have no answer. The State Government says that the Central Ministry of Rehabilitation has not asked for any portion of that land to be given for refugee rehabilitation.

This is a shocking state of affairs. On the one hand, you say that this is one of the most acute problems for the people of West Bengal and for the people of the country. On the other hand, you say, 'Oh, we cannot ask, because we have to put up houses for the Calcutta people'. Cannot we divide up the land? Why is it that the Rehabilitation Ministry has not asked for this land? That is the question I ask. We have been asking them to take this land for 2½ years.

Now, when the position is this, persistent efforts are being made to take the land of these peasantry. The District Magistrate's report is not being revealed to us. When we go to the Revenue Minister, he will say: 'I will tell you in secret what is the position'. He will not divulge the position. At the same time, when actually thousands and thousands of bighas of land are being acquired, they say that the Rehabilitation Ministry has not asked for that land. What is the position? I want a frank and free answer to this question. I do not want things to be hedged. I want you to tell us where we stand. If we find that the Ministry of Rehabilitation is bent upon making the local peasantry refugees again, we shall resist it. We shall resist it to the last and we shall see that no further refugees are made. We shall see that the refugees take possession of the land in the Dhapa Manpur area. We find today that unless we can take that land and make our refugees squat on that land, this Government is not prepared to see sense.

That is why, specially on this particular issue of land, on the question of Bogjola-Haroa—Rajarhat-Bhargar area, I want to know whether Government is going to persist in taking

the land of the peasantry and not taking over a large portion of the land which is now under the scheme of salt reclamation and which is good land and on which the refugees themselves are prepared to be rehabilitated.

Shri M. K. Mitra: My cut motions are Nos. 34 and 35. I am moving them to raise the question, which has already been raised by my hon. friend, Shrimati Renu Chakravarty, whether the Rehabilitation Ministry has been fulfilling to the best of its ability and efficiency what was expected of it.

Three lakhs of refugees are now living in camps. What have they got? They are being given Rs. 12 per head in each family. Those families which have got 5 members get Rs. 60 for 5 heads, but those families which have got more than 5 members, say, 7, 8 or 10, will also have to be satisfied with Rs. 60. That is the decision of the Rehabilitation Ministry. *

The Ministry says that it cannot supply land because there is paucity of land in West Bengal. They cannot supply agricultural land to these refugees, but they can supply homestead lands for these refugees for building their homes, and near those homestead lands, they can build medium-sized industries by establishing corporations like the Faridabad Corporation. But that has not been done up till now.

Gradually the feeling is growing that very little has been done for refugees from West Pakistan....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: East Pakistan.

Shri M. K. Mitra:and still less for refugees from East Pakistan.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He says that very little has been done for refugees from West Pakistan and still less for refugees from East Pakistan.

Shri M. K. Mitra: Recently the Rehabilitation Ministry has set up an

Advisory Committee. But what is the constitution of that Advisory Committee? On that Advisory Committee, no representative of any refugee organisation, which has not been sponsored by the Congress, has been taken.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Which Advisory Committee is he referring to?

Shri M. K. Moitra: I am referring to the Advisory Committee, of which Shri Aurobindo Bose is a member, and which he has set up.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Who is Shri Aurobindo Bose?

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): Netaji's nephew.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have not set up any Committee of which he is a member. Is he referring to a Central Committee or a State Committee?

Shri M. K. Moitra: State Committee because the State is your agent.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Time is spent on interruptions like this.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Time should be extended.

Shri M. K. Moitra: Refugees are now rotting on platforms at Babughat, Howrah and Sealdah stations, because Government says that when they send them outside the State of West Bengal, they come back.

Refugees are coming back because conditions outside the State of West Bengal do not suit them. So will the Government simply be satisfied with saying that because they have come back from outside West Bengal, they must not be rehabilitated again, or will they be pleased to say that the policy according to which they were sent outside West Bengal has now proved to be wrong and that it requires revision? Government has not given an answer to this yet.

Then I will refer to another question. Many Muslim refugees who

went to East Pakistan have come back. Up till now, properties and houses of many of them have not been returned. Will Government take measures to see that these Muslim refugees get back their homes as soon as possible, and something is done for Babughat, Howrah and Sealdah station platforms?

Unsatisfactory condition of refugees at Sealdah station and future of officers and staff to deal with it.

Shri M. K. Moitra: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,17,000 in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Unsatisfactory procedure in dispersal from camps to places of rehabilitation

Shri M. K. Moitra: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,27,000 in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These cut motions are before the House.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: We were a little perturbed at the speech made by the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation in the Rajya Sabha a few days back. Sir, in this booklet, it has been said that "unexpected rise in the influx of displaced persons from East Pakistan and consequent opening of new camps to accommodate them pending rehabilitation" is responsible for the big demand of Rs. 44,27,000. I want to know what is the exact position. We were told that there had been some communication from the Pakistan Prime Minister to the Indian Prime Minister. Has that led to any fruitful result? We know Mr. Suhrawardy little better than Shri Khanna and many other Ministers. We come from the unfortunate State of Bengal. He has the reputation of having had

[Shri N. C. Chatterjee]

something to do with the Direct Action at Calcutta and other troubles in East Bengal. I want to know has the recent visit of the Pakistan Prime Minister to Dacca in East Bengal eased the situation or has the tempo still further gone up and whether there is any causal connection between the two. There have been some aggressive speeches from the Pakistan Foreign Minister and other people. He and the Pakistan Prime Minister have indulged in aggressive and unbalanced speeches. Has that also accelerated the tempo of exodus? The hon. Minister, I remember, said that the general average was 20,000 people who are being pushed out of East Pakistan per month and that would be about 2½ lakhs a year. I am told that that exodus had gone up and it reached about 35,000 per month. Now, I make one appeal to the hon. Minister. He knows the situation, as he now mostly lives in Bengal and he is now also the Minister who has been elected to the Upper House from Bengal. Therefore, the connection is very close and not merely official but territorial and geographical.

I want to know whether there is any scheme by which the refugees who have been very hard hit as a result of the recent floods can get any help; has any provision been made for them? I had the opportunity of touring some parts of the district of Hooghly which I represent and also the district of Nadia and I told the Minister what I saw there witnessed pathetic scenes in places like Balagarh the village of the late Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and also the parts of Nadia District on the other side of the river. Thousands of refugees had been rehabilitated in these areas. They have all again been displaced and rendered homeless by the recent floods. Unfortunately, the bureaucratic wheel moves very slowly and our Government could not or did not do anything. I was hoping that something could be done under the inspiration, drive and initiative of the hon.

Minister of Rehabilitation. I hope something will be done. But, I want to know what is the exact position, what are the latest figures and how he is going to tackle the huge camp population? The average number of fresh admissions per month in these camps during the last 8 months is over 30,000. Has the situation at all improved or is it going down? What about the hon'ble congestion which is a scandalous state of things in the station platforms of Sealdah? That is a dark spot on any administration and anyone who goes there knows how pathetic the situation is. I hope all Bengal Members will support the demand that something should be done to ease the situation there. Slower progress than anticipated in the dispersal of displaced persons from camps to places of rehabilitation due to paucity of land is one of the alleged causes. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty has dwelt at length with this problem. Year after year, time after time, the hon. Ministers of Rehabilitation in this House and the Ministers in Bengal have been complaining of the technical difficulty that was created by the compensation clause in our Constitution and the judgment of the Supreme Court in Mrs. Bela Banerji's case, which held that fair and equitable compensation must be given. You know Dr. Roy got an Act passed whereby compensation was to be paid in case of squatters' properties also at an artificial level which the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court have struck down as illegal. Now, you have changed the Constitution. Now, what is the difficulty? How far has it been availed of now? How far has it quickened the tempo of rehabilitation? There is no further technical difficulty of the Constitution. I hope the hon. Minister will give some facts and figures to convince us that the Government are doing their utmost for the purpose of achieving this quickly, so that this colossal grant which is now being asked—of Rs. 44 lakhs—on the top of the already granted Rs. 21 crores and 42 lakhs will be justified.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I shall be very brief. I wish the hon. Minister tells us why it is that so very little that is tangible has been done in regard to rehabilitation. The Minister said the other day that the monthly migration of displaced persons from East Bengal has lately reached even the figure of 35,000. That is exactly why we should have an assurance from Government that all that is possible is being done.

Now, I shall begin by giving an instance of how things are callously conducted. About the middle of July, I had occasion to go to Sealdah station and there I saw excruciating sights, children who were worse than skin and bone, women queuing up for water trickling out of a miserable tap, trying to get a little water for drinking purposes—while they come from East Bengal which is a land of rivers where they can bathe 10 times a day if they wish to do so. I found people living under the open sky, trying to cook some kind of vegetable concoction which normally people would not eat. I saw children lying anaemic just because they did not have the life stirring inside of them. I wrote a letter to my hon. friend Shri Khanna. I said that I wrote in hell-hot anger. Actually, I was writing from the Sealdah station and at the counter of the Enquiry Office because there was no other place. I wrote that letter straight off. The hon. Minister was good enough to answer me after some time and he told me that the West Bengal Ministry was going to do something about it. I went back to Calcutta late in September and I found that Sealdah station, just like the Howrah station, was as crowded as it was before with refugees. Nothing had happened. It was not until the first week of November, when the A.I.C.C. was going to meet, about a mile and a half from Sealdah station that these people were removed. Even then, what happened? I know there were people in Sealdah station, in Howrah station and Babughat on the Ganga and they

were taken away. They were agitating and they were picketing before the residence of Dr. B. C. Roy, the Chief Minister. I went to a meeting where these refugees were advised to stop practising something like *satyagraha* before Dr. Roy's residence because they were going to be taken to a certain kind of transit camp. I myself spoke at a meeting advising the refugees to desist from agitation. Even as lately as the 3rd December, the Calcutta Stateman reported that these people, at least a large number of them, nearly 2,000 of them were taken to a disused film studio in Tollygunj. That place was absolutely unlivable; drinking water was not available and dysentery and cholera raged in almost epidemic form and in a few days 30 refugees including children died. They were taken from Howrah station and Babughat too. What was supposed to be a transit camp was a disused studio which was not a place where people could live. There was no drinking water arrangement and 30 people including children had, in the course of a very few days, died. The Ministry of Rehabilitation said, 'we have nothing to do with that'. The Government of West Bengal, the Rehabilitation Department pushed these people to the Vagrancy Department or some other unit of administration and the result was that these people who had come from East Bengal, who might possibly have come without the kind of migration certificate which Shri Khanna might accept—but anyhow they were bona fide refugees and in any case, these cases had to be investigated—were shunted off to a disused studio to die like this. This is the way in which Shri Khanna's department functions.

I shall only refer to another matter and in one minute I shall conclude. We are told that many of these refugees can be taken outside West Bengal. Well and good. If you can do that, it is very good. But, I understand, Bihar has or can give about 12,000 acres and altogether there are about 30,000 acres all over India that

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

you can use. The other day Shri Khanna told us that in Madhya Pradesh, 30,000 acres of land were available, but there were rivers which had to be bridged before people could get there because it was in the midst of a forest and therefore nothing could be done about it. I have been to Orissa and I found that Bengal refugees tried to live there, but they cannot live there as there is a feeling that these are temporary visitors to the province and they would soon go away and, therefore, there is no attempt at having, what is called, a psychological rehabilitation of these people.

Shrimati Chakravarty has said about the schemes for the expansion of Calcutta the Salt Lake Reclamation Scheme, but Shri Khanna has done nothing about securing a large slice of that area where the refugees can certainly be settled. Therefore, inside West Bengal there is the possibility of reclamation, which Shri Khanna and his counterpart in West Bengal do not exploit. Outside West Bengal, there are a very few thousand acres available, but they are not such that people can go and settle down there straightaway, and the result therefore is that these refugees, who come at the rate of 35,000 a month, as Shri Khanna told Rajya Sabha the other day, are left high and dry, and nothing is done as far as Government is concerned, in anything like an effective fashion. That is why the cut motion which Shri Moitra has suggested deserves the support of this House.

Shri Gidwani (Thana): I want to be very brief as time is very short. I want to refer only to the working of the Compensation Department. There was a reference made by Shrimati Renu Chakravarty regarding corruption. I do not know how far.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does that compensation relate to any of the Demands here?

Shri Gidwani: Amount has been provided for compensation....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: That is compensation for lands acquired. A large number of lands have been acquired for the construction of houses. The people have not been paid their compensation; they are being paid. That has nothing to do with the Compensation Department which the hon. Member has in view.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): As you said, the time is the essence of the whole thing, and in respect of the whole rehabilitation programme also the time is the most important factor. The hon. Minister has come forward with a proposal for a further grant to meet extra expenditure mainly due to slower progress than anticipated in the dispersal of displaced persons from Camps to places of rehabilitation. I might say that the Rehabilitation Ministry, whether in the Centre or in West Bengal, as they are constituted, have completely failed to serve the purpose for which they are appointed. A number of Members, who have spoken before me, have categorically put forward the reasons why these people are not moving from the camps. The Minister himself, and, I do not know, his Department have a very cold and complacent attitude in respect of the problem of rehabilitation. I personally went to a place called Ranaghat—I also saw the Camps there and as a matter of fact, had a discussion with the hon. Minister himself in his office at Calcutta. He was very kind and said that he would look into the matter. After a couple of weeks I find this. My allegation was that the people there were made to live huddled together in a place very near to the public latrine where even pigs visit every evening. The people were supplied with clothing which normally in our parts, at the time of funeral, are given to persons who carry the crows. I personally saw the Minister, who wrote to me a letter.

He said there were some difficulties, but none of the allegations were true.

The attitude the Government take, whether at the Centre or in the State of West Bengal, is such that they are completely indifferent to the problem of rehabilitation. They are not to come saying that there has been only slow progress made; they should justify giving their reasons for the slow progress. This Ministry is more interested in rehabilitating their own fellow men, members of their party and friends and superannuated officers. They appointed a senior Secretary for two or three months on a pay of Rs. 4,000 a month. What has been done by the Ministry? It must come forward and justify this slow progress.

Shri Chatterjee said that the Constitution was specifically amended for the purpose of helping the refugees, so that they might be rehabilitated, and the position may be regularised. I know about Tollygunge and Sonepur, on the fringe of the city of Calcutta, where there are the sands of refugees. None of these colonies have been regularised in spite of the best of efforts. By themselves the Government do not want to move in the matter. A legal difficulty has been removed by Parliament by amending the Constitution.

If you are connected with refugees, you can go to Calcutta and see there the big houses that have been built up by Government for the rehabilitation of refugees, but till now not a single refugee has been put in there. I am told it is because there is no sanitary arrangement, and water supply is also not provided. What is the point of keeping this Ministry in being unless it be that they want to rehabilitate themselves and their superannuated officers.

If the Minister is serious about rehabilitation work, he must come forward and help the public organisa-

tions and refugee organisations and then justify that because of the slowness of the work they have come forward for this further grant. Otherwise, why has the hon. Minister come to the Rajya Sabha through the back-door? It is because he cannot face the electorate of Bengal and prove his case that Government have done all that was possible for the rehabilitation of refugees. They will get the correct answer from the refugees if he goes to them. Anyway, the Minister and the Government today have completely neglected their duties towards the refugees, for whom they sometimes cry hoarse.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (सारन व चम्पारन) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, सब समय तो बंगाल वालों ने ले लिया है। हमारे यहाँ भी तो सताइस हजार शरणार्थी आये हुए हैं, इसलिये मुझे भी समय दिया जाय।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : जो हाँ, अभी तो मैं ने एक और बंगाल वाले साहब को बुलाया है। श्री बी० के० दास।

श्री श्री० च० शमी (होशियारपुर) : मुझे भी चांस मिलना चाहिये।

Shri B. K. Das (Contai): If we look to the rate of dispersal from Camps, we find that during the period 1st January 1955 to 31st March 1956, that is, within a period of 15 months, 14,400 displaced persons of East Bengal were dispersed from Camps. Looking at this figure, we find that the rate of dispersal has been extremely slow. The reason that we have got before us is the paucity of land and other matters, which probably are not known.

As regards availability of land in West Bengal, we have heard often that it is not possible to have more land in the State of West Bengal. Outside West Bengal, in the States of Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and some others, some lands are available, but they may not be fit for rehabilitation. But some lands were selected;

[Shri B. K. Das]

we were told some time back that nearly 40,000 acres of land were selected for rehabilitation. We do not know what has become of those lands, and why up till now it has not been possible to send batches of refugees to any of those places. If we have to send batches of refugees to those places, the land has got to be made fit for rehabilitation of refugees. We do not know how far those schemes have been taken up and acted upon.

We have often found that in respect of these schemes, some bottlenecks always defer action, and we have heard of administrative difficulties, lack of co-ordination between the various Departments through which these schemes pass. The time is ripe now when we ought to be told what is the difficulty about these schemes, within the State of West Bengal and outside West Bengal.

When these schemes are before us and months after months pass, we do not know what difficulties stand in the way when these schemes are not taken up and not given effect to. It may be, as we have found previously, that there is not the proper co-ordination between the State Government and the Central Government and also as between the several departments through which these schemes pass. I am particularly alluding to the Finance Department. We have often heard that schemes have to pass through the Finance Department before they are finally approved and finally given effect to. I have my doubts whether in those places where these schemes linger and are deferred, the reason for the delay is not due to the Finance Department. Because of the procedure, the schemes are not taken up and they often founder ultimately, and the schemes come to nothing.

13 hrs.

Therefore, I must request the Rehabilitation Minister and also the Finance Minister to see that for the

schemes that are formulated and taken up at the State level and which come ultimately to the Central Government for approval, the complicated procedure that we often have to follow in seeing the schemes through the financial scrutiny does not stand in the way of giving final shape to the schemes.

If we look to the budget estimates of 1955-56 we find that Rs. 4,25,00,000 were asked for as doles in camps, and for the next year, that is, 1956-57, the budget estimate was for Rs. 4,40,00,000. Now, another sum of Rs. 44 lakhs has been asked for this year. If the camp population is to live on doles, probably this amount may be necessary, but I should think that if it is taken for granted that the refugees have to live in the camps for long periods, then, the camps ought to be reorganised and put on a more sounder basis.

I would request the hon. Minister to see if any work can be provided in those camps. Of course, it is a difficult thing to provide for work in all the camps. There are some work-site camps where some work is provided for the refugees and some of the refugees do come and take up work on these work-site camps, but they are also very few. The transit camps are many in number and every possible attempt should be made to provide work in these camps. For instance, look at the work in the prisons. Of course, the comparison may not be quite all right, but still, we know that when there is a good population in some place, some work can be provided so that at least moral degeneration may be avoided. Some arrangements may be made for work in the camps so that the refugees may work and earn their living at least to a certain extent.

श्री विजयति मिश्र : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय,
इधर तीन चार महीनों में हमारे शहर
बेतिया में २७,००० रिफ्यूजीज आ चुके

है। शहर की कुल आबादी ३० या ३२ हजार है। आप सोच सकते हैं कि ऐसे शहर में २७,००० रिफ्यूजीज को बसा देना कहाँ तक ठीक है। वहाँ रिफ्यूजीज के एक परिवार को चाहे वह पांच आदमियों का हो या सात आठ आदमियों का ५० रुपया मिलता है। बरसात के दिनों में जब हमारे यहाँ जूट की खेती होती थी तो ये लोग जूट की पत्तियाँ काट काट कर खाते थे और अब दूसरे पेड़ों की पत्तियाँ काट काट कर खाते हैं और चारों तरफ भीख मांगते फिरते हैं। सरकार ने इन रिफ्यूजीज को विहार के किसी और जिला में न बसा कर बम्पारन में बसाया है जोकि एक गरीब जिला है और उस जिले के एक ही शहर में २७,००० रिफ्यूजीज को बसा दिया गया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि उन को वहाँ से जल्दी से जल्दी हटा कर किसी दूसरी जगह बसाया जाये। उन के साथ हमारी पूरी हमर्दी है लेकिन वहाँ उन के खाने पीने का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है। बम्पारन स्वयं एक बाड़ पीड़ित जिला है और वहाँ हर साल लोगों को बाड़ से बहुत तकलीफ होती है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इन रिफ्यूजीज को अभी किसी दूसरी जगह बसा दे व्यापोंके अभी सहलियत का समय है। सुना है कि इन को खेती पर बसाया जायेगा। अगर ऐसा है तो विहार में जहाँ बड़े बड़े जो जर्मांदार या किसान हैं उन जगहों पर इन को अभी से बसा दिया जाये। ऐसा न होने से उन को बरसात के समय बड़ा कष्ट होगा।

बहुत से रिफ्यूजीज को बगीचों में बसाया गया है। इस का परिणाम यह हम्मा है कि आसपास के गरीब किसान जोकि इन बागों से लकड़ी ले कर अपनी गुजर करते थे, उन को लकड़ी नहीं मिल पाती। गरमी के दिनों में इन बागों में जो फल लगते थे उन को आसपास के गरीब किसान खा कर अपना गुजारा करते थे। अब इन बागों में ये लोग घुस न रो पाते। इन रिफ्यूजीज के कारण इन गरीब लोगों को कष्ट हो रहा

है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इन रिफ्यूजीज को जल्द से जल्द दूसरी जगह सा दे।

इन रिफ्यूजीज के लिये सरकार को ठीक इन्तजाम करना चाहिये। उन की हालत को देखने से पता चलता है कि जो हमरे बंगाल के भाई उन के लिये शोर मचाते हैं वह ठीक ही है। यह जो बजट है उस में मैं देखता हूँ कि यह लिखा गया है

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Is it right to say that one is creating trouble for the sake of creating trouble?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has not said so. The hon. Member has rather misunderstood what he was saying. He is rather supporting West Bengal and he said that they have said the right thing.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं चटर्जी साहब से प्राप्त करूँगा कि वह थोड़ी हिन्दी पढ़े।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक तरफ तो हमारी सरकार कहती है कि उस के पास पैसा नहीं है। लेकिन आप बजट के १२२ पेज पर देख सकते हैं कि स्पेशल सेकेटरी की तनख्वाह ४,००० रुपया और अंडर सेकेटरी की तनख्वाह ८०० से ११०० तक दी हुई है। सरकार के पास इन रिफ्यूजीज को बसाने के लिये रुपया नहीं है लेकिन वह सेकेटरी पर चार हजार रुपया खर्च करती है। मैं नहीं समझ सकता कि यह कौनसा गांधीवादी तरीका है। गांधी जी किस तरह से रहते थे। उन्होंने हम को क्या बतलाया था।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं माननीय सदस्य को बतलाऊंगा कि आज सेकेटरी की तनख्वाह को बढ़ाने बढ़ाने का सवाल नहीं है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : वह तो इसी में है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो है। लेकिन अब बाकी सेक्रेटरी एक तनस्वाह ले रहे हैं तो एक सेक्रेटरी कैसे कम ले सकता है।

श्री विनूति मिश्र : यह डिमांड नम्बर ६२ और ६३ में दिया हुआ है। कहते हैं कि सरकार के पास पैसा नहीं है। लेकिन आप सेक्रेटरियों को इतनी तनस्वाह कहां से देते हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि इन की तनस्वाह कम होनी चाहिये। जो रिफ्यूजीज का काम करने वाले हों वे नानाप्राक्षियल होने चाहेयें जोकि कम पैसा लें।

दूसरी बात मुझे यह कहनी है कि यह मुनने में आ रहा है कि बेतिया स्टेट में जो कार्म है उस की जमीन रिफ्यूजीज को दी जायेगी। इस कार्म पर भूमिहीन मजदूर जोकि आस पास रहते हैं आ कर काम करते हैं और बरसों से काम करते हैं। अगर यह जमीन किसी को दी जानी चाहिये तो इन मजदूरों को दी जानी चाहिये। अगर यह जमीन रिफ्यूजीज को दी जायेगी तो आप इन भूमिहीन मजदूरों को रिफ्यूजी बना देंगे क्योंकि उन के पास कोई काम नहीं रहेगा। मैं नहीं समझता कि क्यों बाहर से रिफ्यूजी को बुला कर जो यहां के लोग हैं उन को रिफ्यूजी बनाया जाये।

हमारे माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब वहां गये थे। उन को चाहिये था कि जो जो उस इलाके के एम० एल० ए० और एम० पी० हैं उन को बुलाते और उन से पूछते कि यहां के रिफ्यूजी के बारे में तुम को क्या तकनीक कही है। पर ऐसा नहीं हुआ। वह हवाई जहाज से गये और हवाई जहाज से बापस आ गये। वहां के किसी नेतृत्व को बुला कर नहीं पूछा कि तुम को रिफ्यूजी के बारे में क्या कहना है। मैं आज से नहीं एक जमाने से कांग्रेस का काम करता आ रहा हूं। हम लोगों से वहां के बारे में जरूर पूछा जाना चाहिये था।

अन्त में मुझे यही कहना है कि हमारी इन रिफ्यूजीज के साथ पूरी हमदर्दी है लेकिन मैं चाहता हूं कि इन को बिहार के किसी दूसरे हिस्से में बसाया जाये। उन को केवल चम्पारन में ही क्यों बसाया जा रहा है।

Shri D. C. Sharma: An hon. Member just now said that the Rehabilitation Ministry was keen on rehabilitating its own fellowmen and members of its own party and so on. I have been a great critic of the Rehabilitation Ministry but one thing I can say about it and it is this. It has taken the work of rehabilitation upon itself without any considerations for caste or creed or territorial affiliations. I believe that the charge that there is something like a prejudice in this Ministry does not hold good. But I do say that while, the Rehabilitation Ministry always comes to us for creating new posts, I do not think that the work which the Rehabilitation Ministry does justifies the creation of these posts. For instance, I find that they pay of officers is going to cost us Rs. 1,23,000, and the allowances and honoraria are going to cost us much more than that. I do not know what the proportion should be between pay and allowances, but to say that the allowances should be higher than the pay is, I think, to say something outrageous and preposterous.

Again, I find that Rs. 2,15,000 are going to be spent on the shifting of the Ministry from one place to another. I do not know why such fabulous sums are being spent on things of that kind.

What I mean to point out is that there should be some proportion between the pay of officers, the cost of establishment and the allowances and honoraria paid to officers. I find that there is no proportion like that kept up in the budget demands that have been placed before us.

Then there is another thing. It has been said that the camp population in

West Bengal alone has been kept at the level of 2.8 lakhs of persons. I would say that this sentence alone is enough to show to us the inefficiency of the Rehabilitation Ministry. You know, Sir, when the refugees came from West Pakistan they were dispersed. Of course, you may say that there is no land for these refugees and there is no place where they can go to. But my friend was just now saying that they should not be sent to Bihar.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Purnea cum Santal Parganas): He did not say that.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Anyhow, what I mean to say is that the dispersal of the refugees from these camps should be taken away from the Rehabilitation Ministry and the work should be handed over to the Defence Ministry. I am sure the Defence Ministry will give a better account of itself than the Rehabilitation Ministry in dispersing these persons from the camps. I know there is a regular influx of refugees. My friend over there is laughing. Some people laugh when others cry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the time would not wait for anybody whether he laughs or cries.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I only want to stress that the Rehabilitation Ministry has failed to rehabilitate these refugees, to disperse them from the camps. I would again say that this work should be entrusted to the Defence Ministry, because I think the Defence Ministry is more able to cope with this kind of emergency work than the Rehabilitation Ministry.

