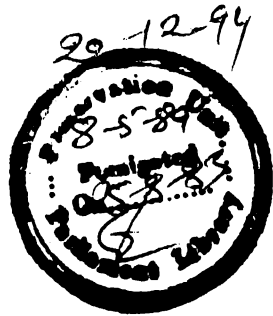




PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

OFFICIAL REPORT



VOLUME II, 1950

(14th March to 17th April, 1950)

FIRST SESSION
OF
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Tuesday, 14th March, 1950

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DISPLACED VENDORS AND CATERING CONTRACTORS ON RAILWAYS

*332. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided that Indian Railways should extend preferential treatment to displaced vendors and catering contractors in the matter of allotment of catering and refreshing rooms at various stations in India?

(b) If so, what is the total number of such displaced persons who have been allotted stalls etc., and at what stations?

(c) Have any complaints been made that the orders of the Government are not complied with by the various Railway authorities?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) 335 displaced persons had been awarded contracts for catering and vending on the Indian Government Railways excluding the Assam Railway up to 14th February 1950. A statement showing the names of the stations at which contracts have been awarded is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 7].

Information relating to Assam Railway will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

(c) Occasional allegations have been received to the effect that orders of Government are not complied with by the various Railway authorities, and appropriate action has been taken thereon.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, may I know, out of these 353, from which railway came the largest number of applications and what was that number?

Shri Santhanam: Sir, it is 335 and not 353. Well, I have got here the list for each station but they have not added up the numbers of each railway. The hon. Member may look at the Statement.

Shri Sidhva: What is the total number of applications, Sir?

Shri Santhanam: Sir, I have given the number of persons who have been awarded contracts. Almost every refugee contractor applied, and these are the numbers to whom contracts have been awarded.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, am I to understand from the answer that all the refugees who applied have been given contracts?

Shri Santhanam: Not at all.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister has said that on complaints received, necessary action has been taken. How many complaints were received, Sir? I want to know the number of complaints.

Shri Santhanam: Almost every day I am getting one or two complaints. They are investigated and if there is any truth in the complaint, then it is attended to. Otherwise they are rejected.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, may I know whether there are any vendors who are doing the vending in India as well as in Pakistan? Have any such instances come to the notice of the hon. Minister, and if so what action has been taken?

Shri Santhanam: I replied an identical question the other day. There have been one or two such cases and when they were brought to our notice we took action, either by cancelling such contracts or seeing that they had not contracts on both sides.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, is the policy of giving contracts to one vendor for various stations still continuing, or are contracts given separately, for each station?

Shri Santhanam: If the hon. Member means restaurants and refreshment rooms, the contracts are given to one person in many places, because it requires a large equipment, finance etc. but ordinarily, in the case of smaller refreshment rooms and vending stalls, they are given to the local people or refugees settled in that locality.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Sir, are Government prepared to entertain applications of co-operative societies, if individual refugees are not able to fulfil the financial conditions?

Shri Santhanam: Government are prepared to examine any kind of application, Sir, especially from co-operative societies.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, may I know the rate at which licence fees or levy is charged for granting these permits for the refreshment stalls?

Shri Santhanam: They vary from railway to railway and from station to station in each railway.

Shri Sidhva: But what are the maximum and minimum, Sir?

DEVELOPMENT OF KANDLA PORT

*833. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what stage has the survey for the development of Kandla port reached?

(b) Has any report been made since Government decision in this matter?

(c) Has the survey on the question of connecting railways also been made and if so, with what result?

(d) How long will it take to complete this survey for the development of Kandla and its railway links?

(e) How much amount has so far been spent towards the survey and what amount is likely to be spent during the ensuing year?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) A reconnaissance survey of the Port by a firm of Consulting Engineers has been completed and their report is expected by May 1950. Marine surveys of the Kandla Creek are nearing completion and a detailed survey of the traffic potential of the hinterland has also been completed. Field work for land surveys covering about 500 square miles is about to be completed.

(b) Yes; reports have been completed on the question of water supply, the traffic potential of the hinterland, navigational aspect of the port and the Gulf, geological study of the Kandla creek and Metre Gauge Railway connection between Kandla and Deesa.

(c) Yes; it has been decided to construct the Metre Gauge line between Kandla and Deesa in the first instance and the work is already in progress. Work on the Broad Gauge connection has been postponed for the present.

(d) Attention is invited to the answers to parts (a) and (c) of the question.

(e) A sum of Rs. 2,45,000 has so far been spent this year on land and aerial surveys. Further debits of about Rs. 5,000 during the current and of Rs. 2,00,000 during the ensuing years are expected on such surveys, excluding the surveys connected with railway construction. The estimated cost of the reconnaissance survey is Rs. 1 lakh.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, may I know whether the Consulting Engineers have suggested that the original site should be given up and that a new site for the development of Kandla Port may be gone into?

Shri Gopaldaswami: No.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, then do I take it that the original site remains and, if so, are the salt works at Kandla to be affected in any way?

Shri Gopaldaswami: We have not yet received the final report of the Consulting Engineers which we are expecting in May 1950. But so far as I have been able to gather it is just possible that they will report that it will be unnecessary to remove the salt works.

Shri Sidhva: My question (c) was about the survey for the connecting railways, and the hon. Minister has replied, "Yes". May I know whether the survey is completed and if so when will the actual work be started?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The survey has been completed and the work has been started on the Kandla-Deesa line.

Shri S. O. Samanta: Who is in charge of the development work and who advises Government on difficult points?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The development work is in charge of the Development Commissioner who has been appointed and he exercises an overall control over the work connected with planning. In addition to that we have an advisory committee to which important questions are referred and their advice is taken before decisions are arrived at.

Prof. Ranga: Are Government trying to expedite this project as much as possible on an emergency basis?

Shri Gopaldaswami: We are trying to get forward with it as quickly as possible.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Do Government propose bringing in a legislation regarding the development of other major ports also?

Shri Gopalaswami: That is one of the matters under consideration.

POSTS CREATED DURING WAR

*834. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the posts of Additional Chief Engineer and all the attached officers under him were created during war?

(b) Is it a fact that these posts were created for war emergency and if so, have Government considered the abolition of these posts?

(c) What is the total annual cost of establishment salaries, of these posts?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Some posts existed before the war, others, including that of Additional Chief Engineer, were created during the War to meet war emergencies. Subsequently, after the War more posts were created for post-war development and rehabilitation of assets. The Government have recently reviewed the strength of staff in the Development Branch and refixed the strength according to the reduced requirements.

(c) Present Cost—

Budget Estimate 1949-50	...	Rs. 4,05,000.
Revised Estimate 1949-50	...	Rs. 8,25,000.
Budget Estimate 1950-51	...	Rs. 8,00,000.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, the hon. Minister said Government have made some retrenchment. Sir, may I know whether the post of Additional Chief Engineer, Development Branch and also all the auxiliary officers' posts have been abolished? Are they included in what are called war-time posts?

Shri Kidwai: No, they have not been abolished.

Shri Sidhva: Then what are the abolished posts? Which of them have been retrenched?

Shri Kidwai: We have reduced the strength of the staff from 97 to 41.

Shri Sidhva: But 97 officers, clerks or what?

Shri Kidwai: We are talking of officers only.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the installation regional enquiry engineers also come under that category?

Shri Kidwai: All categories come under this.

Shri Sidhva: May I know why all the people recruited during the war are being continued?

Shri Kidwai: The number of the staff has been reduced.

Shri Sidhva: What is the proportion of those retrenched to those who were appointed during the war?

Shri Kidwai: If the hon. Member studies the Budget figures, he will find that while in 1947-48 the staff was paid over Rs. 6 lakhs, in the new Budget the amount is only Rs. 3 lakhs.

Prof. Ranga: Why is it that the Chief Engineer for Development is being kept on, although retrenchment has taken place in the lower ranks?

Shri Kidwai: During the war there was a post known as Electrical Engineer-in-Chief in Calcutta; that has been abolished now and the work has been transferred to this office.

PAYMENT OF ELECTRICITY BILLS BY WEST PUNJAB

*835. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken to get the payment of the bills in respect of the electricity supplied by East Punjab to West Punjab; and

(b) whether further supply of the electric current has been stopped?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The West Punjab Government are regularly making payment of electric supply bills.

(b) Does not arise.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : तो क्या मैं यह मान सकता हूँ कि हर महीने इन बिलों का पेमेंट हो जाता है या बहुत दिनों में होता है ?

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that these bills are paid every month or does it take a longer period?

श्री गाडगिल : बात यह है कि जब एक महीना खत्म हो जाता है तो पेमेंट का बिल उनके पास भेजा जाता है। उसमें १५ दिन की मीयाद होती है। १५ दिन में अगर वह पेमेंट न दें तो हम सप्लाई बन्द कर सकते हैं, पर १५ दिन में वह दे देते हैं।

Shri Gadgil: The procedure is that at the end of the month the bill for making payment is sent. The said bill contains a time-limit of 15 days. If the payment is not made within 15 days' time then we can cut off the supply. But bills are paid within the 15 days' time-limit.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या अभी तक किसी बिल का पेमेंट बन्द हुआ और क्या सप्लाई बन्द करनी पड़ी ?

