

THE A ch.
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

Official Report

Volume I, 1947

(17th November to 27th November, 1947)

First Session
OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
1947



DOMINION LEGISLATURE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE).

The Speaker:

The Honourable Mr. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

Panel of Chairmen:

Pandit THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA, M.C.A.

Mr. HUSSAIN IMAM, M.C.A.

Shri M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR, M.C.A.

Shrimati G. DURGABAI, M.C.A.

Secretary:

Mr. M. N. KAUL, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary:

Mr. A. J. M. ATKINSON.

Mr. N. C. NANDI.

Mr. C. V. NARAYANA RAO.

Committee on Petitions:

Pandit THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA, M.C.A.

Shrimati G. DURGABAI, M.C.A.

Shri ARUN CHANDRA GUHA, M.C.A.

Shri MOHAN LAL SAKSENA, M.C.A.

Pandit MUKUT BIHARI LAL BHARGAVA, M.C.A.

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THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

*Official Report of the First Session of the Constituent Assembly
(Legislative)*

Volume I—1947

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (LEGISLATIVE)

Monday, 17th November, 1947.

—————

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the First Session of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative), pursuant to sub-section (2) (a) of Section 19 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Orders, 1947. Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) was in the Chair.

—————

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS.

The following members made the declaration under Rule 2C:

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Madras: General);
The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (U.P.: General);
Shri Mohan Lal Gautam (U.P.: General);
Maharaja of Parlakimedi (Orissa: General);
Shri Loknath Misra (Orissa: General);
Dr. Sir S. V. Ramamurthy (Udaipur State); and
Shri Lal Mohan Pati (Mayurbhanj State).

—————

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER.

Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad): I desire to welcome Members to this the first session of the Constituent Assembly on its legislative side. As you are aware, under the Independence of India Act the Legislative Assembly as well as the Council of State ceased to exist after the 14th August last, and the functions of both Houses were to be carried on thereafter by the Constituent Assembly. This is the first occasion when the Constituent Assembly has met for that purpose. It was felt that it would be desirable to maintain the distinction between the constitution making function of the Constituent Assembly and its ordinary function of a legislature. For that purpose it was thought desirable to have some one to preside over the deliberations of the Assembly when it did its work as a Legislature because of certain anomalies which had arisen on account of my being the President of the Constituent Assembly and also a Member of the Government. You have, therefore, now to proceed to elect a Speaker, who will be independent of the Government and carry on the functions of Speaker and preside over your deliberations. The Secretary had announced a time for putting in nominations for the Speakership. The nomination only of one gentleman has come in and that is of Shri G. V. Mavalankar.

Therefore, in accordance with the provision of sub-rule (3) of rule 2B of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules, I have to announce to Honourable Members that nomination papers duly filled in have been received on behalf of Shri G. V. Mavalankar. The names of the proposers and seconders are as follows:

Proposers:

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha
Seth Govindas

Seconders:

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena
Shri K. M. Munshi

As no nomination papers have been received on behalf of any other Member, I declare Shri G. V. Mavalankar duly elected.

I would now invite Shri G. V. Mavalankar to occupy the Chair.

[*Thereupon Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar)*]

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): Mr. Speaker, we meet in this room after a relatively brief interval and there are many old faces here and many new ones. But this interval has seen a sea change in the fate of our country and in the face of our country. We meet to-day in a new capacity—that of a sovereign legislative body. We meet as the representatives of a free and independent India. We meet, I regret to say, as the representatives of not the whole of India as we have known it, but minus a part of it. Not only have these great and historical changes taken place, but during the last few months other events have happened which have brought shame to our country and to us. Nevertheless, we have faced these events in the past and we have to a large extent overcome them, if I may say so. But the problems that face us are colossal in their magnitude and it is a happy omen that we should start our business here to-day by the election that has taken place and which has placed you, Sir, in that high office. You bring to us the accumulated wisdom of that high office and those of us who have had the privilege of knowing you, value you as a councillor, a friend and a guide, and a leader in this House. It is a matter of great gratification and pleasure to me, to my Government, and I am sure to every Member of this House, that you have accepted this high office, because in the difficult times ahead you will have to face also difficult problems in guiding us, and we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that our guide is a true and trusted guide.

Therefore, Sir, with deference, I congratulate not you so much, but the House on the choice that it has made. I trust that under your guidance all of us, whether we are members of the Government or not, or Members of this House, will discharge our duty without fear or favour, without affection or ill-will to anybody. We have started this new life of ours by taking a new oath of allegiance, not to any external authority but to the interests of India, and in taking that oath I have no doubt we hope to discharge that duty by every single citizen of India, whatever he may be, wherever he may be, to whatever creed, religion or caste he may belong, without any partiality or without any favour.

I welcome you, Sir, and I congratulate the House on this happy occasion.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in associating myself with what has been said by the Honourable the Prime Minister and I join him in congratulating you in being elected as

the Speaker of this august body. I trust that as the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House upon which depends the future destiny of this great country, you will do everything to protect such rights and privileges.

I once again congratulate you on this auspicious occasion.

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari (Jaipur State): I beg to associate myself wholeheartedly with the congratulations offered to you by the Honourable Pandit Nehru on your unanimous election as Speaker. No better choice could have been made for the Speaker of the first free Parliament of India than yours. You have already won our confidence and endeared yourself to us as President of the Legislative Assembly. We are extremely fortunate that we shall have the benefit of your wise counsel and invaluable assistance in the extremely difficult days that lie before us. I offer to you my most sincere congratulations.

Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan (U. P. Muslim): I rise to offer you our heartfelt congratulations on your election to this high office. Our Prime Minister has congratulated the House on the choice it has made. May I add to that word "choice" and say "wise choice"? We who have worked under you in the last Legislative Assembly know fully well how courteous and just you are to every party and how you have by your judicious and impartial rulings won the confidence of every section of the House. I think the House could not have made a better choice. Indeed it is a great honour for any Indian to be elected the first Speaker of the sovereign legislature of a free and independent India. I offer you again my most sincere congratulations and I am sure that we shall work unitedly and with full confidence in you as our Speaker.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate you heartily on your assumption to the *gadi* of the Speakership of the Dominion Legislature of India. Coming as I do from the South and representing the Scheduled Castes I wholeheartedly welcome your election to be the Speaker of this august body. Though a new member to this legislature we have seen in the press and have also heard what is told by others that you have always had a very kind heart towards the poor men of our great country. Being the first Speaker of this august body, I am sure you will extend your goodwill and kindness to all the members of this House who are representing here millions of our countrymen. I wish you good luck and a good time in the great Chair which you occupy.

Shrimati Hansa Mehta (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers in congratulating you on this great honour. We in Bombay are particularly proud of you, because you were our first Speaker in the new Assembly in Bombay. With your impartiality and your wise judgment you made a mark there. This House should congratulate itself on having you as its Speaker, because we are sure that you will bring here also your great qualities as a Speaker. Sir, I congratulate you.

Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar): Honourable Members, I am deeply thankful to you all for the confidence you have reposed in me by electing me to this high office of the Speakership of the first Parliament of Free India. I am conscious that the honour conferred on me and the confidence reposed in me carry with them a heavy responsibility. I hope that it may be given to me to prove myself worthy of both. I can only say that I shall spare no pains for the purpose.

Many of the members assembled here as legislators of free India have had experience of Indian legislatures functioning under the British *aegeis*. All the members have hitherto engaged themselves in the most difficult and

intricate task of constitution-making. To-day, we are meeting under wholly different circumstances and with a different character of business. We have begun to function as a legislature or Parliament of Sovereign India, having an independent and distinctive place on the world map. We have aspired and will continue to aspire to maintain the best relations with all the powers of the world and we hope that India will be privileged to play an important role in the achievement of world peace and prosperity.

Free, frank and impersonal discussion of every question, viewed from the point of view of the betterment of the conditions of the masses and with an international outlook on world peace is, I may be permitted to say, the very soul of democracy, for which the last devastating war was said to have been fought. In order to work for the fulfilment of that democracy, we shall be required to lay down our own standards and establish traditions, and with the sincere co-operation of all the members of this august Assembly, I hope to be helpful in upholding the best democratic standards and traditions and the dignity and independence of this House. I thank all members once again and pray that the Almighty may help us all in our efforts.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE LALA LAJPAT RAI.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, to-day happens to be Lala Lajpat Rai's death anniversary day. Our friends of the East Punjab are having a holiday to celebrate the memory of that great leader of India. Lala Lajpat Rai was a leader in this House: he was the leader of the Nationalist Party and also the deputy leader of the Swaraj Party before that. May I request you to mark our homage to that great leader in a fitting manner?

Mr. Speaker: I understand that we have a very short agenda before us and that the Honourable the Leader of the House is not going to move his resolution to-day.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): I do not propose to move it. It is vitally important but not urgent.

Mr. Speaker: In that case, we will finish the whole business in a very short time and then we will adjourn.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

(INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLY TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE TO-DAY.)

Mr. Mohammad Nauman's starred question No. 995(d) of 14th March, 1946.

IRREGULARITIES IN FOODGRAIN PURCHASES BY SENIOR FOOD CONTROL OFFICER, O. AND T. RAILWAY.

Statement showing the appointments made in the O. and T. Railway, Food Department.

Subordinate Staff		Inferior Staff		Hindus including Scheduled Castes	Total Muslim
Hindus including Scheduled Castes	Muslim	Hindus including Scheduled Castes	Muslims		
63	15	101	46	164	61

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 1014 (b), (c) and (f) of 15th March, 1947.

RETIRED EUROPEAN I.C.S. OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN INDIAN STATES AND ZAMINDARIES

(b) Superannuated European Indian Civil Service officers draw their normal Indian Civil Service pension.

(c) Their salaries are shown in list I attached. Sir Alexander Tottenham has in the meanwhile died and Sir Collin Garbett has left India.

(f) There are approximately 69 Europeans in the service of the Indian States who have served in India in Services other than the Indian Civil Service. Their names and details, where they are now serving, are shown in list II. This list is possibly not entirely accurate owing to the changes which take place from time to time.

LIST I [1014 (b) and (c)]

Name of European Indian Civil Service Officer	State where he is employed	Salary drawn in the State
1. Sir Alexander Tottenham C.I.E., I.C.S. (Retd.)	Pudukkottai	Rs. 2, 500 per mensem
2. Sir Collin C. Garbett, K.C.S.I., C.S.I., C.M.G.	Bhopal	Rs. 1, 500 "
3. Sir Thomas Austin, K.C.I.E., I.C.S. (Retd.)	Kolhapur	Rs. 3,000 „

LIST II [1014 (f)]

Names of European serving in Indian States	State where serving
1. Dr. A. M. Heron	Hyderabad
2. Mr. G. A. Anderson, O.B.E.	"
3. Brigadier L. Gilbert, C.I.E., M.C.	"
4. Lt.-Col. W. E. J. Beeching	"
5. Mr. M. J. Millet	"
6. Mr. W. B. Robinson	"
7. Mr. F. S. Young, C.I.E., C.B.E.	Bhopal
8. Mr. A. C. Armstrong, C.I.E., C.B.E.	"
9. Dr. Miss M. Stowe, M.B., Ch.B.	"
10. Mr. Mark Lubo Schinkey	"
11. Mr. Guy Thorpe	"
12. Mr. C. M. B. Mersh	"
13. Lt.-Col. N. J. G. Jones	"
14. T/Major W. M. Mair	"
15. T/Major H. M. Closs	"
16. Lt. R. N. Roy	"
17. T/Capt. G. O. Allan	"
18. Lt.-Col. H. S. Stewart	"
19. Lt.-Col. B. J. Ryan	"
20. Dr. H. Jacoby, M.D. (Berlin)	"
21. Major General R. D. Inskip, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C.	"
22. Lt.-Col. A. S. Maokay	Dewas (Senior)
3. Mr. P. Johnstone	Rajgarh

Names of European serving in Indian States	State where serving
24. Mr. J. E. Armstrong, C.I.E., O.B.E.	Bundelkhand Group
25. Mr. L.E. Ferrant, M.B.E.	Charkhari
26. Mr. Ralph Albert Horton, C.I.E.	Indore.
27. Major General A. H. Williams, C.I.E., M.C.	"
28. Senior Major Alfred James Curtis, M.B.E.	"
29. Major A. G. Wheeler.	Alwar
30. Mr. G. T. Beer, M.B.E.	Bundi
31. Mr. F. A. Naughton	Jaipur
32. Dr. J. F. Robinson, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.A.C.S.	"
33. Brigadier, C. W. Palin, M.C., I.A.	"
34. Major C. J. Phillips	"
35. Mr. P. S. Clarke	"
36. Mr. R. H. T. Mackenzie	Bikaner.
37. Mr. J. W. Connolly	"
38. Mr. G. A. Bennet	"
39. Mr. G. A. Carroll	Jodhpur
40. Major-General R. C. Duncan, C.I.E., M.V.O., O.B.E.	"
41. Captain E. France	"
42. Mr. A. P. Cox	"
43. Mr. G. T. Simpson	"
44. Mr. R. Cardoza	"
45. Mr. M. R. Williams	"
46. Mr. T. Sexton	"
47. Mr. W. H. Kinohella	"
48. Lt.-Col. C. O. B. Daunt, M.C., I.A. (Retd.)	Udaipur.
49. Major J. F. Maxwell	"
50. Sir Robert G. Allan, C.I.E.	Baroda.
51. Brigadier H. R. C. Lane, C.B., D.S.O.	"
52. Major M. W. Reed	Cutch
53. Captain M. H. S. Harvey-Jones, O.B.E.	Junagadh
54. Mr. T. D. Collaghan, M.B.E.	Nawanagar.
55. Mr. F. H. Bibra	Bhavnagar
56. Mr. J. P. Nicholson, O.B.E.	Limbdi
57. Mr. B. A. Dubois	"
58. W/S Major/Lt.-Col. D. A. Wharton-Brown	Tripura.
59. Mr. H. W. Alderson	Beitar
60. Dr. (Capt.) W. P. S. Mitchell, M.B.E., K.I.H.	"
61. Mr. F. H. Welsh	Nandgaon
62. Brigadier H. L. Scott, C.B., D.S.O. M.C., I.A. (Retd.)	Kashmir
63. Mr. R. Powell, I.P. (Retd.)	"
64. Lt.-Col. Severn Williams, C.I.E., I.P.S. (Retd.)	"
65. Lt.-Col. R. L. Lemon	Gwalior
66. Col. H. M. Tulloch	Gwalior
67. Mr. H. C. Papworth, O.B.E.	Travancore
68. Major Sir Henry Howard, C.I.E., M.C.	Travancore and Cochin.
69. Capt. F. F. Pearson	Manipur

Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 1151 (b) to (d) of 21st March, 1946.