I, therefore, think that this policy of the Rehabilitation Ministry to multiply the number of officers without getting a proportionate amount of work from them is a policy which is not going to do much good towards the relief and rehabilitation of the refugees.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs will now make a statement.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, with your permission, I should like to announce a slight change in the order of business as set out in the Revised List of Business for today.

I would like to suggest that after the discussion on motions relating to modification in respect of Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petition) Rules, 1956 (item 9 in the list), expected to be concluded before the end of the day today, item 13, namely, consideration of the Kerala State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill be taken up. Thereafter, it is proposed to bring forward the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Amendment Bill. This will probably not be reached before tomorrow. As regards the Central Excises and Salt (Second Amendment) Bill, on account of its importance, it is proposed to put it down for consideration and passing at 2-30 P.M. tomorrow to be followed by the Territorial Councils Bill. I would like to make it clear that even if some work remains unfinished at 2-30 P.M. tomorrow, we shall interrupt that business and try to bring forward this Bill before the House at 2-30.

An Hon. Member: What is the time allotted for that?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: That has not yet been decided. The Business Advisory Committee is meeting tomorrow at 12-30.

I may also take this opportunity of announcing that discussion on Shri Kamath's motion on the floor and ceiling prices of Indian Cotton will be put down tomorrow at 6-30 P.M.

It is proposed, Sir, to issue a Revised List of Business for tomorrow accordingly.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): What about my motion regarding the

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

High-power Commission? I requested that it may be taken up early.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: That may be discussed on the Business Advisory Committee tomorrow.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Even the time has been allotted for that; now it is only a question of giving priority.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, 1956-57

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri T. B. Vittal Rao may speak on his cut motion.

Shri Biren Dutt (Tripura West): Sir, may I put two questions?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will allow him afterwards.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am speaking my cut motion No. 64 in Demand No. 141 relating to the Ministry of Transport, which deals with the immediate necessity of taking up the construction of a road bridge across river Tungabhadra at Kurnool. The Hingoli-Khandwa Rail link is likely to be completed by 1959. This would involve heavy pressure on the railway line from Secunderabad to Dronachallam with the result that the movement of goods or goods traffic will be greatly hampered. There are roads but this bridge at Kurnool across Tungabhadra should be taken up. I hear there was a provision made for it. I also read a statement of the former Chief Minister of Andhra who had said that they will commence construction of this bridge sometime in October. Later on, it was not done. When I put a question they gave me a very vague reply that it will be taken up. In view of the fact that we have to remove transport bottle-necks at every stage, I would request the hon. Minister to see that this road bridge across Tungabhadra at Kurnool is taken up immediately, otherwise we will have a terrible transport bottle-neck there.

Immediate necessity of taking up the construction of a road bridge across river Tungabhadra at Kurnool.

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Roads' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Roads' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri Biren Dutt: I want to know from the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation whether he has any idea about the Chakmaghat Camp in Tripura. There the contractors were advised to erect a camp temporarily, but they were not paid and, therefore, it was only half completed. In this jungle area where there are wild beasts 25,000 displaced persons have been put. Many of them are not paid any doles. There is no market place or anything like that. If they grumble the Superintendent of the camp beats them to death. Has the Minister got any information about this camp in Tripura? I want to know whether he has any idea to complete the construction of the camp and also to see that doles are regularly paid to them. It is said that these refugees, because they have no regular migration certificates, are meant to work in the construction of roads for the Rayma Serma scheme. Only when that scheme begins they will be allowed to work and earn their livelihood. As I said, they are not given any dole, rice or anything of that sort. They have to follow the Superintendent's orders in every walk of life. If they go out of the camp to earn something the Camp Superintendent beats them. One person along with his wife went to Talyamara, a nearby market, to earn something, and while they were returning....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: On which cut motion is the hon. Member speaking?

Shri Biren Dutt: I am speaking on the Demands in general.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the hon. Member only wanted to put two questions.

Shri Biren Dutt: I want to know whether he has any information about the big rally held at Agartala on the 6th of this month where the Chief Commissioner was met by 6,000 displaced persons from various camps. The Chief Commissioner assured them that he was coming over to Delhi to discuss the serious situation reported to him by those persons. I want to know whether the Minister has met the Chief Commissioner and whether he has given any assurance to meet the situation in Tripura.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The need for the construction of the bridge and its urgency is very well realised. Tenders were called for and there were certain negotiations with the tenderers. It has been decided to accept the lowest tender amounting to Rs. 18,85,000. The State Government will, in accordance with the usual procedure, proceed to allot the work to this tenderer and I hope the work will be taken up soon.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am grateful to the Members for the great interest that they have always evinced in the affairs of the Ministry of Rehabilitation. In spite of the criticisms that might have been levelled, I can say with a sense of pride that the Ministry of Rehabilitation has achieved very substantial results. Though it will be nothing new, I want to tell the House that some important factors must be taken into consideration when the work of the Ministry of Rehabilitation is judged.

Firstly, there is the question of the migration of Hindus from East Pakistan in very large numbers. The numbers have gone up steadily. As I said

in the Rajya Sabha the other day, the figure for the last 8 months was 35,000 per month. Up till now in the eastern region more than 40 lakhs displaced persons have already come. Bengal has the biggest share; more than 30 lakhs are in Bengal alone. Then, we have about 5 lakhs in Tripura. In Tripura more than 50 per cent. of the people are already displaced. The total population of the State, I believe, is only 7 or 8 lakhs, out of which more than 5 lakhs are displaced persons. In the Surma valley of Assam we have another 5 lakhs of displaced persons. I have seen things for myself. Having lived in Bengal for nearly 2 years now, I know that all those States—Bengal, Assam and Tripura—have reached the saturation point and no more displaced persons can be absorbed in those States.

Secondly, it should be remembered that unlike the west, there is no vacuum in the eastern region at all. Whatever vacuum was created in the early stages, though very small, under the Nehru-Liaquat Pact practically every national of India who went to Pakistan came back. A very small number remained behind in Pakistan

Shri Kamath: That Pact is dead already.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: In 1950, on account of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, there was a certain amount of migration from India to Pakistan. All those persons came back. I hold and maintain that a very small number remained behind in Pakistan. That was what I was trying to say.

I hope my friends opposite will forgive me when I say that my Bengali friend, unlike the displaced persons from West Pakistan who can go right from Fazilka and Amritsar on the one side, to Hyderabad and Mysore in the south, to Bombay in the west, including Rajasthan, U.P. and all other States,—if not willing to go anywhere outside West Bengal or Assam or Tripura. You might say that emotionally, traditionally or culturally, he is so knit that he wants to stay in the

[**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna**]

States of West Bengal, Assam or Tripura, I mean in the Bengali-speaking areas. When we realised that the saturation point had been reached, we tackled the problem from two main fronts, by finding lands outside the eastern region and by setting up industries.

As far as industries are concerned, in Bengal alone, we have sanctioned up till now 18 big schemes covering an expenditure of 1:2 crores. These figures only relate to the period till the end of June, 1956. These schemes will provide employment to 8,600 persons. Then, under our cottage industries schemes and production centres, during the same period, we sanctioned 20 schemes covering an expenditure of Rs. 8,71,000. We did not stop there. We formulated a large number of training schemes and we sanctioned as many as 59 schemes. I am only talking of the period of six months from 1st January, 1956 to 30th June, 1956. I am quoting from the six-monthly review which I have been issuing to Members of Parliament since my going to Bengal. Every six months, we issue a brochure indicating the steps taken, the problems tackled etc. 59 schemes were sanctioned covering an expenditure of Rs. 37 lakhs, which will provide training and employment to at least 6,000 persons.

As regards the development schemes, I do not want to detract from my main argument; but, Shrimati Renu Chakravarty made a devastating remark that no development schemes had been sanctioned. I want to enlighten her. During the six months that I have just referred to, under our township schemes, we sanctioned schemes covering an expenditure of Rs. 58,97,000. I do not know the particular colony that she refers to, but we did sanction 24 schemes for colonies like Gayashpur, Taherpur, Lilooah and so on.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: What is the total number of colonies?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Do bear with me; I am coming to it. You said

that I set up a development committee and that committee did nothing. I have listened to you with great patience; I have great personal regard for you....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member should not go so far; he should address me rather.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am sorry, Sir. We sanctioned 24 development schemes covering an expenditure of Rs. 39 lakhs. Similarly, half a dozen miscellaneous schemes were sanctioned covering an expenditure of another Rs. 22 lakhs. So, to say that we are sitting idle and nothing has been done is a charge that I am not prepared to accept.

My difficulty arises in respect of two things. One is the reclamation of lands and the other is sending my Bengali friends from Bengal to states outside West Bengal. The land problem is a very difficult one. The only lands that I can get are lands which require intensive irrigation, Dense forests have to be reclaimed and roads have to be built. Every inch of land that can come under the plough has already come under the plough in the country. So, I cannot expect any good lands, and the lands I get require a lot of reclamation work. In respect of that, I can inform the House that we have started implementing our land schemes. A number of families have been sent to Bihar. Only last month I had been to Battia. Some schemes under which a number of friends from East Bengal have been settled were visited by my secretary. I could not go. He came back and told me that they were very happy. I am grateful for the co-operation that I am getting from the Bihar Government in this direction.

But, Sir, reclamation of land cannot be done within a day. It takes time. We are sending people to Madhya Pradesh; we are sending people to Orissa; we are sending people to Bihar; similarly we have taken up big

schemes in Assam; we have also sanctioned a number of schemes in Tripura—for the information of my hon. friend opposite. People did go outside West Bengal and as far as I know they were fairly happy. Though I tried to create a little Bengal everywhere by giving them Bengali social workers, by giving them Bengali teachers, Bengali doctors, it could never be West Bengal and unfortunately a number of desertions have taken place. I am sorry to say desertions have taken place from colonies and areas which were fully developed; crops were ripe and some of my friends did not only leave the colony, but actually sold out all their effects at a premium. We had intercepted some of the letters which were written to these West Bengal refugees.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Which are the areas?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am referring to the very area about which the hon. lady Member put a Short Notice Question in the last session—Saurashtra. I have intercepted certain letters which are in my possession, in which constant pressures are exerted by certain people, certain parties in West Bengal to agitate the minds of these people and asking them to come back.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: This is the same old story.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But is the hon. Minister justified in intercepting?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I will tell you how I intercepted them.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: These things have been repeated umpteen times. There is nothing new in what he has said.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I will tell you how these letters have been intercepted, because you have made a very pertinent query. Some of the West Bengal refugees who went to Saurashtra were kept in Bantwa. These letters have been going from Calcutta to them. A number of them

deserted. By the time the letters reached, some of the people had deserted and left. So these letters came into our possession. We found in those letters names of senders, saying: you come back, you come to Howrah station, you come to Sealdah Station, etc.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Will the hon. Minister be prepared to lay these letters on the Table of the House proving that political parties have done this.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Why is she attributing these letters to herself? I am not saying that.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: We are now very much used to this sort of general statements and so we want these letters to be placed on the Table of the House. Let the House examine the genuineness of the statements which have been made again and again by Shri Ajit Prasad Jain and now by Shri Mehr Chand Khanna.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us first hear the Minister.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: When a Minister makes a reference to a document, that, according to the Rules of the House, must be laid on the Table.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not if he refers; only if he quotes. The Chair has to see whether it is advisable that it should be laid on the Table or not. If it is to be laid then he shall have to see the contents—whether it is worthwhile laying.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am not prepared to lay the letters on the Table of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will not refer to the detailed contents of them.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am not doing that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That should finish the matter.

Shri K. K. Basu: Unfortunately this will go into records that certain parties

[Shri K. K Basu]

and individuals deliberately write these letters...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The objection of the hon. Member will also go into records.

Shri K. K. Basu: That is not fair to the refugees at least. It only shows the incompetence of the Ministry.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Demonstrations have been held outside my office in Calcutta; demonstrations have been held outside the residence of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, not once but twice or thrice, about these demonstrations we know by whom they have been organised. I do not want to go beyond that. (*Interruption*). Let me finish. I have listened to every Member with patience.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Minister addresses the Chair, perhaps there will be less difficulty.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: He comes from the Council of States.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: That is a very disparaging remark to the Council of States.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It should not be made in that respect.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: What I was saying was this. I have been to Babughat, Sealdah and Howrah and seen things for myself—alarming conditions. I see my sisters and brothers lying on the streets and they have been there for some time now. No man with a sense of responsibility or human feeling can like that. But what is it all due to? That is due to two things. Up till now a premium has been placed on desertions in the Eastern region. Desertions look place once. We got hold of these people; we sent them back to Orissa; we paid them their railway fares and on the top of it, we also gave them renewed assistance in the matter of rehabilitation grants. That has happened again; the same thing was done. Now it has happened for the third time. We send

people from Calcutta to Saurashtra. All possible arrangements were made for them in the Saurashtra camp. We provided them with Bengali social workers, with Bengali doctors, with Bengali teachers. They desert and come back to the station at Howrah or the station at Sealdah. How long can we go on like this? On the one hand I was told by the lady Member, while referring to the Calcutta expansion scheme she spoke that if land is being reclaimed go and capture it. Refugees who are coming from East Pakistan should not be kept in camps. We rehabilitate them on lands. But at the same time when I take the land then they say; very small peasants, their lands should not be taken. If they want to develop Calcutta—the population is growing—then they say Calcutta should not be allowed to be developed, take that land for the refugees.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I did not say that: that is your interpretation.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: It is not a matter of interpretation. I believe Sir, you were in the Chair when this very question was asked and I answered that this scheme is a part of the Calcutta Development Scheme and that a portion of the land that is being acquired is being given to the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

What I was trying to say was this that the capacity of the States having reached a saturation point and the people living in camps not agreeing to go outside West Bengal, Assam or Tripura, the position becomes very acute. When I send them outside, if they desert and come back to these stations and if a premium is placed on desertions, then we can bid good-bye to all development schemes outside the States. It is no use developing land. In the Western Region we had a lot of evacuee land. That was part of the evacuee pool. In the Eastern Region there is no evacuee pool. There is not an inch of land there. Each inch of

land that is acquired costs us money. It now costs us round about Rs. 500 per acre. It is not correct to say that we are only giving six bighas. In Bihar our average economic holding is about 6 acres. The land alone costs Rs. 2,500; on the top of it we give them a loan for house-building. Then we give loan for implements of husbandry. It roughly comes to about Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 per family. After all this is done, if the man deserts and comes back to Sealdah station, what is to be done? I know that the letter that my hon. friend opposite wrote to me was actuated by very high sentiments and motives. But I am not prepared to concede that in respect of every person who deserts from a State outside West Bengal, where he has been sent and where proper rehabilitation assistance is being provided, we should place a premium on desertion, allow him to come to the Sealdah station with a desire to be rehabilitated in West Bengal and get a second dose of rehabilitation assistance. That cannot happen and shall not happen.

Shri K. K. Basu: Till you are pushed out.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: One thing more I might say. My friend opposite from Tripura referred to a Tripura camp. I do not know the name of that camp. But recently about 25,000 persons have come to India from East Pakistan on forged and faked migration certificates. Quite a number of them have gone to Tripura, and some of them have come to Bengal. Up till now we have not accepted the responsibility of giving any rehabilitation assistance to them, the reason being obvious. If the Government of India can go to the length of issuing migration certificates to as many as 35,000 persons a month—and for two months of the last year certificates were issued to as many as 50,000 persons a month,—and if a person comes to India with a faked or a forged migration certificate, and we accept him in India for the purpose of rehabilitation assistance, then we better shut down our office of Deputy High

Commissioner in Dacca. Then there is no use in issuing migration certificates. Let everybody who is there come in a way which will have no relation whatsoever to rehabilitation. If rehabilitation is to be co-related to migration, then, naturally, we cannot allow all those Pakistani nationals in Pakistan to be allowed to come to India on Pakistani certificates and then demand rehabilitation assistance from us here, or to come to India on faked or forged migration certificates and then call upon the Government of India to give them rehabilitation assistance.

Sir, this matter is under examination. What decision we take tomorrow does not rest entirely upon the Ministry of Rehabilitation. I only come into the picture after a person has been given a migration certificate and been declared a displaced person. It is only then that I take charge of him. Till then he is either the responsibility of the Ministry of External Affairs or that of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Because, the issue of the migration certificate has got nothing to do with the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

So I was a little surprised when Shri Kamath—who did not move his Cut motion or speak on it—mentioned about the exodus of Hindus from East Pakistan; because, that has nothing to do with the Ministry of Rehabilitation. But in spite of the fact that they have come on forged and faked migration certificates, we are giving them *ad hoc* assistance in Tripura, though I would have been normally justified in refusing any relief to them. But on human considerations, broad human considerations we are giving relief to them in Tripura.

As far as Bengal is concerned, the removal of those persons from Howrah or from Sealdah had nothing to do with the A.I.C.C. meeting. If I can refresh the memory of my friend opposite, for whom I have great personal regard, they were removed a day after the session started. If they had been removed on the eve of the session there would have been some

[**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna**]
 justification in that remark. But they were removed—subject to correction—after the arrival of the Prime Minister, after the arrival of the Congress President, and the A.I.C.C. was in Session there. So there was no relation whatsoever with the A.I.C.C. session. We had to make arrangements for their removal, and we have taken them to certain places. But what has happened in the mean while? Having removed them, having taken charge of those persons who were either deserters from Saurashtra or Orissa and who have come on faked and forged certificates, these stations are again full. The tragedy of the whole thing lies in this. Once we remove them there is a vacuum, and people come and squat. They come from outside and they come back to Calcutta. If we do not remove them, then, naturally, the Ministry is inefficient, is not doing any work, is not achieving any results. Sir, I would not like to say further on this point. I have already taken a good bit of the time of the House.

But, as I said in the beginning, we have done our best, and we are doing our best. And as far as the co-operation of the Government of West Bengal is concerned, we are getting it hundred per cent. As far as my colleague, the Finance Minister, is concerned, I have no difficulty in the matter of getting funds from him. But it is my duty as Rehabilitation Minister to see that the funds are properly spent.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Yes, that is the point.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: They are public funds.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Quite right.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: And I have to see that there is no infructuous expenditure.

Shri K. K. Basu: And spent for the public and not for individuals.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I ask a question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have already overstepped the time. Very well, he can put a question.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: At the moment there are 2·8 lakhs of persons in camps awaiting transfer to rehabilitation centres. May I know what exactly is the provision by Government here and now of really permanent rehabilitation centres, either in West Bengal or outside? How many people can you take over here and now? And if you cannot take 2·8 lakhs, what are you going to do with the remainder?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As I said in the very beginning, we are developing lands. We have already started sending displaced persons from these camps to States outside West Bengal. We are trying to expedite the land reclamation schemes. That is number one. Number two is, we are also setting up industries. Because, the population that is coming from East Pakistan can be divided under two heads, about 70 per cent. agriculturists and 30 per cent. non-agriculturists. The urban part of it or the non-agricultural part of it we want to absorb either in industries by providing them employment, or by giving them training and opening production centres as well as by setting up of cottage and small-scale industries.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now put cut motions Nos. 34 and 35 to Demand No. 92 and No. 93 respectively by Shri Moitra.

The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,17,000 in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not

exceeding Rs. 44,27,000 in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is another cut motion by Shri Vittal Rao, to Demand No. 141.

The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,00,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Roads' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now I will put all the Demands to the vote of the House...

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): As far as I am aware, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the House has accepted the recommendation of the Business Advisory Committee that 2½ hours will be allotted for the Railway Supplementary Demands. I would request, if my hon. colleagues agree, that two hours may be allotted for it and half an hour may be allotted now for the External Affairs Ministry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Half an hour we have already trespassed on the Railway Demands. I am sorry it will be difficult to do it now.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof:

Demands Nos. 92, 93, 94, 23, 33, 35, 40, 41, 44, 63, 67, 77, 102, 109, 121, 129, 140 and 141."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Supplementary Grants which were adopted by Lok Sabha are reproduced below.—Ed.]

DEMAND NO. 92—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,17,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

DEMAND NO. 93—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,27,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons'."

DEMAND NO. 94—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

DEMAND NO. 23—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 79,32,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'External Affairs'."

DEMAND NO. 33—AUDIT

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND NO. 35—MINT

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND NO. 40—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between Union and State Governments'."

DEMAND NO. 41—PRE-PARTITION PAYMENTS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,76,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Pre-partition payments'."

DEMAND NO. 44—AGRICULTURE

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 63—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 75,000 be granted to the President to

defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

DEMAND NO. 67—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 77—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER MINISTRY OF LAW

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 61,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under Ministry of Law'."

DEMAND NO. 102—SUPPLIES

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,87,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Supplies'."

DEMAND NO. 109—LOK SABHA

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Lok Sabha'."

3383	Demands for Supplementary Grants 1956-57	18 DECEMBER 1956	Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways) 1956-57 and Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) 1953-54	3384
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**DEMAND NO. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY
ON CURRENCY AND COINAGE**

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,34,33,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Currency and Coinage’.”

**DEMAND NO. 129—OTHER CAPITAL
OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE**

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,19,01,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of ‘Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture’.”

**DEMAND NO. 140—CAPITAL OUTLAY
ON PORTS**

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 85,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Ports’.”

**DEMAND NO. 141—CAPITAL OUTLAY
ON ROADS**

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Roads’.”

APPROPRIATION (NO. 5) BILL*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We take up the next item of business. The Finance Minister.

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57.”

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I introduce the Bill**.

**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1956-57
AND DEMANDS FOR EXCESS
GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1953-54**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) are to be taken up. We have got 2½ hours for this.....

An Hon. Member: Excess Grants?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker:as well as for Excess Grants. Hon. Members would send their slips about the cut motions which they desire to move.

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved.

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,66,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 18-12-56 pp. 1177—80.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

DEMAND NO. 4—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,83,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary working Expenses—Administration'."

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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,90,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

DEMAND NO. 7—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,20,73,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'."

DEMAND NO. 9—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,78,000 be

granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

DEMAND NO. 10—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—LABOUR WELFARE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Labour Welfare'."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The following are the Demands for Excess Grants.

DEMAND NO. 4—REVENUE—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 48,31,263 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Administration' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 5—REVENUE—WORKING EXPENSES REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 74,17,619 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

Grants (Railways) 1956-57
and Demands for Excess
Grants (Railways) 1953-54

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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 46,68,199, be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Operating staff' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 7—REVENUE—WORKING
EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 78,47,491, be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 8—REVENUE—WORKING
EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN
STAFF AND FUEL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 21,59,686, be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 9—REVENUE—WORKING
EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS
EXPENSES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 16,56,427 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 10—REVENUE—PAYMENTS
TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 66,236, be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue Payments to Indian States and Companies' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): I have cut motions. May I seek one clarification? Are the Supplementary Demands and Excess Grants being taken together?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If we can divide the time separately, I.....

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We can take them together.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): They are differing in principle. The Demands for Excess Grants cover a different field.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They will be put separately. They may be discussed together.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: For discussion also, there will be two different principles.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If hon. Members can split the time,.....

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Unfortunately, time has been fixed so short. It is difficult to adjust. If time were greater, that would be the proper thing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would 1½ hours and 1 hour do?

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Let them be taken together.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Two hours for Supplementary Demands and half an hour for Excess Grants will do.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right.
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Sir, I am moving the following cut motions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and on Excess Grants cut motions 14 and 15.

Demand No. 1 relates to the enlargement of the Railway Board by some more additional Members. The question of its composition and strength have been under discussion or under consideration for long. Even before Partition, when we were in undivided India, when there were only four Members constituting the Railway Board, criticisms were levelled that the strength of the Railway Board was far in excess. Following that criticism, the strength of the Railway Board was reduced. Then came the Partition. The Railways were truncated. Suddenly, in 1954, there was a further expansion of the Railway Board and the strength was increased from 1-10-1954. During the last Budget session, we were not told anything about this increase of the strength of the Railway Board. Suddenly, we heard in August or September, that two more Members have been added. We are not told what will be the nature of the work that will be entrusted to these additional Members, and what is the work that they are supposed to transact, and what remuneration they will get.

13.55 hrs.

[**Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]**

The remuneration that a Railway Board Member gets is Rs. 4,000 a month including other allowances. It is not clear whether these additional Members will get the same remuneration and whether they will have the same powers as other Members. Any way, I consider that this addition of Members is not warranted.

The Railway Minister will say that the work load on the Railways has increased. We have spent about Rs. 400 crores during the First Plan and we are going to spend Rs. 900 crores under the Second Plan. Therefore, naturally the work load has increased. I submit that we are not going to have for Rs. 900 crores even

15 per cent. of the work which we have had so far for Rs. 700 crores. Therefore, unless a proper job analysis has been made, we could not agree to this. We should be told what work has been entrusted to each of the Members of the Railway Board, what are the responsibilities of each Member in order to give our consent to this Grant.

Then, I come to the question of dearness allowance and the computing of dearness allowance for the purpose of granting provident fund and special contribution or gratuity. As you are aware, in 1947 when the Central Pay Commission's recommendations were accepted by the Government, it was said that for every increase of 20 points in the cost of living index, there should be a corresponding increase of Rs. 5 in the dearness allowance. But, that was not given effect to. *Ad hoc* increases were granted in January, 1949, and August, 1951. They have not fully implemented the Central Pay Commission's recommendations in the matter of the grant of dearness allowance. In the year 1952, the Dearness Allowance Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri Gadgil. This Committee reported that only 50 per cent. of the dearness allowance should be merged and called dearness pay and the remaining 50 per cent. should be dearness allowance. One very important recommendation that this Committee made was that the cost of living index, since known as consumer price index, is not at all correctly compiled, that it should be done in a correct manner and that steps should be taken by the Government to compile correct cost of living index or consumer price index and a separate all-India cost of living for the middle classes should also be compiled. What have we done? This recommendation also was accepted by the Government. The report was made in the month of September, 1952—September or October and the recommendation was accepted in 1953. I have been pur-

14 hrs.

suing this question. When we ask why the dearness allowance is not increased, we are told that a policy decision was taken in the year 1949 that we should not increase the dearness allowance as it would mean a budget deficit and as it would increase inflationary tendencies. A very nice way of arguing things. Increasing the purchasing capacity of the workers or the employees would mean inflation. I do not know who will purchase the goods that will be produced due to the various development plans. And then the Prime Minister on behalf of the Cabinet Secretariat had replied that steps were being taken for compiling this cost of living index. What happened? From 1953 to 1956—three years is a pretty good time. First I was told that the Government was doing it, that the statistical organisation was seized of the matter and they were doing it. Then after some months I put a question as to how far it had progressed. We were given to understand that there were not the optimum diagrams and so on and so forth, that enough statistical data was not available, and fresh family budget enquiries had to be made. This is the reply we got. Further on in the year 1955 we were told a technical advisory committee had been appointed and that was looking into the matter as to how the family budget enquiry should be conducted. Later on, after a few months, what did we hear? The State Governments were being consulted in the matter as to how the fresh family budget enquiry in the case of the workers as well as the middle class was to be conducted. And when I asked how many meetings this expert or technical advisory committee had held, the Prime Minister gave a very long reply only during this session that such and such a thing had been done and efforts were being made. Three years is a long period and the workers who have been agitated over this matter are feeling very much. Prices have not stabilised, but they are soaring. We hear that the prices are likely to come down after the harvest.