Seth Govind Das: Has payment of any bill been held up so far and was the Government ever compelled to cut off the supply?

श्री गाडगिल : एक बरस पहले पेमेंट इररेगुलर होता था पर अब रेगुलर हो गया है।

Shri Gadgil: Last year the bills were paid irregularly but now regular payments are being made.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : एक बरस पहले जब पेमेंट इररैगुलर होता था तो क्या सप्लाई बन्द की गई थी, या बन्द करने की ज़रूरत नहीं पड़ी और बिल का पेमेंट हो गया था ?

Seth Govind Das: When the payments were irregularly made last year then was the supply ever stopped or were the bills paid without necessitating the stopping of supply?

श्री गाडगिल : जब उन से डिमांड की गई तो पैसा दे दिया और सप्लाई कट आफ करने का कोई सवाल नहीं रहा ।

Shri Gadgil: Whenever a demand was made the bills were paid and so there arose no question of the supply being cut off.

Shri Tyagi: What is the quantity of electricity supplied every month and what is the total revenue derived from that?

Shri Gadgil: I require notice of that.

Shri Sidhva: Does this electricity supply include the supply of canal water?

Shri Gadgil: The position is that at the time of the partition, this question was referred to the Arbitral Tribunal, and under the decision of that Tribunal, the Government of East Punjab was bound to supply West Punjab with electricity till the end of March 1950.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Does Government contemplate stopping the supply of electricity to the West Punjab Government considering that the Pakistan Government is violating all pacts?

Shri Gadgil: It is not in the public interest to say anything on that.

Shri Sidhva: The Minister's reply is that this supply will be continued up to the end of March 1950. May I know whether it is to be continued or stopped?

Shri Gadgil: As far as I know, the East Punjab Government have renewed it for a further period of twelve months.

Shri Sidhva: Has it been sanctioned by our Government at the Centre?

Shri Gadgil: It is entirely within the discretion of the East Punjab Government.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

*836. **Dr. M. M. Das**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents caused by travelling on foot-boards of running trains during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50;

(b) the number of injured persons and the number of deaths in those accidents; and

(c) the measures adopted by the Railway administration to put a stop to such accidents?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) 1086 in 1948-49 and 757 in 1949-50, up to 31st January, 1950.

(b) In 1948-49 837 were injured and 226 died in 1949-50, up to 31st January, 1950, 682 were injured and 127 died.

(c) Apart from providing additional accommodation wherever it has been possible with the resources available, measures taken by Railway Administrations to put a stop to foot-board travelling include intensive propaganda; seeking co-operation of the travelling public; concerted and vigorous action by the combined resources of the Police and Railway Authorities on an organised basis; immediate prosecution of offenders and warning to passengers through loud speakers installed at some important stations. In addition, station and running staff have instructions to exercise vigilance and persuade foot-board travellers to desist from such practice.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know on which of our railways the largest number of these accidents have occurred?

Shri Santhanam: I have not got the details for each railway, but I think it is on the East Indian Railway that the largest number of accidents have occurred in both years.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether people who are involved in these accidents are entitled to compensation from the railways?

Mr. Speaker: "Entitled to compensation from these railways?" The hon. Member is asking information on a point of law.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know the number of railway employees who have been involved in these accidents?

Shri Santhanam: I do not think that any railway employee has been involved, but I would require notice for making a more definite reply.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the railways prosecute the passengers for travelling on foot-boards now?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, Sir.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Are these passengers *bona fide* passengers, I mean with tickets?

Shri Santhanam: I presume they include both.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know the total compensation paid due to these accidents?

Shri Santhanam: I am not sure whether any compensation is payable on account of this foot-board travelling.

Kanwar Jaswant Singh: May I know whether a passenger who travels in the normal way is entitled to compensation?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, if he travels in the normal way.

Shri Kamath: What is the position with regard to travelling on the roofs of carriages?

Shri Santhanam: It is on the same footing as travelling on foot-boards.

Shri Kamath: How many accidents have occurred due to travelling on the roofs of carriages?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Seth Govind Das: I know of occasions when these railway employees had been travelling on foot-boards.

Mr. Speaker: He is giving information.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know the number of people who have been prosecuted for foot-board travelling?

Shri Santhanam: For instance, on the O. T. Railway—

In June 1949	647
In July 1949	439
In August 1949	394
In September 1949	71

MENIAL STAFF OF GOVERNMENT HOTELS IN DELHI

*837. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state what is the total strength of the menial staff, i.e., bearers, sweepers, and durwans employed in the hotels managed by Government in Delhi?

(b) Are their services, permanent or temporary?

(c) What is the pay scale of these employees, and dearness allowance, if any?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) 192.

(b) Their services are temporary.

(c) The pay and allowances vary from Rs. 68/- p.m. to Rs. 75/- p.m.

A statement showing the total number of menial staff together with their scales of pay and allowances is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 8*].

Shri Sidhva: On a point of order, if the Government of India have decided that the word "menial" should be removed from the records of the Government, may I know why this has been allowed to be introduced here?

Shri Gadgil: I did not use it. It is the hon. Member who has used it in framing the question.

Shri Sidhva: If the hon. Member first used it, then why was it not removed from the records of the Government?

Mr. Speaker: The answer follows the question.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether Government contemplate making the services of these people permanent?

Shri Gadgil: This is one of the matters which are under consideration.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know when that consideration will come to an end and a decision will be arrived at?

Shri Gadgil: As early as possible, and as soon as financial conditions permit.

Shri Kamath: Do Government exercise any control over the wages and allowances paid to the cooks and bearers employed by the caterers in the hostels?

Shri Gadgil: I cannot say offhand, but usually there is what is known as fair wages clause in each contract. Whether such a clause exists in this particular contract or not, I cannot say offhand.

Shri Sidhva: Is it a fact that from the wages of these bearers Rs. 7 are deducted for house rent although three of them reside in one small room? Is this permitted by the rules?

Shri Gadgil: House rent is not deducted per person but per room. But if any particular allottee shares his room with another, then it will not be a matter for us.

Shri Hossain Imam: Has not the Pay Commission recommended that temporary posts of people who have been in employment for long should be made permanent?

Shri Gadgil: That is the reason why I said the matter is under consideration

PRICE OF *Gur*

*838. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the selling price of *gur* on 1st February, 1950?

(b) What steps have Government taken to bring down the price of *gur*?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The price quoted at Hapur Mandi in U. P. for 1st February, 1950 was Rs. 22-8-0 per maund.

(b) Movement of *gur*, *gur-shakkar* and *khandsari* has been banned by rail from any Station in Uttar Pradesh or from any Station outside the State situated within a radius of 80 miles from the border of that State. Transport of these commodities has also been banned by road by means of a mechanically propelled vehicle from any place in Uttar Pradesh to any other place in the State situated within a radius of thirty miles from the border of that State.

'Futures and Options' in *gur* have also been banned.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know how the present price of *gur* compares with the price that prevailed last year?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The present prices are higher.

Shri Kesava Rao: Is it a fact that the higher price for *gur* is due to the fact that the manufacture of sugar has decreased?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: To some extent it has affected the price.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या गुड़ का मूल्य भारतवर्ष में एक जैसा है, अथवा प्रान्त प्रान्त में उसमें अन्तर होता जाता है ?

Shri Zangre: Are the prices of *gur* uniform throughout India or they vary from province to province?

श्री जयरामदास दौलतराम : हां, प्रान्त प्रान्त में प्राईस में कुछ न कुछ भेद रहता ही है ।

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, the prices do vary somewhat from province to province.

Oh. Ranbir Singh *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will not be called if he gets up in that manner.

Shri A. P. Jain: May I know how many times the free transport of *gur* had been banned and relaxed in 1949-50?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It was banned twice.

Shri Tyagi: What has been the effect of this ban on the present market price of *gur*?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as the United Provinces and the neighbouring areas are concerned, the price has fallen. At present it is Rs. 19-8-0 at Hapur.

Oh. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the ban has raised the price of *gur* in consuming parts of country specially Rajasthan?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: To some extent it has. But it is inevitable if we have to provide better facilities for sugar production.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether in the course of the last six months the price of *gur* has increased; if so, why?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The price has risen because the price of sugar also has risen. On account of scarcity of sugar, there was great demand for *gur*.

Shri Barman: What was the arrangement for the supply of *gur* outside the United Provinces after the ban?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A large quantity had already been moved very rapidly to many provinces. There were sufficient stocks.

Shri Barman: Do Government propose to bring down the price of *gur*?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We do propose.

STATES HAVING THEIR OWN POST OFFICES AND POSTAGE STAMPS

*839. **Shri Kesava Rao:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether there are any States in India which have their own Post Offices and are permitted to issue their own postage stamps after January, 1950?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): Yes, the Postal systems of some States, like Hyderabad, Travancore-Cochin, Jaipur and Kishengarh, which have not yet been integrated, will continue to use their stamps up to the date of integration. Travancore-Cochin Union has been specially permitted by Government of India to continue to work the Anchal Postal system even after the 31st March, 1950, as an agent of Government of India and till such time as the Anchal system is not completely taken over by Government of India, the present postage stamps will continue to be sold by the State Union.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know when the integration is likely to take place?