ILL-TREATMENT OF INDIAN PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY *M. S. Batory*.

(b) to (d). Government understand that the general question of the allotment of accommodation to all types of passengers in the "*Batory*" has been the subject of close investigation by the Ministry of Transport and they have come to the conclusion that there was no question at all of any discrimination against Indian passengers in the allotment of berths. It has been stated that in general terms senior ranking officers and women and children were provided with the best cabin accommodation and that there is no evidence of any 'ill-treatment' of Indian passengers, as has been alleged, so far as berthing was concerned.

The Ministry have stated that the "*Batory*" was not altogether too suitable a ship to send into Eastern waters and that it was only because of the dire shortage of transports available at that time that this vessel was employed to India for one voyage. They have further stated that the payers of passage money for all passengers berthed on 'B' and 'C' decks were subsequently refunded a portion of their fare and it was hoped that this would do a great deal to remove any sense of grievance which arose with regard to the accommodation.

The Ministry have also pointed out that the P. & O. Steam Navigation, Co., merely acted as the Operating Line for the booking of civilian passengers and that they were not directly responsible for the berthing of passengers which was done at a Conference in Glasgow, attended by the Service Departments, the Sea Transport Officer and a representative of the Company and that it was the general opinion that the best possible arrangements had been made in very difficult circumstances.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh's starred question No. 1924 of 17th April, 1947.

**POSSESSION OF ESTATE OF MR. HARI JEE OF SHAHABAD DISTRICT, BIHAR
IN BURMA.**

As particulars of Mr. Hari Jee's property in Burma are not available the required information could not be furnished by the Government of Burma.

Mr. K. C. Neogy's unstarred question No. 13 of 28th October, 1946.

ACTION BY THE POLICE AND RAILWAY AUTHORITIES re CONSIGNMENTS OF DAGGERS AND KNIVES IN TRANSIT.

Statement showing particulars of consignments of knives, daggers or other lethal weapons discovered by the Railway authorities of the Railway Police while in transit since July 1946.

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of discovery	Place of		Action taken
			Origin	Destination	
Adampur Katwa, Burdwan					
Katwa, Bankura, Damodar, Kalighat, Futwa, Rlys.					
Arrah Sasaram, Futwah					
Islampur, Howrah Amts. Howrah Sheikhalia Rlys.					
Barsi Light Rly.					
Bengal Provincial Rly.					
Bikaner State Rly.					
Bombay Port Trust Rly. Calcutta					
Commissioner's Railway.					
Darjeeling Himalayan Rly.					
Dholpur State Rly.					
Dehri Rohtas Light Rly.					
Gaekwar Barodia State Rly.					
Gondal Railway					
H.E.H. the Nizam State Rly.					
Jagadhari Light Railway					
Jaipur State Railway					
Jamnagar & Dwarka Rly.					
Jodhpur Railway					
Madras Port Trust Rly.					
Matheran Light Rly.					
Mysore State Rly.					
North Western Rly.					
Scindia State Rly.					
South Indian Rly.					

No consignments of knives, daggers or other lethal weapons have been discovered over these Railway.

The parcel was opened in presence of the Traffic Suptd. and the Police Jāmadar and was found to contain 360 pencils and 52 penknives and knives of various sizes and qualities. It was rebooked to Sialkot on 24-9-46 at the request of the consignors—Supreme & Co., Sialkot City, as authorised by the Agency Police.

These consignments were packed as cutlery but were found to contain daggers and knives as shown in column 7. They were seized by Govt. Rly. Police concerned under the orders of the Magistrate of the District.

Junagadh.

Sialkot

Junagadh

2-9-46

Junagadh State Rly.

No.

Nature

German Steel daggers . . . 3
 Batanwala daggers . . . 5
 Bread knives . . . 36
 Medium size knives . . . 6
 Big knives . . . 12
 Medium small knives . . . 60
 Small knives . . . 60
 Barber scissors . . . 12
 Daggers . . . 12
 Big knives . . . 48
 Bread knives . . . 48
 Medium size knives . . . 12
 Barber Scissors . . . 36
 Small knives . . . 12
 Very small knives . . . 18
 Silhari Dene'ar daggers . . . 6
 Batanwala daggers . . . 12
 Bread knives . . . 84
 Knives . . . 6
 Batanwala daggers . . . 12
 Sikari Denedar daggers . . . 54
 Small knives . . . 6
 Shiefeld Steel knives . . . 6
 Bread knives—Not available.

Motihari

Wazirabad

Motihari

23-9-46

Oudh Tirhut Rly.

Do.

Do.

Do.

23-9-46

Do.

Motihari

Wazirabad

Motihari

23-9-46

Do.

Acti n takon

Details of weapons discovered

Place of

Date of discovery

Place of discovery

Origin

Destination

22-10-46 Ghazipur City . Do . . Ghazipur City . Found to contain nothing objectionable.

22-10-46 Do . . Do . . Do . . Hunting knives with blades 5" long and levers. 12
Small penknives—not available.

7-11-46 Muzaffarpur . Do . . Muzaffarpur . Details of the contents not available.

Matter still under correspondence with Supdt. of Police, Muzaffarpur.

92 pkts. pen-knives . . .
93 pkts. pen-knives . . .
161 pkts. knives . . .
108 pkts. knives . . .
13 daggers . . .
22 pkts. razors and knives . . .
18 pkts. knives . . .
47 pkts. knives and razors . . .
16 pkts. knives and razors . . .

These articles have been detained under orders of the Police who intimate that the C.I.D., Poona are still investigating the matter.

17-9-46 Poona . Wazirabad . Poona . 18 pkts. knives . . .
25 pkts. knives . . .
2-10-46 Kalyan . Jamnu Tawi . Kalyan . 66 pkts. knives and daggers . . .
67 pkts. knives and daggers . . .
17-9-46 Nasik Road . Wazirabad . Nasik Road . 1 case cutlery . . .
1 case cutlery . . .

Still under investigation of the police.

Seized by Sub-Inspector of Police, Nasik City and Manned respectively.

18-9-46 Manned . Wazirabad . Manned . 1 gunny parcel . . .
8-11-46 Jubbulpore . Wazirabad . Jubbulpore . 1 gunny parcel knives . . .
1 gunny pen-knives, scissors, etc.

Seized by police.

8-11-46 Satna . Wazirabad . Satna . 1 gunny parcel pen-holders, pencils and pen-knives . . .
1 parcel knives, safety razors, etc.

Only pen-knives seized by the police. Remains undelivered. Police are pursuing investigations.

Oudh Tirthat Rly.—Contd

Great Indian Peninsula Rly.

12-9-46	Sholapur . . . Wazirabad . . . Sholapur . . .	1 parcel knives	Handed over to the D.S.P., Sholapur for safe custody.
21-11-46	Bhopal . . . Wazirabad . . . Bhopal . . .		Pending delivery at Bhopal. S. M. was asked to open them in presence of the Govt. Railway Police.
			On 21-11-46. One parcel was opened before delivery and was found to contain knives and cutlery. This parcel was seized by the G.R.P., Bhopal.
Not available	Bina . . . Wazirabad . . . Saugor . . .	4 dozens folding knives with blades of 4.5". 8 dozens knives having blades 2.6". 10 dozens knives having blades of 2". 12 dozens knives having blades of 1.7". 3 dozens knives having iron blades of 2".	This was detected at Bina and the S.I., G.R.P., Bina accompanied the parcel upto Saugor to acquaint the S.I., G.R.P. thereof the facts. The parcel was delivered on 11th October 1946 in presence of the G.R.P., and City Police Saugor who seized the parcel and kept it under custody. The City Magistrate has since ordered this parcel to be handed over to the consignor but he has not turned up for delivery.

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of discovery	Place of Origin	Destination	Details of weapons discovered	Action taken
"	"	"	"	"	3 cases cutlery .	}
"	"	"	"	"	1 case knives .	
"	"	"	"	"	1 parcel knives .	
"	"	"	"	"	2 parcels knives	
"	"	"	Nizamabad Pb.	"	1 parcel knives .	}
"	"	"	"	"	1 parcel knives	
"	"	"	Wazirabad	Bombay Central	1 parcel .	}
"	"	"	"	"	1 parcel cutlery	
"	"	"	"	"	1 parcel cutlery	
"	"	"	"	"	1 parcel cutlery	
"	"	"	"	"	4 parcels cutlery	
"	"	"	"	"	1 case .	
"	"	"	"	"	2 cases .	
"	"	"	"	"	1 case knives	
"	"	"	"	"	3 cases	
"	"	"	"	"	1 case cutlery	
"	"	"	"	"	4 cases cutlery	
"	"	"	"	"	5 cases cutlery	
"	"	"	"	"	1 case .	

Note.—Instructions were issued in the Rly's Weekly Gazette No. 23 of 8-9-48 enjoining upon the staff to exercise proper scrutiny of all such consignments and to inform the Rly. Police about the details of such of them as arouse suspicion, reporting the matter to the

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Dy. Chief Traffic Manager. Delivery to be effected only after the Ry. Police have examined the contents and allowed them to be delivered.

This parcel was noticed by the Supdt. Ry. Police while being carried in Brake Van of Up of 6-9-46 for Kankroli. On investigation it was found that the said parcel contained 45 knives to be used as pen-knives and for domestic purposes.

The matter was reported to the police who took over the parcel on 21-10-46. On investigation it was found to contain pen-knives.

The G. R. P. suspected the contents to be knives and advised the S. M. not to deliver the consignment but to report the matter to them if the consignee turned up for delivery.

Description of contents in Way Bill was illegible. The parcel was delivered but the Local Police suspected the contents to be knives and have taken up the case which is pending.

Mewar State . . . 6-9-46 . . . Kankroli . . . Bhilwara . . . Kankroli . . . 45 pen-knives

20-10-46 . . . Kuanthal . . . Wazirabad . . . Kuanthal . . . 486 pen-knives .

Bengal-Nagpur—contd. . . Not available . . . Sialkot City . . . Gondia . . . Two packages cycle goods

. . . Not available . . . Amgaon . . . Peshawar . . . Amgaon . . .

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of		Details of weapons discovered	Action taken
		discovery	Origin			Destination
	Raipur	Baraduar	Raipur	72 bundles of lathies (bamboo sticks).	GRP-Raipur allowed delivery of the consignment but confiscated it subsequently.
	Raipur	Delhi	Raipur	6 dozen small knives and 40 razors (country).	Delivered to the consignee but was subsequently confiscated by the GRP-Raipur. The District Magistrate after enquiry, ordered the package to be handed over to the consignee.
	Raipur Chaibasa	Wazirabad Wazirabad	Raipur Chaibasa	26 dozen pen-knives One case S/C knives	Ditto. The parcel was delivered in presence of Civil Police Inspector and was found to contain razors and pen-knives which were not considered objectionable.
	Chhindwara	Wazirabad	Chhindwara	28 packages of knives 20 packet knives 15 packets knives 21 packets knives	The Local Police of Chhindwara opened and examined the contents on suspicion. The Station Master has been instructed not to deliver the consignments with out prior orders of GRP-Raipur. The consignments are still lying undelivered.
Ehavnagar State	Not available.	Wazirabad	Bhavnagar Terminus.	One case knives etc.	Delivered to one Mr. Maganlal Kumvarji on 22nd June 1948.
	Do.	Do.	Do.	4 cases knives etc.	Opened and checked in presence of the Railway

Police. Are kept at Bhavnagar Terminus Station in safe custody awaiting instructions for their disposal from higher authorities.

Booked by Messrs. Western Steel Works, Wazirabad on 23rd July 1946 to sell at Bangalore. No one came to take delivery upto 26th September 1946 when the police with a warrant issued by the Sub Divisional Magistrate requested that the package be opened and finding the contents as given in column 7 took charge of it.

The parcel was lying undelivered at Gudivada till 25th December 1946 when the Inspector of Police, Masulipatam, Sub-Inspector, Gudivada and a C. I. D. Officer examined the package and finding the contents as given in column 7 confiscated it.

The parcel received at Rajkot Jn. was delivered after consultation with Police Chief Constable, Rajkot Jn. while that received at Morvi was confiscated by the Morvi State Police.

Not available. Bangalore Wazirabad Panjalore 110 knives of various sizes

Gudivada Sialkot Gudivada } 10 small daggers
 } 4 large daggers
 } 11 dozen pencils

Not available. Rajkot Jn. Wazirabad Rajkot Jn. One parcel knives & cutlery
 Morvi Do. Morvi One parcel of knives

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of discovery	Place of Origin	Destination	Details of weapons discovered	Action taken
Engal, Assam	8-9-46	Parbatipur	Kalimpong	Shillong	Nepali daggers	Consignee could not be traced. The consignment is under the custody of Government Rly. Police, Parbatipur.
	15-10-46	Sealdah	Kidderpore C. B. Office.	Katihar	3 sharp daggers 18", 14" and 13" long respectively. One of these daggers contained blood stain.	Consignment taken over by Govt. Railway Police, Calcutta.
	23-9-46	Narsinghdi	Calcutta (Burra-bazar).	Narsinghdi	2 dozen daggers	The parcel is now in custody of Government Railway Police, Baharab.
	1-10-46	Sutang	Meerut City	Sutang	One cloth packed trunk suspected to contain daggers.	Asstt. Sub-Inspector, Government Rly. Police, Patrol of Shaitagan is stated to have effected delivery without opening the trunk. The matter has been reported to Supdt. Railway Police, Hallgong.
East Indian—contd.	30-10-46	Howrah	Wazirabad	Howrah	2 cases containing clasp knives with 6" blades.	Lying under custody of Govt. Railway Police, Howrah.
	23-9-46	Do.	Do.	Do.	4 cases containing knives of various sizes.	Retained under safe custody in Inward Goods Office, Howrah.
	9-9-46	Jharia	Ugoke	Do.	2 cases containing razors and knives of different sizes.	Detected by Govt. Rly. Police. All cases sealed by G. R. Police, Jharia and retained at Jharia station.
	9-9-46	Do.	Wazirabad	Jharia	1 case containing razors and knives of different sizes and quality.	
	6-9-46	Allahabad	Nizamabad	Allahabad	7 cases containing pocket knives of different sizes.	Detected by Allahabad City Police and taken over by City Dy. S. P., Allahabad.