Mr. Speaker: I would point out to the hon. Member that the total time allotted is 2½ hours. Therefore he can make his point without elaborating any particular thing. Of course the arguments are there. I have no objection, but it cannot be extended. I will give him 15 minutes.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Only 15 minutes?

Mr. Speaker: I have to distribute it to other hon. Members.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: There are so many Demands.

Mr. Speaker: At the rate at which he is going on, 2½ hours may not be enough even for himself.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Not 2½ hours, half an hour.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat. May I know how many hon. Members want to take part in the railway discussions? Nine. Along with the hon. Member who is in possession of the House, ten. The hon. Minister may like to take not exceeding half an hour.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Twenty minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Twenty minutes or half an hour. I will restrict it to 20 minutes if it is all right.

The hon. Member started at 1.50. Therefore let him take 15 minutes.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I will take five minutes more, if you agree, being very much interested in this. This is probably my last speech on railways.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is quite young. He will have hundreds of such debates.

Shri Kamath: I will give him five minutes of mine.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot distribute like that.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I have been elaborating on this question of dearness allowance. So, this is how things have been going on. Committees have been set up and their recommendations have been accepted, but not implemented. Only very recently

[**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao**]

the Minister of Planning addressing a meeting of the workers at Ahmedabad disclosed that only five per cent. of the workers in India got a living wage. The Constitution provides that efforts should be made to give a living wage to every one. That is one of the directive principles of the Constitution. And here the Planning Minister says five per cent. The benefit of the increased production has not gone to the workers. Under the Employees' Provident Funds Act and the Coal Mines Provident Fund Act the contribution of the employers is also on the dearness allowance. Therefore, I request the Railway Minister kindly to concede this, because the prices are not stabilising. Prices of foodgrains have been 67 per cent. more compared to last year, and even today when the crops are arriving, it is 25 per cent. more than what it was for the corresponding period in 1955. Therefore, let him consider the question of enhancing dearness allowance as also computing dearness allowance for purposes of payment of provident fund and gratuity. The Bombay Industrial Tribunal has ruled recently that for 2,21,000 workers gratuity should be given. Let him not say this is not in the private sector or any such thing. Let us go on principles.

Then I come to the question of oil being used for the generation of electricity. We are supposed to conserve our foreign exchange. When coal is available in abundance, I do not see the need for going in for oil. Therefore they should see that we only use coal instead of oil.

Regarding the accidents near Mehbubnagar and Ariyalur, I am glad that at long last the Railways Board has accepted to institute judicial enquiry in both the cases. At first they ridiculed the idea. Even the Leader of the House said: "I cannot understand the Members' fad for this judicial enquiry." But there is one lacuna in it. These enquiry commissions have not been associated with prominent public men. There

were three mining disasters in India during the last three years, and in each case a Judge of the High Court was appointed to enquire into the case. Along with him there was a technical expert as an assessor and another assessor who was a public man. Dr. Barlingay was appointed in the Newton Chikli disaster, Shri Shree Narayan Das in the Amlabad accident, and in the Burro Dome inundation tragedy, Shri Samanta has been appointed. Public men should be appointed so that it will gain status. The recommendations of such commissions have been very useful. I have nothing further to add about this.

May I know whether Demand No. 7 would be taken up separately?

Mr. Speaker: All these Demands are rolled into one. Let him speak on all.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Then I come to the sum of Rs. 41 lakhs which has been written off on account of unremunerative capital expenditure on some collieries. The ownership of these coal mines has been transferred to the Ministry of Production, and I cannot understand why this sum should be a drag on the railways' finances.

Then I come to another aspect, namely transporting of coal for the Southern Railways through ships. I have been raising this question again and again. In this also provision has been made. For transporting coal for railway use you use steamers where you will have to pay a higher rate, and coal for the industrialists you carry on the railways. That is, the industrialists pay less freight than the railway. It is more expenditure for the railways. In other words it means that we subsidise the industrialists by carrying coal by the railway route, and by carrying coal for railway consumption by the sea route. This should be put an end to. We need not subsidise them any more.

Finally, I am very glad that some arrangements are being made and

steps are being taken to develop the signal and telecommunications to bring them on a par with what is obtaining in some of the advanced countries in the world. That is most welcome. Any expenditure on it is useful because it will add to the safety measures.

Once more before I conclude I would like to say that the question about dearness allowance may be conceded so that the middle class employees who are feeling very much agitated over it may be satisfied.

Shri Frank Anthony: Mr. Speaker, I have three cut motions in my name. They refer to the functioning of the Railway Administration, to the lack of attention to the grievances of staff and to the unsatisfactory working in respect of repairs and maintenance. I shall make my points as briefly as possible.

The recent accidents which were discussed in this House serve to highlight the unsatisfactory condition of the railway track, and I had emphasised that in my opinion the railway track, particularly in the Southern Railway, is in a bad condition. And since we have had those discussions in the House, I have been inundated with complaints from railwaymen.

Recently, I got a very disturbing letter from a railway employee who told me definitely—and I have no reason to disbelieve what he said—that the railway track between Arkonam and Bangalore was virtually a dead track, and that the railway drivers were finding it humanly impossible to operate on this track. A few months back, I had occasion to bring to the notice of the Railway Board and to the General Manager of the Southern Railway the unsatisfactory working conditions in the Villupuram district which comes in an area where this accident near Tiruchirappalli occurred. I emphasised the fact which was relayed to me by the local staff that conditions are becoming increasingly impossible, and that—whatever the reasons are, probably

because of the lack of maintenance of the engines and also because of the lack of maintenance of the track—they find it impossible to do a trip of more than a hundred miles; it is physically impossible. I regret to say that I got a stereotyped reply from the General Manager; it was of an evasive character; all kinds of statistics were produced to show that, in fact, these conditions had not obtained there. That was before this accident occurred.

Recently, I was talking to an official, when I was on a tour of the Southern Railway, and he told me that the track here is absolutely disgraceful. The official himself told me like that. I asked him, 'What is the reason?' He said, 'To some extent, outworn stock; and also because we do not get what we indent for.' He said, 'Look at this track; we should have 4 inches of metal ballast, but we have not got even half an inch. I indent for it, but it gets held up somewhere because of bottle-necks in the Railway Administration'. And that is the condition of our track or a large part of the track in the railways, and more especially, on the Southern Railway.

Another complaint which is relayed to me by the workers is that the officials do not do their jobs. Formerly, it was a duty—which could not be avoided as it is avoided today—for the officials to travel on the engine, and they travelled for the whole trip and they knew precisely what the condition of the track was. They knew precisely what the condition of the engine was. But, today, whatever the reason, whether it be indifference or lack of a sense of duty or I do not know what it is, or because, I suppose, the officials lived softly in the old days—they just do not travel. Even the young officials do not. They will travel from one water column to another and when you complain about the condition of the engine or the condition of the track, you get the glib stereotyped reply that there is no validity in the complaint. But, senior men are coming to me and

[Shri Frank Anthony]

saying that the conditions are becoming so physically unendurable that they cannot carry on their work, and that they have to resign if they want to save their health. Those are the conditions which prevail today on the railways, particularly on the Southern Railway.

With regard to this question of maintenance, it has been brought to my notice that there is a growing tendency for inexperienced people to be appointed as drivers. This, I am told, is one of the contributory factors in respect of the increase in the incidence of accidents. Inspecting officials do not inspect. They are supposed to travel on the engines, and they are supposed to assess the capacity of the staff, but they do not, with the result that inexperienced firemen are being precipitately promoted. They are a danger not only to their work, but they are a danger to the travelling public.

It has been suggested by people who know that in order to remedy this position, you must have in every running shed a district loco inspector and driver instructors. As far as I am aware, there is no loco training school on the Southern Railway, with the result that, on the Southern Railway, there are no inspecting officials; you do not have these people in the running sheds; so, inexperienced men are being put out as drivers. That is what has been told to me by the most experienced men on the railways there.

Another danger which has been brought to my notice by those who are immediately concerned—I think I have mentioned it in this House before—is that there is a growing obstruction of signals. The men concerned say, 'It is all very well that you indict us if we run past signals'; but they say that the minimum sighting distance for the outer signal should be one mile. But, today, that is not the position in some railways; there is not that minimum sighting distance. But there is this

obstruction either because of the outgrowth of trees or because of buildings have been put up. They say that the Ministry must ensure that there should be this minimum sighting distance of one mile. If you cannot easily see the outer signal, at least you should have repeater signals—I do not know what it will cost, but this is what they have told me—for every signal on the left-hand side. It is the ultimate responsibility of the driver to see the signal; so, for every signal on the left side, you must have a repeater signal on the right. A driver cannot continue to do his work and watch the signal on the left-hand side. So, they have sent this request that there should also be repeater signals on the right, wherever the signal itself is on the left. I was particularly perturbed—it was a complaint brought to my notice, and it is becoming a general complaint—that because of this lack of maintenance in respect of your engines, the drivers are compelled to take out their engines with defective brake power. I had a case which I brought to the notice of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. The man refused. He said, 'No, the brake power is defective', but he was told 'Either you take out this engine with the defective brake power, or else you are going to be punished, we will charge-sheet you for refusal to do the work'. He said, 'I would not work under these conditions'. I have never known a man to be compelled to take out an express or a mail train engine after having complained of its defective brake power, but he was compelled to do it.

There is another matter which has arisen recently. There has been this introduction of the divisional system. I suppose some of the dislocation is unavoidable, but complaints have come to me that it has led not only to dislocation but also to tremendous injustice. Men have lost their seniority; men who expected their promotion have not got their promotion. The Railway Minister will probably know that although integration was intro-

duced several years ago, up till now the seniority lists have not been finalised. That unsatisfactory position is now going to be made infinitely worse by the introduction of the divisional system. The men do not know yet, after five or six years after integration, precisely what their seniority is. Now, with the introduction of the divisional system, that position is going to be accentuated for the worse, and the men ask 'What is going to happen?' Different railways have different systems for assessing seniority. In some railways, seniority has been assessed on the zonal basis. So far as the lower staff are concerned, seniority has usually been assessed on the district basis. But how are you going to do it with the introduction of the divisional system? How are you going to assess seniority, which is a vital matter, which affects a man's position and also his capacity for work?

It has been suggested to me that the Railway Board should consider that in assessing seniority, the date of entry into the grade should be the uniform yard-stick.

There is another matter which has exercised and agitated railwaymen recently. There is this tendency—perhaps it is unavoidable because of the demands of the Second Five Year Plan—to grant extensions to superannuated staff. This has quite justifiably led to a great deal of resentment, because when a man who has reached the age of superannuation is given an extension, he blocks the man who is looking forward to promotion into that place. I regret to say this—I would ask the Minister to look into this—because senior officials have made this complaint to me, that this giving of extensions is being used as an opportunity for accommodating favourites. I was in Calcutta recently, and I was told by a number of senior railway officials that the General Manager there—I do not know whether it is being done wittingly—is collecting around him all the superannuated rejects from the other railways. The

South Eastern Railway is in danger of becoming a kind of human junk-heap.

Now, a suggestion has been made—and I think it is a reasonable suggestion—that if the needs of the railways are such that you must have these superannuated men, you re-employ them. Do not give them extensions, thereby blocking the promotion of the men next below. Or—the railways can consider this—the Pay Commission's recommendation that the age of superannuation should be 58, may be considered. I know the difficulty will be this, that you cannot do it unilaterally. But I think the railways are in a unique position. The problem can be approached in that matter. If the railways require—as the railways do require—all the senior men, then instead of only allowing the General Manager to handpick a few people, why not seriously consider this recommendation of the Pay Commission, so far as the railways are concerned, of extending the age of superannuation to 58?

Then there is the tremendous problem of quarters, which has been accentuated as a result of the introduction of the divisional system. Here I have a suggestion to make. There is this admittedly acute position. Half a million men are without quarters. Now, I suggest that you have a fixed quota for each category of staff, essential staff, drivers and so on. What is happening today? When I go round, the men tell me that because the official has certain favourites, he will give quarters out of turn to those favourites, usually the stationary staff. So what by convention are treated as part of the quota of drivers, for instance, are given to the stationary staff. This leads to tremendous resentment. I would ask the Minister to consider introducing a fixed quota for them.

My hon. friend, who spoke just now, referred to the question of the merger of dearness allowance with pay. Half the dearness allowance was merged with pay. I have a request to make

[Shri Frank Anthony]

to the Railway Minister in this connection. So far as the merged portion is concerned, it is treated as pay for the purpose of deduction of house rent. The men say that if you treat it as pay for the purpose of deduction of house rent, why not treat it as pay for the purpose of assessing our mileage allowance?

There is another reasonable request which the men have made to me. They say that the pre-1931 staff should be brought into a position of parity with the post-1931 staff in respect of sick leave. The new leave rules allow an accumulation of leave up to a period of six months, but the pre-1931 men cannot accumulate sick leave for more than a month or two. What is the result? Because they cannot accumulate their sick leave, whether they are sick or not, every year they take their sick leave. And what is the result? A case came to my notice recently. A man got T.B. He was on the old sick leave rules. He was on leave for a month or two. Now he has no pay. I do not know what is happening to him. Some of his friends raised some money to help him. But he gets no pay. He has to cure the disease, and his family has been reduced to starvation.

My final request to the Minister is this. I welcome him to the Ministry. I do not know whether his appointment is a stop-gap appointment, but I hope that even in the few months that he will be there—I hope he will be there permanently—he will do whatever he possibly can to act as the proverbial broom, because a great deal of sweeping is necessary in the Railway Administration.

There is one major request I have to make. In this House about three years ago, I raised a plea—and I think it is a legitimate plea—that on the railways, the pension scheme must be introduced. It is long overdue. The Railway Minister may not have the experience that most of us have, but on an average, a railwayman today—I would not say 9 out of 10—after ten

years is reduced to penury. I have analysed the figures. I have shown that the old Provident Fund-cum-gratuity scheme does not even compare remotely with the liberalised pension terms, which the opposite numbers, in government service, of the railwaymen get. For instance, a driver who gets emoluments in the region of Rs. 600 a month, may be getting a provident fund of Rs. 40,000. What is the capitalised value? His counterpart in the Telegraphs will get Rs. 250 or Rs. 300 a month. The capitalised value of that is between Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 lakhs, whereas as Rs. 40,000 cannot give him even Rs. 70 a month, if it is invested in the best gilt-edged securities. I have gone round and explained the position to them.

Mr. Speaker: The Provident Fund that is accumulated is created as an annuity under the rules. How long will this serve as annuity in place of pension? I am only trying to find out.

Shri Frank Anthony: I have compared the pension to the Provident Fund, and in terms of money the value of pension works to about 4 times as much.

The reply that used to be given in the past was that some men did not want this. I toured 20 or 30 railway centres in October and November and explained the scheme to them. Then the men pleaded with me to plead with the Administration for this scheme—as soon as they understood the implication. They say, 'At least give us the option; those who do not want, need not exercise the option'. I would ask the Minister also to favourably consider this final request of mine.

Mr. Speaker: The cut motions indicated by Members to be moved are as follows:

- Demand No. 1 — 1, 2, 10, 12
- Demand No. 4 — 3
- Demand No. 5 — 13
- Demand No. 7 — 4, 14, 15
- Demand No. 9 — 5, 8, 9
- Demand No. 10 — 6.

QUESTION OF CREATION OF FIVE POSTS OF
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS IN RAILWAY
BOARD

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,66,000 in respect of 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

NEED TO TREAT DEARNESS ALLOWANCE AS
WAGES FOR PURPOSE OF COMPUTING
PROVIDENT FUND CONTRIBUTION AND
GRATUITY

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,66,000 in respect of 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

FUNCTIONING OF RAILWAY ADMINISTRA-
TION

Shri Frank Anthony: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,66,000 in respect of 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

LACK OF ATTENTION TO GRIEVANCES OF
STAFF

Shri Frank Anthony: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,66,000 in respect of 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF DIVISIONAL
SYSTEM IN VARIOUS ZONES

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,83,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Rs. 100."

UNSATISFACTORY WORKING IN RESPECT
OF REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Shri Frank Anthony: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,90,00,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

NEED FOR CONSUMPTION OF MORE OIL IN
PLACE OF COAL

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,20,73,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

WRITING OFF RS. 41 LAKHS REPRESENT-
ING UNREMUNERATIVE CAPITAL EXPENDI-
TURE ON A CERTAIN COLLIERY

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,20,73,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

NEED FOR TRANSPORTING COAL TO SOUTHERN
RAILWAY BY SEA-CUM-RAIL ROUTE
THAT WAS ANTICIPATED

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,20,73,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

QUESTION OF COMPENSATION REGARDING
RAILWAY ACCIDENTS NEAR MEHBOOB-
NAGAR ON CENTRAL RAILWAY AND
ARIYALUR ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant or a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,78,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DETAILS OF ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION
REGARDING MEHBOOB-NAGAR AND ARYA-
LUR RAILWAY ACCIDENT

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,78,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DETAILS OF ADDITIONAL PROVISION FOR
EXTENSION OF DEPARTMENTAL CATERING

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,78,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 100."

SUBSIDY PAID TO RAILWAY CO-OPERATIVE
STORES AND NEED FOR PROVIDING A PRO-
PER BUILDING FOR HOUSING CONSUMER
STORES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY AT
SECUNDERABAD

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,00,000 in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Labour Welfare' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: These cut motions are before the House.

Shri Telikkar (Nanded): I have only to express the grievance of the agents of Wheeler's Bookstalls. Recently, I came across an agent of the company. Incidentally, I asked him about his income. Then he gave me a detailed statement in a tabular form, wherein I was surprised to see that the debits were more than his commission. What is this due to? They have to return the unsold papers for which they are also charged. The papers are taken by the proprietor and the price is also to be given to him. Then if there is a delay in submission of the amount, interest is charged. Then there is penalty for late arrival of amount.

From January 1953 to September 1953, a period of ten months, the

debit were Rs. 389-5 and the credit, that is, the commission, was Rs. 383-13-3. So he has to pay from his own pocket Rs. 5-7-9, that is, a minus income.

If the papers which were unsold were allowed to be retained with the agent, he could have made some use of them. But the company does not do that. It even debits his account, for late receipt of amount and accounts by charging interest, in addition to penalty. This is too harsh on the agent.

This is also the reason why during night time the agents are not there at the bookstalls. When I asked him why he was not there during night time, he said: 'Even if I work for the whole day during ten months, I get a minus income'.

Mr. Speaker: Are there not departmental staff for it?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): They are employees of the firm concerned.

Mr. Speaker: How are the railways responsible?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): That the hon. Member will explain.

Shri Alagesan: The railways are not concerned directly.

Shri Telikkar: The Board is there. It has supervision over these Bookstalls. The Board is giving permission to sell books. So it is the concern of the Railway Administration.

Mr. Speaker: Every person who works on the railways—stall keeper, sweetmeat seller, fruit seller and so on—must be generally under the umbrella of the railways; of course, they have enough of troubles.

Shri Telikkar: Yes, they must be under the big umbrella of the railways.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North—East): Sir, I endorse the suggestion of my friend Shri Vittal Rao

that the House is entitled to some more information in regard to the additional expenditure of Rs. 2 lakhs on account of the creation of 5 posts of additional Members of the Railway Board. I hope that after certain recent events which necessitated the resignation of the former Railway Minister, the Railway Board will function with an added sense of humility and of dedication to the exacting tasks that await us. I say this because I do not mind the expansion of the Railway Board if that is necessary. But it is rather important that we know why exactly this expansion is being done and what specific functions are going to be performed by these additional members.

I say also that in view of the demands of the Plan, I can quite concede, on principle, that we might have a few more people on the Railway Board. But, at the same time, there is, perhaps, a danger that there is a little too much of centralisation, a little too much of the high-up officers congregating in Delhi with all its mercantile attractions which, perhaps, tell rather badly on their efficiency as railway administrators.

I wish also to take advantage of this opportunity of pointing out to the Railway Ministry that may be in view of the 3 major accidents having happened in a short while the Railway Administration will examine whether it is necessary to analyse the working of the present zonal system. Sometimes a question has arisen that, perhaps, inadequate inspection has taken place, perhaps 6,000 mile units are difficult to handle, perhaps, in the present day conditions the General Managers are becoming rather shadowy phantoms, very powerful no doubt, but rather aloof from the workaday scene. So, I hope that in view of the 3 major accidents in recent months, there would be some thought given to the idea of this zonal system.

I wish also to emphasise now that very recently certain innovations

which were envisaged by the former Railway Minister in his last Budget speech have been given effect to, in a manner which, I find, is rather paradoxical. For example, I shall cite the case of the new air-conditioned third class vestibule train—or whatever you might choose to call it. It is a very fine thing. I have travelled by it. It is a very good experience. But my difficulty was to understand the reason why it was almost empty. I have asked passengers who have travelled by this particular train on more than one occasion and they have told me that in Howrah, for example, it is very difficult to book your seat by this particular train because, for one thing, the third class booking office does not even open till 10 o'clock. Heaven knows why. The result is that here is a luxury train with amenities of which we can very rightly be proud if we happen to get them, which goes almost empty. I feel that if you proceed on the principle of first things first, if you amplify amenities only in order that more people can enjoy them, then and then only will you be able to help our people. Otherwise, there would be certain exceptional and rather stony achievements which we do not wish to equate with the kind of achievement which our country should have at the present moment. I wish, therefore, that this House is told about these additional members and we want to find out how far the men of the Railway Board and the Railway Administration in general are able to address themselves to this rather heavy task which has devolved upon us in view of the Second Five Year Plan.

I will refer to another matter which has relevance to the Demand No. 4, where the Railway Protection Force is mentioned and certain additional sums are allocated for this purpose. I have recently received a representation purporting to be signed by more than 1,000 people in the former Watch and Ward Forces in the Eastern Railway. It gives the figure of the signatories

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

to this document as 1375 out of a total of, I am told, 4001. It refers to a number of grievances of the former Watch and Ward personnel who have now been absorbed into the Railway Security Forces or the Railway Protection Forces. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the allegations made here and I have no personal information in regard to the accuracy of these things either. But it makes certain detailed allegations particularly, regard to the control exercised by the Security Officer of the Eastern Railway. It is alleged here, for example, and I am told the Railway Minister has already got copies of this document, that charge-sheets are arbitrarily issued, that little opportunity is given for fair defence, that in six months' time nearly 500 people have had their services terminated and there was hardly any fair opportunity given for their showing cause why they should not be dismissed. They mention other grievances in regard to accommodation in the barracks where they have to live away from their families, about frequent and untimely transfers; they say they cannot join any trade union of their choice, that uniform is not supplied in time and so on and so forth. I need not go into the details of it. I am sure the Minister is in possession of this particular document, purporting as it does to be signed by as many as 1,375 members of a 4000 strong force. I hope that the grievances which are reported here are looked into and whatever steps are necessary are adopted in time.

But I wish to repeat that my main purpose in intervening in this discussion was to point out that a greater responsibility devolves today upon the Railway Board in view of the tasks that lie ahead. We expect the Railway Board to function with humility, with a sense of dedication and with greater efficiency in achievement as well as with an eye to furnishing to our people amenities effectively and not by means of stuntish developments of the sort that I have tried to refer to earlier.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Purnea cum Santal Parganas): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would concentrate my remarks on Demand No. 1 which deals with the Railway Board. I take this opportunity to focus attention once more upon my point of view. The Railway Board has not given proper attention to the development of the backward areas. For the last 5 years, I have been emphasising this point in this House and I take this opportunity to say that once more because we are now going for our examination in the next February or March I do not know what marks my 15 lakhs of examiners would give me. I want to emphasise that this organisation, the Railway Board, has not worked up to our expectations.

In this connection, I would better like to quote from the speech of the ex-Railway Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. I belong to a particular area which is most backward in this country, the Santal Parganas, which is inhabited by tribals. A large number of the population in that district are the Santals and the Pahadias who live on mountains. Now we have told them to come down. In this area we find in the North Pole one line going to Pirpainti and the other at the site of Jasidih. In between, for about 150 miles there is not one track of railway line. The Railway Board always comes up with a proposal for a new station in New Delhi, goes to Lucknow, to Allahabad or some big station gives a new look to it and then runs a Janata train, which I, of course, heartily welcome. But it never goes to that backward area which remains crying for proper development and for proper transport facilities.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri in his reply to the debate on the 8th March 1954 said:

“हमने संचाल परगना के बारे में अभी तक ध्यान नहीं दिया। मैं यह तो नहीं कहूँगा कि वहां के मानवीय सदस्य ने

हमारा ध्यान नहीं दिलाया। लेकिन इस बात की जरूरत है कि वहां की भी जांच पड़ताल करे। मैं रेलवे बोर्ड से कहूंगा कि इस इलाके के बारे में जो जानकारी है उसे वह हासिल करे और एक रिपोर्ट बोर्ड के सामने और मेरे सामने पेश हो।"

The ex-Railway Minister said on the 8th March 1954 that he would request the Railway Board to collect all possible data and information about this area, and he admitted that we have not paid due and proper attention for the development of this backward area. He said that he would ask the Railway Board to submit a report to him about it so that he might consider the matter. I must say that the Railway Board slept over it. It was a remark or rather an order given in this House to the Railway Board, and that was not at all looked into. I put a question as to what had been done in the matter. Nothing was done. The ex-Railway Minister gave a remark in this House that the Railway Board should function in this way, should collect particular data and material. To our great surprise, when a question was put, no reply was forthcoming as to what action was taken by the Railway Board on the remark of the then Railway Minister.

I would again quote what he said on the 7th March 1956:

"The reports on these previous surveys can be examined to see in what ways conditions have changed, and also how this alignment will compare with the alternative suggestion for a 110-mile long branch line from Pirpainti to Deoghar via Dumka."

On these two occasions the Railway Minister very clearly gave this House the assurance that he would give proper attention for the development of this backward area. But thanks to the efficiency and wisdom and what

not of the Railway Board, nothing on the remark of the Railway Minister given in this House on two occasions has up till now been done. What a great efficiency!

I have supported in this House the demands of the Railway Ministry for increased allotment for the development of transport facilities in the Second Five Year Plan. I know very much the difficulties when that demand had been slashed by one-third. Nonetheless the fact remains that there are new lines being opened, and I won't say that only under pressure in the district or area of particular persons. But I must say that this area has got the same claim or rather greater claim than those where new lines have been opened.

Therefore, I would say that the Railway Board did not pay any attention to the order of the highest man in the Ministry, the ex-Railway Minister.