Shri Kidwai: Except in Travancore-Cochin the integration is due on 1st April. All the postal systems will be taken over by the Government of India.

Shri Sidhya: May I know whether the Hyderabad communications will also be taken over?

Shri Kidwai: If it is included in the list it will be taken up.

Shri Sidhva: Whether under Part B, all the communications of the Acceding States come within the purview of the Union, and if so, what steps have been taken to take them over?

Shri Kidwai: The Government are taking over all the postal systems of the States, whether A, B or C, except those of Travancore-Cochin which will take some time.

Shri A. P. Jain: Why except Travancore-Cochin?

Shri Kidwai: They have got a very extensive system known as the Anchal system. We do not want to upset the economy there by bringing our rates of postage all at once there. We have decided gradually to bring it to our own standard. In the meantime we will take over the Anchal system and it will be managed by the State on our behalf and profit and loss will be ours.

Several Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I proceed to the next question.

AGRICULTURAL QUOTA OF IRON AND STEEL

*840. **Shri V. K. Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the total quantity of iron and steel that was set apart for agricultural purposes for the last two financial years?

(b) What was the quantity that was allotted to Madras State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The quantity of iron and steel allocated for agricultural purposes during the financial years 1948/49 and 1949/50 was 44,643 tons and 1,12,987 tons respectively.

(b) 8,012 tons for 1948/49 and 24,597 tons for 1949/50.

Shri V. K. Reddi: What was the allotment and what was the actual supply during the four quarters last year?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: For the second quarter of 1949, the demand of the Provinces was for 41,937 tons and the allocation was about 22,000. For the third quarter of 1949 the demand was for 54,000 tons and the allocation was about 24,000 tons. In the fourth quarter, the demand was for 57,000 tons and the allocation was 39,000 tons. In the first quarter of 1950, the demand was for 62,000 tons and the allocation was 36,000 tons. In the second quarter of 1950, the demand was for 1,00,000 tons and the allocation was 85,000 tons.

Shri V. K. Reddi: Why was there a short supply in the second quarter?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In all these quarters the supply was short, because the total supply of steel does not meet all the demands of industry and agriculture. With the allocation for agriculture we are not able to satisfy the full demand of agriculturists.

Shri V. K. Reddi: Are the Government aware that in the second quarter the full supply is necessary for paddy cultivation?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We are receiving the allocation from the Ministry of Industry quarter by quarter. I believe this is the practice with regard to other users also.

श्री जांगड़े : सन् १९५० में मध्य भारत को कितना लोहा दिया गया है ?

Shri Zangre: What quantity of steel has been allocated to Madhya Bharat for the year 1950?

श्री जयरामदास दौलतराम : मध्य भारत को अगले वर्ष २५२७ टन दिया गया है ।

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A quota of 2427 tons has been allocated to Madhya Bharat for the coming year.

Shri Barman: To what extent this short supply of iron and steel for agricultural purposes has hampered the 'Grow More Food' campaign?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is hampering the campaign. I cannot give the exact percentage. It may affect to the extent of 50 per cent.

Shri V. K. Reddi: Would the Minister increase the allotment for the present quarter to Madras?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid it would not be expedient to discuss the provincial allocations in this House. This is a matter of administrative detail.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: As regards the supply of iron tyres for bullock-carts, what are the arrangements made by the Government?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The details are worked out by the Provincial Governments and in many Provinces the Co-operative organisations and agricultural associations are being utilised for distribution.

Shri B. K. Das: Are all the Provinces fully utilising the quota allotted to them?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I expect so.

Shri Rathnaswamy: What are the considerations which determine the policy of the Government with regard to the allotment of iron and steel for agricultural purposes?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The policy is that to the extent the existing supply of steel permits allocation for agricultural purposes, it is made. We are trying to put the maximum pressure and secure as much as possible.

Prof. Ranga: Have Government any plan such as fixing a target date by which they would be able to supply all the demands made by the State Governments for agricultural purposes?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will require for that the co-operation of the Ministry of Industry and Supply and probably of Finance also. We may have to import more steel to satisfy the demands of the Provinces.

Prof. Ranga: My question was whether Government have thought of making any plans at all and whether they have decided upon any plan.

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We continuously put pressure to increase the allocation and we expect that they will increase the allocation.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह जो लोहा खेती के लिए भिन्न भिन्न प्रान्तों को दिया जाता है वह इन प्रान्तों की जन संख्या के हिसाब से दिया जाता है या वहां पर जो भूमि खेती के काम में आती है उसके अनुपात से दिया जाता है ?

Seth Govind Das: Is the quota of steel which is allocated to the different provinces, fixed on the population basis of those provinces or in proportion to the land under cultivation?

श्री जयरामदास दौलतराम : जो प्राक्स जितना मंगाते हैं और जिस प्रिसिपिल से मंगात हैं उनको देने की कोशिश की जाती है और अक्सर ज्यादा ही मंगाते हैं ।

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As far as possible it is tried to give the provinces as much quota as they demand, and mostly they make a higher demand.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether any steps are taken by Government to ensure that all the iron and steel allotted for agricultural purposes is used for agricultural purposes and does not find its way to the black market?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I believe the States are becoming alive to the complaints made and particularly in one or two Provinces where complaints were numerous they are now taking steps to see that the iron and steel are made available for agricultural uses. For that purpose States are trying to utilise co-operative organisations and agricultural associations. In C. P. I understand that there are 90 associations in a single tahsil alone. Various steps are thus being taken to see that the iron and steel are being properly utilised.

Shri Sidhva: Is it the hon. Minister's presumption or is it correct according to facts?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

REMODELLING OF STATIONS ON S. I. RAILWAYS

*841. **Shri Kanaka Sabai**: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number and names of stations on the S. I. Railway where remodelling has been sanctioned?

(b) Out of the stations referred to in part (a) above in how many cases, has the work been taken up and what are the names of such stations?

(c) Are there cases where the work was started but subsequently given up, due to the economy drive of the Government and if so, what are those stations?

(d) When will the work be taken up again in the case of stations referred to in part (c) above?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The remodelling of three stations, viz., Cuddalore New Town (M. G.), Olavakkot (B. G.) and Tellicherry (B. G.) has already been sanctioned and it is also proposed to commence the remodelling of Tiruvarur (M.G.) in 1950-51.

(b) Two stations, i.e. Cuddalore N. T. and Olavakkot.

(c) The only work which has, hitherto, been deferred, is Tellicherry remodelling for which provision was made in the Budget for 1949-50 but the actual work was not taken up.

(d) During 1950-51.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: What is the amount allotted for the remodelling of the Cuddalore N. T. station? May I know whether it falls short of the original allotment made sometime ago?

Shri Gopalaswami: The original estimate was somewhere about 7.73 lakhs. It was first reduced to about 3 and odd lakhs. It was further reduced as the result of the economy drive in recent months. The work that can be done within that restricted allotment will be completed this year but on a representation made to me I have issued instructions to the General Manager to take up some of the omitted items during 1950-51.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to state at what stage the remodelling of the Ahmedabad station on the B. P. & C. I. Railway stands?

Mr. Speaker: It is outside the question under answer.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: In reply to part (c) of the question the hon. Minister said that the remodelling of Tellicherry station, which was in the original scheme, has since been given up. May I know the reason why it has been given up?

Shri Gopalaswami: I said that it was not taken up, not given up. It will be taken up when conditions are more favourable.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the plans for next year would be circumscribed by the total limit fixed by the department, namely three and odd lakhs on the remodelling of the Cuddalore N. T. station?

Shri Gopalaswami: I do not think that the expenditure which is likely to be incurred on the items that I have directed to be taken up will exceed that limit.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I know when Government propose to take up the remodelling of the Tellicherry station?

Shri Gopalaswami: In 1950-51 we have made provision for its being taken up.

Shri Audikesavalu Naicker: May I know whether Government has any proposal to remodel the Villupuram station?

Shri Gopalaswami: I am not so far aware of any such proposal. It is a big-gish station already, so far as I remember.

Dr. Deshmukh: Will the hon. Minister take seriously the advice given by my hon. friend Shri Sarangdhar Das and build some of the stations in mud?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Sidhva: Will other railways also be taken up or only South Indian ones?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

C.I.D. RAID ON THE OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER OF BOMBAY TELEPHONE DEPARTMENT

*842. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of the Superintending Engineer of the Bombay Telephone Department was raided on 19th January 1950 by the Central C. I. D. and Special Police; and

(b) whether anyone was arrested before, during or after the raid?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) No.

(b) A Telephone Sub-Inspector in Bombay Telephone District was arrested on the 19th January, 1950.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that on or about January 19th a telephone employee was arrested in Bombay on the charge of accepting illegal gratification for the instalment of a telephone at the residence of the Works Manager of "Din Products"?