15-9-46	Mirzapore	Sialkot	Mirzapore	1 case containing daggers, knives and other sports goods.	Detected by C. I. D. Police Only six daggers and 27 knives taken over by Police. Rest rebooked to Sialkot.
1st Indian Railway— conid.					
14-10-46	Shahjahanpur	Amritsar	Shahjahanpur	1 bundle kirpans	Taken over by Govt. Railway Police.
31-8-46	Lucknow	Gujranwala	Lucknow	2 packages each containing knives.	Detected by Civil & G. R. Police. One package sent to City Magistrate Court by G. R. Police, the other retained under safe custody pending orders of City Magistrate.
5-9-46	Lucknow	Wazirabad	Lucknow	4 packages each containing knives.	Discovered by G. R. P. Made over to G. R. P. Lucknow as per orders of City Magistrate.
19-10-46	Benares Cantt.	Unbooked		6 knives	Discovered by G. R. Police from a passenger arriving Benares Cantt. by 15 UP Express on 19th October 1946. Case under trial.
8-11-46	Benares Cantt.	Unbooked		11 daggers	Found in the drain near Goomti Cabin Benares Cantt. and made over to G. R. Police.
7-11-46	Monghyr	Wazirabad	Monghyr	1 case containing knives	
7-11-46	Do.	Khankhan	Do.	4 cases containing Bhalas & Pharsas.	
13-11-46	Do.	Wazirabad	Do.	1 case containing knives	Lying under custody of Monghyr Town Police.
10-11-46	Do.	Do.	Knives		
12-11-46	Do.	Amritsar City	Do.	1 case containing swords	

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of discovery	Place of		Details of weapons discovered	Action taken
			Origin	Destination		
Bukhtarpur Rly.	20-11-46	Bihar Sharif	Wazirabad	Bihar Sharif	1 case said to contain knives.	Informed Bihar Sharif Police, who seized and subsequently released the parcel. Delivered to consignee on 22nd November 1946.
	20-11-46	Do.	o.	Do.	Ditto	Bihar Sharif Police informed who seized and then released the parcel. Delivered to the consignee on 25th November 1946.
	5-12-46	Paclasa	Delhi	Paclasa	1 case cartridges (200)	Seized by Bihar Sharif Police. Not released upto date.
	27-12-46	Bihar Sharif	Lucknow	Bihar Sharif	1 case cartridges	Seized by Bihar Sharif Police on the information given by S. M. Bihar Sharif and released. Delivered on 4th January 1947.

Supplementaries to Sardar Mangal Singh's starred questions Nos. 106 and 107 of 31st October, 1946.

SURPLUS MILITARY STORES.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's, Shri Sri Prakasa and Seth Govinddas's Supplementaries

No. 106.—Other countries have also destroyed many of their fighter aircraft for the reason that they are useless for civil purposes.

Fighter aircraft are of no use in Civil Aviation. These are designed for very high speed and are normally single seater aircraft with no load capacity except for the carriage of ammunition, etc. The engines are extremely high powered and the expense involved in maintaining these engines is very high.

A total of approximately 75,000 tons of Ordnance Stores and 4,200 tons of ammunition is stacked in the open in Central Ordnance Depot, Jubbulpore. The Ordnance stores are little affected by weather conditions, 31 per cent. of such stores are under paulins or temporary shelters, and of the remainder only 2 per cent. are of a type which might deteriorate due to adverse weather. Most of the ammunition is either unserviceable or awaiting repair.

PROFITEERING BY GOVERNMENT IN THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN ARTICLES

Prof. N. G. Ranga's Supplementary

No. 107.—The suggestion in effect amounts to sale through agencies. The Disposals Enquiry Committee set up by Industries and Supplies Department which, among other things, enquired into the various methods of disposal, came to the conclusion that the use of agencies as a method of disposal was not desirable. The Government of India have agreed with the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee. In the circumstances, it is regretted that the suggestion cannot be given effect to.

Shri N. Narayan Murthi's unstarred question No. 35 of 4th November, 1946.

BUILDINGS IN WARD NO. 14, DELHI, NOT ACQUIRED BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(a) *Ahata Khdara Scheme.*

Lessee

Buildings on 1,011 sq. yds. belonging to . . .	M. Moizuddin and others. ⁴
Buildings on 1,153 sq. yds. belonging to . . .	Must. Naimat Bi, w/o Moh. Ahmed.
Buildings on 386 sq. yds. belonging to . . .	M. Mohd. Sharif, s/o Shahabuddin
Buildings belonging to	Syed Ahmed Shah.

(b) Proceedings for acquisition are being taken.

Serai Purani Idgah Scheme.

No property falling under the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme has yet been acquired by the Delhi improvement Trust.

Prof. N. G. Ranga's supplementary to Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 534 of 14th November, 1946.

SUPPLY OF TIMBER FROM BURMA, ANDAMANS AND INDIAN FORESTS

Early this year the High Commissioner for India intimated that the Chief Forest Officer, Andamans, could supply to the United Kingdom about 100 tons of converted material

and 750 to 1,000 tons of Gurjan logs every quarter. It was further stated that this type of timber had no market in India, and that His Majesty's Government were very anxious to obtain the same. The High Commissioner also enquired whether the Government of India would be prepared to grant an export licence. In view of the fact that the revised scheme for the Andamans Forest Reconstruction provides for export to the United Kingdom of 4,400 tons of Gurjan timber annually, made up of :—

	tons.
Gurjan planks and scantlings	2,700
Flooring strips	1,000
Padauk and silver grey squares	250
White Chuglam, Dhup, etc.	450

The Government of India agreed to comply with the wishes of His Majesty's Government. Taking the conversion wastage at approximately 40 per cent., the quantity of timber to be exported to the United Kingdom works out to about 2,700 tons a year in sawn form.

Up to the end of March, 1947, two licences have been issued against the quarterly quota, one for export of 300 tons of Gurjan logs from Calcutta on 12th February 1947 and another for 500 tons of logs of the same variety from Port Blair on 8th March 1947.

*Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's supplementaries to Mr. Manu Subedar's
starred question No. 16 of 3rd February, 1947*

SHORTAGE OF MATCHES AND PROFITEERING BY VENDORS AND MIDDLEMEN.

The question of giving assistance to cottage match factories was gone into in great detail when the Tariff Board Enquiry into the Match Industry took place in 1926—28. Attention is invited to Chapter VII, and paras. 26 and 27 of Chapter X of the 'Report of the Indian Tariff Board regarding the grant of protection to the Match Industry'. The Tariff Board came to the conclusion that the 'manufacture of matches as a cottage industry had hardly any future' and that they could not therefore, 'recommend any special measures for the encouragement of cottage match factories'. The Board, however, recommended that in case 'an excise duty was imposed on matches manufactured in India, a reduction not exceeding 2 annas per gross should be made in the case of cottage factories in consideration of their limited resources'. Excise duty is at present being levied in accordance with Finance Department (Revenue Division) Notification No. 4 dated 11th May 1946. The rate of excise duty on matches depends upon whether the daily output of the factory exceeds or does not exceed one hundred gross of containers; in the case of smaller factories the duty being less.

In view of what has been stated above, it is very doubtful whether the cottage industry would be able to stand up to competition against highly organised, large-scale concerns.

*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 41 of
5th February, 1947.*

SALE OF INDIAN MEDICINES IN MAURITIUS AND PROTEST AGAINST MR. RIDLEY'S STATEMENT RE ADOPTION OF FRENCH NAMES BY INDIANS.

As regards parts (a), (c), (d) and (e) information furnished by the Government of Mauritius is as follows :

- (a) Some Indo-Mauritians desire to use Indian medicines because they have confidence in them and because they can be sure these medicines will not contain beef, alcohol, or other ingredients against which they may have religious objections. There are no restrictions on sale of Indian medicines in the open market in Mauritius provided the law regarding the sale of drugs is complied with. Two Indo-Mauritian pharmacists were recently consulted by the Mauritius Government. One of them said he was quite ready to order Indian medicines if there were sufficient demand but so far the demand had been feeble. The other said that he had sufficient demand and had ordered medicines from two firms in India but had received no reply. He proposed to try again.
- (c) Change of name, religion and style of living was once considered progressive by some Indo-Mauritians. Since about 1936, however, when the centenary of Indian immigration in Mauritius was celebrated, the tide is said to have turned,

and whilst quite ready to adopt what is useful and practical in European customs, the Indo-Mauritian in essentials wishes to stand by the culture and civilization of his ancestors.

(d) Uptill 1935 it was believed by some Indo-Mauritians that they had a better chance of promotion into the higher ranks of Government if they joined the general population. Whether there was any basis for this in the past or not, it is no longer thought by that Government to be true now.

(e) There are several Indians with Indian names holding high Government offices.

(b) and (f). If Indians elect to proceed to, and settle down, in overseas countries they can hardly expect that all the special facilities which people enjoy in India should be made available to them in their country of adoption, particularly if alternative facilities are available in the latter. It is also extremely doubtful whether Indian medical practitioners versed in Indian systems of medicine would care to proceed to Mauritius. Appointment of such Indian Doctors must obviously rest with the Government of Mauritius. It is open to the Indian community in Mauritius to make arrangements for the importation of Indian medicines and Indian Doctors. If and when any approach is made to Government for such purposes Government would give such assistance as they can.

Seth Govinddas's starred question No. 71 (c) of 6th February, 1947

**FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TEST FOR RECRUITMENT TO PERMANENT
VACANCIES IN THE CENTRAL SECRETARIAT.**

Number of applicants for 1st and 2nd Division Examination who were nominated by the Home Department on the results of the previous examinations for the 1st and 2nd Division	28
Number of applicants for the 3rd Division Examination nominated by the Home Department on the results of the previous examinations for the 3rd Division	398
TOTAL	526

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's starred question No. 202 (a), (b), (c) and (e) of 11th February, 1947.

WOMEN EMPLOYED UNDER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Statement showing the number of Ladies employed under the Central Government (including all attached and subordinate Offices)

Name of Department	No. of ladies employed under the Dept.	No. of ladies drawing Rs. 150 p.m. and above and whether all of them are fully qualified educationally and otherwise.	No. of Anglo-Indian and European ladies drawing Rs. 150 p.m. and above and whether all of them are fully qualified educationally and otherwise.		Whether any posts are reserved for ladies and if so, their number and designations.	Remarks
			(a)	(b)			(c)	(e)
(1) Agriculture Department	4	3	.....	.....
(2) Cabinet Secretariat	1	1	1 (qualified)	.....	
(3) Commerce Department	4	..	3 (qualified)	.....	
(4) Commonwealth Relations Department.	4	4				
(5) Communications Deptt.	9	4	3 (qualified)	.....		The services of the three Anglo-Indian ladies are being terminated with effect from the 1st March, 1947.
(6) Defence Department	4	4	4 (qualified)	.....		Being abolished.
(a) G. H. Q.	178	89	82 (qualified)	.....		*In addition there are 110 service personnel belonging to W. A. C. (I.) which is being disbanded with effect from the 1st April 1947.
(b) A. H. Q.	106	11	10 (3 unqualified)	.....	
(c) N. H. Q.	14	9	7 (qualified)	.....	

(7) Education Department	3	3	.....	1 Directress of Education.
(8) Employment Selection Bureau.	1	1	.....	.....
(9) External Affairs Deptt.	30	9	9 (qualified)	.....
(10) F. P. S. C.	3	3	3 (qualified)	<i>Confidential Section—</i> 1 Senior Special Assistant. 2 Confidential Assistants. 1 Clerk (all the posts are outside the ordinary cadre. One post is vacant).
(11) Finance Department	8	2	1 (not educationally qualified. On leave preparatory to retirement).	.....
(12) Finance Department (Supply).	3	1	.....	.....
(13) Food Department	38	8	4 (qualified)	1 Secretary . 3 Confidential Lady Stenographers. 3 Confidential Lady clerk-cum-typist. 1 Chief Nursing Superintendent.
(14) Health Department (Attached Offices).	2	2	2 (qualified)	.....
(15) Home Department	18	13	11 (qualified)	.....
(16) Industries and Supplies Deptt.	62	15	6 (qualified)	3 Lady Receptionists (Dte. Genl. of Disposals).
(17) Information and Broadcasting Department.	15	8	4 (qualified)	1 Lady Supervisor (Dte. Genl. of Disposals).
(18) Intelligence Bureau	2	2	2 (qualified)	.....
(19) Jt. Financial Adviser (Food).	1	1	.....	.....

The services of 5 European ladies are being terminated w. e. f. from 1st March 1947

Name of Department	No. of ladies employed under the Dept.	No. of ladies drawing Rs. 150 and above	No. of Anglo-Indian and European ladies drawing Rs. 150 p.m. and above and whether all of them are fully qualified educationally and otherwise.	Whether any posts are reserved for ladies and if so, their number and designation.	Remarks
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(e)	
(20) Labour Deptt.	2	1	.....	1 Lady Conciliation Officer. 1 Clerk to Conciliation Officer.	
(21) Labour Deptt. (D. G., R. & E.).	12	2		1 Dy. Directress of Training (Women). 1 Employment Officer (Women)—Vacant	
(22) Military Adviser-in-Chief, I. S. F.	1	1	1 (qualified)	1 P. A. to M. A. in-C., I. S. F.	
(23) Military Finance Deptt.	2	2	2 (qualified)	.....
(24) Military Secretary to the Viceroy's Office.	7	..	.....	5 Telephone Operators. 1 Lady Health Visitor. 1 Dai.	
(25) Railway Deptt.	7	6	4 (3 qualified educationally, 1 on leave preparatory to retirement—technically qualified for stenographer).		
(26) Transport Deptt.	3	3	1 (qualified)	.....
(27) Political Deptt.	1	1	1 (qualified)	.....

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta's supplementary to Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 227 of 12th February 1947.

starred question No. 227 of 12th February, 1947.

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has been consulted. He is of opinion that it would not be possible to ration matches in Delhi. Apart from the fact that the situation has now considerably improved it is considered that rationing of matches in Delhi would not be successful as it is difficult to lay down different criteria for different classes of people. Discriminate rationing is impracticable and general rationing will not solve the problem and in fact would result in increased black marketing.

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No. 42 of 12th February, 1947.

WELFARE OFFICERS AND THEIR STAFF ON N. W. RAILWAY.

(a) *The required information is contained in the statement appended.*

(b) *The expenditure during the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 on the staff referred to in par (a) is as follows :—*

	Rs.
(i) 1945-46	93,326
(ii) 1946-47	1,43,727

Appendix.

Statement showing the staff employed on the Welfare Organization of the N. W. Railway.