I would like to know what these five members that are going to be added will do and what will be their work. Will they give the country a clear picture as to what would be the position of transport facilities in the middle of the Second Five Year Plan? Our apprehension is that although we have envisaged great development, the greatest danger to the Second Plan is the availability of transport facilities. With the Second Five Year Plan going up, our apprehension is that at the end of the second year or in the beginning of the third year the Plan might founder due to lack of transport facilities, because there will be greater and greater production, there will be greater and greater movement and there will be more demand for moving the goods. Our apprehension is that we might not be able to cope up with that goods traffic. No clear picture has been given to the country as to what would be the position. The Railway Board has either assessed the difficulties and is not letting this House and the country know about the difficulties or has not done it at

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

all. If it has done it at all, let it say clearly that these are the dangers, and the efforts that are being made by the Railway Board to tide over them. Let us not be told in the second year or the third year that the goods are locked up in Bombay or in some villages or somewhere because the Railway Board cannot provide the necessary facilities to carry these goods. Let the Planning Commission be told by the Railway Ministry that it will not be able to cope up with the demand at the end of the second year or the beginning of the third year of the Plan. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister in the larger context what efforts are being made by the Ministry to overcome the great dangers in the Second Five Year Plan, and in the comparatively smaller context, what efforts are they making to develop the transport facilities for the backward area of Santal Parganas on the branch line from Pimpaini to Deoghar via Dumka.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The Supplementary Demands for Railways total up to nearly Rs. 8 crores and yet I do not understand why the Railway Ministry has not taken the trouble of totalling up all its demands. The Supplementary Demands by the Central Government, when totalled up, come to nearly Rs. 40 crores, and yet they do not hesitate to put before the House the total Demands. I do not know what is the reason that the Railway Minister got funky about the total demand, which is about Rs. 7,46,00,000. After all, it is a big demand, that is, Rs. 7,46,00,000, and added with the demand, that is, excess demand, it will come to about Rs. 10 crores. And yet we have been asked to have this demand voted and discussed and cut motions rejected in a short period of 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Such big demands made by the Railway Ministry must be made in a proper manner, and proper explanation for every item, on which expenditure is envisaged, must be placed before the House. In Demand No. 1, you will find under the head

"Railway Board" that five posts of Additional Members have to be created. Since there are five additional members, there will be so many secretaries, under-secretaries, assistant superintendents, superintendents, stenographers, clerks, and so many other officers. All sorts of things will be created for the sake of these five additional members. I do not think that this is a repercussion of the discussion that took place when the railway question was brought up. It has nothing to do with the resignation of our very courteous Minister, who went out—he has now been replaced not by a very pugnacious type of gentleman but by a good gentleman. What is required for this administration is that we must have a man who can push and push hard the bureaucrats, not only the bureaucrats but the whole machinery, so as to bring them in a proper working order. From top to bottom it is not working efficiently now. It is growing inefficient and tardy. Its inefficiency will tell upon us. We have seen what has happened. The present Railway Minister must be knowing it to his utter chagrin and the R.M.S. staff strike recently in Delhi must have set him thinking that even for a single transfer of an ordinary supervisor, the R.M.S. could paralyse the whole show. They had the least consideration for thousands and millions of the people, whose dak was held up at Delhi station. They were not all rich people; people who are very poor have also got their sentiments, father dying, child lying sick and so on and so forth, and no communication could be sent out on account of this lightning strike on account of the transfer of a single man. Was it justifiable? But this has not been looked into. A similar thing is going to happen in the Railway Ministry. The whole thing will be paralysed completely if proper attention is not paid to the efficiency of the running of the Railway Administration. Adding five additional members or incurring a big additional expenditure you are not going to solve the problem before us.

In this connection I want to point out another thing. When it is a question of appointing five more members, the additional members are appointed immediately. When the question of supplying telephones comes, up, the telephones are supplied immediately. We have been clamouring on several occasions that when telephones are installed at particular post offices, at least the railway station must be provided with a telephone exchange. The police station attached to a railway station is provided with a telephone connection but the station itself is not provided. The staff there says: "We will be worried by people asking whether a train is running to time or is late" as if this amenity to the public is to be denied because of that reason and the stations are to be left without telephones. Every time we approach the General Manager we are told: "Yes, I will look into it". But that "Yes" remains where it was and does not move any further. The additional members are immediately provided with telephones but for the general public at large this amenity is denied.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to another aspect. Since the integration of State Railways we have been clamouring for some sort of proper integration of the staff. This must be done in a proper and judicial manner. It took nearly 4½ years to come to a decision, and during the last budget speech the formula was placed before the House. Of course, that which was placed before the House was not the same which was sent out by the Railway Board to the various General Managers, with certain catch phrases put into it. The whole thing was not disclosed to the House. The ultimate result has been, although this formula has not yet been acted upon or implemented there have been cases where the whole of the provisions of article 311 of the Constitution have been brought to naught. The formula was worked in such a manner that a man was promoted without his demanding it and then, when an enquiry was held it was said: 'No, you are not fit for promotion, go

back to your old post'. He was sent back without asking for his explanation and without telling him why he was being demoted. Now, when the formula is being applied it is said: "Since you have once been promoted and then demoted you cannot take advantage of the formula that is now being put forward". Such are the things that are happening.

Even the small people working in the Railway Administration are hoodwinking people. I remember the case of a man who wanted to get some of his difficulties solved by the Railway Administration. When somehow or other he managed—he ought not to have done so—to approach the highest person concerned, one clerk approached him, took him to a canteen and there he was told: "Look here, this is a very difficult thing and unless you make some arrangement your case cannot proceed." The demand that was made from that poor man, for getting a benefit of Rs. 20 or so, was Rs. 1000, and the poor fellow had to run away from the place. Such things should not happen in the Administration. You have to look into all these things when you are increasing the number of members in the Railway Board.

I completely agree with the demand that has been put forward by Shri Frank Anthony. I have had a talk with several of these officers on the Railways. Immediately the railway servants retire—I do not very much appreciate them, because most of them I find to be dishonest people; anyhow I have pity for them—they are reduced to nothing. I pity them very much because their difficulty is, the whole year round and the whole life round they are extorting money from the public; they think they are very clever and cunning people, but somehow or other, after getting out with Rs. 45,000 as their provident fund sum, the business men and the ordinary public, who are really shrewder than these people, take every pie out of them and within a period of two years they become paupers in the streets. Therefore, it is in their interest that this

[Shri U. M. Trivedi]

provident fund scheme is changed into a pension scheme. It will be of very great advantage to these railway men. Although they may consider this sum of provident fund to be very big. Whenever I had occasion to talk to them they said: नहीं साहब, प्राविडेन्ट फंड होगा तो बहुत अच्छा होगा । but on hearing my arguments and the examples I quoted to them to show how people suffered from penury, they came round and agreed that the pension scheme would be better. I think that some scheme must be formulated in regard to this.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.-West cum Rae Bareli Distt.-East): Honest men or dishonest men?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: They will all become honest if you have a five years' planning for raising the moral standard of the people of this country. Drop your Rs. 4800 crores Plan. Do not spend it in the way you are going to spend it. Raise the moral standard of the people by giving them religious tuitions. Ask them to be afraid of sin. Then alone the country will rise as one man.

I am sorry, Sir, I replied to the interruption.

Mr. Speaker: No harm. It is a useful digression.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Can a Member make a generalisation like this, that all the railway servants and railway officials are corrupt?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I never said "all".

Shri Feroze Gandhi: You said: "most of them". Can a general statement be made like that?

Mr. Speaker: In that language "all" means "some".

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): You have come to his rescue, Sir.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Sir, then I come to Demand No. 4 which has been put forward. It is a good thing that our

Railways have increased the salary of the lowest grade of clerks, the pay-scales of clerks and assistant surgeons. It was a disgrace so far that our Railway Administration was paying a paltry sum of Rs. 100 to an assistant surgeon who was an M.B.B.S. Everywhere he was getting a better salary. Our Railways have now come round and have tried to increase the scale of assistant surgeons. But is that enough?

The Railways have yet to consider the very pertinent demand made on behalf of the Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters. They have been clamouring for a long time. For the last four years they are pressing for their demands. Is it desirable that they must go to the extreme end and paralyse our system? Is it not that we should wake up in time to prevent the damage that can result for such a thing? We cannot deny this fact that the Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters are the real backbone of the whole Administration: The Railway Board and the General Managers do not make the Administration. To the public at large the final word is that of the Station Master so far as the Railway Administration is concerned. It is these people who sweat day in and day out. Everywhere they are working for the Railways, and with exceptional efficiency as far as they are concerned. It is high time that the Government should look into the demands made by the Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters. They should not be allowed to rot on Rs. 64 even after so many years service as a cabinman somewhere in the Central Railway or on a way-side station. They must be also provided with amenities, which they have demanded, for the uplift of their children.

I do not quite agree with this divisional system. It was boasted that this system was going to bring down our expenses. On the other hand it has raised our expenses. This divisional system has, in my opinion, created more difficulties than done good. The

area of working has remained the same. What was done by District Traffic Superintendents is now being done by Divisional Superintendents. The only thing is that they are called Divisional Superintendents, they get higher salaries and they have got better staff under them. But the area of work is same. The integrating difficulties have been so great that people have not yet settled down. From the year 1947 things are going on. I remember once a man from Udaipur approached me saying that he has not received his salary for having served the Railways for 1½ years. He is still writing letters but nobody gives him any reply. His letters simply go into the file. He has not received his salary for the work he has done. This must have escaped the notice of the authorities, because there was integration after integration. From the North-Western Railway, he was shunted to the East-Punjab Railway; from there he was shunted to the Northern Railway. If he goes to the Northern Railway, they say, "the record is with the East-Punjab Railway"; the East-Punjab Railway authorities say, "the record is with the North-Western Railway" and so on. In this manner, his salary is not given. This is the result of the integration which has been carried on—one integration overlapping on another.

15 hrs.

In introducing this division system, sometimes politics have played a part. I am prepared to let the politicians please themselves, but there must be some rationale behind it. Overnight Ratlam was created a division, because some deputation came from Ratlam and told Mr. Katju, "If we do not get it, you will not get the votes". So, poor Dr. Katju had to go to the Railway Minister and say that this must be listened to. So, Ratlam was made into a division. A line from Nagda to Guna, which was never surveyed in imagination, has been created and shown in the map as the area which would be given over to the Ratlam division.

Ratlam has been given a whole metre-gauge section from Khandawa

up to Ajmer, a distance of 393 miles. Now, sitting at Ratlam, a man can talk over the telephone to a distance of 233 miles. But, Gosunda station has been given over to Ajmer and so although the distance is only 122 miles, a man cannot send a communication to Gosunda. Similarly, a man cannot talk over the telephone from Chittorgarh to Gosunda, a distance of only 6 miles, whereas he can have direct talk over a distance of 233 miles, as I have already explained. This is an unimaginative arrangement and this must be looked into.

I will come to Demand No. 5 which is about river protection work. Our present Minister is an expert Minister; he has been a Minister for a long time and he knows how to get things done. He is not a new man. So, he must also know how tricks are being played by some big officers. I am justified in saying this, because I am a lawyer. I have been working with them and for them also; I have defended some of them. Therefore, I know. I know some cases in the then Burma Railway. Mr. Gokal Singh exposed the whole picture as to how river protection works were carried out on that railway. I could not take part in the debate which took place in this House on the Dhranachelam disaster, but I can point out one case in the Burma Railway. Nearly Rs. 5 lakhs worth of stones were to be pitched in a particular river known as Sittarg. Burma was then part of India and the railway was governed by our Railway Board. Hardly 2,500 Rs. worth of stones were pitched, but a bill for Rs. 5 lakhs was made at the cost of the country. Nobody knows whether that bridge has been washed away. Therefore, what I would like to point out is, wherever there is river protection work, make it incumbent on some person to be always checking whether a particular thing has been done or not.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member suggest that after each bridge is completed the persons who were in charge of the construction should be watched and their conduct watched?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: My suggestion is that the bridge inspection department must be a separate department directly under the Railway Board and the particular staff appointed for this purpose must always go and inspect the bridges, because bridges are the most dangerous spots on the railways.

Mr. Speaker: Supposing the engineer in charge of the construction of the bridge goes elsewhere. Does the hon. Member suggest that the engineer must be traced wherever he is, if the bridge collapses?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: You know, Sir, how Mr. Hicks, the Chief Engineer of the Burma Railway was challenged by Mr. Gokal Singh and what happened ultimately. You know under the old law, when an Englishman was to be prosecuted on the complaint of an Indian, he would have a jury trial. So, a jury trial was ordered in the criminal sessions of the High Court of Rangoon. When this was going on, lots of money were paid and the man was made to run away. The man could not be traced and the case had to be closed. Ultimately, Mr. Hicks somehow managed to get out of the affair. So, such things are happening. That is why our moral has not yet risen. The bureaucracy still remains unchanged. They want to enjoy life and there is absolutely no feeling for the country whatsoever. Therefore, it is up to you and up to the Minister to see that these people who want to live lavishly in that manner are not allowed to do so at the cost of the country. For example, when some officers travel in saloons, the linen is being sent from Ajmer to Bombay for being washed. Officers who dare not have one towel a day in their houses use four towels a day and they send it to Bombay for washing from Ajmer, when they are travelling in saloons; and, they manage to travel in saloons. All this is done at the expense of the tax-payer. That is why the expenditure goes up. These are not small matters. They have got to

be looked into—how many servants are employed on account of a single officer travelling in a saloon and so on. These are things which require to be looked into.

I will say a few words about Demand No. 7. Mr. Vittal Rao raised the point of coal being sent by the sea-cum-rail route. I do not want to criticise that. But, I would like to point out that the expenditure of the railways has gone up, because they have not prevented the theft of coal at all. The theft of coal must be prevented. It runs into tons and tons. Not only the railway servants, but also the people who live nearby take away the railway coal and use it. Now, they say that the watch and ward staff has been increased. In my maiden speech in this House, I made an allegation about the watch and ward staff and even today I stand by it. Call it 'protection force' or by any other name. I say that the whole administration from the bottom has to be changed. The police officers whom the railways recruit—the security police—are not very strict. During the struggle that this country was making between 1942 and 1947, it is such people who have secured promotions under the British rule. You should replace them with better officers trained with a national idea. It is only then that stealing will disappear from the railways.

May I speak a few words on the Excess Demands also?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member has taken excess time.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I will not take much time.

Shri Kamath: Three minutes.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Mr. Kamath has agreed to 3 minutes; but, I want your agreement.

You remember last time when these Excess Demands were taken up, I brought it to your notice that as soon

as the expenditure is incurred, the matter should be brought to the notice of the House and its approval taken. The Ministry must not take advantage of the wording of article 115. In 1949 this question came up before the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee felt that Government should not take such a long time in presenting their demands for excess expenditure incurred. These excess demands relate to the year 1953-54. The year 1954-55 has gone; 1955-56 has also gone.....

Mr. Speaker: I may say for the information of the House that the Auditor-General and the Public Accounts Committee have been requested that they should first pick up these excess expenditures and report on them and not wait for their inclusion in the general report of the Committee.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: As recently as the 27th November 1956, the Public Accounts Committee in their Twenty-First Report said as follows:

"In the 13th Session of the Lok Sabha (July to September 1956) when Government approached Parliament for regularising excesses relating to the year 1951-52, attention was drawn pointedly to the delay and the consensus of opinion was that procedure should be devised for the expeditious regularisation of such excesses so as to ensure that the time lag between the detection of the excesses and their regularisation by Parliament is reduced to the inevitable minimum."

Under the provisions of article 115 they may come even after one hundred years. But that is not the intention of article 115. The spirit of article 115 and the spirit of the whole scheme of money bills is that expenditure must first be voted and then incurred. The mere consciousness that they are in a thumping majority will not lead to the proper working

of democracy or parliamentary institutions. Parliament being supreme must always be taken into confidence. If you do that you will get the amount in a graceful manner.

Mr. Speaker: We started at 1.50. I propose calling the hon. Deputy Minister at 3:40. He may take about twenty minutes. The hon. Minister will be called last and I hope he will take about ten minutes.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: So both the metre gauge and broad gauge Ministers will be answering the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Let us not dilate upon the size of individuals.

Shri Kamath: **Mr. Speaker,** I shall be very brief and shall take less than the time allotted to me. I have cut motions No. 8 and 9 standing in my name. The first cut motion deals with details of additional compensation regarding Mehbobnagar and Ariyalur railway accidents. From the foot-note to this Demand I find Government is providing Rs. 19 lakhs more.

At the outset I hope that the new Minister—new to this Ministry, we have known him for some year now will be more responsive to the criticism made in this House with regard to these two shocking accidents that have taken place. I hope his attitude will not be so unsympathetic, atrociously unsympathetic, as the Deputy Minister's was when the discussion on Jangaon-Raghunathpalli accident was raised by my hon. friend Shri Feroze Gandhi. That attitude struck us as very unresponsive and unsympathetic. I hope that the new Minister, the senior Minister will be more responsive and more sympathetic with regard to the accidents and more accessible to the employees outside, to those who have suffered in the accidents and to the general public at large outside the House.

I have received a letter from a responsible person from Trichy, a

[Shri Kamath.]

Member of the District Board, Kulitalai, Shri Govindan. From this it appears that at the spot of this Ariyalur accident a most inconceivable heartlessness on the part of the authorities was witnessed. This is a very brief letter and I would crave your indulgence to read relevant extracts from it.

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest (not for the present) that in future where an hon. Member gets any such letter he will kindly pass on a copy to the Minister so that he may verify the real facts of the situation.

Shri Kamath: I got this only this morning.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: This seems to have been sent to the Ministry and copy to us.

Mr. Speaker: In that case the Ministry will know.

Shri Kamath: It is a very pathetic letter.

Mr. Speaker: He need not read the whole of that letter.

Shri Kamath: I will read only half a dozen lines.

Mr. R. Govindan, District Board Member, Kulitalai, who was an eye-witness—he was at the spot—says—

"Women and children were caught amid the debris of the railway carriages. Instead of trying to remove these persons immediately, the authorities were more interested in restoring the track. When the members of the public present at the scene of the accident went to extricate the injured, they were prevented from doing so.

I saw with my own eyes petrol being poured on the corpses in the female compartment and set fire to. At this sight relations of dead persons wept. "Please allow us to look at the bodies. Let us at least know if our beloved ones died here" they cried. The authorities heeded them not but burnt the corpses."

Mr. Speaker: This is a very serious charge; I am sure special attention will be paid to it and a special enquiry made into it.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If I may intervene at this stage, I would request that the letter which the hon. Member is reading may be given to me in original. I propose to have it enquired by the committee which is going into the matter. They are very serious allegations and should not be left unnoticed by us.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Unheard of!

Shri Kamath: The last sentence is—

"If the District Collector had ordered it, the carriages could have been removed in four hours time and many more persons saved. The work was done with a small body of labourers and so everything was delayed."

This is a heart-rending and pathetic account. I am sure the Minister will see the matter through and bring to book those who were responsible for this atrocious thing.

I am given to understand also from another reliable source that at Ariyalur a Relief Committee has been organised by the District Collector, or district authorities. In that relief committee only Congressmen whether M.L.As or M.P.s. or others have been taken. That is my information. I hope it is wrong. But if it is correct, I hope this committee will be expanded by including members of all opposition parties, so that the public at large and those who have suffered may have confidence in the committee that has been set up.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Is it an official committee or a non-official Committee?

Shri Kamath: District Collector's Relief Committee. This is my information. It may be enquired into. If it is so, I hope he will take necessary action to make it fully representative of the people,

About the Mehboobnagar accident, the hon. Minister's predecessor Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri told us some time ago when a question was raised, that he had advised the local authorities, the State Government, to withdraw the prosecution that had been launched against the person who had pulled the alarm chain with the definite object of warning the railway authorities that the bridge had been damaged. He pulled the chain, the train came to a stop, he was asked why he had done it and he said that the bridge was damaged, and the train should not proceed. He gave a warning 24 hours earlier. For that, instead of thanking him for warning in time, they have prosecuted him. Any way, the Railway Minister said that he had advised the State Government to withdraw the prosecution. I would like to know whether it has been withdrawn. I met the person a fortnight ago. He said that no action had been taken and that the State Government is adamant.

Mr. Speaker: For such an offence as pulling the chain, unless the railway authorities take an interest, do you mean to say that the State Government by itself takes it up?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It has happened in many places.

Mr. Speaker: When the discussion was going on with respect to that—the hon. Minister was not here—it was alleged that before the accident occurred, somebody got into the train and wanted to stop it saying that the bridge was damaged, and pulled the chain. Of course it was not stopped. All the same, that man is being prosecuted. That is the evidence. Then, the hon. Minister's predecessor said that he will try to see that the case is withdrawn. I am really surprised how the State Government comes in to prosecute unless the railway authorities take it into their heads. The authorities have launched a prosecution against the man who tried to pull the chain to save himself apart from others lest the tragedy should occur.

How any officer could have made bold to launch a complaint passes my comprehension really.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It is in the hands of the Sub-Inspector of police.

Mr. Speaker: The Sub-Inspector does not come in unless the railway authorities take steps.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: That is the point. In one case, we never wanted a prosecution. The Sub-Inspector wanted a prosecution. The Sub-Inspector wanted it. He succeeded. The railway authorities are still trying not to prosecute.

Shri Alagesan: Speaking subject to correction, I was here when the matter was raised and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was replying the hon. Member or some other Member who raised this matter. He said that he had a talk with the person concerned and that the chain was not pulled on that day, but on the previous day.

An Hon. Member: Naturally; 24 hours.

Shri Alagesan: It was not pulled on the same day. The impression sought to be created is that this gentleman was travelling in the same train which met with the accident and he pulled the chain to warn the people about the bridge.....

Mr. Speaker: Does it mean 12 hours if it was immediately before midnight?

Shri Alagesan: He said that it was on the previous day and not on that day.

Mr. Speaker: Technically the hon. Minister was right if it was at 11.50, before midnight and not at 12.5 after midnight. It is a matter which must be investigated.

Shri Alagesan: It was not like that. I cannot actually give the time. He

[Shri Alagesan.]

said, when this was raised over and over again that this gentleman did not have anything to do with the train that met with the unfortunate disaster. It was the previous day that the chain was pulled. That is what he said. I have no personal knowledge of it. He said that he met the person concerned and that it had nothing to do with the accident. Even so, he said that he would ask the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to withdraw the prosecution. I do not know where the matter stands at present.

Shri Kamath: If you will permit me to say a word, the Railway Minister made statements twice in this House.

Mr. Speaker: I will ask them to look into it.

Shri Kamath: I would very strongly support the demand made by my hon. friend Shri T. B. Vittal Rao for associating Members of Parliament as assessors in the judicial enquiry into the Ariyalur accident.

I shall only briefly refer to one other matter. After the very interesting and fruitful debate on the subject of the Raghunathapalli accident raised by my friend Shri Feroze Gandhi, I overheard the Prime Minister talking animatedly—I would not use stronger words—talking animatedly to the Deputy Minister, suggesting that the report of the Accidents Committee presided over by Shri Shahnawaz Khan, which went into the matter of the accidents, should be placed on the Table of the House. I was here, the Prime Minister was talking to him there, almost snubbing him—I do not know.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member ought not to overhear such things.

Shri Kamath: All these mikes are here. It is not my fault. I hope the Prime Minister's instructions will be carried out and the report of the

Accidents Committee will be laid on the Table of the House very soon, before this session comes to a close.

Lastly, my cut motion No. 9 refers to departmental catering. In many centres,—there are several centres where departmental catering has been introduced—I am sorry to say that the service has deteriorated.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any Supplementary Demand relating to catering?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is.

Shri Kamath: This question has been raised here so often. Then Deputy Minister spoke on that side. Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan and Shri Feroze Gandhi were on the other side. I need not dilate upon this matter. I have heard complaints in various centres that now that catering has been departmentalised, the employees feel that they are government servants and nothing could be done against them even if they were slack or inefficient. I have seen some of them going about in not very clean clothes. The service is rather tardy. So far as I am concerned, I must frankly say that I got fairly good food almost every time. But, there was scope for improvement. I have heard my other friends, not M.P.s or M.L.A.s, complain about the deterioration of food and deterioration in service. We were happy that private catering had been stopped. But now there is lack of supervision. I hope they would tighten up the machinery for supervision over departmental catering and see that the travelling public who pay so handsomely to the national exchequer and the railways have no complaint against the food that is served and the service that they get.

Shri Ramchandra Reddi (Nellore): I have got very few remarks to make on this demand. I shall first deal with Demand No. 10 where provision is made for health services to the labour. I particularly refer to the sentence here:

"The increase under Medical and Health and Welfare services is mainly on the reservation of beds in sanatoria for Railwaymen suffering from T.B.... etc."

I would like to enquire what amount is spent per bed in the sanatoria where accommodation is reserved for these T.B. patients. Everybody knows that T.B. is a very bad disease. On account of modern methods of treatment, several T.B. patients are easily cured. In that view, I would also suggest that mass X-ray may be taken in the Railway administration so that the disease can be detected much more quickly and easily than otherwise. In this connection, I would enquire whether any part of the salary of these patients in railway service is withheld during the period of their stay in the sanatoria or whether they are given full pay and also whether the family members of these railwaymen are also looked after in these sanatoria. I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the very bad condition of the railway carriages, especially the so-called upper classes. I find that the very same old things which were probably started in the 19th century are still being continued. They are rickety and in several cases the equipment is found to be very much wanting. Fans do not work in certain cases, and leakage goes on in the shower as well as in the roof as pointed out by my friend from Assam. In that way most of these carriages are in a very bad condition. Either you have to scrap them or improve them considerably. Except that there has been some little improvement in recent years in the upholstery, there is no other improvement and we find frequently complaints being given to the travelling guards.

The air-conditioned compartments I am told are not running to their full capacity. More often they are running empty. Probably the reason is that it is very costly and several people do not take to it. If there is a possibility of reducing the air-

conditioned fare to at least 50 per cent. more than the first class, that would be inviting very many people and making it more useful than it is now found to be.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): The debate on the Supplementary Demands for the railways has been overshadowed and perhaps rightly so by the major accidents that have happened. It has also been conditioned by the grievances which persons feel with regard to their constituencies and with regard to the special interests that they have. But I believe that there is a great deal of truth in this that the backward areas of our country should receive proper attention at the hands of the Railway Board. It is these areas that have to be improved economically. I believe fifty per cent. of economics is transport and transport is almost hundred per cent. railways. People in India fortunately or unfortunately have come to equate transport with railways.

I agree with this Demand but I would say that the Railway Ministry and the Railway Board have been excessively under fire on account of these catastrophic accidents, but it is not right and proper that we should not give them their due. We should also try to appreciate the things at their just value. We should put the whole question in its proper perspective. When I do that I think that the Railway Ministry has done well in appointing five additional Members on the Railway Board. I do not think this is an idea which has sprung out of the hat of the Railway Board or the Railway Ministry. They have acted in conformity with the recommendations made by the Estimates Committee which is a committee elected by our own House. It was said by the Estimates Committee that the posts of Directors should be upgraded to this level so that they could become additional Members of the Railway Board.

[Shri D. C. Sharma.]

I am very glad that the Railway Ministry has shown responsiveness—about which we have been talking always with relevance and irrelevance—to this demand of the Estimates Committee.

15-35 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Our railways are a huge and mammoth organisation. Nobody can deny that. And if we want efficiency—and all of us want efficiency—I believe that the Railway Board which acts, if I could put it that way, as the brains trust of the Railway Ministry should be strengthened, so that proper functioning of the railways is achieved to the satisfaction not only of the Members of this House, but also of the members of the public.

The railways have innumerable problems. There are problems connected with engineering, civil and mechanical. There are problems connected with transportation. There are problems connected with the staff, their welfare, their promotions, and the upkeep of discipline among them. And there are problems which are connected with finance. All these are very big problems, and we know what a great part of our budget we devote to the Railway Ministry. I would therefore say that the Railway Ministry has done well in adding to the number of the Railway Board, and I hope that these additional Members will justify the expectations which are entertained of them by this House. I am sure that the efficiency of our railways will be heightened and improved by this step.