Shri Kidwai: I have said in my reply to part (b) that "a Telephone Sub-Inspector in Bombay Telephone District was arrested on the 19th January, 1950".

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that on the 3rd of this month the residence and the office of the General Manager, Bombay Telephones, was searched?

Shri Kidwai: This question refers to January 19th: I do not know what happened on the 3rd March.

Shri Kamath: As a sequel to the raid on the 19th January and following that, is it not a fact that on the 3rd March the General Manager's office and residence were searched by the C. I. D. and Special Police?

Shri Kidwai: I have said that there was no raid on the 19th January. I do not know what happened on the 3rd March.

Shri Kamath: What about the raid on the 3rd March?

Mr. Speaker: Let us not go into individual questions now.

CONSTRUCTION OF CANALS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

*844. **Shri R. C. Upadhyaya:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the length of canals or the distributories constructed during the years 1948 and 1949 in the Centrally Administered areas; and

(b) the area of land brought under cultivation through irrigation by such canals during the years 1948 and 1949?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when ready.

CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR

*847. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of sugar issued for consumption per month since 1st September 1949 to 1st March 1950;

(b) the number of sugar factories working at present; and

(c) the total production on 1st March 1950?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) 1,21,167 tons of sugar were allocated for consumption from September 1949 to 15th

December 1949 and 1,15,952 tons for consumption from 16th December 1949 to the end of January 1950 and 98,018 tons for consumption in February, 1950.

(b) 122 factories.

(c) 7,25,604 tons up to the end of February.

Dr. Deshmukh: What were the stocks on the 1st March 1950 with the factories?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I shall require notice of that question. I have given figures of the total production up to the end of February. The total production was 7,25,604 tons. Calculation can be made as to what was distributed from the new production after the 16th December.

Dr. Deshmukh: How does the issue of sugar from the 1st September 1949 to the 1st March 1950 compare with the allotment of sugar in the previous year?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I will have to work that out. I have not got the previous year's figures with me now. Obviously being a year of decontrol all the quantity of sugar that was needed was being used. At present we are controlling the distribution and care is being taken that we do not over-issue at the start. Therefore, naturally, the quota which is being given is much less than what must have been available last year.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that more than five lakh tons of sugar has been saved as a result of giving smaller quotas of sugar during the period September to March?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no question of saving because all the production which is available will be used and consumed, but we are trying to regulate the consumption.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government are satisfied on the basis of the up-to-date production figures which they have that there will be no need for continuing further control of sugar and that sugar will be available in the usual manner?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I explained yesterday, it would not be possible to make any definite statement till we are nearer the end of the season.

Prof. Banga: Are Government collecting statistics in regard to the production of *khandsari* sugar and its distribution?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have some figures being collected of *khandsari* production, but I do not think we have any figures for *khandsari* distribution in the sense how much is going to each Province. It will be possible to secure the figures if we approach the Railways, but at present we have not secured them.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that this year we are likely to have far larger stocks than in the previous year and that therefore there will be no need of imports?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think the stocks this year will be as large as last year's when there was a large carryover of probably more than two lakh tons and a production of ten lakhs.

Pandit Maitra: May I know if there is a general feeling in the country that there is a huge accumulation out of the present year's production and that it has not been put into circulation?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The present production is under the control of Government. If there is any balance left of last year it must be very, very small.

SHELLA AERODROME

*848. **Shri Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a service plane engaged in carrying oranges crashed while landing at Shella in Assam recently; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any measures to improve the Shella landing ground?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) On January 25, 1950 an aircraft carrying oranges swung off the strip while taking off and collided with the trees alongside the airstrip resulting in a fatal accident.

(b) The question of improving the surface of the airstrip is under consideration.

Shri Borooah: Is it a fact that the air is the only means of communication to a large area in Khasi Hills in Assam and that this is the only landing ground that serves that area?

Shri Kidwai: It is a fact.

Shri Borooah: Is it a fact that this landing ground was built by the people themselves without any financial assistance from the Government?

Shri Kidwai: That is also a fact.

EMPLOYEES OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

*849. **Shri Harihar Nath Shastri:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether any order has been issued recently prohibiting the employees of Posts and Telegraphs Directorate from taking part in the activities of the various departmental unions?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons?

(c) Does this order apply also to persons, who are on deputation to the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All persons working in the Directorate—permanent as well as deputationists are governed by the same rules.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Is it not a fact that an order has been issued in regard to this matter and that persons working in the Directorate have been asked not to join any union, and if so what is the reason?

Shri Kidwai: It has been a longstanding rule that persons working in the Directorate are not allowed to take part in the activities of any union because a union is supposed to consist of persons of a particular service. Here the Directorate deals with their grievances. It has, therefore, been a longstanding practice, as a rule, that the people working in the Directorate are not allowed to join any union. On account of the shortage of personnel in war time some people from different Postal Departments were sent on deputation here, and, according

to what the hon. Member calls the "new" order it was a reminder to them that under the Rules they will have to resign their membership of the union, or, if they want to continue as members of the union they must revert.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: In view of the fact that these deputationists retain their permanent lien on their posts in the subordinate offices and in view of the fact that their interests lie more closely there, how do Government propose to safeguard their interests in the subordinate offices, and will not this order be prejudicial to such interests?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is all argument and opinion. What information does he want?

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: How do Government propose to safeguard the interests of those persons whose permanent lien is in the subordinate offices from which they are drawn to the Directorate?

Shri Kidwai: As I have said, it has never been considered proper for persons belonging to a union to deal with complaints about those unions or from those unions and that is why they have been asked temporarily to sever their connections with those unions, and as soon as they go back to the different places they will have a perfect right to resume their membership.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Are Government aware that orders of this nature do not apply to any other Attached Offices of the Central Secretariat except the D.G.P.T.?

Shri Kidwai: The D.G.P.T. has got certain Secretariat powers which other Attached Offices have not got and therefore they deal with all the questions that usually are dealt with by the Secretariat.

TRACTORS FOR KAYALASEEMA DISTRICT OF MADRAS

*850. **Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the number of tractors working in Kayalaseema district of Madras State under the Central Tractor Organisation during the year 1949; and

(b) the area cultivated by these tractors in the district during the year 1949 in each harvest?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) and (b). The Central Government have not carried out any tractor operations in Kayalaseema district of Madras State.

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that Kayalaseema in the Madras State is lagging far behind in agricultural activities, entirely on account of its not being supplied with these tractors?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter, I think, can be better explained by the Madras State Government—what exactly is needed in each district in that State, what is being supplied and what can be done.

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: Will he be pleased to ascertain it from the Madras State?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a matter entirely for the State Government.

SUBSIDY FOR *Goshalas*

*851. **Dr. R. S. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether the Government of India give any subsidy for the maintenance of *Goshalas* in India?

(b) If so, what is the annual amount, and to how many *Goshalas* it is being given?

(c) How many cattle are there in the Government subsidized *Goshalas*?

(d) What is the annual income derived from those cattle?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) No.

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

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात को जानते हैं कि इन गौशालाओं का जो लागू है वह भी वसूल नहीं होता और क्या गवर्नमेंट इस मामले में कोई कानून बनाने वाली है ?

Seth Govind Das: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that these *Goshalas* do not repay the initial cost even and are the Government going to make any law to this effect?

श्री जयरामदास दौलतराम : यह हकीकत है कि वह जो लागू है वह नहीं मिलता है और गवर्नमेंट सोच रही है कि किस तरह उसको कानूनी सुरत दी जाय।

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is a fact that even the initial cost is not realized and the Government are thinking of ways and means whereby a legal shape may be given to it.

Dr. Deshmukh: Does the hon. Minister know that there is habitual misappropriation of funds in the *Goshalas*?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

RESTORATION OF PANIPAT-ROHTAK RAILWAY LINE

*852. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the Railway Board has decided to restore Panipat-Rohtak Railway line dismantled during the war?

(b) If so, when will the work start and by what time is it scheduled to be finished?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the reply given by me to Question No. 204 on 10th February 1950. The financial appreciation of the restoration which the E. P. Railway administration are preparing in consultation with the East Punjab Government is still awaited, and a final decision will be taken on receipt of the Railway's report.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), the question does not arise.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: When is this report likely to come?

Shri Gopaldaswami: This investigation was ordered some six months or more ago and it is to be done in consultation with the E. P. Government, a Minister of which Government had suggested even an alteration of the alignment. Apparently the investigation is taking longer than I expected and I hope it will be possible for us to get the report in the course of the next two months.

MILK SUPPLY IN DELHI

*853. **Shri N. S. Jain:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government for helping the Delhi Administration in improving the milk supply in Delhi?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to Part (a) of Starred Question No. 1504 asked by Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri on 30th March, 1949.

Shri N. S. Jain: Is there any officer attached to the Delhi Administration specially for this purpose?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They have got, I think, a Dairy Officer who is in charge of dairies and the milk question.