Number of staff as on

Office	1st Janu- ary 1946	1st Janu- ary 1947.	
1. Headquarters Office	2	1	Senior Welfare Officer.
	1	1	Welfare Inspectors.
	1	1	Lady Welfare Inspectors.
	2	2	Assistant Welfare Inspectors.
	..	2	Lady Welfare Workers.
	..	1	Canteen Inspector.
2. Superintendent Me- chanical Workshop.	2	1	Assistant Welfare Officer.
	1	2	Senior Welfare Inspectors.
	1	1	Welfare Inspectors.
	3	3	Assistant Welfare Inspectors.
3. Lahore	3	2	Welfare Clerks.
	1	1	
4. Delhi ■	3	4	Assistant Welfare Inspectors.
	2	3	Welfare Assistants.
5. Rawalpindi	3	4	Assistant Welfare Inspectors.
	1	1	Welfare Assistants.
6. Multan	1	3	Assistant Welfare Inspectors.
	2	3	Welfare Assistants.
7. Ferozepore	1	3	Assistant Welfare Inspectors.
	1	1	Welfare Assistants.

Number of staff as on

Office	Number of staff as on	
	1st January 1946	1st January 1947.
8. Karachi	3	4 Assistant Welfare Inspectors.
	4	4 Welfare Assistants.
9. Quetta	1	2 Assistant Welfare Inspectors.
	1	1 Welfare Assistants.
10. Stores	1	1 Assistant Welfare Inspector.
11. Walton Training School	1	1 Assistant Welfare Inspector.
	2	2 Welfare Clerks.
12. Assistant Works Manager, Works.		1 Assistant Welfare Inspector.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's starred question No. 419 of 20th February-1947.

CRIMINAL TRIBES IN AJMER-MERWARA.

(a) The number and the various kinds of Criminal Tribes Registered in the districts are as follows :—

Tribe		No. on register
Gypsies	1. Sansis	285
	2. Kanjars	459
	3. Nats	1
		745
		Gypsies.
<i>Domiciled.</i>		
	1. Baories	49
	2. Rawats	15
	3. Merats	15
	4. Chakras	79
	5. Naiks	101
	6. Minas	98
		357
		Domiciled.

The total number is thus-1,102 The places of localities of various tribes are also shown below :

Sansies.—Nasirabad, Kekri, Sawar, Ajmer, Beawar, Pisangan, Pushkar, Bhinai, Srinagar.

Kanjars.—Nasirabad, Kekri, Sawar, Ajmer, Beawar, Goela, Todgarh, Bijainagar, Jawaja.

Nats.—Beawar.

Baori.—Mangliawas, Gegal, Pushkar, Pisangan, Beawar.

Rawat.—Beawar.

Merat.—Beawar.

Chakras.—Masuda, Bijainagar, Beawar, Ajmer

Naik.—Masuda, Bijainagar, Jawaja, Bhinai, Goela, Pisangan.

Minas.—Kekri, Sawar (here only one Mina is residing).

(b) There are no regular settlements for criminal tribes in Ajmer-Merwara. The members of these tribes were rounded up and induced to live at certain Central places near police stations or outposts, as a measure of protection to the public. No policy for educating these tribes or for providing them with employment has so far been formulated. The late Deoli Regiments and Miuu Corps provided some facilities for the education and employment of members of these tribes along with others.

The question of the establishment of a settlement in Ajmer-Merwara for these tribes has been engaging the attention of the Local Administration for some time and was also considered by the Advisory Council. The Council is however, opposed to the idea of calling any tribe a criminal tribe or segregating any class of persons in a settlement and is of opinion that no stigma should attach to any person by reason of his birth and no scheme should be prepared involving segregation of any tribe; but that special facilities for the education and advancement of backward tribes including the so called criminal tribes should be provided. Consequently the proposal for the establishment of a settlement for members of Criminal Tribes has been dropped and measures for their education and uplift are being considered.

(c) Yes. Sansies have been established not only at Bhinai but at Ramsar, Srinagar, Sawar and other places where there are Police stations so that they may be kept under surveillance.

(d) Some complaints were received in the past but nothing can be done to remove them as they are likely to be more dangerous at places where there are no police stations. As stated at (b) above, the question of the uplift of these Criminal Tribes is now under consideration.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal's starred question No. 464 (a) of 21st February, 1947.

CONVERSION OF CANTEENS INTO INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT JUBBULPUR, MUTTRA, AGRA AND OTHER STATIONS

(a) The position with regard to Military canteens at the stations mentioned is as follows :

Dehri-on-Sone.—The Military canteen which existed at this station has been abolished.

Jubbulpore.—The canteen was closed on 14th March 1947.

Nagpur.—The Women Voluntary Service and British Other Ranks snack Bar was closed on 25th January 1946.

The Women Voluntary Service and Indian Other Ranks canteen was closed on 1st March 1947.

The Free Tea canteen was closed on 24th February 1947.

Muttra.—The canteen is likely to be closed on 1st April 1948.

Agra.—The canteen was closed on 1st March 1947.

Manikpur.—No canteen was provided at this station.

Seth Sukhdev's starred question No. 474 (b) of 21st February, 1947.

ACCOMMODATION FOR STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS

A statement showing the maximum capacity of 50:50 basis and subsidised godowns that has been in use since completion is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 50:50 BASIS AND SUBSIDISED GODOWNS THAT HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE COMPLETION

(In Tons.)

Name of Place	Maximum capacity that has been in use since completion	Total capacity of the godowns so far completed	Reasons as to why the entire capacity of the godowns has not been utilised
1	2	3	4
50 : 50 BASIS GODOWNS—			
C. P. & Berar	24,500	24,500	Does not arise.
Orissa	14,450	14,450	Does not arise.
Sind	12,000	29,400	Some of these sheds are situated in rice areas and some in wheat areas, so, some sheds remain vacant in off season for rice or wheat. Arrangements have since been made to utilize these sheds in off seasons through local retailers in the Deficit areas.
Punjab	1,378	22,800	Defects in the selection of the sites of Lahore sheds. They are being remedied.
SUBSIDISED GODOWNS EASTERN STATES—			
Khairgarh State	1,000	1,000	Does not arise.
Kalahandi	502	1,000	There was no full stock to be stored.
Patna	Nil	1,500	The matter regarding settling of rates was under correspondence between the State and the Agents so long, so, the godowns were not used at all. Necessary action to utilise the godowns to the fullest extent is being taken by the Patna State.

Supplementaries to Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 652 of 3rd March, 1947.

PRICE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

An enquiry was made from the U. P. Government who have clarified the position as follows :

The price paid in both the Agra and Muttra districts as well as in the rest of the Province under the Direct Procurement Drive was the statutory maximum price of Rs. 10-4-0 per month. Since this price was supposed to be the price at the primary assembling market in the village, an addition was made for cartage to the purchasing centre. This additional percentage was also uniform throughout the Province.

If the question refers to Black Market price, U. P. Government have no accurate information as to the position last year. It may be that prices in the area in the immediate proximity of Agra town were higher than those in the neighbouring Muttra district but it seems unlikely that a price of Rs. 20 was reached.

Supplementaries to Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 707 of 4th March, 1947.

CONVICTION OF PROFESSOR BASUDEO BISHEN DAYAL FOR PREACHING HINDU RELIGION IN MAURITIUS

According to the information now received from the Government of Mauritius the following is the position :—

First prosecution—Professor Basudeo Bishen Dayal was first prosecuted on the 16th March 1944, for holding an illegal meeting on the 22nd February 1944. He was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 150 and costs. After sentence had been passed he refused to pay fine and was in consequence arrested and imprisoned on the 9th May 1944. He was released on the 22nd June 1944. Before prosecution he had been warned both orally and in writing of the consequences of persisting in his course of action.

Second prosecution.—On the 19th May 1944, Professor Basudeo Bishen Dayal was charged with holding three illegal meetings on the 11th, 12th and 19th March 1944. He was found guilty on all three counts. He was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 300 and costs on each of two counts. The first count was dismissed. The fine and costs were paid on this occasion by a sympathiser.

Third prosecution.—On the 20th October 1944, he was charged with holding an illegal procession on the 8th October 1944. He was found guilty on the 3rd November and was sentenced to twelve month's imprisonment. He was released on the 18th July 1945, having earned remission of the remainder of his sentence by good conduct in goal.

(a) During the hearing of the last mentioned case on the 20th October 1944, he refused to plead to the charge and informed the Magistrate that "he should know whether he was guilty or not". He was then sentenced to seven day's imprisonment for contempt of Court.

2. Professor Basudeo Bishen Dayal has not been arrested thereafter but his brother Sukhdeo Bishen Dayal was prosecuted for holding an illegal procession in contravention of law governing holding of public meetings and processions and was sentenced to 65 days' imprisonment for failure to comply with orders of Court.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai's supplementaries to Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 784 of 10th March, 1947.

SUPPLY OF CATTLE FOOD IN INDIA

Deteriorated foodgrains are not destroyed if they are capable of being :
reconditioned for human consumption,
used as cattlefeed, or
utilized by starch factories.

Only decomposed grains not fit for any of the above uses and which are deemed as involving danger to public health are destroyed.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang's starred questions Nos. 882, 883, 884 and 885 of 12th March, 1947.

COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF COMMISSIONED AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

No. 882.—(a) and (b). N. C. O's. are promoted and not directly recruited. The figures for officers commissioned in the three services between 1st September 1946 and 3rd March 1947 are given below :—

(1)	R. I. N.	Nil
(2)	Indian Army	303
(3)	R. I. A. F.	127
(b) (1)	R. I. N.	Nil
(2)	Indian Army :	
	Hindus (including Scheduled Castes)	121
	Muslims	77
	Sikhs	63
	Christians	38
	Parsis	2
	Others	2
	TOTAL	303

(3) R. I. A. F.:

Hindus	72
Muslims	20
Sikhs	11
Scheduled Castes	N/A
Christians	20
Parsis	4
Others	N/A
TOTAL	127

● GAZETTED OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

No. 883.—(a) Gazetted Officers employed in the Defence Department between 2nd September 1946 and 5th March 1947:

Hindus	20
Muslims	4
Sikhs	4
Others	8
TOTAL	36

(b) Promotions made among Gazetted Officers between 2nd September 1946 and 5th March 1947:

Hindus	18
Muslims	7
Sikhs	3
Others	14
TOTAL	42

PERCENTAGE OF DEMOBILISED SOLDIERS COMMUNITY-WISE

No. 884.—(a) The total number of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Indian Other Ranks released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947 is as follows:—

Hindus (including Gurkhas)	158,970
Muslims	84,373
Sikhs	13,206
Others	22,594
TOTAL	279,143

(b) The percentage of the men released in each community [as in (a) above] to the total is as follows:

	Per cent.
Hindus (including Gurkhas)	57
Muslims	30
Sikhs	5
Others	8
TOTAL	100

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Community	Number of Indian Officers (including Medical and Dental) released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947	Percentage of officers released in each community to the total number of officers released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947
(c)		Per cent.
Hindus	1,204	57.3
Muslims	377	18.0
Sikhs	154	7.3
Others	365	17.4
TOTAL	2,100	100.0

Community	Number of V. C. Os. released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947	Percentage of V. C. Os. released in each community to the total V. C. Os. released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947
(d)		
Hindus	2,311	49
Muslims	1,558	34
Sikhs	469	10
Others	327	7
TOTAL	4,665	100

(e) Separate figures for Non-Commissioned Officers are not kept. The number of N.C.Os. authorised in each unit is in proportion to the number of Other Ranks of that community authorised for that unit. As such the percentage of the N.C.Os. released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947 to the total number of N.C.Os. released will be approximately the same as given in reply to part (b) above.

COMMUNAL PERCENTAGE OF EMERGENCY OFFICERS

No. 885.—(a) and (b). 467 Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers were granted regular commissions during the period 1st September 1946 to 3rd March 1947 and their distribution by communities is as follows :—

Hindus	184
Muslims	131
Sikhs	103
Others	49

No temporary ranks have been made permanent. The number of permanent commissions granted has been stated above. If it is intended to know the number of substantive promotions made, it is regretted that statistics in this detail are not available.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 1166 (b), (c) and (d) of 25th March, 1947.

**INDIAN STAFF OFFICERS IN OFFICES OF ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF OF GENERAL HEAD
QUARTERS AND CHIEF ENGINEERS OF COMMANDS**

Commands	Part (b)	Part (c)	Part (d)
Northern Command	3	Indians . Nil. Non-Indians . 3	Vacancies were filled by officers already holding suitable ranks who became available on rundown of establishments.
Southern Command	3	Indians . Nil. Non-Indians . 3	Vacancies were filled by officers already holding suitable ranks who became available on rundown of establishments.
Eastern Command	2	Indians . 1 Non-Indians . 1	A qualified Indian Officer was not readily available to fill the second vacancy.

Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred questions Nos. 1176 (b) and 1177 of 25th March, 1947.

**APPEAL AGAINST CONVICTION OF SRI BORRA APPALA NARAYANA REDDI OF
WALTAIR**

No. 1176(b).—The history of Sri Borra Appala Narayana Reddi's career in the army is as follows :

He was enrolled as a Viceroy's Commissioned Officer (Jemadar) on the 28th January 1942 in the Indian Pioneer Corps, and promoted as a Subedar on the 5th November 1943.

In December 1943, when on field service, he was tried by Field General Court Martial and convicted on two charges of inciting a mutiny.

**COURT MARTIAL OF SRI GOLLAKOTA RAMABRAHMANANDA RAO OF PEDDAPURAM,
EAST GODAVARI.**

No. 1177.—(a) and (b). Gollakota Ramabrahmanandarao of Peddapuram, East Godavari District was enrolled in the Army as a Grade III Hav. Clerk. He completed the Recruit's Course in Anti-Gas Training and the Table of Weapon Training the same year. In January 1945, while serving with No. 2, I.A.O.C. Training Battalion, he was tried by a Summary-General Court Martial on a charge of stabbing to death his wife, a Nursing Sister in the Auxiliary Nursing Service. He was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. The C.-in-C. confirmed the finding but commuted the sentence to transportation for life and dismissal from service. The prisoner is now serving his sentence in the Rajahmundry Jail.

(c) Yes, Sir. A defending officer was appointed for the prisoner. There was no suggestion during the trial that adequate opportunities were not provided for his defence. In fact, the prisoner admitted having stabbed his wife and the question for consideration was whether he was guilty of murder or of a lesser offence.

(d) There is no record of any appeal by or on behalf of the accused having been received either by the C.-in-C. or by the Central Government.

Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop's starred question No. 1185 (c) of 25th March, 1947.

PROTEST AGAINST THE MILITARY CAMP AT RAIWALA NEAR HARDWAR.

The Government of the United Provinces have stated that there is no agreement between the Provincial Government and any body else to the effect that the Ganga Sabha would be consulted in matters concerning Hindu pilgrimage to Hardwar and its vicinity. It is, however, understood that the Provincial Government have constituted an Advisory Committee for Hardwar and Rishikesh and that the Ganga Sabha has been given a seat on it.

Mr. Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla's starred question No. 1215 of 26th March, 1947.

ALLOTMENT TO UNITED PROVINCES OF COAL DUST FOR BRICK BURNING.