Of course, the only test of efficiency is not the number of accidents. Accidents are unfortunate, catastrophic and tragic. There are other ways of judging the efficiency of our railways, or of any organisation. I hope when the total evaluation of the efficiency of the Railway Ministry or the Railway Board is undertaken, they will not be found wanting.

I want to say a few words about divisionalisation about which people,

have been talking. The experience of one Member may differ from that of another Member. We belong to a very big country and sometimes conditions in one part of our country are not the same as in another part of the country. Moreover, there are some persons who specialise in collecting grievances, and there are other persons who try to look at the bright side of the picture, who weigh the grievances against the performance and then come to a decision. If one were to look only at these things from the grievance point of view, I think the whole of this world will have to be scrapped and I believe the railways will have to be scrapped earlier than anything else. But that is not the point. The point is this, that this divisionalisation—I can talk from my experience and also on the basis of the reports which I have got not from the Members of railway staff but from the members of the public, and I happen to travel a lot as all Members of Parliament happen to travel a lot—has promoted efficiency and my only grouse against the Railway Board is this, that while they have introduced this system in some railways, they have not introduced it in other railways. That is to say, if I have a grouse—of course I do not want to be a man of grousers—it is this, that they have taken so long to introduce this necessary, useful and much-needed reform. Why should they have taken so long? I would request the Railway Ministry that this work should be done as expeditiously as possible. I think there are two railways where this has not been introduced so far. I hope that a lot of time will not be taken in introducing this administrative reform.

I am glad, as my hon. friend Shri U. M. Trivedi has said, that the question of revision of the pay-scales of the assistant surgeons and clerks has been undertaken. I am glad about it. But we hear complaints about the pay structure in the railways from beginning to end. It is not only the station masters who complain, but the conductors also complain, the railway

guards complain, the booking clerks complain, and, in fact, everybody complains, and one does not understand why all these sections of the Railway Administration are so discontented. I would, therefore, say to the Minister who has taken charge of the railways now, as I used to say to the Minister who held charge of the railways till a few weeks ago, that something should be done to inquire into the pay-scales of the Railway Administration at all levels, so as to bring about a rationalised structure. I take courage for saying so from what the Finance Minister said yesterday. He said that we have one scale of salary at the State level and quite another at the Central level, and he has not been feeling very happy about it. So, I say that the pay structure should be revised. It should be in proportion to the work done; it should be in proportion to the risks undertaken; it should be in proportion to the onerousness of duties which they have to perform. I would say that something should be done in this connection.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: The whistle has sounded.

Shri D. C. Sharma: There is one other point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister. At page 5 of the booklet which has been supplied, we find:

"The reduction under maintenance of rolling-stock is due mainly to lower output from workshops than anticipated, due to strikes etc., and fewer special repairs being undertaken and less expenditure on running repairs to stock than anticipated."

These few phrases in this booklet make us very unhappy. I would like to know why these strikes took place, and why there has been lower output.

An Hon. Member: Ask the labour leaders.

Shri D. C. Sharma: These workshops are the hands and arms of the Railway Ministry. If these workshops

do not give a good account of themselves, I think the whole of the Railway Administration would be thrown out of gear. I would, therefore, say that some extra pain should be taken, some extra effort should be made to see that the maintenance of rolling-stock etc. does not suffer. If we find that there are some workshops which could not function we must have additional workshops so that the quantum of work that is expected to be done in a year or during every six months may be completed, so as to secure the proper functioning of these workshops.

With these remarks, I support the supplementary Demands for Grants.

Shri J. R. Mehta (Jodhpur): I have just one point to make. I wish to refer to one of the questions which was touched upon briefly by my hon. friend Shri U. M. Trivedi, namely the question of the integration of the ex-State railway officers into the All-India services, which involves the question of their seniority, status and their entire future career. This question has already been hanging fire for the last five or six years.

It took four years or more to decide the principles on which the seniority and the equating of the ex-State railway officers were to be determined. Originally, a formula was proposed which did flagrant and gross injustice to the ex-State railway officers, and the matter was agitated on the floor of this House as well as in the other House and also outside. After several committees, one after another, had gone into the question, making confusion worse confounded, the Railway Minister, Shri Lal Bhadur Shastri—let it be said to his credit—intervened and at the last Budget Session, while making his Budget speech, announced a formula which was meant to give satisfaction to the aggrieved officers. As I have said, it took four or five years to announce this decision. I am here to say that even this decision did not do full justice to the ex-State officers. But we as well as the officers reconciled themselves to it on the assurance that whatever hardships remain-

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ed would be sympathetically considered and every effort would be made to mitigate those hardships as early as possible.

I regret to say that even this limited measure of relief and justice promised to ex-State railway officers has not yet materialised. For instance, one of the principles agreed upon was that 16-2/3 per cent. of the future vacancies in class I will be reserved for promotion from among the ex-State railway officers who had to be kept in class II for the time being for some special reasons. Nine months have elapsed since this formula was announced, and the life of the present Parliament is coming to an end, and yet it has not been possible to implement the principles agreed upon. While the cases of the ex-State railway officers are hanging fire, promotions in the other sectors are going on to the obvious detriment and prejudice of the ex-State railway officers. I shall not go further into the details, but I would say that the Railway Ministry and the Railway Board, if they are zealous to maintain their reputation for efficiency and fair-play, as I am sure they are, should lose no time in implementing the orders to which I have referred.

I take this opportunity of making a special appeal to the Minister to look into this case. It is not without hesitation that I am bringing this matter to his notice so soon after his having taken over charge, but I think in a way it is as well that all the problems which are pending in his Ministry should be brought to his notice at the earliest moment. I also expect that the Railway Board will now pay special attention to implementing these orders as early as possible. Justice delayed is justice denied. As I have already submitted, whatever has been granted in this case is diluted justice. So, that is all the more the reason why any delay in implementing the orders should not be tolerated.

Shri Veeraswamy (Mayuram—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I entirely agree with Shri U. M. Trivedi in re-

gard to his observations about the Protection Force officers and staff of the railways. It was very unfair on his part to have condemned the Protection Force merely on the ground that many of them had worked under the British regime, and, therefore, they were not straightforward; and he said that instead of calling it the Watch and Ward Department, he would call it the 'Watch and Robbing Department'. It is very unfair on the part of a Member of Parliament to condemn those people who work day in and day out at the risk of their lives, for the protection of the lives of the railway passengers and railway properties. I know very well that the watch and ward people who have now been designated as the Protection Force have been working very hard for the safety of railway passengers, their property and also railway property. If anybody has misbehaved, if anybody has been responsible for theft of property, I would suggest not only dismissal of that person but also the inflicting of a severe punishment like imprisonment on him.

It is really deplorable that every Ministry is coming to this House for sanction of higher grants for expenses in connection with so many things, but not for money for giving increased salary to the low paid staff. All the increased sanction is for increasing the salaries of the already fat-salaried staff, giving them allowances and so on. I would be very glad if at least the present Railway Minister would take up the question of the revision of the scales of pay of the low paid staff on the Indian railways, especially, the Protection Force. It is no use to merely change the name of 'Watch and Ward' into 'Security Force' and from 'Security Force' into 'Protection Force', without increasing their salary, without giving them proper training, without giving them proper equipment and without providing them with good living accommodation. Unless these things are done, I do not think the force will feel enthusiastic and function as effectively as we expect them to do. Therefore, I once

again urge upon the Ministry and the Railway Board to see that the Protection Force is strengthened, their scale of pay increased and their standard of living improved.

As regards railway accidents, I would say without any hesitation whatsoever that lack of a permanent arrangement for proper protection of railway tracks and railway bridges is the real cause for such tragic accidents which we have witnessed in the past two years. Since the first accident took place in Hyderabad, the Railway Board and the Ministries should have acted wisely; they should have made some permanent arrangement for patrolling the line and bridges. In that, they have failed. I do not mean to say that they were careless, but they did not act wisely afterwards. Hereafter, we do hope that there would be a permanent arrangement for proper protection of the lines and bridges and proper repairs to them.

The patrol men are covering a distance of 6 miles. If one man is given 6 miles a day, how can he be expected to properly watch the line and bridges? It is my view that the distance per man should not exceed 2 miles or at the most 3 miles. There should always be constant patrolling of the lines and bridges, without break.

I would also suggest that the grievances of the railway staff should be attended to by the Railway Board with some amount of sympathy and condescension. Without that, they cannot be expected to work very hard. I hope these words of mine would be considered in a spirit of sympathy for the people who work hard and who protect the lives of the travelling public in this country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): On a point of order. Let there be quorum at least to listen to the valuable reply of the hon. Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell may be rung—Now there is quorum. The hon. Minister may proceed.

Shri Alagesan: I shall first take up the question of the expansion of the Railway Board. It is not as if this is sprung as a surprise on the House. This question was debated before and it was almost the unanimous opinion of this House that the workload on the railway organisation as a whole and also on the top executive of the organisation having increased, there was need for strengthening the organisation at all levels. In accordance with that wish expressed by the House, these steps have been taken. Not only that. That Estimates Committee of this House have also gone into this question very thoroughly and examined all the pros and cons. They also felt—just as the House felt and the Railway Ministry felt—that there was need for strengthening the organisation at all levels including the Railway Board level. They have said so in so many words in their report. I do not want to read that portion of the report, but they have said that the full members of the Board should have more time for policy making, for going round on inspection etc. and they should be relieved from day to day administration and co-ordination work of the various railways to a considerable extent. It was with a view to relieve the full members of the Board and also to provide for the efficient carrying out of the numerous schemes connected with the Second Plan that these posts have been created.

The House knows that the size of the Second Plan with regard to railways is in terms of money, of the order of Rs. 1,125 crores. This is easily three times the size of the First Plan provision for railways. Various things and various schemes have to be put into execution.

Take the question of workshop expansion. We want to provide for greater repair facilities. The quantum of repair work has increased considerably. Not only have the

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existing workshops to be expanded, but new units have to be established. This will require the attention of a full Member of the Board; so also other works. For instance, the question of training facilities was raised. Shri Anthony referred to the existence or rather the non-existence of training facilities for the loco staff. I may inform him that it has been decided to have special staff in the sheds to provide these training facilities, apart from the various central institutions which provide training to all categories of staff including the loco staff. The question of providing training facilities, the refresher courses etc. is so huge in magnitude that it will require the attention of a member of the Executive.

16 hrs.

So, it will be realised, not only with regard to operation, but with regard to maintenance, with regard to the creation of workshop facilities, with regard to the improving of signalling—this is also a very important question to which Shri Vittal Rao referred—etc., the quantum of work that has to be turned out by the Railway Board has increased very much. To relieve the full members of the Board and also to take charge of these particular Portfolios, these additional posts have been created.

Hon. Members wanted to know what remuneration is being paid. The Estimates Committee went into this question. They felt that when an intermediate tier is created, the occupants of those posts should be such as to command the General Managers and they should not be below the rank of General Managers. So, the additional members that have been created will hold the rank of General Managers and draw the remuneration that goes with it. This was also a specific recommendation of the Estimates Committee.

Some hon. Members wanted to know what actually is the work done by or allotted to these additional members. We were very particular that when

an intermediate tier is being created, it should not be a sort of a fifth wheel in the coach but should function independently and also cutting red-tape. So, specific portfolios have been allotted to these additional members. In many cases, they will submit cases for decision directly to the Minister. They need not be routed through the respective members of the Board. They will also sit in the Board when subject relating to their branches come up for discussion. There is one member who is in charge of all surveys and constructions of all the major works in connection with the Second Five Year Plan. He is called Additional Member works. So also, Additional Member, mechanical, is in charge of the training of staff of the mechanical department, the remodelling and expansion of workshops, the creation of production units etc. An additional Member has been created for the purpose of looking after commercial work. An additional Member will be in charge of accounts, with particular emphasis on accounts in respect of work for the Second Five Year Plan. We have got an additional Member, Staff, who is in charge of recruitment, training etc.—gazetted as well as non-gazetted. He will also attend to representations arising out of appointments, promotions etc.

So, these 5 additional Members have been allotted specific work and redundancy of work has been avoided and red-tape has been cut. They function for all practical purposes as independent Members of the Railway Board, though they are not actually full Members of the Railway Board. As has been given in the Memorandum that has been circulated to Members, the cost will be Rs. 2 lakhs for these officers this year and it may be more for the next year.

Since my time is short and hon. Members have made so many points, I do not think I shall be able to cover all of them in the short time that has been allotted to me. But, I shall try to touch as many points as possible. I can also assure hon. Members that the

other points they have made will be taken due note of and action taken on those points.

Shri Vittal Rao raised the question of taking into account the remaining half of the dearness allowance that has not been added to the pay for purposes of provident fund, gratuity etc. This is not a question which affects the Railways alone. This is a question which affects the entire Government of India, and all the departments of the Government of India. The hon. Member very well knows that a committee presided over by a Member of this House went into this question in the year, 1952, and they, after considering all the various points, came to the conclusion that for the purposes of the calculation of provident fund, gratuity etc. half the present dearness allowance should be added to the pay and they said that the other half should continue to be paid as mere dearness allowance. After this report was submitted, Government took a decision on this report by accepting the recommendations of the committee in toto. Just as other departments have given effect to it, the Railways have also given effect to it. Now, to plead that the Railways alone should go ahead and take the other half of dearness allowance also for this purpose, I do not think, is fair. If the question requires consideration, it requires consideration at all government levels and not at the Railway level alone. Only this much I would like to say on the point placed before the House by Shri Vittal Rao.

Then my hon. friend, Shri Kamath referred to departmental catering. I think he is a great champion of departmental catering. He has been supporting the introduction and expansion of departmental catering (*Interruption*). That does not mean that the standard of service should not be taken care of. In fact, this decision to introduce departmental catering on railways, which did not have this system, was taken with a view to pull up the standards of service of the private contractors

which was not at all satisfactory and which was the cause of complaint of hon. Members in this House as well as in the other House.

Shri Kamath: But, personally I have no serious complaint to make.

Shri Alagesan: So, I am glad that he has got good food. I got the information that he did not and I was so very sorry for it. The hon. Member was unhappy with some bad coffee that was given to him and he had to pull the chain and stop the train for about half an hour.

Shri Kamath: That was only once, but not half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was the fault of the bad coffee and not of the hon. Member.

Shri Alagesan: I have no objection and I know hon. Members of this House enjoy privileges. But, I should like to submit to you that if everybody in the train took it into his head to pull the chain and stop the train if he gets bad coffee or something bad to eat, then, the effect on the operation of our trains as a whole will be disastrous. The hon. Member Shri Kamath has to be attended to specially, and I was told he was not attended to.

Shri Kamath: I do not want any special favour. I do not like this tone and attitude of the Minister, and I think the new Minister will instil the proper spirit in him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No remonstrances or other things. I would have certainly agreed with the hon. Member and done something for him if he had not taken into his own hands and redressed himself.

Shri Kamath: I expected you to do something.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Member had not done it himself, I would have done it. But now he has not left me any choice.

Shri Alagesan: I should like to say that it is not a question of liking or

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not liking what I say. I am not making any remarks when the hon. Member speaks though I may not like a particular phrase which the hon. Member uses.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may proceed.

Shri Kamath: On a point of order, Sir. How could you tolerate—you are so wise, Sir,—how could you tolerate expressions like, 'Shri Kamath wants special privileges and all that?' I do not claim any special privileges.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: What is the point of order?

Shri Kamath: I do not want any special privileges. I only want the privileges enjoyed by my other colleagues, by other members of the public, those to which they are entitled. I spurn your attention.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. That was not intended, it was not intended that Shri Kamath wanted any special privileges. That was never meant. It was not meant so far as I could follow. What was meant by the Minister was that he would like to attend to Shri Kamath specially.

Shri Kamath: I do not want it. I will spurn such attention.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Now that it has been spurned, the Minister would not make that offer, and therefore there is no dispute now. Why bother about it? It should be left here, and let us proceed now further.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is it a fact that the chain was pulled for a cup of coffee?

Shri Kamath: If you give me time, I will explain that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot enter into this as to whether it was a lawful excuse for any hon. Member to pull the chain till he gets his coffee and that would be for the courts to decide not for us. We have passed the law and it is for the courts to interpret it.

Shri Alagesan: I would say only one thing regarding departmental catering, namely, that we will take proper steps to see that proper standard of service is maintained by the departmental catering. The suggestions and co-operation of hon. Members will be welcome in this connection.

While on Shri Kamath's points, I would like to tell him specially....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Kamath is very sensitive. He wants to be a true democrat and that he should not be given special consideration, but he wants equal consideration (*Interruption*).

Shri Kamath: I want him to be more sensible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member without any justification is continuing in that very strain, and that is not fair.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved-Sch. Castes): He pulled the chain as a representative of the people!

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now the chain should not be pulled again and again.

Shri Alagesan: Let me refer to the divisionalisation scheme that has been referred to by hon. Members. Shri Sharma pleaded that the divisionalisation scheme should be introduced as early as possible after the decision was taken to introduce it on Railways on which it did not exist. I should like to say that it has been introduced fairly quickly, taking into account the other factors that went into the situation. While we want to re-organise the Railways which do not have the divisional system, several matters with regard to transfer of staff, providing quarters for staff, etc. have to be taken into consideration, and we have also to see that while making such transfers, as little dislocation and inconvenience is caused to the members of staff. Taking all these into consideration, I should like to say that this divisionalisation scheme has been brought about on

the Central Railway, on the Southern Railway and on the Western Railway fairly quickly and they have started working under this scheme. There may be teething trouble because it has just begun, and they will learn as they proceed and try to settle down to efficient working.

It is also proposed to introduce the divisional system on the North Eastern Railway. The proposals have been finalised and may be given effect to some time in the month of August next year.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi referred to the question of reserving beds for patients in the T.B. sanatoria and wanted to know the cost per patient. The cost varies from institution to institution, and I may say that it is roughly Rs. 2,000 per bed. He also wanted to know whether the pay of the patient concerned is withheld during the period of treatment. Naturally, the employee concerned takes leave and gets the pay that will be due to him as per the leave that is due to him, etc. But I may tell the hon. Member that in special cases where the circumstances required it, special assistance is being given from the Staff Benefit Fund.

The question of air-conditioned train has been raised by Shri H. N. Mukerjee. He said that the third class carriages went almost empty. I also had occasion to travel in those trains and I found that about 50 per cent of the seats were occupied. Perhaps on other days it was less than 50 per cent.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: It is not really third class; the fare that has to be paid is almost second class.

Shri Alagesan: I have had occasion to reply to that (Interruption). The berths have all cushioned seats, with reclinable chairs, and the whole thing is air-conditioned. The only extra charge that the third class traveller has to pay is a surcharge of 4 pies

per mile. I should like to say that this is perhaps the greatest amenity available at the cheapest cost. In fact, if the full cost is to be recovered, the surcharge should have been much more. In consideration of the fact that the surcharge plus the third class fare should not exceed the present second class fare, the surcharge was fixed at the present level. So, the third class fare plus the surcharge of 4 pies per mile comes to a little less than the present second class fare, but I hope this facility will be availed of more and more by the third class travellers. Ordinarily I find that a large number of people who are making use of this accommodation are people who used to travel normally first or second, but there are also some who normally travel third who are making use of this amenity, and in course of time, as the facilities and amenities get known more and more, I hope that those who ordinarily travel third will try to make use of these facilities.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Who will pay the excess fare?

Shri Alagesan: There is the question of new lines and attending to backward areas, which was raised by my friend, Shri Azad. We are really anxious that all the backward areas should be developed. This question was fully discussed on the floor of the House. Because the original Railway Plan, which stood at Rs. 1480 crores, had to be cut down to its present level, namely, Rs. 1125 crores, our original proposal to have 3,000 miles of new railway line cannot be given effect to, and only about 800 to 850 miles of new line construction can be undertaken in the Second Plan, and that too with reference to projects that are envisaged in the Plan. It is a very unfortunate thing, but we have to put up with hard realities and facts, and wait perhaps a little more before we can extend the railway line to areas which at present remain unserved.

My hon. friend raised the question of the employees of Wheeler and

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Company, and the Speaker, who was then in the Chair, mentioned then that it is a matter between the employees and the firm concerned. But I can tell the hon Member that we can bring it to the notice of the firm and try to rectify any defects that may be found in the relationships between the employees and themselves.

The question of the excess demands being placed before the House after a good deal of delay was raised. It was raised on a previous occasion also. I do not want to go into it, but as far as the Ministry is concerned, after the appropriation accounts were settled, after the Public Accounts Committee went into them and made its recommendations that the excess grants should be placed before the House under article 115 of the Constitution, we took the earliest opportunity to place the excess demands before the House. That was done in the last session. Now it has come up. The Speaker has made suggestion that the Public Accounts Committee and the Comptroller and Auditor-General should pay prior attention to these excess Demands and should have them looked into early enough so that the House gets seized of the matter at as early a date as possible. That is being considered by the Government as a whole, and the Railways will very willingly fall in line with any procedure that may be devised in this regard.

Shri Vittal Rao raised the question of writing off of Rs. 41 lakhs with reference to a particular colliery. This colliery was started, I think, in the year 1923-24, and as the production was low, it was expected that it will produce about four lakh tons of coal, but the production was only about a lakh tons, it was decided to develop a new seam and a very deep shaft was driven. That cost a good deal of money. But it proved a failure. There were gases and it was not possible for people to work there. It was, therefore, decided to close it in the year 1936. From that year onwards

this remained with the Railways and they were working on the surface. This amount was not written off in the year when it was decided to close the deep shaft. When the question of transferring the colliery from the Railways to the Production Ministry was raised two years back, the Comptroller and Auditor-General said that this should be written back into the revenue and the Railways should bear the loss. So this was written off but this thing happened in the year 1936. That is why this has found a place in the Excess Demands and this has come in that form.

Sir, I do not want to take more time of the House.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, the House is aware that the responsibility of the Railway Ministry was entrusted to me under extraordinary circumstances. The House is also aware of the circumstances which led to the resignation of my predecessor. It is a difficult situation under which I have taken the responsibility, and I hope the co-operation and good wishes of the House will be with me in this new assignment.

My predecessor did a lot for the improvement of the efficiency of the Railways. I shall try to maintain the level in that respect.

Coming to the debate, most of the points have been met by the Deputy Minister. I was thinking to take notice of my hon. friend Shri Kamath first. But I feel a little apprehensive whether he will not start resenting if I tried to look at him.

Shri Kamath: Why should I? You are different from the Deputy Minister. Your attitude has been quite different always. I like you very much.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whatever is to be done, that should be done according to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the House. If one Member wants to put in sense into the head of another, that should also

be done in the head of the Chair. Let it be first put into the head of the Chair and then, if the Chair wants it will retain it or, if it wants that this commodity should be passed on to others, that will be done. That must be borne in mind.

Shri Kamath: You mis-heard me. I did not refer to any sense at all just now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I did not mis-hear the hon. Member.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: So I will not refer to that episode. But at that time I was a little perplexed as to which side to direct the sense, this side or that side.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only one side to which one Member can direct sense and that is the Chair

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will not have that aduacity, and especially when it is afternoon.

My friend's grievance was about the departmental catering. I do not know much about catering, but I will assure him that I shall look into the matter and see how far we can departmentalise catering, and how far we can leave it in the hands of private contractors.

Shri Kamath: That is excellent.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: And, wherever we will have departmental catering, earnest endeavours shall be made to see—of course, it will be very difficult to cater to the tastes of all the patrons of the Railways—that a reasonable standard in catering is maintained.

There had been serious accidents in the recent past, and anybody will be sorry for that. Shri Frank Anthony presented a very dismal and dreary picture of the condition of the Railways. If what he said were taken to be as he depicted, I am afraid, perhaps, the Railways will not run for a day. But I make bold to say that the condition is not so bad as he has tried to depict before the House. All

the same, Sir, I shall assure him and the House that I will see what changes or modifications are required in the administrative mechanism to have better supervision of the tracks and better maintenance of the engines.

There is no denying the fact that due to large-scale expansion on the railways and because the expansion or addition to the staff is not commensurate qualitatively to the expansion of the railways, the work on supervision might have suffered. I shall try to see how best we can tighten up and see that supervision is properly maintained. I am thinking also to establish some machinery for a better inspection of the major bridges. I have also been thinking whether we can have some scheme for the rains and floods.

Shri Anthony has also raised certain questions about the staff. I will not give answer to each one of them; I shall only assure him that I shall ask the Railway Board to look into these matters.

He has also raised the question of pension schemes for the railway employees. I have myself been thinking, even before I took over this responsibility, why there should be no pension schemes on the Railways. Of course, it will have to be optional for the existing employees. We may consider to have only pension schemes for the new entrants, but the present employees may be given option either to choose the provident fund scheme or the pension scheme. And, I will see that some sort of pension scheme is introduced at the earliest possible opportunity.

I have no idea to take note of Shri Trivedi but for the fact that he made certain very sweeping remarks questioning the patriotism and honesty of the railway workers. We have a very large system of railways in this country. The efficiency and safety of the Indian Railways compare very favourably with any system of railways in the world. I shall make bold

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to say it. I have the statistics of efficiency and accidents in some of the most developed countries of the world and comparing the figure, I find that the railway system in India can be proud of its achievements both in respect of efficiency and safety. Such being the record of the railways, to make a sweeping remark that the staff and the officers are not fired with patriotic feelings or that they are a lot of dishonest people is, to use a very mild expression, too uncharitable to expect of a Member holding a seat in this august House. I shall leave it at that.

I have mentioned about the railway accidents. Nobody will be more sorry than those who are in charge of running the railways—the Railway Board or the Minister or the Deputy Minister—and to say that anybody is atrociously unsympathetic towards the valuable lives that are lost in these unfortunate accidents is again far from being charitable. If my hon. friend, Shri Kamath, will again ponder over the words that he had used in some heated moment, perhaps he will himself realise that those words were not justified.

Shri Kamath: If the facts are disproved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They do not seem to be proved one way or the other.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Shri Anthony also raised a point about the extensions granted to superannuated employees and officers. We are short of technical staff not only in the railways, but all over the country. So, we have to, as far as we can, utilise the services of the technical personnel on the railways. I shall look into the matter. I personally agree with him that it is always better to avoid heart-burning of those people who have been expecting some promotions. I shall look into that matter.

My friend, Shri Trivedi—again he is not in his seat--made some remarks

which were rather uncalled for concerning the Defence Minister. I do not know what material he has in his possession to substantiate the allegations that he made against the Defence Minister. I shall not leave that unchallenged. Of course, I will look into this matter, whether Ratlam on its own merit deserves to be a divisional headquarters or not. To make those allegations on the basis, I presume, of hearsay, is again not justified from an hon. Member of this House.

Mention has been made of the report of Accidents Enquiry Committee known as the Shah Nawaz Committee. I shall see that a copy of it is laid on the Table and also in the library.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Tomorrow?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If copies are available, I shall see that they are placed in the library.