Shri N. S. Jain: Is it a fact there was an exchange of communications between the Ministry of Food and the Delhi Administration regarding this milk question?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of that, but if I am given more details, I shall be able to let the hon. Member know more about it.

Shri N. S. Jain: Is it a fact that the Food Ministry asked the Delhi Administration to take up this matter, that the Dairy Officer also put up a scheme before the Chief Commissioner and that that was not acted upon?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There was a big scheme involving about more than Rs. 23 lakhs which the Central Government prepared for the Delhi Administration—Rs. 6 lakhs recurring and about Rs. 18 lakhs non-recurring—but it had to be abandoned on account of financial stringency.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: To what extent are the Government of India taking steps to help and foster co-operative efforts in dairy farming in the Centrally Administered Areas—particularly in and near Delhi?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Government of India have been advising all the Centrally Administered Areas to go in for co-operative dairies. As a matter of fact, there are, I believe, about ten co-operative dairies in Delhi and through the Rehabilitation Ministry also some co-operative dairies have been organised. These should supply about 500 maunds a day.

Shri Deahbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is not a fact that, in spite of the steps taken by the Central Government or the Delhi Administration, milk supply position in Delhi continues to be as bad as ever and it is impossible to get pure milk even for Governmental institutions?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: May I ask the hon. Minister if he has explored the possibility of supplementing the supply of milk in Delhi from the Pusa Institute Dairy?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes. We have suggested that all the balance will have to be made available for use in hospitals and schools.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: May I know what percentage of the total consumption in Delhi is supplied by the Pusa Institute Dairy?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The total consumption of Delhi is about 19,000 maunds a day, and the Pusa Institute Dairy can only spare a few maunds per day.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether any improvement has been effected since the reply was given last year to my hon. friend Shri R. K. Chaudhuri?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: On account of financial stringency, we have not been able to go ahead, but a non-official effort involving an investment of about Rs. 10 lakhs is, I understand, under the consideration of the Delhi Administration.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know if there is any source from which hon. Members of the Parliament can get pure milk?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Joachim Alva: In view of the growing importance of Delhi and the milk needs of its large population, does the Ministry of Agriculture intend to follow the great experiment made in Bombay, by which milk will be supplied to the whole of Bombay in the next three years?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is a matter for the Delhi Administration. It also involves a large amount of finance. As the hon. Member is aware, the Bombay scheme required lakhs and lakhs of rupees and the Delhi Administration also must invest lakhs and lakhs of rupees, which they are not able to do.

PILGRIM SPECIAL TRAINS

*854. **Shri Ranga Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pilgrim special trains were run during the year 1949 and if so, when and on which sections of the railways; and

(b) the total income derived from such trains?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Only one pilgrim special was run and it was from Falna to Palitana on the B.B. & C.I. Railway.

(b) Rs. 11,208/-.

Shri Zangre: Were any special trains run for pilgrims?

Shri Santhanam: I have already stated that there was only one pilgrim special from Falna to Palitana.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: Is there any proposal for running a tourist special from Madras to Hardwar as was being done in some earlier years before the war?

Shri Santhanam: No, Sir. We have great difficulty in providing accommodation for regular ordinary passengers going about their work.

FLAG STATION BETWEEN CUMBUM AND SOMIDEVIPALLI

*855. **Shri Ranga Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether there was any representation received from the public of Bestavarpeta in Kurnool District to open a flag station between Cumbum and Somidevipalli stations on the Bezwada-Guntakal (M.S.M.) section?

(b) If so, what action has been taken?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) An investigation was made by the M. & S.M. Railway, who reached the conclusion that there was not sufficient justification for opening a flag station between Cumbum and Somidevipalli. The Local Advisory Committee agreed with this conclusion.

Shri Ranga Reddi: When was this done?

Shri Santhanam: I have not got the date. I have got only this information.

BARSII LIGHT RAILWAY

*856. **Shri Deogirikar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether passengers are made to travel in goods trains during the Ekadashi fairs in the Barsii Light Railway?

(b) Is there any arrangement for lights, latrines or benches in those coaches?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the negative will Government take necessary steps in the matter?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) and (b). Goods vehicles and Parcels vans are utilised to a limited extent for the transport of passengers during the heavy rush of traffic on the occasion of the principal Ekadashi fairs on the Barsii Light Railway. These vehicles are electrically lit. Some of them have benches as well. Latrines are not provided.

(c) It is not practicable to discontinue the use of such vehicles altogether as adequate passenger vehicles are not obtainable always, for the brief periods during which the rush of traffic occurs.

Shri Deogirikar: How many passengers are thus made to travel in goods trains?

Shri Santhanam: I have got only the seating capacity of the various vehicles. It is not possible to give the number of passengers who may be travelling. It depends upon the season and the fairs.

Shri Sonavane: What is the fare charged to these passengers who travel by goods train?

Shri Santhanam: It is III class fare, I believe.

Shri Sonavane: What is the maximum speed of these trains? Will the hon. Minister think of increasing the speed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

BOOKING OFFICES ON G. I. P. AND M. S. M. RAILWAYS

***857. Shri Deogirikar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Booking Office windows at several small stations on the G.I.P. and M.S.M. Railways are opened five or ten minutes prior to the arrival of trains on the station; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government consider the desirability of keeping the windows open at least one hour before the train arrives at the station?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) No, I understand this is not true.

(b) Booking office windows are opened one hour or more before the train arrives and whenever the traffic offering so requires they are open all the twenty-four hours.

FORWARD BUSINESS IN *Gur, Shakkar, Raba*

***858. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that forward business in *Gur, Shakkar, Raba* etc., has been banned and if so, how long will this ban continue?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): Yes. The ban will continue as long as it is necessary.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware of a strong rumour in the bazar that the ban is going to be removed soon?

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a question which the hon. Minister can be required to answer—about a rumour in the bazar!

Shri Tirumala Rao: Have Government under contemplation a plan to ban futures and speculation with regard to other pulses and millets also in the speculative markets like Hapur and others?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think that it arises out of this Question, which deals with *gur*. Anyhow, I may inform the hon. Member that Government have no intention at present of interfering with pulses.

Shri Tirumala Rao: My point is this. Have Government got any knowledge that the speculative price of millets and other subsidiary foods has an effect on the price of the main food grains in the country?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The speculation in the price of pulses has some sympathetic effect on the price of the main food grains.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know the probable date when this ban is likely to be removed?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: If I make that announcement, I think there will be further speculation!

Shri N. S. Jain: Is it not the policy of Government to ban all kinds of futures and speculative business in all commodities?

Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have banned futures in *gur*. That was announced in a Press Note which was issued.

Shri N. S. Jain: The hon. Minister gave the impression to us that the ban is likely to be removed. May I know if it is likely to be removed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is arguing.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

POSTAL SYSTEM IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN UNION

***568. Shri B. Velayudhan:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether the Postal system in the Travancore-Cochin Union is being re-organised to be amalgamated with the Postal system of the Government of the Indian Republic?

(b) If so, how long will it take for the re-organisation of the system in that Union?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) On April 1 next the Postal System of Travancore-Cochin Union will be taken over by the Government of the Indian Republic.

(b) It is hoped in the course of next few months re-organisation and amalgamation of the present Anchal system with our Postal system will be completed.

PURCHASE OF RAILS FROM CANADA

***843. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the E. I. Railway purchased in 1949-50 from Canada rails in large quantities, which on arrival in India were found un-serviceable?

(b) What was the value of the said rails in rupees?

(c) What was the firm from whom and the agency through which the purchase was made?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The East Indian Railway have received 14,719 tons of rails from Canada in 1949-50. It is not correct that on arrival the rails were found un-serviceable. The rails are new and conform to the Standard specifications laid down by the American Society for testing materials.

(b) Approximately Rs. 51 lakhs, including ocean freight and import duty.

(c) These Canadian rails were supplied by Algoma Steel Corporation, Ontario, through the agency of the India Supply Mission, Washington.

DEVELOPMENT OF MALNAD AREA

***845. Shri Thimmappa Gowda:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether the Government of India have constituted the Central Planning Committee for development of Malnad area?

(b) What are the functions of the Committee?

(c) Have the Committee made any recommendations, if so, how far have those recommendations been implemented?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) Not yet.

(b) The Committee will prepare plans which would cover all possible lines of development such as agriculture, forest industry, plantations, irrigation, malaria eradication, communications, etc.

(c) In view of the reply to part (a) the question does not arise.

CENTRAL MALNAD DEVELOPMENT BOARD

***846. Shri Thimmappa Gowda:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India have constituted the Central Malnad Development Board?

(b) If so, what are the functions of the Board?

(c) Who are the members of the Board?

(d) Have they proposed any scheme for the development of Malnad?

(e) Has any action been taken thereon?

(f) What are the results so far achieved?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) The constitution of the Central Malnad Development Board is awaiting nomination of representatives by some of the State Governments.

(b) The Board will be in overall charge of the plans of Malnad Development to be recommended by the Malnad Planning Committee. It would also advise the Governments concerned regarding the plans to be implemented.