(a) Coal allocations for the various industries etc., in a province are sanctioned from month to month on the basis of the availability of coal and transport and on the demands of the consumers during brick burning coal to the United Provinces during each of the first three months of this year were 33,067 tons.

(b) Figures of despatches of brick burning coal are not normally maintained Province-wise.

(c) In view of the reply to part (a) this question does not arise. But it is generally impossible to make up subsequently a short-fall in supplies in any particular month.

(d) and (e). The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the provincial quota, comprising the requirements for domestic consumption and small scale industries. The average monthly allocation of steam coal to the U. P. against this quota during the first quarter of this year was the same as during 1946, i.e., 381 tons a month.

(f) The allotment of steam coal to ice factories in the U. P. was 742 tons a month during the cold weather months of January and February 1947, and was increased to 1484 tons during March. Allocations to ice factories are made on the recommendation of the Provincial Coal Controller and if he advises that the present allocation is inadequate a request for enhancement will be examined on merits.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 1362 (b) of 2nd April, 1947.

CONTROL OVER METROPOLITAN BISHOPS AND CLERGY IN INDIA.

Further enquiry shows that the matter is not the concern of the Government which is, therefore, unable to furnish a reply to the question.

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No. 116 of 3rd April, 1947.

COMPLAINT re THE RECRUITMENT OF DIESEL ENGINE DRIVERS ON N. W. RAILWAY.

(b) No, on the contrary the Railway Administration reports that there is at present shortage of such staff.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The latter part does not arise:

Captain G. T. B. Harvey's starred question No. 1459 (g) and (h) of 8th April, 1947.

HOLIDAY CAMP FOR TROOPS AT KODAIKANAL.

(g) The average number of troops on leave who used the Camp was 42.

(h) The Camp was never full.

Sardar Mangal Singh's unstarred question No. 120 of 8th April, 1947.

PROSECUTION BY THE ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT.

(a) The total number of officers above the rank of Sub-Inspector employed in the Delhi Special Police Establishment is 47. They include 26 Hindus, 17 Muslims, 2 Sikhs, 1 Parsee and 1 European.

(b) The numbers of Government servants prosecuted from each community during 1945 and 1946 are as under :

Year	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Christians	Total
1945	104	19	8	29	160
1946	52	24	8	11	95

(c) The numbers of successful prosecutions during the above period are as under :—

Year	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Christians	Total
1945	35	7	...	6	48
1946	7	7	1	1	16

A majority of the cases are, however, still pending in courts.

(d) It is not possible to indicate exactly the amount spent on these prosecutions. But the expenditures incurred on the prosecuting agency during 1945-46 and 1946-47, was Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 33,000 respectively.

Mr. S. Guruswami's starred question No. 1569 of 11th April, 1947.

**STAFF EMPLOYED IN AND DISCHARGED FROM THE ORDNANCE SERVICE,
MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT AND MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICE**

Statement showing the number of non-gazetted staff employed in the M. E. S. as on 1st April 1946 and 1st January 1947.

Class of employee	1st Sep- tember 1946	1st Janu- ary 1947	Reduction
Unskilled	57,238	46,142	11,096
Skilled & Semi-skilled	37,911	28,434	9,477
Clerical	4,584	3,794	790
Administrative and Executive	8,571	8,254	317
TOTAL	108,304	86,624	21,680

NOTE.—As the collection of statistics in this detail was started only in January 1946, it is regretted that it is not possible to give figures regarding discharge since the cessation of hostilities.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ABOLITION OF B. A. RAILWAY.

Mr. Speaker: Notices of three adjournment motions have been received. The first is by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra regarding the "abolition of the B. A. Railway and its fragmentation into three parts, based on the notional division, placing them under different administrative arrangements causing great dislocation of trade and inconvenience to the people".

The matter is no doubt important but I doubt the urgency of it. Further I find from the programme that Honourable Members will have the opportunity of discussing this question during the course of the Railway Budget, general discussion, as well as on the demands for grants.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): I do not want to move the motion.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the Honourable Member accepts the same position as regards the second motion of which he has given notice?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the second motion, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: It is an adjournment motion on the same subject *re* "the failure of the Government of India in the department of Railways to take over charge of the portions of the B. A. Railway falling within the Indian Union under the award of the Bengal Boundary Commission and the consequent dislocation of traffic and loss of earnings to the Indian Union which continue to be sent to Pakistan since August 15th, 1947 under orders of the Railway authorities of the Government of India."

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I do not want to move the motion. I shall take it up during the general discussion on the Railway Budget.

PLIGHT OF REFUGEES FROM WESTERN PAKISTAN.

Mr. Speaker: There is an adjournment motion in the name of Diwan Chaman Lal regarding the plight of the refugees from West Pakistan. Does he propose to move it?

Diwan Chaman Lal (East Punjab: General): I do not propose to move the motion.

Mr. Speaker: There is another adjournment motion in the name of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta. I think that his object can be better achieved by a short notice question.

Is the Honourable Member keen on moving his motion?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): No Sir, I will abide by your advice, and raise the question by a short notice question.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the Bills which were passed by the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1947, and which have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General.

Statement

- (1) The Criminal Tribes (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (2) The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.
- (3) The Indian Extradition (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (4) The Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (5) The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (6) The Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1947.

Statement—contd.

- (7) The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- (8) The Indian Navy (Discipline) (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (9) The Sugar (Temporary Excise Duty) Act, 1947.
- (10) The Explosives (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1947.
- (11) The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (12) The Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947.
- (13) The Delhi Muslim Wakfs (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (14) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- (15) The Armed Forces (Emergency Duties), Act, 1947.
- (16) The Trading with the Enemy (Continuance of Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947.
- (17) The Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Act, 1947.
- (18) The Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947.
- (19) The Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947.
- (20) The Indian Finance Act, 1947.
- (21) The Business Profits Tax Act, 1947.
- (22) The Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (23) The Reserve Bank of India (Second Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (24) The Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947.
- (25) The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (26) The Control of Shipping Act, 1947.
- (27) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (28) The Indian Coinage (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (29) The Capital Issues (Continuance of Control) Act, 1947.
- (30) The Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act, 1947.
- (31) The Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947.
- (32) The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947.
- (33) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (34) The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (35) The Panth Piploda Laws (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (36) The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1947.

CONTINUATION OF BILLS PENDING IN THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed to the business I have to make two announcements.

Honourable Members will notice from the List of Business for today that the five motions in the name of Honourable Ministers relate to Bills which, immediately before the establishment of the Dominion, were pending in the old Legislative Assembly. Under statutory provisions contained in Section 30 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted, these Bills are now being continued in the Constituent Assembly on its Legislative side. The object of the motions for the present is to continue these Bills as pending in the present Assembly.

SITTINGS OF ASSEMBLY ON HOLIDAYS.

Mr. Speaker: The second announcement I have to make is this. It has been the practice in the past that the old Legislative Assembly did not sit on days which were declared as holidays by the Delhi Administration. In accordance with this practice, no meetings have so far been fixed for 22nd November and 24th November on account of Moharrum. It has been suggested

that in view of the heavy Government programme, the number of holidays to be observed may be reduced and only one holiday may be observed by the Assembly on account of Moharrum, namely, 24th November, which is the only holiday observed by the Government of India. If the general opinion in the House is in favour of this view, I will fix a meeting for Saturday, 22nd November, for the disposal of official business.

BANKING COMPANIES BILL.

Mr. Speaker: Now, we shall take up Legislative business. The Honourable Mr. Chetty.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Banking Companies be continued."

The Bill has passed the stage of the Select Committee in the last Legislative Assembly, and the Report of the Select Committee has also been submitted. It is my intention to move that this Bill be taken into consideration during the Budget Session. For the present I move that the Bill be continued.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Banking Companies be continued."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the members here suffer from certain difficulties in appreciating the motion. We do not know what the Bills were, how they have been changed and what their contents are. They have not been circulated to us. I hope they will be circulated and then we will be in a position to give our opinion on them. It is no doubt a formality but it should be strictly adhered to.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that copies have been circulated.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Many of us have not received them.

Mr. Speaker: As I understand the Honourable the Finance Minister, the point is that the present motion is only to continue the Bill. The actual consideration of it will be taken up in the next Budget session, that is the February session. It will not be taken up in the present session.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The point I was emphasising was whether we are consenting parties to the Bill, I think our consent is necessary and some kind of appreciation of the nature of the Bill is a condition precedent to our consent. If that is so I think the Bill should be circulated amongst us. It is a small formality as I have already submitted but it is a very necessary formality in a very formal House like this.

Mr. Speaker: The point is that this Bill was pending in the last Assembly, and under Section 30 of the Government of India Act, it has to be kept alive. The present motion is that it may not be allowed to die but be kept alive. It is absolutely a formal motion. It is only to keep it alive. It does not mean that we are proceeding with it at this stage. Members will have every right and opportunity of discussing its merits later on.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: In that case we would be mere silent spectators without committing ourselves to the acceptance of its features.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Banking Companies be continued."

The motion was adopted.

INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be continued."

It is similarly situated with respect to its progress as was the first Bill which was moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chetty.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND BAR COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, and the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, be continued."

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): May I know the stage at which this Bill stands?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It was merely introduced.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, and the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be continued."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be continued."

Shri Raj Krishna Bose (Orissa: General): I would like to know if this Bill also was referred to a Select Committee?

Mr. Speaker: It was only introduced.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): It can be newly introduced. What is meant by 'continuation'? Only if it has gone through the other stages of discussion or Select Committee there is a purpose in having a motion for its continuation. It can as well be newly introduced.

Mr. Speaker: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the provisions of sub-clause (2) of Section 30 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted:

"A Bill which, immediately before the establishment of the Dominion, was pending in the Legislative Assembly of the Indian Legislature may, subject to any provision to the contrary which may be included in rules made by the Dominion Legislature under section 38 of this Act, be continued in the Dominion Legislature as if the proceedings taken with reference to the Bill in the said Legislative Assembly had been taken in the Dominion Legislature."

So the time and expenditure incurred in the previous stages—publication, etc.—are now dispensed with. That is the point in continuing the Bill.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the wording of the particular clause, just read out—it is

necessary that a motion for continuation should be made? The rule permits the Government to continue the Bill and take it through further stages if it wants to do so. Is a separate motion for its continuation therefore necessary at all?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : If the motion for continuation is not made the Bill lapses. That means all the stages will have to be begun again.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, on this point of order the section which you were pleased to read says that a Bill which was pending in the Legislative Assembly 'may be continued'. It is thus discretionary on the part of this House to continue or not to continue it. Therefore a decision of the House is necessary.

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly why the motion is brought. The question is: "That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

HINDU CODE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move: "That the Bill to amend and codify certain branches of the Hindu Law be continued."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend and codify certain branches of the Hindu Law be continued."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): May I know the present stage of this very important Bill? I understand there has been a considerable amount of agitation among our Hindu friends over it and it is better we have a picture of the stage at which the Bill is at present.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It was only introduced. No further stage was taken.

Shri R. V. Dhulekar (U. P.: General): In the new set up we should have no Hindu Law and no Muslim Law. We should have a general law and therefore.....

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Member is speaking on the merits. He will have an opportunity of saying it when the Bill comes before the House. At present the only question is whether the Bill should be continued or not continued.

Shri R. V. Dhulekar: So, Sir, I oppose; it should not be continued.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend and codify certain branches of the Hindu Law be continued."

The motion was adopted.

FOREIGNERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting, and States): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreigners Act, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DOCK WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating the employment of dock workers.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating the employment of dock workers."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (EXTENSION OF TIME) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Time) Act, 1942.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Time) Act, 1942."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DELHI PREMISES (REQUISITION AND EVICTION) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the province of Delhi.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the province of Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance) :

Sir, I move :

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the remaining part of the financial year 1947-48."

Sir, Honourable Members who have been associated with the work of the Central Legislature are familiar with the scope and functions of the Standing Finance Committee. The functions of this Committee are derived partly from a resolution which was adopted in the Central Legislature in the year 1922, and partly as the result of conventions established on the initiative of the Committee itself. The functions of the Committee during the last few years have been as follows: "To scrutinise all proposals for expenditure in all departments of the Government of India."

Under this category, only proposals involving a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh and over, and non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs and over, were considered by the Standing Finance Committee.

As regards new items, in other words, extensions to existing services, a reference is made to the Committee only when a question of policy is involved, and not in cases of ordinary normal growth of departmental expenditure which do not involve any departure in the policy already accepted. All supplementary grants relating to new services or any new items in which substantial questions of policy were involved, were also referred to the Committee. The Committee was also invited from time to time to suggest retrenchment and economy in expenditure, and generally the Committee was intended to assist the Ministry of Finance and advise the Ministry in such cases as may be referred to it by the Ministry. As a member of this Committee for many years myself I know that it has played a very useful and important part and I have therefore no hesitation in recommending to the House the acceptance of this motion for the election of a similar committee for the remaining part of the current financial year. Sir, I move

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the remaining part of the financial year 1947-48."

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, The Honourable the Finance Minister has pointed out that the functions of the Standing Finance Committee were derived partly from a resolution which was adopted in the Central Legislature in 1922 and partly as the result of conventions established on the initiative of the Committee itself. We then agitated that we should at the same time have an Estimates Committee which is in existence in England and in all free countries. While I do not object to the present motion as an interim arrangements till March 1948. I strongly urge on my friend the Finance Minister that we will now have to function as a free and sovereign Government where the representatives of the people should be associated with the Government; we should have an Estimates Committee of which the Finance Minister may be the Chairman and where the whole budget will be considered and passed. This is done in England. If the Honourable the Finance Minister finds any better system of associating the elected representatives of the people with the finances of the country, he may introduce that convention. We were fighting for an Estimates Committee when my Honourable friend was the President of the Assembly and Sir George Schuster was the Finance Member but the British Government did not permit the Finance Member then to have an Estimates Committee in India. Now, that we are free, we can have it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I do not move my amendment but my object is to ask whether this matter may not be considered by the Finance Minister and taken up at the next Budget Session. Sir, I expected to ask him that he would try to enlarge the scope of the Standing Finance Committee. The scope of the Finance Committee, as we heard him read out the various functions of the Committee, is very limited. Those functions were laid down at a time when a foreign Government was in charge of this Administration. I expected naturally that he would devote his attention to the matter but the time at the disposal of the Finance Minister has been very short. I am sure, having regard to changed circumstances, he will consider if it is not advisable to place the various estimates that come before us by way of the Budget before the Finance Committee to be scrutinised in instalments so that within a period of three years all the various items may be under the searchlight of the Standing Finance Committee. This matter was raised by Sir James Grigg who was the Finance Member in 1937-38, and he circulated a memorandum to the Leaders of the parties in this House. It was our leader, the late Shri Bhulabhai Desai, who for a long time worked for it but later on he did not pursue the matter. He suggested in his memorandum that a non-official Chairman and not a Minister might preside over the deliberations of the Finance Committee and the Finance Minister may be an *ex-officio* member and all the items in the Budget before the Budget Session of the Assembly might be placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I believe, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Minister will try to review his motion and try to suggest at the next Budget Session if it is not possible or desirable to enlarge the scope of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee so that the Standing Finance Committee might get to know details of the various items and suggest various methods of retrenchment, and not only those items alone which according to the Finance Minister might be placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

Automatically every item in the Budget must come up for scrutiny by the Standing Finance Committee. The previous Government was very chary of its power and did not want to discuss all matters. Some matters were by statute withdrawn from the purview of the Assembly and of what really was left many items were non-votable and even with regard to votable items it was left to the sweet will and pleasure of the Finance Member for the time being, who on all past occasions was not always of a dark colour but fair. He wanted to see that all items did not come to the scrutiny of the Standing Finance Committee which composed of a large number of Members of this House. I know, Sir, that the colour has changed but I do not want the colour both of the Administration and of the Committee to be the same.