My friend, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad, drew attention to the backward areas, not because he comes from a backward area, but in national interest. It is necessary that lines should be opened in as many of the backward areas as possible, but it all depends upon the availability of funds with the railways. incidentally, he asked what would be the position of the transport facilities during the course of the second Five Year Plan and whether the Railway Board has made any assessment of its requirements. The Railway Board has. We require more funds in order to complete the targets that we have laid down, because the prices and the rates of contract have gone up. So, additional money is required for that. Again, additional money will be required for providing facilities for the movement of traffic in larger dimensions. I do not know how far the Railway Ministry will be fortunate enough to get the money required for that. Everything will depend upon the availability of funds and the availability of foreign exchange. We are ourselves anxious to open lines in backward areas, but everything depends upon the availability of funds.

I have already exceeded the time and I shall conclude now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am putting the cut motions to the House. Shall I put all the cut motions together? Several Hon. Members: Yes.

All the cut motion were negative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during, the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of the following Demands entered in the second column thereof:

Demands Nos. 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will not put the Demands for Excess Grants. The question is:

"That the respective Excess sums not exceeding the amount shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President to make good the amounts spent during the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of corresponding heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof:

Demands Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10."

The motion was adopted.

[*The Demands for supplementary Grants which were adopted by Lok Sabha are reproduced below.—Ed.*]

DEMAND No. 1—RAILWAY BOARD.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,66,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

DEMAND No. 4—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,83,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,90,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

DEMAND No. 7—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL).

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,20,73,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'."

DEMAND No. 9—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,37,78,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

DEMAND No. 10—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—LABOUR WELFARE.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in

Demands for Excess
Grants (Railways) 1953-54

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

course of payment during the the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Labour Welfare'."

[The Demands for Excess Grants which were adopted by Lok Sabha are reproduced below.—Ed.]

DEMAND NO. 4—REVENUE—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

"That a sum of Rs. 48,31,263 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Administration' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 5—REVENUE—WORKING EXPENSES REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

"That a sum of Rs. 74,17,619 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

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

"That a sum of Rs. 46,68,199, be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Operating staff' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 7—REVENUE—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL).

"That a sum of Rs. 78,47,491, be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 8—REVENUE—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN STAFF AND FUEL.

"That a sum of Rs. 21,59,686, be granted to the President to

make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 9—REVENUE—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

"That a sum of Rs. 16,56,427 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue—Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1954."

DEMAND NO. 10—REVENUE—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES.

"That a sum of Rs. 66,236, be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Revenue Payment to Indian States and Companies' for the year ended the 31st day March, 1954."

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
No. 6 BILL.*

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1954, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II-Section 2 dated 18-12-56 pp. 1181—83.

financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1954, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

†

Shri Alagesan: I introduce the Bill.

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
No. 7 BILL.****

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57 for the purposes of Railways.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

††

Shri Alagesan: I introduce the Bill.

**REPRESENTATION OF THE
PEOPLE (MISCELLANEOUS
PROVISIONS) BILL**

The Minister of Legal Affairs and Civil Aviation (Shri Pataskar): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal of disqualifications for membership of, and voting at elections to, Parliament and State Legislatures, and for certain miscellaneous matters in connection with such elections be taken into consideration."

As hon. Members are aware, there has been a change effected in the election law with respect to disqualification incurred on the ground of several kinds of corrupt activities. For instance, under the Act of 1951, there was a major corrupt practice, minor practice and illegal practice. Then, there was a very complicated return of election expenses to be filed, and for not having filed the election expenses return in the proper form, disqualification was incurred by the candidate as well as by the election agent. The elections are very near. At the time when the Act was amended, we naturally made the provisions simple and we abolished the distinction between major corrupt practice, minor corrupt practice, illegal practice etc. All the same we find from facts which we have investigated that the number of persons disqualified for failure to lodge return of election expenses, as required by law, is nearly 9,511. It appears that when we amended the Act, probably the disqualification with respect to voting so far as these members are concerned has been removed. But so far as the question of their being entitled to stand as candidates is concerned, I think that disqualification has not been removed. The Election Commission itself out of these 9,511 cases, has probably removed the disqualification in the case of about 3,000 odd people, and 6,000 persons still remain disqualified. Probably many of them are not even aware of the disqualification that they have incurred. Now we have simplified the return of election expenses and in view of the changed procedure to be followed in this matter, it is desirable that all these disqualifications which have been incurred by these people should be removed wholesale. That is why there is provision in this Bill saying that the disqualification of these persons will stand removed.

**Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II-Section 2, dated 18-12-56 pp. 1184-86.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President

††Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Can we have the break-up of the figure of these 6,000 persons party-wise.

Shri Pataskar: I do not think it is necessary. They are all for not filing the return of election expenses or for not filing them in right time. There is no desire to keep any of these persons under disqualification.

The number of persons disqualified upon conviction by criminal courts for the offences of bribery and undue influence, or for personation under sections 117 (e) or (f) of the Indian Penal Code or section 139(a) of the R.P.A. is 516. It is only natural that we do not want to remove the disqualification in respect of such persons.

The number of persons disqualified upon conviction by criminal courts is only 20 in the whole of India. We should not also remove their disqualification.

The other category is persons disqualified by election tribunals for corrupt or illegal practices. As I said there were the major practice, the minor practice and the illegal practice. Clause 2 lays down—

"(1) Every disqualification for membership of Parliament or of the Legislature of a State incurred by any person under the Representation of People Act, 1951, . . . before the commencement of the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 1956, for failure to lodge a return of election expenses as required by clause (c) of section 7 of the principal Act is hereby removed.

(2) Every disqualification for membership of Parliament or of the Legislature of a State or for voting at an election incurred by any person under the principal Act before the commencement of the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 1956, for any illegal practice or for any corrupt practice other than the

corrupt practice of bribery or undue influence is hereby removed."

Hon. Members will find that the offence of bribery and undue influence has been defined in the former Acts. Naturally in respect of these cases we should not remove the disqualification. In respect of all other so-called corrupt, illegal or other practices the disqualification should be removed and that is what is proposed to be done by sub-clause (2).

Then we come to clause 3 which seeks to amend section 7. Hon. Members will find that section 7(e) of the Act says:

"if he is a Director or Manager, or holds any office of profit under any Corporation in which the appropriate Government has any share or financial interest."

It has been represented to us that the words "financial interest" is rather too vague. For instance, it may be argued that Government has got financial interest in a co-operative society. There are so many other corporations. The original object with which this provision was made was that in respect of those companies or corporations formed on the basis of capital in which Government has some substantial share, they should incur some disqualification. Now in place of the words "financial interest", we propose to put in "any company or corporation in the capital of which the appropriate Government has not less than twenty-five per cent share". Hon. Members may ask me as to why 25 per cent is fixed? Why not we say the director of any concern in which there is some share capital of Government. Why should such a director not be disqualified? That is a legitimate question which Members may ask? I should in this connection like to point out that there are some companies and corporations in which in order that Government may know about the working of the company some shares are purchased. It is more for the purpose of

guiding or taking part in the actual day to day working and to know how the work is being carried on. It is from that point of view that it is laid down that unless Government has 25 per cent. of the share capital in a company no disqualification will be incurred.

Clause 4 deals with special provision for nomination in the case of prisoners in Portuguese territory. Hon. Members will be aware that this is a peculiar problem which has often been discussed in this House in order to enable these countrymen of ours who risked their all for a patriotic cause to stand as candidates. For instance, one of the hon. Members of this House, Mr. Chaudhuri, is in a Goa prison and it is from that point of view that we have made a provision here. I think I need not take the time of the House on this matter. This provision has been made in order that there may be no difficulty in the way of their being able to stand.

The last clause says:

"It is hereby declared that the office of member of the Council of Advisers associated with the Chief Commissioner of Manipur or with the Chief Commissioner of Tripura shall not disqualify the holder thereof for being chosen as, or for being a member of Parliament."

As hon. Members are aware, in the case of these States where the administration is in the hands of Chief Commissioners there is a Council of Advisers and it is our desire that they should not be disqualified from standing for election to Parliament simply because they happen to be Advisers.

This is a simple Bill which I think can be passed without much discussion. It is an urgent measure inasmuch as the elections are very near now and we want that whatever is to be done should be done before that. This is the last session of this Parliament and we are in the last week of it. I would, therefore, appeal to hon. Members that if they agree with the

objectives of the measure they will enable me to have it passed as early as possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal of disqualifications for membership of, and voting at elections to, Parliament and State Legislatures, and for certain miscellaneous matters in connection with such elections be taken into consideration."

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): May I make a suggestion: There are certain amendments to the Bill of which notice has been given by Members. Let us move the amendments along with the First Reading and we shall speak on them. Otherwise we do not know how to distribute the time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can speak on his amendments. But the stage is for consideration.

Shri K. K. Basu: We do not know how to split up the time.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): I would earnestly request you to extend the time by about one hour. One hour was allotted by the House earlier. Many hon. Members are interested in this subject and I would therefore request you to extend the time by one hour at least.

Shri Pataskar: There are the rules also.

Shri Kamath: The rules are made for the House and not the House for the rules.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is also what the House has decided: not anybody else.

Shri Kamath: Sir, I welcome this Bill, but with mixed feelings. I wish the Minister had introduced two Bills, one for the earlier part and a second one for the latter part, which deals with our freedom fighters, now prisoners in the Portuguese possessions in

[Shri Kamath]

India. As the Minister rightly said, they have risked their all for the liberation of the imperialist pockets in our country. For the first time, I find that the Government has been responsive to the opinion expressed on this side of the House and to public opinion outside in the country. It was our proud privilege to have pressed this matter on the attention of the House and of the Government and I am glad that they have responded to the opposition in this particular matter, to enable our comrades, our friends, the freedom fighters in Goa to contest in the next general elections. We look forward to the day when Goa, Diu and Daman will be fully represented, as the rest of the Indian Union is represented, by a full-fledged Member in Parliament. I wish that the Government or the President under his wide powers had even earlier nominated a Member to represent the Portuguese possessions,—even if not elected—nominated not in this House, but in the Rajya Sabha. Any way, the first major step has been taken now, in spite of the volte face of the Government, in spite of,—if I may use stronger words—the betrayal of the liberation movement in Goa by the Government, to help our freedom fighters and a big and noble gesture has been made to the freedom fighters who have risked their all for the freedom of these few foreign pockets in India. The Government could also have encouraged the formation of a provisional Government in the liberated territories of Dadra and Nagar-haveli, which they have not done. Let them take their own time. The freedom movement will not wait for the Government. It will go on. Just as they have had to bow to the will of the people in this matter, the time is not far off when they will have to bow to the will of the people and change their supine policy in regard to this matter in the very near future. As I said at the very outset, I would have been happy if the first part of the Bill had been separated from the second part, because this forms a turbid mixture, particularly the part

with regard to the removal of disqualification arising out of any illegal practice or for any corrupt practice other than the corrupt practice of bribery or undue influence. I refer to clause 2, sub-clause (2).

The law, as it stands, provides for various corrupt practices. I know things like impersonation etc., and one or two minor corrupt practices are no longer in the list. All illegal practices have been removed from the list. The practice of enlisting the help of government servants and some others still figure in the list of corrupt practices. Does the Government really intend that any disqualifications arising out of the Commission of such corrupt practices should also be removed, a blanket removal except the practice of bribery or undue influence?

Shri Pataskar: It is like that.

Shri Kamath: Does the Government contemplate that? That would give an undue handle to candidates in the general elections and induce in them a hope, a very well-founded hope that by the time of the next general elections coming in 1961 or 1962, all the disqualifications arising out of whatever corrupt practice they may commit in this election will also be removed. This sort of thing should not be countenanced by the House. Especially in regard to the corrupt practices remaining in the list, disqualification should not be removed. I can understand the old minor corrupt practices. This is almost a blanket removal or near-complete removal; there are only two illegal practices remaining, undue influence and bribery. This I do not approve at all. I hope that the amendments which I have tabled to this particular clause will commend themselves for the acceptance of the House.

I shall very briefly refer to clause 3. It refers to the share of the prospective candidates in Government corporations. They have now made an unsatisfactory provision in that only a

25 per cent. share will come into play, not otherwise. This is wholly unsatisfactory and does not commend itself to us. Any share or interest of a candidate in concern in which the appropriate Government has any share should entail a disqualification. I would prefer the amendment tabled by my hon. friend Shri K. K. Basu that any share of any Government, whether it is the Central Government or the State Government, should entail the disqualification. I would insist that at least the appropriate Government should be taken into consideration and this matter provided for accordingly.

With regard to clause 4, I have tabled certain amendments which seek to facilitate the matter further. Government lost its interest in the freedom movement for some time. But the nation did not lose its interest. I think Government have realised the nation's interest in this freedom movement and brought forward this provision. I do not think that they will again go to sleep over this matter after this Bill is passed. I would request the Government not to insist upon a definite writing to the effect from a person who is behind the Portuguese prison bars. I would suggest that any kind of a statement by a person on behalf of the detenu that he is willing to stand should be sufficient for enabling the detenu to stand for election. Authentication by the Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs is not always necessary. Anybody in the Ministry of External Affairs, Deputy Secretary or Joint Secretary should be sufficient for the purpose. I will crave your indulgence again for a few minutes when the clause by clause consideration comes up.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): Sir, every section of the House should welcome clause 4 of this Bill for Goa prisoners. Shri Kamath was perfectly right in saying that those freedom fighters for the liberation of Goa were fighters for Indian independence. Our freedom is not complete unless these

foreign pockets are completely eliminated and rescued from the clutches of a fascistic dictator like Dr. Salazar. We are very happy and proud that there are at least two Members of Parliament who entered Goa and defied all the handicaps and difficulties created by that dictatorial power. One was Shri V. G. Deshpande, still here amongst us. He was barbarously treated and let off. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri—we are all proud of him—has spent 12 years of his life, if I remember aright,.....

An Hon. Member: Sixteen years.
17 hrs.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: sixteen years of his life in prison already in the freedom battle, in different jails fighting British imperialism, participating in all nationalist movements for India's liberation. And it has now fallen to his lot to undergo this sacrifice. I wrote to him the other day conveying the unanimous decision of all the Opposition parties in Bengal that they would not set up any candidate against him, in order that he comes back to this Parliament uncontested. After a great deal of difficulty the Portuguese Government placed this letter of mine before Shri Chaudhury. I have received a reply couched in language of appreciation, worthy of him, worthy of a true patriot. He is an ornament of this Parliament, an ornament of this nation. We are all proud of him, we are all proud of him as a colleague, proud of the way in which he is bearing this incarceration in the Goa prison. We are happy to know that his health which had a setback is now slightly better, although he is suffering from many handicaps. One clause has been put in here that the nomination paper need not be signed by him, but no such nomination paper "shall be received by the returning officer unless at the time of its delivery the proposer produces before that officer a writing signed by such person and showing his intention to stand as a candidate, and a certificate signed by a Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs

[Shri N. C. Chatterjee]

that the person is detained in prison or other custody in Portuguese territory". I hope no difficulty will be created, and that it will be possible to produce that writing, and that the returning officers will not create any difficulties but will accept it in the spirit of this Bill.

I am happy to notice that the West Bengal Pradesh Congress chief also made a declaration the other day that they will not set up a candidate against Shri Chaudhury. That means there will be no candidate against Shri Chaudhury and he will be elected to Parliament by the unanimous wish of the people.

I was in Bombay the other day and I found in Maharashtra a deep concern that it should be made possible for Shri Gore who is suffering incarceration also in Goa to represent one of the important constituencies in this Parliament or in the local Assembly. I hope that will also be possible, and he will be given all the facilities.

With regard to the other matter, Shri Pataskar deserves the congratulations of all sections of the House. It is a timely measure. I claim that I have possibly little more experience than many Members of these election cases, and I know how people have been disqualified, and I wish I could support Shri Kamath. I also appeared in his election case, and therefore I know what is what.

Shri Kamath: There was no corrupt practice there.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: There was no corrupt practice there, but it required three weeks of argument to convince the Supreme Court that Shri Kamath had been unfairly dealt with by the lower tribunal. Take for instance one clause, clause 7 of section 123 dealing with the obtaining or procuring etc., or clause 6 of that section, dealing with the incurring or authorizing of expenditure in contravention of section 77. You will be amazed to know that a candidate in U.P. who was successful in defeating the Cong-

ress candidate was held guilty of a corrupt practice because his father was a rich landlord and some of his servants actually helped him in the election. The Election Tribunal held that the father being over 80 must be deemed to have retired and his servants must be serving the candidate as his own servants. As the father's staff helped him, they were really his staff, and he was disqualified, unseated and incurred this penalty of being convicted of a major corrupt practice.

With regard to clause (7) there is something in what Shri Kamath pointed out, but I would also remind him that it states that persons serving under the Government shall include revenue officers including village accountants, such as patwaris, lekh-pals, talatis, karnams and the like and also other village officers. It is so broad and so wide. I am certainly not saying that free and fair elections will be possible only by legislation. I do not think that a man like Pandit Nehru or Pandit Pant wants that the Congress should come back to power through unfair means, through this kind of employment of the official machinery to bolster up the Congress candidates, but we know that in spite of what the highest people may profess there are always official interferences, and we all know that in the interests of the ruling party the subordinate hierarchy always acts. They try to justify their existence and to do their best to help the ruling party. Still, I ought to point out that there is some justification for what the Minister is going to do. Having regard to the wide language in which the rules are couched, a man becomes guilty of corrupt practice when there is really no corruption. In the amending Act you have recently done away with minor corrupt practices and illegal practices. It is also reasonable that disqualifications flowing from these technical corrupt practices and minor corrupt practices and illegal practices should be all done away with, and a man should be given a chance.

Just remember Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani's case. The Tribunal unanimously held that there was absolutely no corruption. What happened was that the election return was filed by somebody who did not know how to put in the figures under different categories properly. It is so complicated that even a veteran lawyer would think twice or thrice before he fills it up properly. Although it was held there was absolutely nothing improper or corrupt—possibly one of the fairest elections was fought in Delhi—still she was disqualified and was out of Parliament. This disqualification had affected 6,000 persons.

I remember one case where I appeared for a Congress candidate from Madras. He was a sitting Member of this Parliament and he was disqualified because he had paid Rs. 500 or Rs. 250 to the Tamil Nad Congress Committee for the purpose of applying for nomination as a Congress Candidate. Some money had to be put in.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Rupees hundred.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: I do not remember the exact amount. I argued before the Supreme Court that it is very unfair because when that Rs. 100 was put in he was not a candidate at all. He simply wanted that he should be allowed to stand as a candidate, and he signed a pledge that it he was not given the nomination, he would not stand for the election at all. Even then Mr. Justice Venkataraman Iyer held that it was a corrupt practice and it comes under this category. So, you never know where you are.

In one other case in Tanjore I appeared for another Congress candidate. What happened? He had a bus permit. He had nothing to do with the Government, but there was one clause that any one who gets a bus route shall have to carry for the Postal Department the mail bags and then he is paid something. And only for that he has been disqualified and unseated from Parliament.

Another case happened in Madhya Pradesh of an amazing disqualification. A chamar candidate was standing there in a predominantly chamar constituency.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The first man may still come under the mischief.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Because he said it was a chamar constituency and appealed to the chamars for votes he has been disqualified for six years and unseated, although he defeated the Congress candidate by a very large majority.

These things have happened. I am saying this disqualification should go and what the hon. Minister has done is opportune. Not one minute should be lost and I hope all sections of the House will support this Bill. This is really a non-controversial Bill of the highest importance. Let everybody have a fair deal, and these technical disqualifications except cases of bribery or undue influence or gross cases like that, should not be in any way penalised, and they should all have a chance of standing without any shadow or without any stigma of any kind.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): I only want to make one observation and that relates to clause 5. I wish Government had brought a comprehensive Bill making it perfectly clear as the Constitution requires what are offices of profit that disqualify Members. In fact, there was a Committee appointed here, elaborate discussion went on and a report was submitted, but the thing has been put into the shelf. Instead of piecemeal legislation coming here and there as it suits our purposes stating that a particular thing is not an office of profit and it will not disqualify a member, I wish a comprehensive Bill had been brought forward after all facts had been taken into considerations to determine which are offices of profit and which are not.

Shri K. K. Basu: As the previous speaker said, we certainly welcome the provision of the Bill in respect of the removal of all fetters in the way of

[Shri K. K. Basu]

the standing of candidates or persons who have been in Goa jail for the liberation of that particular part of our country. We had been clamouring for a very long time that we must see that these persons who with the unanimous support of the entire nation went and suffered, and went to jail in Goa for the liberation of the particular territory—subsequently, however, owing to the attitude of the authorities, the liberation movement could not fully succeed—should not have any difficulties placed in the way of their contesting the general elections. The proposal that has been made in this Bill, namely that a person in the Goa jail can stand as a candidate, without the nomination paper actually being signed by him as required under the existing law, is a welcome improvement, and as the previous speaker has said, the entire House is behind Government in this respect.

As you know, our esteemed friend Shri T. K. Chaudhuri has been sentenced to more than ten years of imprisonment in the Goa jail. As for his past career in the British jail, Shri N. C. Chatterjee has already described it. We do wish, and there has been a move by the entire people of West Bengal, that he should come to this House without any contest.

In this connection, I have given an amendment to the effect that in case at the time of the delivery of the nomination paper, the proposers are not in possession of the two documents that are required, namely a writing signed by the candidate saying that he is agreeable to stand as a candidate, and a certificate by a secretary to Government in the Ministry of External Affairs that he is in prison, the returning officer may allow such further time as he may think fit for the submission of these documents. As you know, under the normal rules, a time of not more than 48 hours is allowed for taking objection in respect of any nomination, and within that time, the documents and other papers in support of the objection

could be submitted. So, I would suggest that in case the documents required under clause 4 are not readily available in time, the period allowed may be extended at least till the time of scrutiny. Further, the proposers or the relatives of the candidate might not be able to get in time the writing signed by the candidate showing his intention to stand as a candidate. That is quite possible, in view of the fact that we have no diplomatic relations with the Portuguese authorities now and we have to go through the Egyptian Government, and even the Egyptian Government are in some trouble in recent times. So, it may happen that the document required may not be reaching the proposers in time, in which case they may not be in a position to submit it to the returning officer at the time they file the nomination paper.

So, I would urge Government that they should leave it to the returning officer to extend the time allowed for the submission of the documents, if necessary until the time of scrutiny, or if he is so satisfied that there is a genuine case that the certificate from the Central Government as to the person's being in jail is not received in time, he may extend it to such further time as he may think fit. Since Government are agreeable to remove all fetters in the way of these persons contesting the elections, I hope they will agree to accept my amendment to clause 4.

Clause 5 seeks to remove the disqualification on the members of the Councils of Advisers in Manipur and Tripura. I do not understand why there is so much of hurry about it. We know fully well that in those two territories, the advisers that have been appointed are mostly from the party in power. There are two seats in Parliament for these areas. Since these advisers do not do much of executive work but only some advisory work, they might very well resign two months or three months before the general elections if they want to

contest. I am told that these advisers are given free motor cars, and some other special amenities and remunerations, which they may adversely utilise at the time of the elections. You will appreciate that these two areas are small areas; in the whole of these territories, there may be just three or four cars, two of which may be given to these advisers at State expense. Whereas the Ministers here only get an advance for purchasing their cars, these advisers, I am told, are provided cars by the State. So, I think that unless these special facilities are withdrawn, the disqualification on them should not be removed.

In clause 3 it is provided that unless the appropriate Government have not less than 25 per cent of shares in any company, the holders of office in that company should not be considered to have incurred any disqualification under section 7 of the Act. In the present context of things, the words 'appropriate Government' have no meaning. So, I have tabled an amendment to this clause. For instance, a person might be contesting for a seat in a State legislature, but he may be dealing in iron and steel and he may have a big contract with the Central Government, or he may be a member on some Central committee. Now, the State Governments, representatives also may be members of that committee. Now, irrespective of the fact whether that committee is advisory or not, this person, who, in terms of the law, should be considered as having a dealing only with the Central Government, yet by reason of his participation in that committee may indirectly bring to bear some influence on the State Government's representative to champion his point of view. So, I would suggest that the word 'appropriate' should be removed, so that it may apply to both State and Central Governments. This is very necessary in the interests of the growth of democracy. After all, ours is a nascent democracy. We have had just one general election; that has been done very well, and the way in which the citizens of our country

voted in that election for the nurturing of the democratic set-up was also very good. I would, therefore, urge that every effort should be made to see that our democratic institution which is still in a developing state is not in any way jeopardised by any adverse influence being brought to bear on it in the manner contemplated here.

In clause 2, the disqualifications arising out of any illegal practice or corrupt practice other than the corrupt practice of bribery or undue influence have been sought to be removed. I have tabled an amendment which seeks to make it clear that in cases of convictions arising out of moral turpitude, there should not be any removal of disqualifications. But there may be cases of persons who may have been convicted for political offences in 1952 or thereabouts, at a time of riot, or some other disturbance or some other trouble. Such convictions were the result of particular political conditions or a particular political atmosphere. Or, it may be that these convictions might have arisen on account of the demand of the workers for better wages or the demand by the kisans for land reforms, and so on. But in the new set-up of things, since 1952, every political party in the country has changed its attitude in regard to the way in which a right should be established or enforced.