(c) The Central Malnad Development Board will have in all 16 members including 4 members of the Parliament—one each from the areas concerned, *vis.* Bombay, Madras, Mysore and Coorg. The personnel is not yet finalized.

(d) to (f). As the Board is not yet fully constituted, these questions do not arise.

OPENING OF NEW STATIONS ON B. N. RAILWAY

***859. Maulvi Haneef:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many applications were received for the opening of new railway stations in B. N. Railway during the year 1949?

(b) Have decisions been taken on those applications?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the names of places where new stations will be located?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Thirteen applications were received for the opening of new stations on the B. N. Railway in 1949.

(b) Nine of these applications have been investigated and four are still under investigation.

(c) In eight of the cases investigated traffic prospects did not justify the opening of a new station. Operational difficulties prevented the ninth application being entertained.

MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC WORKS

*860. **Giani G. S. Musafir**: Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to refer to the answer given to my Starred Question No. 378 on 20th February 1950 regarding Mundi Hydro-electric Works, and state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the agreement with the Pakistan Government referred to therein is not going to be renewed on its expiration at the end of March 1950; and

(b) if not, whether Government are aware of the necessity of Industrialisation of East Punjab and propose to avoid the possibility of supply of electricity to Pakistan being continued to the end of November 1950?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The Government of Punjab (India) are understood to have entered into a fresh agreement to supply power to Pakistan till the end of March 1951.

(b) The Government of Punjab (India) are understood to have fully taken into consideration the needs of the State before agreeing to supply Pakistan with power till end of March 1951.

LOSS OF FOOD GRAINS

*861. **Shri Shiv Charan Lal**: (a) Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state what percentage approximately of the total grain produced in the country is eaten up by moth, white ants etc. and thus become unfit for human consumption?

(b) How much of this loss is due to want of good storage?

(c) What steps are taken by Government to stop this loss due to storage?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram): (a) No reliable estimate is available of the loss of grain due to the pests mentioned and how much of it is due to want of good storage.

(b) Most of it.

(c) So far as Government storage is concerned, the following steps are taken:

Dry grain is stored in damp-proof godowns. The stocks are frequently inspected. Disinfestation measures such as dusting of insecticides on bags, fumigation of infested grain etc. are carried out where necessary. Technical organisations have been set up at the Central Government depots and in some States for carrying out measures to prevent deterioration of grain.

Advice on methods of good storage is also given from time to time to the public.

DIVERSION LINE FROM IRUGUR TO COIMBATORE NORTH

*862. **Shri Sanjivayya**: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether Government propose to start a diversion line from Irugur to Coimbatore North via Peelamedu and Ganapati?

(b) Is it proposed under the same scheme to develop the Coimbatore North station?

(c) When do Government propose to begin the work?

(d) What is the cost involved?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) The proposal is at present under consideration. Traffic and engineering surveys for the diversion have been completed and the reports are awaited. A final decision will be taken on receipt of the survey reports.

(b) The minimum requirements at Coimbatore North station in connection with the entry of the diverted line will be included in the scheme.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

(d) An estimate of cost is under preparation, but roughly the cost will be between Rs. 25 and 30 lakhs.

RESERVATION OF POSTS IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

***863. Shri. Rathnaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether any reservation has so far been made for Scheduled castes in the categories of Inspector of Post Offices and Superintendent of Post Offices in the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) If so, how many have so far been directly appointed to these posts or promoted to these posts?

(c) Has the ratio fixed for scheduled castes in this category of service been observed?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). 12½ per cent. of vacancies in all the cadres of the services in the Posts and Telegraphs Department for which direct recruitment is made, are reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates. No direct recruitment is made for the post of Inspector of Post Offices and therefore, the reservation is not applicable as promotion is always made on the merits of the person promoted.

A certain percentage of vacancies in the cadre of Superintendent of Post Offices is filled by direct recruitment. The recruitment is made on the recommendations of the Union Public Service Commission. If suitable candidates from among the Scheduled Caste classes are not available the vacancies are not filled for a year.

So far none of the candidates from the Scheduled Castes has been recommended by the Union Public Service Commission for appointment as Superintendent of Post Offices.

AERODROMES IN ORISSA

***864. Maulvi Haneef:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the names of places in Orissa where sites have been acquired for construction of aerodromes since January, 1942?

(b) How many aerodromes have actually been constructed on those sites and how many are yet to be constructed?

(c) How many aerodromes, after the war, have been abandoned in Orissa?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). Thirteen sites were acquired in Orissa since January 1942 for the construction of aerodromes. Aerodromes were constructed on all of them. Ten of these have since been abandoned. No new aerodrome is proposed to be constructed in Orissa for Civil Aviation. The three airfields which remain for Civil Aviation are those at Cuttack (Charbatia), Jharsaguda and Bhubaneswar.

ANTI-CORRUPTION OFFICER ON B. N. RAILWAY

*865. **Master Nand Lal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether any Board for the selection of the **Anti-corruption Officer** on the **Bengal Nagpur Railway** has met?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, when will the **Selection Board** meet?

The Minister for Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) No.

(b) The post of **Anti-corruption Officer** is a class II post and as an officer already selected by a **Selection Board** for promotion to a class II service has been appointed to this post, it is not necessary to hold any further **Selection Board**.

WAGONS FOR COAL FROM JHARIA AND KATRES

*866. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether **Government** propose to arrange for the unrestricted supply of wagons for carrying coal from the **Coalfields of Jharia and Katres (Bihar)**?

(b) How many wagons for such purposes are made available every year?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) No; this is not feasible, as supply has to be regulated to suit the over-all position of wagon availability, consistent with the requirements of other essential traffic.

(b) Separate figures for these areas are not readily available.

SUSPENSION OF PASSENGER TRAIN BETWEEN WEST BENGAL AND EAST PAKISTAN

*867. **Shri Satish Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the reasons for suspending passenger trains running between stations in **West Bengal** and those in **East Pakistan**?

(b) How many such trains have been cancelled or suspended since 28th February, 1950?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) These have been cancelled by the **East Bengal Railway** and the reasons given by them are shortage of coal and conspicuous decrease in passenger traffic on that **Railway**.

(b) The following train services have been cancelled since the 28th February, 1950:

Number of train service—

27 Up/28 Dn. Ranaghat-Goalundo Passenger.

23 Up/24 Dn. Goalundo-Khulna Passenger.

2^o Up/30 Dn. Sealdah-Khulna Passenger.

1 Up/2 Dn. Darjeeling Mails (Running between Sealdah and Parbatipur).

7 Up/8 Dn. Dacca Mails.

Three shuttle trains each way have, however, been introduced between **Sealdah and the Border with Pakistan**.

STAFF OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER MINISTRY

99. Prof. Yashwant Rai: Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Gazetted Officers in his Ministry;
- (b) the number of assistants and superintendents;
- (c) the number of senior-grade and junior-grade clerks and stenographers;
- (d) the number of scheduled caste members in each of the above categories;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the number is not as reserved for scheduled castes; and
- (f) what steps Government propose to take to fill in the reserved quota in the spirit of Article No. 335 of the Constitution?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) 19, excluding Superintendents.

(b) 92.

(c) 94.

(d) One in category (a), three in category (b) and twelve in category (c).

(e) The communal orders apply only in the case of direct recruitment and not to posts filled by promotion. The representation of the Scheduled Castes in the grade of Clerks is according to the communal orders but in the case of posts of Assistants filled by direct recruitment it falls short of the required quota. There is no Scheduled Caste in the grade of Stenographers.

(f) Article 335 does not prescribe any reservation of posts; it provides that the claims of Scheduled Castes shall be taken into consideration consistently with the maintenance of administration in making appointments to services and posts. Under the existing orders certain reservations of vacancies have been made, and also concessions given in the matter of age and examination or selection fee.

CRASH LANDING OF DAKOTA OF AIR CEYLON

100. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether a Dakota of Air Ceylon crashlanded at Trichy Aerodrome on 21st December, 1949?

(b) If so, has any casualty occurred?

(c) What is the cause of crashlanding?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) The Captain, the co-pilot and the air hostess received minor injuries.

(c) The accident is attributed to an error of judgment on the part of the pilot while making a landing.

ALL INDIA TELEGRAPH UNION

101. **Shri Sidhya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether the All India Telegraph Union have represented to the Government for paying a lump sum compensation to the families of the deceased employees after attaining the age of retirement?

(b) Has such payment been recommended by the Pay Commission?

(c) If so, what steps have Government taken in this matter?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) No, Sir, but a branch of the All India Telegraph Union has sent a copy of a resolution on an allied subject.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is a question affecting all services and is under the active consideration of the Government. Final orders are expected to be issued before long.