Sir, I do not formally move my amendment, but I again request the Honourable the Finance Minister to take the facts into consideration and try to enlarge the scope of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee and in the revised form place it before the House before the next Budget Session and that before the Budget is actually presented at the next Session of the Assembly.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, the motion that has been moved by the Honourable the Finance Minister needs explanation. Sir, under the old Act, we had only the Public Accounts Committee—the only statutory Committee under the Act. All the Committees were regarded as non-statutory with the result that the executive Government of the day which was not fully responsible generally brought such measures before the Committee as they liked or, of cases wherever and whenever they wanted taxation, they brought such proposals before these Committees for a justification.

Now, the conditions are changed. I therefore appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to expand the scope of the resolution not only with reference to the Resolution of 1922 but also to take a fresh lead and to see that the Committee so elected by this House is fully associated with the

Ministry of Finance. Sir, the question has been adverted to by my Honourable friends that far deeper association and better kind of association is being effected in other countries. I do not see any reason why the programmes and policy of the Government should not be thoroughly and fully discussed in the Committee. If this is not accepted, namely full association of the Committee with the Ministry of Finance, I think there is every justification to have a Committee. If that is not the position I do not see any reason why there should at all be a Committee. I fully believe, Sir, that my Honourable friend would agree to expand the scope of the Resolution so as to bring within it real power and influence and association so as to make the Committee helpful to the Ministry and useful to the country and to this Assembly. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister and myself entered the Madras Council together; I think he will recollect how often he was anxious to see that these *ad hoc* Committees were elected and non-officials associated in the work of government. Now fortune has brought us a free India and I believe he will throw aside the Resolution of 1922 and begin a fresh leaf—absolutely a fresh leaf, in which the Committee is fully associated with the Ministry of Finance, forgetting all the past, forgetting even the links that connect the past and the present. The Budget for 1948-49 is near at hand, I think it is proper time that the Honourable the Finance Minister makes an announcement on the floor of the House that he would take this Committee into full confidence, making it a really useful and helpful Committee for himself and for the Honourable Members of this House so that it would minimise the discussion on the floor of the House and establish a link of co-operation between the Finance Ministry and this House.

With these words I support all that has been stated and I also fully support the point of view of my Honourable friend for a non-official Chairman of the Committee, unless my Honourable friend the Finance Minister feels that there will be loss of status. I fail to see why this question of status should at all come in. A Member of the House will be appointed as Chairman of the Committee or the Committee will have its own Chairman. If that position is accepted, I think we will fully and heartily congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister and accept the motion with its changed outlook and form.

Shri K. M. Munshi (Bombay: General): Sir, I have a few remarks to offer more as a matter of suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Minister than as a matter of criticism. As has already been stated by the Honourable Mr. B. Das, the Select Committee now suggested is a very old and obsolete method of associating the members of the House with the financial affairs of the country. I would, if I may, draw attention to the developments in England on this question and I hope that if not now, at least as early as possible, the Honourable the Finance Minister will be able to see his way to adopt my suggestion.

Firstly, with regards to the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons. This Estimates Committee has generally been accepted as one of the most important Committees of the House of Commons. I suggest that this should replace our Finance Committee. Not only that, there is one important constitutional aspect of a new Committee which was brought into existence in the House of Commons in the year 1942, namely, the Select Committee on National Expenditure. In 1942 when the two-party system was given up and a Coalition Government was set up in England, it was found that the wholesome criticism of the Opposition in matters of expenditure was absent and in order to obviate this difficulty, this Select Committee on National Expenditure was set up, with a view to scrutinise the expenditure. It was felt that in the absence of a strong two-party system, it was necessary that the whole expenditure of the country should be brought under the scrutiny of such a Committee before whom all matters were to be placed. This Committee

[Shri K. M. Munshi]

has been functioning since 1942 and has done very good work. If I may refer to May's Parliamentary Practice, page 642, it says:

"The practice was established whereby the departments affected by the recommendations in the Committee's reports submitted memoranda thereon to the Committee; these replies were periodically reported to the House, either in the same or in a following session. The Prime Minister also supplied the Committee, for their confidential information, with replies to recommendations contained in the memoranda addressed to him under the special powers described above."

In this way, the meetings of this Select Committee were always held in camera and their Reports were never published, but they went over all items of expenditure with a view to introduce economy on all Departments. I suggest that this constitutional method should be adopted in this country as early as possible.

Again, if I may draw attention once again to this book, this Committee was, among other things, authorised to "report, what, if any, economies consistent with the execution of the policy decided by the Government might be effected therein." This is a very important function and I am sure my Honourable friend the Finance Minister will agree with me that we require stringent economy in every Department and a Committee of this kind should be associated with the Finance Department. This is all I have to submit.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, with regard to the motion before the House, I associate myself with all that has been said by my Honourable friends Mr. Munshi and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. There are three motions before the House for appointing Standing Committees similar to those that existed in the past. All that I wish to say is that our Ministers should not say that these are the functions which these Committees had in the past and they shall continue. I say that the new spirit of the new age should also be brought into the Committees. I want the Honourable the Finance Minister to tell us that now this Committee will have other functions also and he will thus be able to avail himself of the wisdom of the whole House to scrutinise the Budget and to advise him on all matters of financial importance. We are embarking on a new adventure. We have a nation to build and finance will be the most important thing on which we shall probably succeed or fail. We therefore urge that this is a very important motion and I would request the Honourable the Finance Minister to enlarge the number of members on the committee, as also to have a non-official as Chairman. This is all that I wish to say about this motion.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, the Standing Finance Committee which I am asking this House to elect is intended to function only for the unexpired portion of the current financial year. In giving the scope and functions of the Committee, it was my intention just to give an idea to the Honourable Members as to what these were in the past, but I might assure Honourable Members that it is not my intention to confine the scope and functions of the Committee strictly to the four walls of those that I enumerated today. I may give the assurance that I shall take the Committee into the fullest confidence. I shall be prepared to place before the Committee any matter which it may desire me to place before it. I would suggest, however, that in the course of the work of this Committee, the Committee itself might take up the question of accurately defining the scope and functions of the Standing Finance Committee and when I make my next motion for the election of the Committee for 1948-49, we may more clearly define and enlarge its scope and functions. In the meantime, the House can rest assured that I shall place all facts and figures before the Committee and shall welcome their fullest co-operation.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Munshi made a reference to the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons. The functions of that Committee are somewhat different from those of our Standing Finance Committee. In one material particular, the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons has not got so many powers as our own Standing Finance Committee. Whenever there is any question of policy involved in a new expenditure, we place this matter before the Standing Finance Committee and it has a very definite say even in the formulation of policy, but the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons has only to suggest retrenchment in expenditure consistent with the policy enunciated by the Government. In other words, it has no power to shape or alter that policy. From that point of view therefore, I would submit that our Standing Finance Committee has really wider functions and powers. In fact, there is one important difference. We place the proposal for expenditure before the Standing Finance Committee before the Budget is actually introduced in the Legislature, whereas in the House of Commons the Estimates Committee considers the items of expenditure only after the Budget estimates have been presented to the House of Commons. As a matter of fact, the usual practice of the Estimates Committee in the House of Commons is simply to take one group of expenditure during a year and just suggest all the retrenchments that could possibly be made. In other words, they do not at all cover all the various demands for grants that come before the House of Commons in any particular year. In fact, many Parliamentarians have questioned the utility of the Estimates Committee. One famous writer on parliamentary procedure made a caustic observation that after weeks of deliberation the only substantial cut that the Estimates Committee was able to make in a particular year in the Navy estimate was to cut down the quantity of tobacco supplied to the sailors in the Navy.

Shri K. M. Munshi: It will not happen here.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am only suggesting that although the British House of Commons is the mother of Parliaments, our Standing Finance Committee has got really wider functions than the Committees of the House of Commons. In any case, we need not necessarily be guided by what happens at Westminster. We shall establish our own conventions. And so far as the Standing Finance Committee of this House is concerned, I will give the categorical assurance to Honourable Members that it is my intention to make the work of this Committee really effective and useful, so that every possible item of expenditure might be scrutinised by this Committee and that this Committee might really act as the agents of the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the remaining part of the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

I do not think Mr. Speaker, it is necessary for me to explain at any length to the House what the scope and functions of this Committee are. The Standing Finance Committee for Railways originated as a result of the Resolution of 1924 under which railway finances were separated from general finance. What at present happens, therefore, is that the Standing Finance Committee for Railways performs the same functions in regard to Railway finance that the

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Standing Finance Committee performs in relation to public finance generally. There is hardly a matter of any importance relating to the financial policy and administration of railways which is not placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. Their advice has to be taken before any decision is arrived at by the Railway Ministry, and as far as I am able to speak from experience since the Interim Government took office, I cannot think of any matter of any importance in relation to railway finance on which the Ministry has not accepted the advice tendered by the Standing Finance Committee. I am quite aware that the scope and functions of this Committee stand in need of change in view of the political set up under which we are now working, and the considerations which have been urged by my Honourable Colleague the Finance Minister are considerations which I believe *mutatis mutandis* apply in the case of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. The only suggestion that I am making at present is that the arrangement which has prevailed so far may continue for the unexpired portion of the year, and if any suggestions are to be made by Honourable Members regarding the question of widening the scope of this Committee, I can give an assurance similar to that given by my Honourable Colleague the Finance Minister, that it will receive my fullest and most earnest consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

May I know if Mr. Ayyangar is going to move his amendment?

Shri-M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): No, Sir.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): While supporting this Motion, I want to make only two observations. The first is that hitherto the practice is that the Financial Commissioner presides over this Committee. I think it is time that the Railway Minister began to preside over the Committee.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I should straightaway correct my Honourable friend's impression. The Minister for Railways now presides over the meetings of this Committee. The old practice ceased some time ago.

Shri K. Santhanam: I am sorry, I am rather a little out of date. The other point is that the scope is confined only to the Railway financial policy. It should really become a Railway Standing Committee. Not only the financial measures but also all matters of policy including the grouping of railways and other matters should come before the Railway Standing Finance Committee. It is only then that it can perform its functions usefully. In fact there is another motion for the Central Advisory Council for Railways. So far as I know this is a nominal Committee and that Advisory Council has not played a very effective part. The functions of both the Committees should be combined and there should be only one Committee which deals with the entire problem of Railways so far as the Government of India is concerned. I think this matter will be borne in mind by the Member as he has promised and when he puts them forward next year the entire scope will be fully defined.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have been in the Standing Finance Committee for several years. Though technically the Standing Finance Committee deals only with financial matters, we have been trying to get into it for discussion various other matters relating to the general administration of railways. That is particularly due to the Honourable Member who is now in charge of the administration. I am much obliged to my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam for having made this suggestion. For every other Department under a Minister we are having separate Standing Committee. The

motion stands in the name of the Honourable the Premier and will come up for discussion tomorrow, that Standing Committees may be appointed for various Departments of the Government, consisting of ten non-official Members over which the head of the administration will preside. There is no similar Standing Committee for Railway Departments. There is one for Roads. Therefore there is a lacuna. Therefore instead of having a separate Standing Committee to deal with various matters, not directly financially, but other administrative matters having a separate Committee, the scope of this Committee may be enlarged so as to deal with all matters and the word 'finance' removed and any suitable name may be chosen. At this stage, I hope, therefore, the Honourable Member will take that into consideration. He may withdraw his motion and bring the matter during the course of this Session so as to bring in a motion for a more comprehensive Committee and set out the various functions of that Committee combining the functions of the Standing Finance Committee with the functions of Standing Committees for various other Departments as are set out in the Rules which have been circulated for consideration of the House. The Honourable Member may bring forward another motion later on to enlarge the scope of the powers of the Standing Finance Committee so as to include within its scope matters relating to the outside administration of the Departments concerned.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): I did not catch the side talk of my Honourable friend, Dr. Matthai. I doubt if he is seeking guidance under the old rules.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Ever since I was appointed Railway Minister, this has been the practice.

Shri B. Das: The whole rule has gone.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): I am sorry I am not in favour of suggestion made by the previous speakers to combine these Committees into one. From experience as I have of the Provincial Advisory Committees of the Railways, I think the Committees which are going to come hereafter will have very heavy work for the improvement of the Railways in this country. Therefore I do not want the burden to be put upon this Committee by such combination. I feel that if the Committees are combined into one, then they will not be able to do justice and look after the grievances of the travelling public. There are very many grievances and there are many improvements that are required to be made in the Railways and if this one Committee is appointed, I am sure the real difficulties and hardships of the travelling public will be entirely ignored. Therefore, Sir, I think that the Standing Committee of Finance should work for the finances of Railway only and should not assert the power of the other Committee. I therefore suggest, Sir, that the motion moved by the Honourable Minister for the Railways should remain as it is.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa has misunderstood the suggestion made by myself and Mr. Santhanam. It is not our intention that the Central Advisory Council for Railways or the Local Advisory Councils should be abolished. They have independent functions to discharge.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is not, I am afraid, giving a personal explanation but adding something by way of reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Sir, I am not in favour of the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam that both these committees should be combined into one. The question of railway finance is not on all fours with that of ordinary general finance because the railways happen to be more or less a nationalised industry, and the industrial problems as affecting the general public have got to be viewed in a different way. Necessarily those who are interested in the welfare of the passengers and conveniences to be provided for them and also the general commercial public who utilise the

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goods traffic have got to be considered separately in a separate committee and have got to be given special consideration by members who are interested in it and who are elected to that committee. Therefore these two committees have got to be kept apart. At the same time the Railway Finance Committee should be given greater powers, and I am glad the Honourable Minister concerned has already given us an assurance that he will certainly try to extend the scope of the work as well as the powers of this committee.