So, I would submit that even in respect of persons who might have been convicted before 1952 for their first set of offences, the disqualifications should be removed, so that in the new democratic set-up and in the new conditions in the country, they may also be allowed to contest the elections, and any disqualification arising out of former conviction might not stand in the way of their being elected as the representatives of the people.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागव : जनाब डस्टी स्पीकर साहब, जो बिल हमारे सामने आया है, मुझे खुशी है कि सारे हाउस के भेष्वरान ने इस को पसन्द किया है।

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भागवंत]

जहां तक इस के क्लाऊजे का सवाल है, मुझे कोई भी शुबहा नहीं है कि सिर्फ अपो-जीशन की ही यह स्वाहिश नहीं थी और न उन के अकेलों की यह मूँब थी, बल्कि गवर्नरमेंट ने खुद इस बात की कोशिश की कि हमारे आनन्देल मेम्बर श्री विद्वत कुमार चौधरी की वहां पर जितनी तकलीफ कम की जा सकती है उतनी कम की जायें। वह वहां देश के वास्ते तकलीफ उठा रहे हैं और इस के पहले भी उन्होंने देश के लिये बहुत काम किया है, वह एक प्रूँड पेट्रियट है जिन के लिये हर एक देश वासी का सिर इज्जत से झुकना चाहिये। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नरमेंट ने इस कानून में इस किस्म का प्रावीजन रखा है कि जिस के मुताबिक वह फिर इस हाउस में, मुझे उम्मीद है, तशरीफ ला सकेंगे।

इसी तरह से यह फैसिलिटी एक दूसरे मेम्बर साहब के लिये भी ओपिन है जिन का जिक्र चटर्जी साहब ने किया है। दरअसल बात यह है कि जिस किसी ने भी गोप्ता की आजादी के लिये काम किया है वह हमारी इज्जत का मुस्तहक है और हम चाहते हैं कि ऐसे लोगों को जो भी कानूनी रियायतें इन हालात में मिल सकती हैं वे सब दी जायें। इस वास्ते मैं श्री पाटस्कर को मुदारकबाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने ने सारे देश की आवाज को सुना और इस बारे में एक ऐसी तरभीम की जोकि बहुत ही ज़रूरी थी।

अब कुछ चीजों के बारे में मेरे लायक दोस्त कामय साहब ने आवजैक्षण किया है कि दफा १२३ के अन्दर जो डिस्कवली-फ़िकेशन्स दी हुई है उन में चन्द एक डिस्कवली-फ़िकेशन्स ऐसी है जिन को कि हटाना मुनासिब नहीं था लेकिन मैं कामय साहब की खिदमत में अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि वे मेरे से ज्यादा जानते हैं कि यह राइट कि एक आदमी बोट दे, एक आदमी खड़ा

हो सके और अपने देश की पार्लियामेंट या किसी असेम्बली में जा सके, यह कितना ज़रूरी राइट है और इस राइट से किसी को महरूम करना किसी टेक्निकल बात पर या किसी ऐसे क़सूर पर जो कफ़ी सूख न हो, उस के इस हक्क को छीन लेना मुनासिब नहीं है। मैं कामय साहब से बड़े अदब के साथ, अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जो रिप्रेजेंटेशन आफ़ दी पीपुल बिल हमने पास किया था अगर वे उस की मारी दफ़ात का मुताहिजा फ़रमायेंगे तो उन को रोशन हो जायगा कि इस एवेट के अन्दर ही हम ने ऐसी चीजें रखली हैं कि इस किस्म के जरायम के वास्ते जो हम ने पैनालिटी रखली है वह सख्त नहीं है और सिर्फ़ ६ वर्ष की हम ने पैनालिटी रखली है। दफ़ा १४०, १४०(ए) में एलेक्षन कमिशनर को यह अखलत्यार दिया है कि प्रौपर केसेज में रिलीफ दे देवें। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि यह खिलाफ जुँ नहीं है लेकिन यह टेक्निकल जुँ है।

कामय साहब ने बड़े ज़ोर शोर से इमपरसोनेशन की शिकायत की थी लेकिन शायद उन को मालूम भी नहीं है कि एक भी केस इमपरसोनेशन का इलेक्षन पिटिशन का नहीं हुआ।

इसी तरीके से कामय साहब ने गवर्नरमेंट सेंट्स के बारे में एतराज किया है और जिस का कि जवाब श्री एन० सी० चटर्जी ने दे दिया है। मेरा उस की बाबत सिर्फ़ यह कहाना है कि अपर आप पहले के एस्ट को उठा कर देखें तो पायेंगे कि पहले रूल यह था कि एक लम्बरदार या चौकीदार अगर किसी उम्मीदवार की मदद करते थे तो वह भी कानून की जद में आ जाते थे। अब वह कलाज ही दूसरा हो गया, उस को चेंज कर दिया गया और मुनासिब नहीं था कि पुरानी पेनलटीज के अपर को कायम रखा जाता। बाकी चीजें अगर आप

मुलाहिजा फरमायेंगे तो देखेंगे कि बाकी चीजें इस क्रिस्म की हैं कि जिन के ऊपर ज्यादा जोर देना कि वह कायम रखनी जायें वाजिब नहीं था और खसूसन् डिसलालिटी टू दी स्टेट एंड डिसमिसल फ़ौर करक्षण के जुर्मों के बास्ते भी एलेक्षन कमिशनर को अधिकार दिया है कि वह इस पीरियड को रेड्यूस कर सकते हैं। बेसिक पालिसी गवर्नमेंट की यह है कि हर एक आदमी जो एलेक्षन के लिये खड़ा होना चाहता है वह खड़ा हो सके और उस को खड़ा होने से महरूम न किया जाय जब तक कि कोई ऐसे वजूहात न हों जिस से कि उसे डिबार करने पर मजबूर ही न हो जाय और इस स्वाधिश को ले कर हमारे पाटस्कर साहब इस बिल को लाये हैं और जो इस के प्राविंजंस हैं, वे निहायत अच्छे हैं।

जहां तक बोटिंग का सबाल है दफा १४३ की रु से सजा खत्म कर दी गई है। अब चर्टर्जी साहब ने और दूसरे साहबान ने कई केसेज का जिक्र किया है। मैं अपना एक छोटा सा वाक्या सुनाता हूँ। मैं जब यहां सन् १९४५ में इस हाउस में आया तो मैं ने अपने रिटर्न्स दाखिल करने के बास्ते अपने एक एंजेंट को खलत्यार दे दिया कि वह जा कर मेरे रिटर्न्स दाखिल कर दे। जब मेरा एंजेंट गया तो हेड क्लर्क ने उस को वापिस कर दिया, उन्होंने उस को नहीं लिया और कुछ उस पर लिखा भी नहीं। आखिर मेरे पास तार पहुँचा कि मैं फौरन अम्बाला पहुँच कर अपना रिटर्न दाखिल करूँ। मुझे पता नहीं था कि मेरे रिटर्न्स को वापिस कर दिया गया है। खैर मैं आखिरी दिन शाम को ८ बजे अम्बाला पहुँचा, अगर मैं उसी बजे रात में ५,६ मील पर जो किसी मजिस्ट्रेट के पास मेरे रिटर्न पड़े हुए थे, उन से ले कर उसी रात को दाखिल न कर दूँ तो मैं यहां हाउस में बैठने से महरूम हो जाता, चुनांचे मैं ने अपने रिटर्न्स को ले कर रात को दस बजे सुपरिन-

टेंडेंट कमिशनर को पेश कर दिये। तो इस तरह का रूल था कि अगर मैं उस दिन अपने रिटर्न्स दाखिल न कर दूँ तो मैं पार्लियामेंट के अन्दर बेबर नहीं रह सकता था। मेरी अदब से गुजारिश है कि करीब ६ हजार केसेज ऐसे हैं जोकि एक जनरल हृबम के लड्डे के फ़ला तारीख तक जिन के रिटर्न्स नहीं आयेंगे वे सब डिसबालिफ़ाइड हो जायेंगे, यह एक बिलकुल टेक्निकल चीज थी और इस टेक्निकल चीज को हटा कर के मैं समझता हूँ कि ६ हजार आदमियों का भला किया है।

बोटिंग के बारे में मुझे कुछ ज्यादा अचंक करने की ज़रूरत नहीं है, मैं समझता हूँ कि उस के सम्बन्ध में बहुत ठीक हुआ है। मेरी अदब से गुजारिश यह है कि यह जो बिल हम पास कर रहे हैं, इस के ज़रिये डिसएबिलिटीज के रिसूबल का राइट प्रोवाइड कर रहे हैं और यह प्रोवाइड किया जा रहा है कि टेक्निकल ग्राउंड्स पर लोगों को चुनाव में खड़ा होने से महरूम न किया जाय और मैं समझता हूँ कि यह एक ऐसा कानून हम पास करने जा रहे हैं जिस को कि युनैनिमसली पास करना चाहिये और पाटस्कर साहब को भुवारक बाद देना चाहिये कि वे एक काबिल डाक्टर की मानिन्द नबज पर हाथ रख कर इस हाउस के सामने इस क्रिस्म का बिल लाये हैं।

Shri Pataskar: I am glad that this measure, which I have brought forward, has received the almost unanimous support of the Members of the House.

I can assure all sections of the House that so far as the question of Goa is concerned, there is no difference of opinion. That has been shown by the way in which a special provision has been made regarding those who are now imprisoned in Goa and who want to stand as candidates wherever they like, either to the State Assemblies or to Parliament. At any

People

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rate, whatever the differences of opinion with respect to the action taken by Government, I think it will be conceded—and I am glad to note that it has been conceded by everybody—that this will show that every section of this House is one so far as the question of the solution of the Goa problem is concerned, except that there might be differences of opinion with respect to the way, the time and the manner in which it has to be done. I need not, therefore, add any remarks more.

I would have wished that Shri Kamath had not referred to the betrayal of Goa and all those things. After all, we are assembling here to do something on which we are all agreed. Therefore, why try in any way to lay emphasis on our differences of approach. However, that is a small matter.

Even with regard to the other Bills, naturally we are all anxious that our election law should be perfect. We held an election on a colossal scale last time, for the first time in the world. We had an election law which had worked successfully, by and large. At the same time, we are democratic enough to see that this Parliament shall take into account whatever lacunae have been discovered; we have tried also to put them right and have passed the new amended law. Even now we want that some innocent mistakes that might have been committed should not constitute the reason for anybody being deprived of his right to vote or be a member, and we want to rectify those defects.

It is from these two points of view that the present Bill has been brought forward. I am glad that this is one measure on which all sections of the House are united. That shows how India is the right place for the flourishing of democracy.

Shri Kamath: A feather in your cap.

An Hon. Member: Maharashtrian cap!

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal of disqualifications for membership of, and voting at elections to, Parliament and State Legislatures, and for certain miscellaneous matters in connection with such elections be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2—(Removal of disqualifications)

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

(i) Page 1, lines 16 and 17,—

for "illegal practice or for any corrupt practice other than the corrupt practice of bribery or undue influence" substitute "minor corrupt practice".

(ii) Page 1, lines 16 and 17—

for "any corrupt practice other than the corrupt practice of bribery or undue influence" substitute "any minor corrupt practice".

I only formally move these amendments. I have already spoken on them.

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

Page I, line 17—

after "undue influence" insert "or for conviction for an offence other than moral turpitude".

I have already spoken on this amendment.

Shri Pataskar: I do not accept these amendments. I do not want to take the time of the House by saying anything further.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: He has already spoken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shall I put the amendments to the vote of the House?

Shri Kamath: They may be formally put.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the amendments moved by Shri Kamath to the vote of the House.

The question is:

Page 1, lines 16 and 17—

for "illegal practice or for any corrupt practice other than the corrupt practice of bribery or undue influence" substitute "minor corrupt practice".

The motion was negative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 1, lines 16 and 17—

for "any corrupt practice other than the corrupt practice of bribery or undue influence" substitute "any minor corrupt practice".

The motion was negative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 1, line 17—

after "undue influence" insert.. "or for conviction for an offence other than moral turpitude".

The motion was negative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3—(Amendment of section 7)

Shri Kamath: I beg to move.

Page 2, lines 4 to 6—

for "in the capital of which the appropriate Government has not less than twenty-five per cent. share" substitute: "in which the appropriate Government has any share or financial interest".

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

Page 2, lines 5 and 6—

for "the appropriate Government has not less than twenty-five per cent. share", substitute "any Government has any share".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put these amendments to the vote of the House.

The question is:

Page 2, lines 4 to 6—

for "in the capital of which the appropriate Government has not less than twenty-five per cent. share" substitute "in which the appropriate Government has only share or financial interest".

The motion was negative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2, lines 5 and 6—

for "the appropriate Government has not less than twenty-five per cent. shares", substitute "any Government has any share".

The motion was negative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4—(Special provision for nomination in case of prisoners in Portuguese territory)

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 13—

for "received" substitute "accepted".

So far as my legal and technical knowledge goes, the word "accepted" is more appropriate than "received" in this context. Even the election law, I believe, has used the word

[Shri Kamath]

"accepted". It is said "accept nomination papers", not "receive nomination papers" I would, therefore, request the Minister to go into this matter and satisfy himself whether the word "received" is more appropriate or the word "accepted" is more appropriate.

Shri Pataskar: At this stage, 'receives' seems to be the more appropriate word. Shri Chatterjee will explain to you.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: About 5 and 6.

Shri Kamath: Sir, the clause provides for the authentication of the certificate by a Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs. It is said, 'certificate signed by a Secretary'. I have suggested, 'authenticated by the Ministry'. I think that would be more easy to be implemented, than the provision as it is in the Bill. It may not always be possible to get it signed by the Secretary, if it is to be got quickly. The Secretary may not be present always in Delhi; he might have gone somewhere. It will take time. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to accept this. The spirit is entirely willing and I say why not the flesh or the letter also? Why should it be so weak? Authentication by the Ministry would be enough. It means authentication by the Joint Secretary or the Deputy Secretary. Why should it be by the Secretary himself? I cannot understand it. If the first one is not acceptable, I have suggested an alternative one, No. 6. There are quite a few Joint Secretaries in the Ministry and one of them may be had at any time. It is not absolutely necessary that it should be by the Secretary. It is enough that it is authenticated duly by a person competent to do so. I would move both these amendments and commend them to the acceptance of the House.

Sir, I beg to move:

(i) Page 2—
lines 18 and 19—
for "signed by a Secretary to the Government of India in" substitute "authenticated by"

(ii) Page 2, line 18—
after "Secretary" insert "or Joint Secretary".

Shri K. K. Basu: Sir, I beg to move:
Page 2, line 14—

after "delivery" insert: "or scrutiny or such further time as the Returning Officer may allow"

Sir, my amendment is very simple. I think the hon. Minister will accept it. I want that the delivery of these two documents, a writing signed by such person and the certificate—or authentication, whatever that might be—of the Ministry need not be at the time of the delivery of the nomination paper. We can have a provision, 'or at the time of scrutiny or such further time as the Returning Officer may allow'. Even now, if there is a dispute and if a document has to be produced, it can be done at the time of scrutiny. Often, time is given by the Returning Officer to produce such documents. I think as the Minister wants to remove all difficulties, he will easily accept this which will obviate all difficulties.

Shri Pataskar: The matter is very simple with regard to the amendment of my friend, Shri Kamath. The word here is 'received' and I think that word is really the proper word because the nomination paper has to be received at that stage and acceptance comes at a later stage.

"such nomination paper shall be received by the returning officer....."

We say that such nomination paper should be signed on his behalf by the

proposer. Then, we say, 'no such nomination paper shall be received...'. We say, it should not be received unless the two conditions are fulfilled. What are these conditions?

I will first of all refer to (b).

"(b) a certificate signed by a Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs that the person is detained in prison or other custody in Portuguese territory."

From the information which we have got—and probably hon. Members know that—there are only about 47 such Indian nationals. We have already ascertained that. There will be absolutely no difficulty so far as getting a certificate is concerned. It can be signed by the Secretary. I submit no complications are likely to arise.

With regard to (a)—

"a writing signed by such person and showing his intention to stand as a candidate",

It will be realised that at that stage what is necessary is something in writing whether the person is in Goa jail or in any prison to show that he is willing to stand.

From the speech of the hon. Member, Shri Chatterjee, we find that when the resolution was communicated to the hon. Member, Shri Chaudhuri in Goa, he even wrote a reply. So, there will be no difficulty whatsoever in getting something in writing. I think my hon. friends will see that there is no difficulty in this and I beg both my hon. friends to take back their amendments.

Shri Kamath: Joint Secretary will be enough; why insist on Secretary for signing?

Shri Pataskar: I will see that there is no difficulty so far as the matter is concerned. I do not think there will be any complication.

Shri K. K. Basu: What about my amendment?

Shri Pataskar: I am sorry I did not reply earlier. What we want to lay down is very simple. All that we want is that the people who are interested should get something in writing beforehand. I think there ought to be no difficulty in the matter. There is no question of extending the time further because it is not a big matter. It is not a problem in which a large number is concerned.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member, Shri Kamath, want his amendments to be put to the House?

Shri Kamath: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2, line 13—

for "received" substitute "accepted".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2, lines 18 and 19—

for "signed by a Secretary to the Government of India in" substitute "authenticated by".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2, line 18—

after "Secretary" insert "or Joint Secretary".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2, line 14—

after "delivery" insert "or scrutiny or such further time as the Returning Officer may allow".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5— (Prevention of disqualification etc.)

Shri L. Jageswar Singh (Inner Manipur): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 25—

add at the end "or of a Territorial Council".

Sir, in clause 5, members of the Advisory Councils have been allowed to stand for Parliamentary constituencies. Nothing has been provided with regard to their standing as candidates for election to the Territorial Councils. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether just as they are allowed to stand as candidates for Parliamentary constituencies, they are allowed to stand for the Territorial Councils. The Territorial Councils Bill is coming before this House. I may remind the hon. Minister that there are two Advisory Councils, one in Manipur and one in Tripura. Tripura has got 3 members and Manipur 5. These 8 members are treated more or less as Ministers. Shri Basu said on the floor of the House that they should not be allowed to stand as candidates. Why should they not? They are more or less just like Ministers. If the Advisory Council is to be abolished, it is a different matter altogether. If they are allowed to function why not these members be allowed to stand as candidates for the Territorial Councils as well? That is why I want a clarification from the hon. Minister. The Territorial Councils are to be elected along with these general elections. If they are allowed to stand for Parliamentary constituencies why not they be allowed for the Territorial Councils as well?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

Page 2, line 25—

add at the end "or of a Territorial Council".

Shri Pataskar: Has the Territorial Councils Act been passed?

Shri L. Jageswar Singh: Not yet passed but the Bill is coming up before the House.

Shri Kelappan (Ponnani): Unless it is passed how can we have this?

Shri Pataskar: The Territorial Councils Act is not yet passed and I do not think it is possible to make such a provision here. But perhaps I can give an assurance to the hon. Member.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member want me to put it to the House now?

Shri L. Jageswar Singh: No, Sir.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and Title were added to the Bill.

Shri Pataskar: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): I would just add my voice to that of my friends in welcoming that part of the Bill which allows the persons who are imprisoned in Goa to stand for election. This measure, has not come a day too soon. As a matter

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of fact it has come rather at the fag end of the life of this Parliament. I remember when the discussion on the Representation of the People Bill was continuing in this House, many of us had pointed out that the disqualification of 2 years for those who had been in prison would affect many of the persons who were in prison at that time. Having pressed that, we were given an assurance that when the time came, it would be looked into by the Government, and I am glad that at this last moment this Bill has come before the House.

I would also like to say that we, from all sides of the House, join together in wishing that these people will be released very soon and they will be able to stand as full candidates as anybody else. But I would also like to add that whilst it is true that Government also has made a gesture that they will not set up any candidates against Shri T. K. Chaudhuri, we do not know as yet what will be the fate of Shri Gore and certain others who will probably be candidates, and I hope that the same attitude will be taken up by the Government in the case of Shri Gore and others because these men are victimised for the people of India and deserve the tribute which the people of India want to pay to these selfless fighters for the cause of our freedom, for freeing the last part of the Indian soil which still remains in the hands of foreign imperialists.

Shri Achuthan (Cranganur): I also associate myself with the good sentiments expressed by our sister, Shrimati Renu Chakravarty. Even though the Bill is a small measure containing two or three clauses, it contains very important provisions with regard to elections. We know that a number of disqualified members will be saved on account of the provisions of this Bill as well as patriots who are now in Goa.

I want to make one suggestion. We are going to have elections in two or

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three months' time. We have passed two or three amendments to the rules, and I would be glad if the Law Minister takes it into his head to prepare a compilation of all these amendments and the rules and publish it very early, at least a month or two weeks before the date for nominations being filed. At least there will be about 5,000 candidates on a rough estimate of three candidates for one seat, and it is highly necessary that two weeks before the nominations are filed, we should have an idea of the rules, the amendments and other provisions which affect us. Even though we have passed these amendments, we ourselves are in the dark. It is very necessary that the Law Minister takes it up personally and sees that all these amendments and rules are compiled and published and made available to the public at least two weeks before the filing of nominations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

MOTIONS RE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AND ELECTION PETITIONS) RULES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up consideration of motions relating to modification of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956. I think the House of the opinion that these Rules should be finished today. The hon. Minister is going out this evening, out of Delhi.

An Hon. Member: To his constituency?

The Minister of Legal Affairs and Civil Aviation (Shri Pataskar): Anywhere you like me to go.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): I have got a number of amendments.

[Shri Kamath]

How do we proceed, Sir? Is it rule by rule or all together?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is better if he takes up all his amendments together.

Shri Kamath: In respect of Schedules which have been omitted, are they going to have new Schedules?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When it is not there, it may be taken to have been amended.

Shri Kamath: But when it is published the House may not be in session. Anyway, I would like to move my motion Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Motion Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12 have no relevance today.

I beg to move:

(i) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section(3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-rule(1) of rule 18 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

after "Election Commission" add:

"and such design and colour shall be uniform throughout the country."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(ii) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section(3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendments be made in sub-rule of rule 24 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

(i) for "may" substitute "shall"; and

(ii) omit "shall".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(iii) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section(3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following new sub-rule be added to rule 38 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"(2) The returning officer shall permit each candidate to make reasonable arrangements of his own to keep a watch on the ballot boxes from the moment of their despatch from the polling station till the commencement of counting."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(iv) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section(3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following provisos be added to clause(b) of sub-rule(1) of rule 53 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"Provided that in a parliamentary Constituency where votes will be counted at more places than one, such counting will take place on the same day:

Provided further that votes shall be counted on a day not later than the third day from the date of completion of the poll."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(v) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section(3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the proviso to sub-rule(2) of rule 57 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of

Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956, be omitted.

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(vi) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section(3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-rule(1) of rule 64 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November 1956:

After "counting" insert "at each place or centre".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(vii) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section(3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following new rule be inserted after rule 66 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"66A. The declaration of the results of election shall, as far as may be feasible, be made on the same day in all the States and union territories of India."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(viii) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-clause (1) of clause (c) of sub-rule (1) of rule 131 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

add at the end — "by the candidate, his agent, and the party or organisation promoting his election, the respective amounts being shown separately".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

Before I go to the other motions I would ask the Minister to enlighten the House about this matter, because the Schedule which has been omitted relates to ceiling on expenditure. That is an important matter.

An hon. Member: An announcement has been made.

Shri Kamath: But that is not before the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That has been laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Pataskar: Yesterday I laid on the Table of the House a copy of it. May I read it for the information of the hon. Member? It fixes the minimum and maximum expenditure etc. It reads:

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), the Central Government, after consulting the Election Commission, hereby directs that the following amendments shall be made in the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, namely:—

In the said Rules—

(i) for Rule 135, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

"135. Maximum election expenses.—(1) The total of the expenditure of which account is to be kept under section 77 and which is incurred in connection with an election in any one Parliamentary constituency shall not exceed—

(a) Rs. 35,000, in the case of a two-member constituency in any State;

(b) Rs. 25,000, in the case of a single-member constituency in any State;

(c) Rs. 15,000, in the case of a two-member constituency in any Union territory; and

[Shri Pataskar]

(d) Rs. 10,000, in the case of a single-member constituency in any Union territory.

(2) The total of the expenditure of which account is to be kept under section 77 and which is incurred in connection with an election in any one Assembly constituency shall not exceed the amount specified in respect of that constituency in the following table:—

State	Single-member constituency	Two-member constituency
Andhra Pradesh	7,000	12,000
Assam	6,000	11,000
Bihar	8,000	13,000
Bombay	8,000	13,000"

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All these have been printed in the bulletin and supplied to Members.

Shri Kamath: I would only confine myself to the other amendments, and particularly what I consider to be major amendments. They are amendments Nos. 3, 4, 6 and 7. I would make a sort of consolidated comprehensive observation about all these as we are racing against time.

Some of these major amendments refer to the counting and pre-counting of stages of election of which I had particular experience during the general elections. So I would crave your indulgence to speak at some length on these particular aspects of election.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member knows to what length he can go.

Shri Kamath: Yes, I will not exceed the limit, I rarely do.

It has been provided in this rule that counting shall take place at various centres as under the old law. I would suggest that in a parliamentary constituency, where there are several centres—more than one—after the poll is completed in the whole

constituency, the counting may take place simultaneously at all the centres on the same day. The candidate will be present at one centre and his agent may be present at the other centres. The counting need not be postponed from day to day. If there are 5 centres, counting need not take 5 days or more.

Then, the pre-counting stage, which is the post-polling stage, is very important. Some of my friends had some unpleasant experiences at this particular stage between polling and counting. I am therefore asking for certain safeguards which can be approved by the House, and which can be easily provided by the Government, without any detriment to their prestige or to the arrangement they are making in respect of these matters. My hon. friend, Shrimati Shakuntala Nayar—she is not present in the House now—told me that in the last elections, she got special permission from the Presiding Officers to enclose her ballot boxes in special bags which she had made and to seal them with her own seal. I do not ask for that; that may not be allowed. But, Government should have no objection to the candidate making arrangements for mounting guard, for keeping a watch over the ballot boxes during transit. That is possible. When the boxes are conveyed from the polling booths to the treasury or wherever they are deposited, the candidate should be allowed to make arrangements for mounting guard. In an Assembly constituency in my province, Madhya Pradesh, the Returning Officer was good enough to allow this arrangement, but all Returning Officers would not do that. In fact, in the last elections, there was a suspicion that tampering was done in certain cases. The senior Minister told us that this time, "the ballot boxes are fool-proof, knave-proof and proof against everything." I do not know what he meant by everything; I hope they are not proof against ballot papers entering them.

Shri Pataskar: Who said it?

Shri Kamath: Your senior colleague.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): In the Rajya Sabha?

Shri Kamath: Here in this House.

Then, there is a provision in these rules that the Election Commission should be authorised to validate the ballot papers in certain circumstances. This provision, I am afraid, has been incorporated as a result of my election petition. The judgment of the Supreme Court in that case is reported in A.I.R. January, 1955. The judgment was delivered in December, 1954. The Supreme Court held that the Election Commission should not be authorised to validate the ballot papers once the poll is over. After the poll is completed, and the ballot papers are secure in the ballot box the only authority to validate or reject the ballot papers should be the Tribunal. The Tribunal should go into the circumstances and then decide whether any ballot papers should be validated or not. Neither the Election Commissioner, nor the Returning Officer *a fortiori*, has any authority to validate the ballot papers. Therefore, the Supreme Court held that the Tribunal being a quasi-judicial body should have the authority to validate ballot papers, but the Election Commission being an executive body should in no circumstances be empowered to validate ballot papers. That provision is not at all wholesome, is not at all satisfactory, it is bad in law and must not be approved by the House. I have, therefore given a motion in respect of that also.

As regards other matters I would not take more than three minutes. We have taken this matter at the fag-end of the day.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Could I depend upon the clock for this?

Shri Kamath: One hour has been allotted for this.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): You need not take the full one hour.

Shri Kamath: In regard to declaration of results, it should be made, as

far as possible and feasible, on the same day in all the States and Union Territories of India. I need not emphasise the importance or the necessity for this particular motion of mine, because I do not think it is quite desirable that we announce the results piecemeal, in one State in the middle of March, two days later in another State and five days later in a third State and that sort of thing. I would be happy if all the results all over India are announced on one and the same day so that the matter may be satisfactorily settled.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): It will be against certain portions of the Act.

Shri Kamath: Against the Act? I do not think so.

Lastly, I come to Rule 131 dealing with election expenses. Rule 131 modified the old provision ostensibly for simplifying the whole process, but really for some other ulterior reasons, as was pointed out on the occasion of the debate on the Bill amending the election law.

There was a united amendment from the Opposition.

An Hon. Member: Why Opposition? Congress people also joined.

Shri Kamath: I am glad that some of them joined, not all. About expenses by the party or organisation supporting a candidate, we moved an amendment and the Minister accepted that amendment. The effect of it was contrary to what we on this side of the House had imagined, or visualised. I have, therefore, moved an amendment in motion 8. There is a provision here—

“(c) the amount of the expenditure—

(i) amount paid;

(ii) the amount outstanding;”

I have therefore moved a motion saying that the amount paid should show that made by the candidate, his agent, and the party or organisation promoting his election, the respective accounts being shown separately.

[Shri Kamath.]
18 hrs.