Tuesday, 14th March, 1950



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME I, 1950

First Session
of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950



CORRIGENDA

to

the Parliamentary Debates (Part II—Other than Questions and Answers), 1st Session, 1950,—

In Volume II,—

1. No. 1, dated the 24th February, 1950,—

- (i) Page 809, line 19 for "cbroadly" read "broadly".
- (ii) Page 814, line 20 for "alsod" read "also a".
- (iii) Page 826, line 24 after "have" read "got".
- (iv) Page 831, line 12 for "stile" read "still" and in line 13 for "wouild" read "would".
- (v) पृष्ठ ८५४, पंक्ति ६ में "बैठेगो" के स्थान पर "बैठेंगे" पढ़ें।
- (vi) पृष्ठ ८५७, पंक्ति ४ में "डब्बो" से पहले "और" को निकाल दें।
- (vii) Page 865, last line for "15th" read "25th".

2. No. 2, dated the 25th February, 1950,—

- (i) Page 884, line 27 from bottom for "latterly" read "laterly".
- (ii) Page 898, line 11 for "fact" read "feet".
- (iii) Page 901, line 11 omit "a" after "had".
- (iv) Page 903, line 10 from bottom for "low" read "law".

3. No. 3, dated the 27th February, 1950,—

- (i) Page 950, line 5 from bottom for "alternation" read "alteration".
- (ii) पृष्ठ ९६१, नीचे से पंक्ति १३ में "श्री ए० पी० सिंह" के स्थान पर "श्री ए० पी० सिन्हा" पढ़ें।
- (iii) पृष्ठ ९६६, पंक्ति १ में "मा" के स्थान पर "या" पढ़ें।
- (iv) Page 967, line 9 for "ot" read "to".
- (v) Page 970, line 9 for "Mangers" read "Managers".

4. No. 4, dated the 28th February, 1950,—

- (i) Page 984, line 11 for "Mr. Chairman :- The question is" read "The motion was adopted".
- (ii) Page 986, for the existing last line read "The House then adjourned for lunch till half past two of the clock".
- (iii) Page 994, line 27 from bottom for "onse" read "ones".
- (iv) Page 1010, line 16 from bottom for "Mr. Gaganvinari lal" read "Mr. Gaganvihari Lal".

5. No. 5, dated the 1st March, 1950,—

- (i) Page 1021, line 22 for "has been callous" read "has been even callous".
- (ii) Page 1033, line 25 from bottom for "on" read "or".
- (iii) Page 1053, line 21 for "Shri Ethirajula Naidu" read "Shri Ethirajulu Naidu".
- (iv) Page 1054, transfer lines 29 and 30 after line 31.
- (v) Page 1064, line 4 for "cadamom" read "cardamom".

6. No. 6, dated the 2nd March, 1950,—

- (i) Page 1090, line 17 for "Hon. Members three minutes" read "Hon. Members say three minutes".
- (ii) Page 1096, first line for "section" read "selection".

7. No. 7, dated the 6th March, 1950,—

- (i) Page 1143, line 11 from bottom for "fact" read "face".
- (ii) Page 1150, line 18 for "in" read "the".

(ii)

(iii) Page 1060, line 13 from bottom *delete* "no".

(iv) Page 1164, line 4 from bottom *for* "Shri Satis Chandra" *read* "Shri Satish Chandra".

(v) Page 1165, line 26 *for* "Dr. Matthai" *read* "Dr. Mathai".

(vi) Page 1171, line 2 *for* "as" *read* "or".

(vii) Page 1174, last line *for* "Hudget" *read* "Budget".

8. No. 8, dated the 7th March, 1950,—

(i) Page 1179, line 11 *for* "question" *read* "questions".

(ii) Page 1221, line 13 *for* "by" *read* "but".

9. No. 9, dated the 8th March, 1950,—

Page 1260, line 21 from bottom *after* "so far," *read* "but no".

10. No. 10, dated the 9th March, 1950,—

(i) Page 1306, line 28 from bottom *for* "gah" *read* "Durgah".

(ii) Page 1321, line 28 *for* "has " *read* "This".

11. No. 11, dated the 10th March, 1950,—

(i) Page 1342, line 23 from bottom *for* "panel" *read* "penal".

(ii) Page 1352, line 3 from bottom *for* "Houses" *read* "House".

12. No. 12, dated the 11th March, 1950,—

Page 1385, *for* the existing line 18 from bottom *read* "another thing that I wish to submit is this. It is but fair that, when the".

13. No. 14, dated the 14th March, 1950,—

Page 1507, line 11 from bottom *for* "Shri A. P. Fain" *read* "Shri A. P. Jain".

WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH, 1950—*contd.*Railway Budget—List of Demands—*contd.*

Construction of Chittorgarh—Kotah Line	1056—1057
Class III waiting hall at Kotdwara	1059—1060
Restoration of Nilambur—Shoranur Line	1063
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Demand No. 4—Working Expenses—Administration	1057—1059, 1061—1062.
(i) Janta Express on Howrah Puri Line,	
(ii) Oriyas on B. N. Railway, (iii) Establishment of a Workshop in Orissa	1057—1059
Over-crowding on B. N. Railway	1061—1062

THURSDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1950—

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Safety of Refugees travelling by Assam and Dacca Mails in East Pakistan	1065—1074
Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill—Introduced	1074—1075
Railway Budget—List of Demands— <i>contd.</i>	1075—1112
Demand No. 4—Working Expenses—Administration— <i>contd.</i>	1075—1077, 1103—1109
Assam Railways	1075—1077
Social Guides	1103—1109
Demand No. 13—Appropriation to Development Fund	1077—1079, 1111
Restoration of Jaunpur—Sultanpur Railway Line	1077—1079
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Inadequacy of Railways on Travancore-Cochin State	1079—1080
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Shuttle train between Buxar and Patna	1082—1083
Amenities to passengers on B. B. & C. I. Railway	1084—1089
Janta Express on Madras-Trivendrum Line	1089—1093
Demand No. 15—Construction of New Lines— <i>contd.</i>	1083—1084, 1111
Madhepur-Murliganj Railway Line	1083—1084
Demand No. 6—Working Expenses—Operating Staff	1093—1099, 1110
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Demand No. 7—Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)	1099—1103, 1110
Fuel Economy	1099—1103
Demand No. 11—Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund	1103—1109, 1110
Amenities to Class III passengers	1103—1109
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Death of Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha	1113
Business of the House	1113—1117
General Budget—General Discussion—not concluded	1117—1176

TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1950—

Motion for Adjournment *re* :

Escape of Mir Laik Ali from custody	1177—1185
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Papers Laid on the Table—

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General Budget—General Discussion— <i>contd.</i>	1186—1231

WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1950—

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Demand No. 42—Geological Survey	1516—1518, 1519—1540
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Tuesday, 14th March, 1950

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11. 45 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ESCAPE OF MIR LAIK ALI OF HYDERABAD FROM CUSTODY—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker : We will now proceed to the next business : further consideration of the notice of adjournment regarding Mir Laik Ali of Hyderabad.

In this connection I would like to make a short statement. With a view to save time of the House and to enable hon. Members to appreciate the exact points in issue, I would like to make this statement, and I trust hon. Members will be good enough to confine their remarks to those specific issues, instead of covering the general and wider ground of the entire constitutional field.

It will be readily accepted on all hands, that we have first to be clear about the facts, because the applicability of the provisions of the Constitution will depend upon the particular set of circumstances in each case. Let us, therefore, be clear as to the facts, and I think, I must accept them from the best authority on the factual position, namely the hon. the Home Minister. Any other statements alleged to be facts by others must be rejected as incorrect or inferential, in so far as they may not be consistent with the facts as set out by the hon. the Home Minister.

I do not propose to go into the history of the Hyderabad Administration from the time of the Police Action. Nor is it necessary for me to do so for our present purposes. We are not concerned with the constitutional position of the Hyderabad Government as it may have been prior to the escape of Mir Laik Ali. We have to see as to what the position was at the time of his escape from custody. The facts, as I am able to cull out from what the hon. the Home Minister stated on the floor of the House, so far as the present position is concerned, may be summed up as under :

The hon. the Home Minister has stated that the Nizam at present enjoys the status as any other Rajpramukh enjoys. Hence, so far as the internal administration is concerned, the Government of India practically has no responsibility. On a question put by me, as to who the controlling or directing authority was, so far as the prosecution of Mir Laik Ali was concerned, the hon. the Home Minister's reply was that the final prosecution sanction is from His Exalted Highness the Nizam. Further the hon. the Home Minister stated that, so far as the Chief Minister and the other Ministers are concerned, they are appointed by a *firman* of His Exalted Highness the Nizam, and not by the Government of India. He then went on to say that:

"It is very dangerous to say that the States Ministry does everything and the Nizam is nothing, and that he cannot do anything but signs what is given to him.

[Mr. Speaker]

His Exalted Highness the Nizam is today in the position of a Governor of a Province. Therefore, to attribute to the States Ministry, the assumption of powers, which it had never claimed on behalf of the Government of India is a very wrong statement to make. The Nizam by his own *firman* has given all administrative powers to the Council of Ministers. The administration in Hyderabad is in full charge so far as the internal administration is concerned, as in other States."

The above statement of facts clarifies the ground and is enough to remove any suspicion that the administration in Hyderabad is, in substance, being carried on by the Government of India, through the Ministry there because the Chief Minister and the Home Minister there happen to belong to the personnel of the Government of India Services. It has been made clear that the services of these officers are loaned in the usual course, and they act under the authority vested in them by His Exalted Highness the Nizam, who is the supreme head of the administration as a Governor, and to whom they are responsible.