The other suggestion that I should like to make is this: I am glad that the Honourable Minister has already stated that ever since he has come into the department he has been presiding over this committee. I should like him, as his other colleague has done, to put down here that the Minister concerned with the Railways should be the Chairman of this Committee.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, there is only one point of importance which has been raised in the discussion on this motion and that is that there is need for separation between the consideration of problems of a financial character and the consideration of problems of a general administrative character. Speaking with some experience of railway administration I want to say that in practice this distinction does not hold. I am not aware of any important question of administration which does not arise in the course of the Committee's consideration of financial matters. In a nationalised industrial concern like the railways you cannot raise any question which has any administrative importance without its financial repercussions being at the same time apparent. But I am prepared to give this assurance that when matters of this kind come up before the Standing Finance Committee I will give the Finance Committee the fullest latitude for examining not merely the financial but also the administrative implications of the proposals we bring before them. I am in entire agreement with my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa that there are many matters arising in the course of day to day administration which are of great importance to the travelling public and to the business community, and you cannot have the Standing Finance Committee going in detail into these matters. That could be considered only by the second committee the appointment of which, with your permission, Sir, I will move next.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS .

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport):
Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eight non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

I have already spoken on the general scope and functions of this Council.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eight non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

Sri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, I support this motion and in doing so I wish to make a few observations. In the course of discussion on the previous motion some of my Honourable friends who have experience of the working of the Railway Finance Committee as well as the Advisory Council suggested that the functions of these two bodies should be combined and that only one committee, viz, the Railway Standing Finance

Committee, should be kept up and all the powers given to it. I personally think that the work of the Standing Finance Committee should be mainly concerned with the examination of the financial effect of the proposals placed before them or other proposals that they might like to take up. But the Central Advisory Council is an important committee although its importance was not sufficiently recognised by the old Assembly because the railway authorities were very chary and reluctant to convene meetings of that Committee and prepare the agenda. In the past the Railway Member and the Railway Board were mainly guided by the Resolutions adopted by a body known as the Railway Conference which mainly consisted of the different Railway Agents. They did not want to take the elected Members of this House and the Council of State who were members of the Central Advisory Council into confidence on many of these questions. That was one of the reasons why the Central Advisory Council was not able to function as effectively as it should have done. But I am sure all important questions of policy with regard to the railways are matters properly to be discussed by the Central Advisory Council, which again has created a network of provincial committees to which my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa referred; and a way has to be found out by which the railway administrations can be actually brought into close contact with the people who suffer or who have grievances against the administration. There are many other questions of policy which have to be discussed by the Central Advisory Council. I therefore think that in future the Honourable Minister should call more frequent meetings of this body whenever there are important questions of policy to be considered. If that is done much of the grievance which members feel about the work of this Council will be removed. In my opinion it is necessary that these two bodies should be kept separate and both should be kept functioning properly. Also hereafter the main source of guidance for the Railway Board and the Honourable Minister should be the advice given by this body and not the Resolutions passed by the Railway Conference in which Traffic Managers and Railway Agents only find a place and not others.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of information, under whose chairmanship will this Council function?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Under my chairmanship.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (U. P.: General): Sir, May I suggest to the Honourable the Railway Member, to consider whether it will not be more useful and desirable to enlarge the size of this Advisory Council? The railways at present constitute the crux of literally all the problems facing every phase of our national life. Practically all the troubles which face us in whatever direction, if analysed, boil down to the one chief difficulty of the railways not working as we wish and need them to work. I do not suggest that they are not working as we wish them to work because of any inefficiency on the part, or unwillingness on the part of the Honourable the Railway Member. We know his difficulties. But Sir, whether it is the crisis in the Food Department or in the Industries Department or regarding the supply of cloth or whether it is the question of the carrying of the passengers or of refugees or of coal, steel, cement and other essential commodities or of goods—whatever it is—it is always a difficulty of transport. I feel, Sir, that a great deal of improvement in this hopeless situation may be possible if this Committee is enlarged, thereby making it possible for a larger number of people familiar with local difficulties in the various parts of the country to be able to advise the Committee and the Honourable Member as to what steps may help him to get over difficulties regarding the sections of the railways falling in the territories of these members respectively. Another point which I should like to submit for consideration is that we are now meeting today under changed circumstances and very happy circumstances in so far as we are now a national, sovereign and independent body. Our Government, under the brilliant leadership of our

[Pandit Govind Malaviya]

great leader is facing tremendous difficulties and problems, and I believe I am voicing the opinion not only of every Member of this House but of every sensible man in this country, when I say that they carry with them not only the support but also the admiration of every Indian for the manner in which they are tackling those difficult and great problems. Every one of us is at their back. My reading of history does not tell me of another instance where a newly born Government has been face to face with problems half so difficult or on half the magnitude of the problems which our Government is faced with. But our leaders are tackling these terrible problems that face them marvellously, almost superhumanly. We are grateful to them for it and wish them greater Godspeed and success. But, Sir, I am afraid there is a tendency in the Government Departments today—I am submitting this merely for consideration and not by way of criticism—to let things go on as they have been going on before: to let the wheels roll on as they have been rolling on before and to let things continue. I therefore, Sir, beg to submit for the considerations of the Honourable Member for Railways, and for the consideration of other Members of the Government also, that these Standing Committees, these Advisory Committees, though technically they must naturally be advisory committees, should now be called upon to really assist the Ministers to administer their departments expeditiously and effectively in as popular and liberal a manner as may be possible.

Sir, one thing which has often struck us has been the fact that these Standing Committees in the past have been treated—I hope I shall not be misunderstood more or less as mere formalities. They have been meeting sometimes once in a year: sometimes twice in a year and no more, and even in those meetings a loaded agenda is gone through almost in a formal manner and nothing more can be done. I hope, Sir, that hereafter the meetings of these Advisory and Standing Committees will be held oftener, indeed every month if possible, and that all problems facing the departments of the Honourable Members will be placed before these committees consisting of representatives from all parts of the country and that their opinions and suggestions will be consulted and the fullest advantage taken of their experience of local situations, difficulties and possibilities of improvement. I should like to support the view that instead of the Advisory Council we might have a Standing Committee for Railways with as widened a scope for it as possible.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): I agree with Pandit Govind Malaviya on the question of the enlargement of the Advisory Council for Railways. I had the privilege of being associated with the Standing Finance Committee and the Advisory Council for Railways for a number of years. I have some idea of the nature of the work. It is indeed a mistake to suppose that the Standing Finance Committee and the Central Council for Railways can be amalgamated into one. It must be borne in mind by those who have to do their share in the Standing Finance Committees that the work is so heavy and so exacting in nature that I do not think that an unwieldy Committee, with numbers of heads added to it, can really function in an effective manner.

In my opinion, as I have found it, the relationship between these Committees is something like this: Standing Finance Committee discuss questions of policy, particularly those having a financial bearing; whereas the Standing Advisory Council for Railways is concerned with the execution of those policies. Therefore I do feel that there is necessity for the separate maintenance of each of these two Committees.

With regard to the Committee for which the motion has been moved, in the past this Committee seldom used to meet, and if it did meet at all it would meet to discuss very unimportant subjects, though this is a Committee which must deal with very many important matters, matters which cannot be

taken up in the Standing Finance Committee for railways for more than one reason. Then again the Central Advisory Council for Railways functions as a liaison between the Central Railway authority and the local railway administrations and the general public. The general public and the business community have their own problems and grievances and troubles. They have to be reflected through the local Advisory Committees with which the members of the Central Advisory Council are associated. I am afraid many of our new friends do not know the practice.

The practice is this: All members of the Central Advisory Council for Railways are called upon to serve on the local railway Advisory Councils in the different provinces. They carry out, as a matter of fact, the policy that is adopted by the Standing Finance Committee and by the Railway Minister here, they see that it is implemented in the local administration of railways. Therefore this Committee is of great importance. But in the past this Committee very seldom met: usually it met after the close of the Budget session and transacted very little business. I do suggest to my Honourable friend, Dr. John Matthai, that this Committee should be made to meet more freely and frequently, so that it may really prove a useful institution in the sense that it will serve the important purpose of enabling the public to have sufficient scope for ventilating their grievances as also help in the solution of the problems that confront the administration.

With regard to the question of the enlargement of this committee I am not opposed to it. But may I tell my Honourable friend Mr. Govind Kant Malaviya that all members of the Standing Finance Committee become *ex-officio* members of the Central Advisory Council for Railways. Therefore the net result is that even with the present proposed strength the Central Advisory Council for Railways will consist of 11 *plus* 8, 19 members. I do not think that is a very small number and I think the Assembly as it is constituted at the moment may very well be represented by 19 members in all. If the Honourable Minister for Railways is pleased to add to the number I do not object to it. Therefore I support the motion as it is with the request that the Honourable Minister should try to activate this Council more and more and endeavour to take it more and more into his confidence.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose (Orissa: General): Sir, though much has been already said by my Honourable friends, one thing has not yet been stressed. I personally feel that it is not really desirable that the number of members in this Committee should be increased, because in addition to the Central Advisory Committee, there are provincial advisory committees also. The real difficulty in the procedure of implementation of the recommendations of these Committees has been that there has not yet been created an effective agency either to give effect to or co-ordinate the recommendations made by the provincial committees and the Central Advisory Committee. That is a point which I would like to emphasize. Although the Advisory Committees sit very rarely, their recommendations are not implemented as much as quickly as they ought to be. Of course, I have never been on these committees, but from what I know about their work I really feel that they have been so far only nominal bodies and the railway administration does not very much care for their recommendations. What is really to be done is not to expand the scope of these committees, because even now they have very wide powers but to set up some agency, either of the Government or of the railway administration itself, to implement the resolutions of the provincial and Central Advisory Committees and to see that a system of priority is also introduced so that the first thing comes first.

Mr. Frank B. Anthony (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I have two suggestions to make to the Honourable Minister in charge in this connection. The first is that we should hold more frequent meetings of these committees. I

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

have been a member of the Railway Standing Finance Committee for the last nine months but so far I do not think we have had a single meeting. The other suggestion that I would like to make to the Honourable Minister is in support of what Paudit Govind Malaviya said, that is, if it is possible the Honourable Minister should definitely enlarge the strength of this committee. I have always felt that in this House, even when the membership was much less than what it is today, the different sections of the community were not adequately represented, that only users of railways have been represented and that people who really understand the worker, because of the restricted membership of this House, have not been able to find a place on this committee. I suppose the Honourable Minister is aware of the acute problems that are facing the administration today. I have just returned from an extensive tour covering 15 main railway centres and I have been most unhappy about what I have seen everywhere. Forty per cent. of the men are carrying out the job done previously by a whole complement. These facts are not coming to the notice of the administrative members of the Railway Board and even the Honourable Minister may not really know what is taking place among the workmen. It is a most serious problem. I am more than perturbed by what I have seen and unless the Railway Minister promises to harness the experience and advice of the people in the House who actually know what is happening I feel that he will be out of touch with the spirit of the men. I am one of those who feel very perturbed about it and unless we get on top of this problem I feel that what is undoubtedly one of the most vital of our services is likely to fall down on the administration.

श्री देशबन्धु गुप्ता : सभापति जी, हमें प्रसन्नता है कि अंगरेजों की सत्ता चली गई परन्तु खेद है कि अंगरेजी का स्थान इस घारा सभा में अभी तक वही है जो पहिले था जिस कारण वायु मण्डल भी वही नजर आ रहा है। आशा है इससे भी शीघ्र छुटकारा मिल जायगा।

मैं अपने भाई गोबिन्द मालवीय जी की तजवीज की ताईद करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। इससे पहले इस कौंसिल में सेन्ट्रल लेजिस्लेचर (Central legislature) की ओर से बारहब प्रतिनिधि होते थे। छः सेन्ट्रल असेम्बली (Central Assembly) की ओर से और छः काउन्सिल आफ स्टेट (Council of State) की। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस संख्या को कम करने का कोई कारण नहीं है। याद बारह स संख्या बढ़ाई न जाय तो कम स कम बारह को संख्या जरूर रखी जाय। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार को इस तजवीज क मानन में कोई आपात्त न होगी।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to find that the influence of the English is gone, but I am sorry to find that English still holds the same place in this meeting as it has hitherto received. For that reason we find the same old atmosphere. I hope that soon we shall be rid of this too.

I have risen to support the proposal made by my friend Mr. Govind Malviya. Upto this time the Central Legislature had twelve representatives on this Council; six represented the Central Assembly while six represented the Council of State. I see no reason why this number should be decreased. If the number can not be increased from twelve, it must not be decreased too. I think the Government will have no difficulty in accepting this proposal.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, my suggestion that this Council should be amalgamated with the Standing Finance Committee for Railways has created some sort of controversy. If this Council is to be enlarged on the lines suggested by the Honourable Mr. Aney and it is to be entrusted with real functions I have no objection whatsoever. But my experience is that it has worked as a nominal body. If Honourable Members were to look into the reports of the Central Advisory Council and the Standing Finance Committee for Railways they will find that the work of the Council has been most meagre. It used to meet for half an hour and some questions about catering and other minor matters used to be placed before it and then some resolutions used to be recorded which were never, so far as I know, implemented. I think we should set out face against all kinds of fictitious committees. Either we should have a real committee or no committee at all. Why I suggest the amalgamation of these two committees is this. Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra has explained how the position stands. All the members of the Standing Finance Committee are also members of the Central Advisory Council. Therefore if necessary you can enlarge the number of members from 11 to 15 or 19 and get one committee—a committee for all matters on railways. Let it sit every month for two or three days and discuss all questions. Otherwise the division of functions is likely to enable the Railway Department to say that certain subjects are within the purview of one or the other body and thereby between the functioning of these two Committees neither body will have jurisdiction over a range of subjects. That is what I want to avoid. I want to avoid dyarchy. Why should there be any dyarchy and why should there not be a single committee properly constituted. Why should it not discuss all problems.....

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is again repeating the same observations about the amalgamation of the two committees. The House has heard the arguments on that point and it has decided to adopt the formation of one of the Committees, and the House has already voted upon it. That is closed now.

Shri K. Santhanam: I am not pressing for an amalgamation at all. I am only pleading that this Advisory Council should not repeat its past and that it should be a new council altogether, that it should have real functions and that it should meet at least once a quarter. Unless it does so, it will be a sheer waste and be merely a paper committee. I do not want any paper committee to be approved by this House. That is the only point I wanted to make.