I would commend this motion to the acceptance of the House, in the interests of fair and free elections in our parliamentary democracy. Without the acceptance of this motion with regard to election expenses, the elections will be heavily weighted against parties which are without money bags behind them, without the capitalists behind them, and particularly against independent candidates. I do not wish to speak on behalf of the independent candidates. There are hon. colleagues here who would speak about them much more effectively than I do. But, I do say that this provision as it is will militate against fair and free elections so far as small parties and independent candidates are concerned. Unfortunately for the country, it is the Congress Party which commands all the money bags by hook or crook. I hope the crook will be less and less as days go by; but it is too much to hope in the coming elections. I plead with the House to accept this particular motion so that all parties will be at par and there will be really fair and free elections and not unfair and un-free elections in our democracy.

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): I beg to move my motion No. 25.

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following provisos be added to sub-rule (1) of rule 10 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table of the House on the 20th November, 1956:

"Provided that in a double member constituency two candidates of the same party would not be discriminated against on account of their belonging to an unrecognised party:

Provided further that as far as possible the candidates of a party which is a recognised party in any State would be allotted the symbol of that party."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

I know that at the fag end of the day, we cannot carry any suggestion by a majority. But, I will try to appeal to the Minister in charge and to the House also to give their attention to one aspect of these rules. I would draw your attention to rules 5 and 10 which deal with choice of symbols by candidates and allotment of symbols. As regards choice of symbols, it is said:

"the choice to be made by a candidate under this sub-rule shall be subject to such restrictions as the Election Commission may think fit to impose in that behalf;"

In rule 10, it is said:

"subject to any general or special direction issued in this behalf by the Election Commission;"

That is, the symbols are to be allotted according to the special or general directions of the Election Commission. Parliament has a right to see what are the directions which are being given by the Election Commission, whether they are proper directions, whether they are according to our wishes and whether they are against the principles of democracy. Cases have come to my notice. The Election Commission did not mean it. I know that, on the whole, the Election Commission has been quite fair and quite just. But, not knowing fully well, things happen. Because, sometimes we vaguely talk things and they are accepted as great principles. It is said that in England there are only two parties. It is said that there should not be too many parties, and that is wrong. They feel that it is a great principle on which our Constitution is based and that there should not be many parties. I think real democracy demands that there can be any number of parties. Even one man can stand and hold his opinion and he has a right to fight the election with as much privilege and as much facility as a party with 375

people. The real point is, there should not be any discrimination. What has happened is this. When they found that there were a large number of parties, they had to put a limit somewhere. While making arrangements, the number cannot be too large. They said, for the allotment of symbols, we recognise certain parties. I would even go and concede that they did not put very strict limits. They said, we will reserve symbols to those who have got at least 3 per cent. of the votes, others will not get. Up to that extent, we do not mind. Now, here comes a hitch. I would like to tell you one or two instances. In the allotment of symbols, the Election Commission issued instructions. The first instruction that was issued was that in a double-member constituency different symbols should be allotted to each contesting candidate in conformity as far as practicable with his choice. They issued instructions that in a double member constituency, the candidate of a recognised party for the general seat should be allotted the symbol of the party, and for the candidate for the reserve seat the symbol with a chakra would be allotted. For other parties separate symbols were to be given. This makes a discrimination. I will give you a concrete instance.

In Datia there were three parties contesting the elections—the Congress, the Hindu Mahasabha and the P.S.P. The Congress candidate got the bullock with a circle, the P.S.P. candidate got his party's symbol with a circle, and the Hindu Mahasabha candidate, when he asked for the symbol of his party, got a hut for the general seat. The candidate for the reserved seat got some other symbol. That is because in that State, Vindhya Pradesh, we are not recognised. The result was that the Hindu Mahasabha candidate for the general seat won the election, the P.S.P. candidate for the general seat came second and the Congress party general candidate came third. Both the candidates of the P.S.P. for the general and reserved seats got the same number of votes, the Congress party also practically got the same

number of votes for both their candidates, but in the case of the Hindu Mahasabha the symbol not being the same, we found the P.S.P. candidate had won the reserved seat.

Therefore, what I say is when a person comes and says that he belongs to a particular party, if other parties are being given the same symbol with only a circle around it, he should be similarly given the symbol of his party. It is fair and reasonable. I wrote frantic letters to the Election Commission, but then they wrote to me: "We are helpless. We have issued the notification. It is not possible to make any change in the instruction". Therefore, what I say is that Parliament should see that the Election Commission does not issue any instructions which would militate against the very conception of democracy, and therefore this power which we have given to them should be restricted. I have moved an amendment with a view to restrict this power of the Election Commission.

Then I come to my second amendment. There are certain parties which are recognised in certain States. A party may be recognised in Bombay State or Madhya Pradesh or Bengal or three or four States. If their candidates stand in some other State, they also, as far as possible, should get the same symbol of the party. I do not say it should be done very strictly, but as far as possible care should be taken to see that no confusion is made. We have got such big States. For example, U.P. is such a big State that even if I set up 100 candidates, my party may not be recognised. Last time from our party a Member of Parliament was elected by a few votes, and this difference could come in due to this difference in the size of the territory. Therefore, these rules should not be hard and fast. Certain restrictions have to be put on these powers of the Election Commission because we find that Parliament has no control, once they issue instructions we have not got the power to take it away or interfere with it. I would therefore request the Minister that even if the wording of my amendment may not be acceptable

[Shri V. G. Deshpande]

to him, he may change the wording a bit and convey this intention of the House that the House does not want any discrimination to be made between party and party and candidate and candidate on account of its size. We have not accepted the size of the support as a criterion for democracy. In a democracy we feel that even minority has the right to live and fight and have equal privileges. Therefore, I would appeal to the Minister to accept my amendment with some modifications if he thinks fit.

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

"This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-rule (1) of rule 34 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

for "two rupees" substitute "one rupee".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution."

Rule 34 provides that in case a particular vote is challenged, two rupees should be deposited with the polling officer by the person challenging. This time we are trying to make the election machinery as cheap as possible, and in all cases we have tried to reduce the fees even on those suggested by the Election Commissioner. I am fully aware of the fact that originally the amount was Rs. 10 but later on it was reduced. But I feel that it should be reduced to one rupee, because, by and large, from our experience and also from the report of the Election Commissioner on the last general elections, it can be seen that excepting in certain cosmopolitan areas, there had not been many cases of voting by persons who were not actually voters. Unless the fee is very small, it may not be possible for a

genuine challenger to pay the fee, that is, the money required to maintain the challenge, especially if the presiding officer takes a very adverse view.

It has been provided in the rules that in case it is found that the challenge is not *bona fide*, the entire fee may be forfeited, but in case it is found to be *bona fide*, the money would be returned at the close of the poll. I do not see the justification for returning it at the close of the poll. As soon as the polling officer decides that the challenge is *bona fide* it should be his duty to return the fee that was deposited to maintain the challenge. I hope the Minister of Legal Affairs, who has been very sympathetic and who has been trying to improve upon the election laws with a view to simplify them would see the soundness of the amendments I have tabled. I am moving motions No. 16 and 17 in order to make our election machinery as easy as possible and as cheap as it is possible for us to make.

I beg to move:

(i) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-rule (5) of Rule 34 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

for "after the close of the poll on the day on which it was made" substitute "forthwith".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(ii) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following be added at the end of sub-rule (2) of rule 35 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid

on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"Provided however any candidate or agent shall be entitled to put his seal on ballot boxes if he so desires."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

(iii) This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following proviso be added to rule 38 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"Provided that any candidate or his agent shall be entitled to accompany the returning officer and/or his party for the safe transport of the aforesaid ballot boxes, packets and other papers referred to hereinbefore if he so desires."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

My motion No. 18 is to rule 35 which relates to the sealing of ballot boxes etc. after poll. I am told, I have also seen from experience after having attended some of the meetings of the Election Commission, that the pattern of ballot boxes varies from State to State. Under the present arrangement, the candidates or their agents are entitled to seal only the slot through which the ballot papers are dropped inside. But, as you are aware, there have been occasions when the ballot papers themselves are wrapped in some gunny bags or something like that, and then the seal is put. The unfortunate part of it is that the practice in regard to sealing varies from one presiding officer to another. Some presiding officers allow the parties to put their seals on the particular bags, but there are other presiding officers who say that only they are authorised to put the seal and not the candidates or their agents. I do not say that by

and large there have been cases of corruption or maladministration or wrong behaviour, but there can be an occasion, especially when there is a close contest between two candidates, when the ballot papers may not be properly safeguarded or there may not be proper security arrangements for the ballot boxes. So, I would urge that in case the candidates or their agents want to put their seal, they should be allowed to do so after the boxes have been secured and sealed by the presiding officer.

My other motions are in respect of the right of the parties to accompany the ballot boxes when they are transported from one place to another. In our country the transport conditions are very bad at many places. In some cases, for fifty miles or so, the ballot boxes have to be transported on the bullock-cart; sometimes, they have to be carried on the head of a person, as would be the case in Himachal Pradesh, PEPSU and so on. Even in our parts, sometimes, the boxes have to be carried by persons on foot, then by boats, and then possibly on a truck or a lorry, and that too, at dead of night. We have seen in certain cases that candidates have a feeling that the ballot boxes are tampered with. I do not say that as a rule this happens, but the party in power has the advantage of support of the administrative machinery, and the Opposition members feel that these ballot boxes are likely to be tampered with. As a matter of fact, there were cases during the last general elections when ballot boxes were thrown out of the lorry or carrier and they were found ultimately by the Returning Officer lying in some streets. So I say that in such cases, if the candidate or his agent so desires, he can accompany these boxes. It is entirely left to the candidates to decide whether they should accompany the boxes or not. I do not make it incumbent on the Presiding Officer to allow them to do it, but if the candidates feel that they should accompany the boxes, they should be allowed to do so.

Then I have another motion.

[Shri K. K. Basu]

I beg to move:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following be added at the end of proviso to sub-rule (1) of rule 58 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"save and except when the result of the election may be determined on such tender votes they shall be counted at the request of any candidate or his agent."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

This relates to the provision for tender votes. Unfortunately, these tender votes are never counted. Therefore, what is the point in having this class of votes? For example, if by impersonation somebody comes and votes for a particular person and the real man comes subsequently, we do not accept the real man's vote. But here we have the provision of a tender vote. But we have no rules under which tender votes are counted.

Rule 58 says that tender votes are not normally counted. I have sought to add:

"save and except when the result of the election may be determined on such tender votes they shall be counted at the request of any candidate or his agent."

Take the case of Shri Kamath. In the first election he contested, he lost by 170 or 175 votes. In some cases, the tie may be with respect to 200 votes. If, for example, 180 votes out of them were genuine, then they would go in favour of the person who needs that margin. On such occasions, these votes would serve some purpose.

Otherwise, there is no point in keeping these votes. Then they should be made illegal and invalid. So I have suggested this amendment. At the request of the candidate, these votes may be counted and taken into account by the Returning Officer. I hope the Minister will accept this motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All these motions are now before the House.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I have a few observations to make. My hon. friend, Shri Kamath, has suggested that there should be simultaneous counting of votes in the several polling booths or polling stations.

Shri Kamath: In parliamentary constituencies, at the counting centres, not polling booths.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: To my knowledge, all these boxes, especially relating to a parliamentary election, are pooled in one place or two and counting goes on under the supervision of the Returning Officer. If there is more than one centre prescribed for counting, I think it will be physically impossible; it will also not be desirable.

As a matter of fact, the only thing that can be observed is to reduce the time-lag between the polling day and counting day. As it is, I think a week or a week and a half is taken for commencing the counting operation. That can be reduced to the minimum. Probably it would take just 24 or 48 hours for all the boxes to be pooled in one place, however distant they might be from the Returning Officer's headquarters, because quick transport facilities are available now. Therefore, it should be possible for the Government to conduct the counting as quickly as possible, at any rate not later than two or three days after the election is over.

With regard to reduction of expenditure now revised and re-allotted per candidate region-wise, it is, no doubt,

very good on paper and the rule looks to be very reasonable. But it so happens that it is observed more in its breach than in the honouring of it. There is no possibility of any candidate giving correct figures; though he might feel that he should give correct figures, it might not be possible for him to account for every pie that he has spent. On the top of it, we have to understand that in these days elections cost much more than what has been prescribed by Government. I am not quite sure whether the Government realises that it is impossible to contest elections with the allotment that has been made by Government now. I do think that it would be much wiser to scrap this provision for rendering of accounts. As a matter of fact, we find that in several areas the Congress Government is trying to find out the richest men in the area to contest the elections. If that is so, it will not be possible even for the Congress to spend only the prescribed amount and then get success. It would, therefore, be wise on their part to look into things properly and see that this particular rule is scrapped. Nobody would understand or appreciate the "cat and milk policy" of Government. They should find a method by which they can scrap this. Almost every candidate becomes a culprit though he does not want to be so. In this respect, to my knowledge, the first culprit is the Congress party candidate. Otherwise, there is no need for the party government to go about and collect huge sums of money amounting to crores from very rich centres like Bombay and other places. It is done only with a view to spend at election time.

We had recently a very strange experience in Andhra. The elections were conducted under the aegis or supervision or direct intervention of some people from Bombay—hon. Members from Bombay. They seemed to have brought a few lakhs of rupees and spent them there. If it is for the organisational purposes, I can understand it. But, if it is for any other purposes, that is a matter which

requires greater scrutiny and greater alertness on the part of Government. Government attitude seems to be that if it is a Congress candidate that is contesting then no supervision or vigilance is necessary; but if it is an opposition candidate, greater supervision is necessary. Some of these things do come when we prescribe a maximum limit for expenditure. It would, therefore, be wise on the part of Government to see that this rule is not pressed. Later on they need not come to Parliament for an amendment of this rule so that all those that are disqualified under the rule are brought in for the purposes of election.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy (Wandiwash): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I shall be very brief in the sense that there is only one point which I want to stress.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall be grateful.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: The point raised by Shri Reddi and Shri Kamath is only with regard to the counting of votes at a particular centre, that it must be on a particular day. While agreeing with that, I have got one small difference. I would say that the counting of votes in the whole district should be on the same day. I will tell you what happened in my constituency. The election took place in one constituency on the 2nd January and in another on the 5th. They started the counting of votes. Fortunately, the candidate was successful. He was returned with a thumping majority. They took advantage of this and made propaganda saying that such and such a candidate has won and so candidates of that party should be supported at other places. Whether it is a candidate of the Congress party or any other party, I am only saying that the counting should take place on the same day throughout the district, instead of counting them on two or three days. If it is done they cannot say at some other place that such and such a candidate has won and that party should be supported. I do not mind whether it is the Congress party or the P.S.P. party.

[Shri N. R. Muniswamy]

I want to bring to the notice of the House the maximum limits of expenditure which they have prescribed. They have prescribed Rs. 35,000 for a double-member constituency and Rs. 25,000 for a single-member constituency. Some facts have been brought to the notice of the House as regards the method by which a candidate is getting over this difficulty. I know for certain that there are certain candidates who do not even spend Rs. 25,000; they spend only Rs. 5,000 and come out successful; for them there is no difficulty because when they submit their return, they do it in a very honest way. But there are candidates who spend three or four times the money fixed, that is, if it is Rs. 25,000, they spend a lakh of rupees. We have seen in Bombay and other places that they have spent even lakhs and lakhs of rupees. By having these rules of fixing the limit at Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 35,000 as the case may be or re-allotting the amount to the various States after reorganisation from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 9,000, the people concerned do not satisfy the rules and they are going to spend more than what is being mentioned here. They will wantonly or dishonestly submit wrong returns saying that they spent much less. By having these rules you are persuading them to spend more and asking them to file wrong returns. Therefore it would be better to scrap them altogether and allow the alternative that the party in power or any recognised party can spend money and as in the present rules the recognised party need not file any return on behalf of their candidates. Therefore, they can spend a lot of money and still the candidates can fight the elections. Therefore, it would be wiser to scrap these rules and only allow the party to spend money on behalf of their candidates.

Shri Pataskar: Instead of trying to reply to every one of these motions, I would try to say generally what I have got to say with respect of these suggestions.

I must first of all say that I admit that the suggestions, even though made by the opposition, are naturally made with a view to see that the elections are fair. I do not at all attribute any motives to the anxiety of all sections of the House.

One fact to be noted in this connection, so far as the rules are concerned, is that they have been framed after consultation with the Election Commissioner, who under article 324 or 325 is really the authority very rightly created in order to see that the elections are fair and free from any possible party influences. I am glad that so far as the coming elections are concerned, the Election Commissioner has taken into consideration all the comments and criticisms made, and tried as far as possible to see that the members of the opposition are satisfied. He has been consulting the leaders of the opposition parties and he is trying to see to the best of his ability, so far as human restrictions are there, that the elections are fair.

There have been some suggestions to which I would refer. These are the stages to which mostly reference is made.

If I am to begin at the bottom, then I will say that there is this question of the expenses. At the time when we were discussing the Bill itself, I think this was subjected to a good deal of criticism on several occasions, and though something can be said on each side, after taking into consideration everything, the Select Committee considered it, the House considered it and ultimately we have passed that section and now we have to fix the maximum. Therefore, I hope and trust that there will be more trust between all parties and that we shall all strive and endeavour to see that the elections are truly free from influences.

Then there is a suggestion about counting and pre-counting stages. Even then we had a very large number of election petitions and at one

stage I tried to suggest to the Election Commissioner that, if it was possible as in some other countries, on the same day the poll is finished, the votes may be counted in the presence of the presiding officer of that place and probably all these agents etc. Whatever we do, there is a rule for it. I am told by the Election Commission that so far as our country is concerned, because of the vastness of the country and the number of persons involved, it would be far more dangerous than the present state of things. Because, if you do not get the right type of men, instead of the complaints and suspicions decreasing they will go on increasing. But he hopes that in course of time and with experience probably things might improve.

Then, with respect to the question of counting being done on the same date throughout India, it may or may not be possible. I do not know whether it will be possible for the Election Commission to fix those dates. But I heard one case where the hon. Member over there was saying that in some constituencies polling had begun before polling had taken place in other parts of the same constituency. If really that had happened in some place, I think the Election Commission will take that into account and see that at least a thing of that kind does not occur in future.

Several suggestions were made with respect to mounting guard and so on. I cannot say whether there has been any such thing in the past, but I believe that so far as this matter is concerned the Election Commission is primarily responsible for the conduct of elections and they will take note of it and see that as far as possible there shall be no grounds for any such complaints.

A suggestion was made about an order being given with respect to the counting. My friend Shri Kamath pointed that out. I am aware that in two cases—one, in which Shri Kamath was concerned, and the other in which Shri Gidwani was concerned—something happened. Probably, that was

a point on which opinion could have come either way. But I think that is not so much a question of law. As, probably, something had to be done executively, and as the law then stood, the Election Commission only exercised it in a particular way. I do not know in what way the Election Commission would operate to see that where possible such a contingency may not arise. But there are other contingencies which may also arise in future with respect to different matters. I think it is much better that the Election Commission, which has evoked so much of confidence from all parties, continues to act, and I am sure it will act in a manner which will prevent any grounds for any serious apprehensions, or suspensions in the minds of anyone.

Similar is the case with regard to declaration of assets etc. My friend Shri V. G. Deshpande has made some suggestions with respect to symbols and other matters in connection with smaller parties. We know that there will be candidates who will be independents, candidates who will belong to parties which are not as extensive as some others and there would be candidates belonging to some parties which are very large. I think, so far as this matter is concerned, instead of laying down any hard and fast rules, which I do not think will apply in all cases, we have to learn from the experience in the past. Again I have to request hon. Members, for all these details, to more or less rely on the sense of fairness of the Election Commission and their doing what is right so far as these matters are concerned. What symbols are to be given, to whom, the parties that are to be recognised are all matters that have already been discussed. All these views are before them and I am sure the atmosphere created on this occasion will be different from what it is now.

Then, as regards challenging of votes etc., that relates to impersonation. Supposing somebody thinks that somebody is not the same man, then there is provision for some fee

[Shri Pataskar]

to be paid. I do not know what merit there will be in one rupee and what merit will be there in two rupees. If we reduce the fee, or do not put any fee at all, then probably it will encourage votes being unnecessarily challenged from various motives. It is not as if the votes are in every case challenged on proper grounds. All these things more or less happen in big cities and not in rural areas. I think this time, probably, there may be several ways by which the apprehension regarding impersonation will also be relieved. As regards ballot boxes, I have not seen myself any ballot box. I have had no time to see it; I have only read about it along with the other Members in papers. But, I have got the information that the Election Commission is trying its best to see that there will be no ground for any complaint saying that they were tampered with. Whether they are foolproof or not, the Election Commission is trying its utmost to see that there is no justification for any complaint. I would assure all hon. Members who have moved motions to have amendments to these rules that the suggestions made by them naturally deserve to be considered, from whatever point of view they might have been made. At the present stage, we shall allow the rules to remain as they are. So far as the conduct of elections is concerned, I am sure we will rely more upon the sense of fairness—I am sure that appreciation is shared by all people—of the Election Commission and the other authorities, which have been already constituted under the Constitution.

I feel no doubt that the next elections will be so fair and so clean and so well-managed that perhaps the next time we will have no voice raised against the matter in this House.

Shri K. K. Basu: My motion No. 17 says that if the challenge is proved to be bona fide the money should be forthwith returned, instead of its being returned at the end of poll.

Shri Pataskar: I have seen that amendment. In the case of challenged votes, they are not naturally counted at the time when the general counting takes place.....

Shri K. K. Basu: I am not referring to counting; I am referring to the return of money.

Shri Pataskar: As regards the return of money, anybody who is standing for election and who wants to get the money back will have to wait till the polling is over. There is nothing wrong in that; it is a small matter.

Shri Kamath: I have to make a brief request to you before you put the amendments. If the Minister can tell us whether, just as he has had no time to see a ballot box, he has not had time to examine each motion separately, you can put them together or separately.

Shri Pataskar: Just because I was fair enough to admit that I had no time to see a ballot box, it does not mean that I have not done my legitimate duty. It is my first duty to see whatever motions have been tabled.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now put motion Nos. 1 to 8 of Mr. Kamath to the vote of the House.

The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-rule (1) of rule 18 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

“after “Election Commission” add—

“and such design and colour shall be uniform throughout the country.”

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendments be made in sub-rule of rule 24 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

- (i) for "may" substitute "shall"; and
- (ii) omit "shall".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following new sub-rule be added to rule 38 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"(2) The returning officer shall permit each candidate to make reasonable arrangements of his own to keep a watch on the ballot boxes from the moment of their despatch from the polling station till the commencement of counting."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following provisos be added to clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of rule 53 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and

Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"Provided that in a Parliamentary Constituency where votes will be counted at more places than one, such counting will take place on the same day:

Provided further that votes shall be counted on a day not later than the third day from the date of completion of the poll."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the proviso to sub-rule (2) of rule 57 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956, be omitted.

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-rule (1) of rule 64 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

after "counting" insert "at each place or centre".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following new rule be inserted after rule 66 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"66A. The declaration of the results of election shall, as far as may be feasible, be made on the same day in all the States and Union territories of India."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of sub-rule (1) of rule 131 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

add at the end—"by the candidate, his agent, and the party or organisation promoting his election, the respective amounts being shown separately".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-rule (1) of rule 34 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election

Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

for "two rupees" substitute "one rupee".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following amendment be made in sub-rule (5) of Rule 34 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

for "after the close of the poll on the day on which it was made" substitute "forthwith".

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following be added at the end of sub-rule (2) of rule 35 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"provided however any candidate or agent shall be entitled to put his seal on ballot boxes if he so desires."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following proviso be added to rule 38 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"Provided that any candidate or his agent shall be entitled to accompany the returning officer and/or his party for the safe transport of the aforesaid ballot boxes, packets and other papers referred to hereinbefore if he so desires."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following be added at the end of proviso to sub-rule (1) of rule 58 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table on the 20th November, 1956:

"save and except when the result of the election may be determined on such tender votes they shall be counted at the request of any candidate or his agent."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 169

of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following provisos be added to sub-rule (1) of rule 10 of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, laid on the Table of the House on the 20th November, 1956:

"Provided that in a double member constituency two candidates of the same party would not be discriminated against on account of their belonging to an unrecognised party:

Provided further that as far as possible the candidates of a party which is a recognised party in any State would be allotted the symbol of that party."

This House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in the said resolution.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, the rules stand as they are without any amendment.

Shri Pataskar: This is the last legislation which I have brought forward, so far as this Parliament is concerned, because this is practically the last session of this Parliament. I would be failing in my duty if I do not thank all sections of the House.....

धो कामत : परस्पर भावयन्त : ।

Shri Pataskar: I really thank all sections of the House for the uniform courtesy and co-operation which I have received.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 19th December, 1956.

18-30 hrs. ■

[Tuesday, 18th December, 1956]

COLUMNS	COLUMNS
STATEMENT BY MINISTER The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malavia) made a statement in regard to the agreement reached between the Government and the Assam Oil Company with regard to exploitation of oil in Assam.	3327—30
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE The following papers were laid on the Table:	3330—32
(1) A copy of S.R.O. No. 2981, dated the 7th December 1956, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, making certain amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952	
(2) A copy of each of the following paper under Article 323(1) of the Constitution :	
(i) Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the year 1955-56.	
(ii) Memorandum explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's advice during 1955-56.	
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA	3332—33
Secretary reported the following messages from Rajya Sabha:	
(1) That Rajya Sabha had agreed without any amendment to the Standards of Weights and Measures Bill, passed by Lok Sabha on the 8th December, 1956	
(2) That Rajya Sabha had passed the Faridabad Development Corporation Bill, passed by Lok Sabha on the 26th November, 1956 with an amendment and had returned the Bill with the request that the concurrence of Lok Sabha be communicated to Rajya Sabha.	
BILL RETURNED BY RAJYA SABHA WITH AMENDMENT LAID ON THE TABLE	3333
Secretary laid on the Table a copy of the Faridabad Development Corporation Bill, 1956, which had been returned by Rajya Sabha with an amendment as recommended by that House. . . .	
REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE PRESENTED	3333
Nineteenth Report was presented. . . .	
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS	3334—84
Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) for 1956-57 relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation were discussed and voted in full and Demands for Supplementary Grants relating to Lok Sabha and Ministries of External Affairs, Finance, Food and Agriculture, Information and Broadcasting, Irrigation and Power, Law and Transport were also voted in full. . . .	
BILLS INTRODUCED	3384, 3458—59
(i) Appropriation (No. 5) Bill	
(ii) Appropriation (Railways) No. 6 Bill	
(iii) Appropriation (Railways) No. 7 Bill	
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS) AND EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS)	3384—3458
Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways) for 1956-57 and for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1953-54 were discussed and voted in full.	
BILL PASSED	3459—92
The Minister of Legal Affairs and Civil Aviation (Shri Pataskar) moved that the Representation of the People (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill be taken into consideration. The motion was adopted. After clause-by-clause consideration the Bill was passed.	

3527

DAILY DIGEST

3528

COLUMNS

COLUMNS

MOTIONS RE. REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AND ELECTION PETITIONS) RULES 3492—3522

AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 1956.

Fourteen motions *re.* Modification of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules were moved by Sarvashri Kamath, K. K. Basu and V. G. Deshpande. All the motions were negatived.

Consideration and passing of Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, Appropriation (Railways) No. 6 Bill, Appropriation (Railways) No. 7 Bill, Kerala State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill and Central Excises and Salt (Second Amendment) Bill.