श्री राम सहाय : मैं जब पहिले खड़ा हुआ था यह प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर (Point of order) रेज (raise) करना चाहता था कि इस किस्म का कोई ऐमेन्डमेन्ट (Amendment) नहीं है कि आठ से ज्यादा मेम्बर बढ़ा दिये जायं या Standing Finance Committee for Railways and Central Advisory Council for Railways को एक दूसरे में मिला दिया जाए। क्या ऐसी सूरत में इस पर कोई डिस्कशन (discussion) हो सकता है।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State): When I first stood I wanted to raise this point of order that there is no such amendment which envisages that the number of members should be increased by more than eight, or the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and Central Advisory Council for Railways should be amalgamated as one. Can there be any discussion on this point in such circumstances?

Mr. Speaker: It is perfectly competent for a Member to make whatever suggestions he may have to make, even though there is no amendment.

Shri Robini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I have listened carefully to the various observations which have been made by the Honourable Members of the House on this motion. I think I can make an humble suggestion. The wishes of the House, I think, will be well met if the word 'Advisory' is dropped. Sir, we all know very well that the advice which is given in these Council meetings is given gratis. And advice given gratis is never heeded much. Therefore I think if you drop the word 'Advisory' the wishes of the Members of the Finance Committee and the Central Council will be very well met. I had had the good luck or bad luck of becoming a Member of the Advisory Council of Eastern Bengal Railway for a considerable time. I found that as soon as you sit the President of the Council makes a curious attempt to divert the time and attention of the Members by giving each Member a small packet and that, by the time the Members open the packets and see what they contain, the whole proceedings of the Council are over. Sometimes it so happened that the Members managed to see the packets quickly, and then we heard different observations from members coming from different parts. Somebody was asking for a waiting room in a certain station; somebody else was asking for a change in the time table at a certain place or the stoppage of mail in a certain place, and so forth. All the discussion goes on in an unbalanced way with the result that it becomes very easy for the railway authorities to ignore them altogether. Therefore I agree with the Honourable Members who have put forward the view that it should be a real Council, that this advice given should not be neglected as advice given gratis, and efforts should be made to make it a real, working body. With these words I support the motion.

श्री जयनारायण व्यास : सभापति जी, मैं मालवीय जी के जो सजेसन्स (suggestions) हैं उनकी बहुत जोर से ताईद करता हूँ। इन दिनों रेलवे बहुत जगदा अहमियत पकड़ गई है। फौजी लिहाज से भी रेलवे और ज्यादा महत्व रखती है। और फौजी एक्सपर्ट्स (experts) भी और ऐसे लोगों का भी जो इस मामले में राय दे सकें हमारी ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी (Advisory Committee) में रहना वाजिब होगा। साथ ही साथ आंपके यहाँ स्टेट्स (States) भी आ गई हैं और स्टेट्स (States) के सरकारी और गैर सरकारी याने सरकारी रेलवे से ताल्लुक रखने वाले लोग और गैर सरकारी लोग जो स्टेट रेलवे के स्टाफ (staff) में इन्टरेस्टेड (interested) हैं उनकी तकलीफ में इन्टरेस्टेड (interested) हैं वह भी पसन्द करेंगे कि रेलवे की जो ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी (Advisory Committee) बने उसमें वह आएँ।

साथ ही साथ रिफ्यूजीज (refugees) के मामले से भी रेलवे की अहमियत बढ़ गई है। हमारे हिस्से होने की बजह से, पाकिस्तान के चले जाने की वजह से, कई हिस्से में उसके पाकिस्तान आ जाता है, इस खयाल से भी रेलवे बहुत अहमियत रखती है, और कितने हिस्सों से आज भी फौजी ताकत हम भेजने जा रहे हैं जहाँ रेलवे नहीं है, मैं त्रिपुरा स्टेट (State) की बात कहता हूँ। ऐसी सब बातों का खयाल रखते हुए, मैं यह अर्ज करूंगा कि जैसा पंडित गोविन्द मालवीय ने कहा था उसी तरह से न सिर्फ उसकी तादाद में बढ़ती होनी चाहिये बल्कि उसका जो स्कोप (scope) है उसमें भी तरक्की करना मैं जरूरी समझता हूँ।

मैं इन शब्दों के साथ पंडित गोविन्द मालवीय की राय की ताईद करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Jai Narain Vyas (Jodhpur State): Mr. Speaker, I fully support the suggestions put forth by Mr. Malaviya. The Railways have assumed much importance in these days. From the military point of view too, Railways occupy a very prominent position. It would, therefore, be advisable to include in our Advisory Committee Military experts and others too who can express their opinion on such matters. Moreover the States have also now joined us and both the official and non-official members who are concerned with the Government Railways and non-officials who are interested in the State Railway employees will like to be included in the panel of the Advisory Committee.

Inter-alia the problem created by the refugees has also increased the importance of Railways. Owing to the partition of the country and the creation of Pakistan, many portions of the Railway lie in that country. This thing has also given importance to Railways. And to-day we are despatching Defence forces to places which are not connected by Railway. I am referring to Tripura State. Keeping all these factors in view, I will submit that not only I support what Pandit Govind Malaviya had said but I feel that its scope should be further expanded.

With these words, I support the views of Pandit Govind Malaviya.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have some experience of the working of Provincial Committees. I do not share the view that these Committees are paper Committees. It is true that they are advisory Committees. But much depends upon the Members who take interests in the Committees. In that way they would compel the Chairman to sit for six hours. I can assure you that I was making the Chairman of the Committee on which I was serving, sit for four and a half hours, and he dared not refuse to permit me to make the motions that I was moving in those Committees. It is true that the resolutions that are passed are merely advisory and even if they are passed by majority of votes it is for the Chairman to accept them or not. But the constitution provides that the matter be referred to the Railway Board. I do admit that the Railway Board generally accept the proposal of the Chairman and not the advice of the majority of the advisory Committee. But these were olden days. I am sure the present Railway Member dare not go against the advice of the people and accept the advice of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. I am prepared to accept that an expansion of this Committee should be made and more powers given to it. But I do not share the view that this Committee has not been doing any work. It is incorrect. These Committees were the creation of a very long controversy and agitation in this very Assembly and on the clamour that the Members made. I remained for twelve years on the Provincial Committees and I can claim that I have been able to provide small facilities for the clamouring public. I attach a very great importance to these Committees. In the present changed constitution the Committee should no doubt have more power. We are still thinking of the olden days and probably feel that the same thing that transpired in the olden times under a bureaucratic regime will continue in the Committee. It is impossible to believe that. We must change our outlook and see how we are living, the atmosphere in which we are working. I would prefer some more powers to be given to the Committee. I do not mind even if its name remains 'Advisory'. The majority view of the members cannot be flouted by the Chairman, whosoever he is.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I must confess frankly that when I moved my simple motion I was not prepared for a discussion covering so extensive a field. I almost felt for a moment that I was back in the middle of a Budget debate.

There were two or three important points which were raised in the course of the discussion. The first point, a point to which my honourable friend

[Dr. John Matthai]

Mr. Santhanam obviously attaches a great deal of importance, was that there might be sacrifice of public interests if we made to clear-cut a distinction between administration and finance. To that point my honourable friend Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra has already made a reply, that under the existing practice, when this Committee meets, all the members of the Standing Finance Committee are admitted as *ex-officio* members on this Committee, so that, in practice, that distinction does not exist. Whatever administrative or financial matters may be brought by the Railways, the members of this Committee would be in a position to consider them as a whole.

Various appeals have been made to me not to continue the habits of the ancient regime. I have been asked to activate this Committee, to call for more frequent meetings of the Committee. With all these appeals I have the utmost and the most profound sympathy. If I say that I want to activate this Committee, that I want to have more frequent meetings of this Committee, I do not say it from a sense of duty.

From my little experience of these committees I find it is worth my while to take account of suggestions made by them. On many important matters during the last Budget session I was greatly helped by suggestions which I P. M. had been made to me by members of this Committee so, from the point of view being able to do my own work a little better, I find it is worth while to take the committees seriously.

My honourable friend Mr. Anthony referred to the question of labour. I was impressed by the point that he made. In fact I have developed a strong feeling that the railways in this country, like every other industry of importance, depend for their future on the organization of a better structure of industrial relations. If it is possible for me to devise a composition for this committee which would bring into the committee people who represent the labour point of view, I should certainly give the fullest consideration to it. My Honourable friend Mr. Aney referred to the question of the Indian Railway Conference Association. To a large extent I agree with him. I have recently had under active consideration the question whether the functions which are now discharged by the Indian Railways Conference Association should continue. I feel that there is a great deal which is now being done by the Indian Railway Conference Association which are really matters that ought to be under the consideration of the Ministry rather than the Conference Association. As I understand it, there was justification for the Railway Conference Association at the time when most of our railways were company railways; but now that all the Class I railways are State railways, it seems to me that the composition and scope of the Indian Railway Conference Association stand urgently in need of revision and reorganization, and I have the matter as I say, under active consideration and I hope to come to a decision at a very early date.

Sir there was one point that was made—I forget by whom,—that recommendations on important matters which the Advisory Council make do not receive adequate consideration by Government. As far as the present Ministry is concerned there is not a matter on which recommendations are made by this Advisory Council which I would not go to any length to be able to accept. But there is one matter in this connection to which I should make reference. Even where important matters of administration or policy are raised—I am speaking with all respect—it is extraordinary how often members would switch discussion towards questions of purely local interest. I was anxious on more than one occasion to get them to consider certain important matters as question of principle and policy, but they went back to small matters such as what happened at the Trichinopoly railway station or the price at which fruits were sold at Egmore railway station. It is not always, if I may say so, the fault of the person who presides over these meetings.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): The fault of the past administrations.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: My honourable friends can rest assured that if a question of importance is brought before the Council, there is no one from whom they would receive greater co-operation than myself. That is all I have to say.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eight non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees and Council, namely:

	Date for nomination.	Date for election.
Standing Finance Committee.	19-11-47	21-11-47
Central Advisory Council for Railways.	19-11-47	21-11-47
Standing Finance Committee for Railways.	19-11-47	21-11-47

The nominations for these Committees and council will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House, between the hours 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

RESOLUTION *RE* RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF PUBLIC HYGIENE.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I move:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Constitution of the World Health Organization and the Protocol concerning the International Office of Public Hygiene be ratified."

I understand that the Constitution and the Protocol as well as a summary of the World Health Organization have already been circulated to members: but in view of the fact that perhaps many of them may not have had time to read that summary or anything about the World Health Organization, I feel I might say something in explanation of this ratification. There were originally two World Organizations concerned with dealing with world health problems. One was the International Office of Public Hygiene, and the other the League of Nations World Health Organization. Both these could not function during the World War. Their duties were taken up by an organization known as the UNRRA. Later in 1946, the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations, at the instance of several nations, called a Health Conference and appointed a Preparatory Commission, of which India was a member, to formulate proposals; and they recommended a World Health Organization whose objectives were to prepare International Sanitary Conventions, to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases, to promote research in all fields of health, to work for the improvement of nutrition, housing, sanitation, maternity and child welfare, industrial hygiene, medical education, standardization of food, pharmaceutical and biological products, etc. I may mention that all these are

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

of vital importance to India. The Constitution, briefly, is allotting its work to three organs: one will be the World Health Assembly which will be meeting once a year: one will be an Executive Board which will meet twice a year composed of 18 member-states; and thirdly there would be a Secretariat of a Director-General and other staff. Now this Constitution was signed by all the 51 members of the United Nations, of which India was one, and it will come into force when members of the United Nations have ratified their signatures; and this is the ratification that I now seek from the Indian Legislature. I may mention that an Interim Commission was set up, on which India was represented, to carry on the functions of this Health Organization. Its headquarters are now at New York and it has a Branch Office in Geneva also. The Protocol deals only with the handing over of the duties and functions of the International Office of Public Hygiene. India, I may mention, has taken an active part throughout in the establishment of the Organisation and also in its work and deliberations and it is an Indian member who is now Chairman of the Committee for deciding the permanent headquarters of this Organisation. I would like to say that we are going to press for these permanent headquarters to be in India. The Indian member is also Vice-Chairman of a Committee on technical questions, is a Chairman of the Drafting Sub-Committee and is a Member of Priorities and Steering Committees.

In asking the House to ratify what has already been signed by the Indian representative at the World Health Organisation, I would like to say that India can gain in several ways by becoming a Member of the World Health Organisation. We can get technical assistance to our Governments in strengthening our health services. That assistance may include expert staff if we wish for it, equipment for training our people. We can also get advice and guidance on our health problems from expert committees. Then when it becomes possible to send out such teams India can also have expert teams for development of health programmes in co-operation with other Governments. We can also get fellowships for post-graduate studies and moreover results of research will all be available to us. We may even get financial help for our research organisations. As health matters are extremely vital to India and as it is the policy, and perfectly correct policy, for India to collaborate with other nations of the world in all good causes, I ask this House to ratify our Membership of the World Health Organisation and I am sure the House will have no hesitation in accepting the motion.

Shri K. M. Munshi (Bombay: General): Sir, I wish to submit that the House be now adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: I will put the motion before the House. Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the constitution of the World Health Organization and the Protocol concerning the International Office of Public Hygiene be ratified."

Shri K. M. Munshi: Sir, I submit that the House do stand adjourned till tomorrow because this motion might take some time. Many Members are anxious to take part in discussion and it is very inconvenient to the Members to meet at 3 P.M. because many of them are members of the All-India Congress Committee and will be busy in the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Apart from that consideration, Members may not have had copies of papers etc. early enough. Some one remarked that he received them only this morning. I, therefore, am of opinion that time may be given, so that Members may read the papers and have a discussion tomorrow.

Now that leaves practically no business before the House. I wish to invite Honourable Members' attention to one or two points. I understand that, on account of Members not intimating immediately, to the office, their arrival and the address in Delhi, similarly not intimating in advance as to when they are leaving their places, it has not been always possible to send their post to them in such a manner, that it would reach their hands at the proper time and the proper place. Members have come here and the packets have gone to their

[Mr. Speaker.]

places, or they have not gone and it is not known where the Members are staying. It is, therefore necessary, for Honourable Members to keep in touch with the office and immediately contact the office and inform it of their arrivals, departures and the addresses to which their post may be sent to them.

Then I might invite the attention of Members to Circular No. 12 along with which copies of four Bills have been sent and copies of the Reports of the Select Committees in respect of some further Bills have also been sent. I have to request the Members to be so good as to preserve them for use whenever the matter is fixed for discussion here. As a measure of economy it is not possible to distribute every day about 300 copies of the same papers for an indefinite period. Whatever is distributed should be kept by Members carefully and brought to the House. That has been the practice followed during the last Legislative Assembly period. If anybody, just by forgetfulness, misses to bring his copy, he can get a copy in the Lobby for reference.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 18th November, 1947.