A point was raised on the floor of the House, that, as there is no Legislature in Hyderabad, the States people must have some forum to which they could go in respect of their grievances. It was argued, on the strength of Article 371 of the Constitution, that, as the Government of India have got the power of "general control", as also the power to give directions, this House representing all the people of India, should be taken to be the forum to which any matter of grievance in respect of the Hyderabad State Administration could be brought.

One need not go into the history of or the intentions of those, who were parties to drafting that article. We have to construe that article as it stands, and it refers to all the States in Part B, without making any distinction as to States, with or without Legislature. It is also a fact that in this particular case, the Government of India have neither exercised any control, nor issued any directions to the Hyderabad State. Provisions of articles 385 and 386 also make it clear that "until the House or Houses of the Legislature of a State specified in Part B is or have been duly constituted and summoned to meet, the body or authority functioning immediately before the commencement of the Constitution as the Legislature shall exercise and perform the duties of the House or Houses of Legislature of the State so specified". One may note the word "authority" in this article. It is, therefore, clear that constitutionally, the Legislature of the State would mean the Rajpramukh with his Council of Ministers.

On these facts, one need not go into the general question about the circumstances under which this House will have the right to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any matters relating to any States. A decision on such a question is not at all necessary for deciding the limited issue that has arisen before us for disposal. I may state the issue as follows :

"Whether any question relating to the internal administration of any State, can be raised in this House on the ground that there is no elected Legislature in that State."

I may again say, that we need not go into the hypothetical question as to how far and in what set of circumstances this House will have jurisdiction to take cognizance of questions regarding the internal administration of a State.

It is possible to argue that the power of general control and of giving particular directions under article 371 casts a duty on the Government of India of exercising control and giving directions. On this aspect, the hon. the Law Minister has urged that, while that article gives a right to the Government of India, it does not cast any duty on them. Hon. Members wishing to contest the position, as stated by the hon. the Law Minister, may state their arguments on this aspect of the matter. But let us not go into the entire field of the constitutional aspect as to relations between the Centre and the States and the possible cases or occasions in which the Centre can have jurisdiction in matters of internal administration of the States. I believe, I am clear to the hon. Members about the limitations within which the discussion is permissible.

Shri Goenka (Madras): Sir, the point for immediate consideration is whether you hold that the matter is still urgent. If you hold that the matter is not urgent, and does not continue to be urgent, we need not go into the niceties of legal points. If for one do feel that the matter is not now urgent, and since it is not urgent you can easily dispose of the question before you on the ground that it is not urgent. We need not have all these legal arguments before you which will take practically the whole of the time of the House at the expense of the time for Budget discussion.

Mr. Speaker: Really speaking, it ought not to take that much of time and with a view to saving the time, I have clearly stated the issue. The matter was postponed and in that sense the urgency is lost. But it is a matter for the House to decide. I shall decide only on the admissibility. But even if I decide that it is admissible, the House may, even then, come to a decision that they do not wish to have any discussion and the matter may be dropped. If I decide it is not admissible, the matter ends there. But unless the House wishes that the matter should not be proceeded with, I must give a hearing as promised by me on the previous day.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): On a point of clarification, Sir. Is it constitutionally correct or proper to-day to refer to or describe the Ruler of Hyderabad as His Exalted Highness the Nizam? As far as I know he was sworn in as Rajpramukh on the 26th January.

Mr. Speaker: Even if I wrongly described him as His Exalted Highness the Nizam, the fact stands that he is the constitutional head of the Legislature there as Rajpramukh. I have mentioned him as Rajpramukh also. Anyhow there is not any substance in the point raised.

Shri Goenka: You, Sir, have got to hold that the matter is of definite urgent public importance and if you hold, Sir, that this matter is not urgent then it is unnecessary for us to go into the legal niceties of the question.

Mr. Speaker: Let us not take any more time in that. The difficulty, so far as I am concerned, is that as I could not come to a conclusion immediately on that very day, I was a party to postponing the question for further hearing and if I were now to hold that because the matter is postponed, therefore, the urgency has ceased, it would be wrong on my part to say so.

Shrimati Durgabai (Madras): May I submit that though the merits of the motion or the question involved in the motion ceases to be of public urgent importance since a constitutional question had been raised, would it not be better that the House be given an opportunity to clarify the position from the constitutional aspect? Many such cases might arise in the future so that let there be a clear debate on this point.

Mr. Speaker: That is what I have stated. I should still like to urge that we should not worry as to what is going to arise in the future because each point will be decided on its own merit.

Shri A. P. Fainj (Uttar Pradesh): On a point of order, Sir. For the purpose of this point of order I will concede to the Law Minister's argument that article 371 does not place an obligation upon the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker: Let him state the point of order. Then only I shall be able to follow the argument.

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, some questions have been answered in this House regarding Mr. Laik Ali's escape. Is it open to a Minister to admit his responsibility to the extent of admitting questions and answering them but refusing to answer an Adjournment Motion or Resolution? Once a responsibility is admitted to the extent of answering questions, it extends to all other Motions that can be made in this House.

Mr. Speaker : He is arguing in favour of admission. It is not a point of order. This can be disposed of in a few words. The giving of information does not necessarily involve responsibility. Information may be asked for as to what is happening in a certain scheme in Russia. If the Government have got information, they may give it. If we were to accept the argument that because information as to what is happening in other States or different parts of the country is given, it necessarily implies that it is the responsibility of this Government, then I must eschew all questions of information like that. Then hon. Members will find it difficult. When Government have the information, they should give it. I shall now call upon Shri Gopalaswami.

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami) : Sir, you have narrowed the issue for consideration in connection with this question of admissibility.

12 NOON The hon. the Law Minister stated the position so far as this matter is concerned in the speech he made the other day. If I understand you correctly, Sir, you suggest that we should address ourselves mainly to the question that, granting that the Centre has nothing to do with the internal administration of Hyderabad, do the provisions of article 371 make a difference as regards their responsibility for the particular matter that has been raised by my hon. friend Mr. Kamath? I wish only to say this, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : May I just make the point clear. I don't want to have the general question of the interpretation of article 371. The issue raised is a smaller one, on account of there being no elected Legislature.

Shri Gopalaswami : If you rule out the correct interpretation of article 371, I shall address myself to the more limited issue you have indicated viz., whether the absence of a local Legislature in Hyderabad attracts the responsibility of the Centre to this House so far as matters of internal administration are concerned. Now, Sir, my point with regard to that is this. The question of the existence or non-existence of a local Legislature in Hyderabad makes no difference as regards the Centre's responsibility to the Legislature in respect of internal administration in Hyderabad and I say this for this reason. As you will certainly recollect, Sir, the fundamental principle on which the right to move a Motion for adjourning a Debate for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance is that it is a matter for which the Government which stands before this House and owns its responsibility to this House, is immediately responsible. If you rule out the responsibility as regards the internal administration of Hyderabad, there is nothing so far as this motion is concerned for which they could be considered responsible to this House. I can cite one or two cases where rulings have been given by the Speaker of the House of Commons in Great Britain. For instance, he has held that matters relating to the administration of Colonial Territories cannot be the subject of a Motion for Adjournment in the House of Commons. What I would, for instance, cite as a more appropriate illustration for this purpose is the case of matters within the competence of local authorities in England itself. For instance, I find that in connection with a Motion for Adjournment of which notice was given by Mr. Lansbury some years ago a ruling was given. The Motion was to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the action of certain boards of guardians in refusing to continue public assistance to a large number of unemployed men who are at present chargeable to the Poor Law according to Act of Parliament and the refusal of the Minister of Health to take such action as would prevent the hardship and suffering and possible public disorder which this action of boards of guardians may involve."

The Speaker's ruling after considering the matter for a whole day was this :

"Since yesterday I have carefully looked into this matter, with the result that I am confirmed in the ruling which I then gave. In fact, the hon. Member's own motion shows it, because he again calls attention to the action of certain boards of guardians in refusing to continue public assistance. These are local bodies appointed by Statutes of Parliament, and their action via those Statutes has never been held to be a matter which could be raised under the Standing Order. Their case is just the same as that of municipal authorities who are given certain duties to carry out."

Now, so far as Hyderabad under our present Constitution is concerned, it is a much stronger case for applying this ruling than the case of local authorities in that country, for this reason. As hon. Members are aware, our State is a Federal State and sovereign powers are divided between the Centre and the Units by the Constitution. This Parliament, whatever we might say in our enthusiasm for its importance, is not legally sovereign. It can work only under the provisions of this Constitution. This Constitution has allocated certain powers to the Units and certain other powers to the Centre, and within the sphere that is allotted to each of these, it is independent of the other, subject, of course to such provisions in the Constitution as may introduce an element of deviation from this general rule of independence. So far as we are concerned, we cannot consider the competence of a motion for adjournment of this House unless we consider the question of the application of article 371 to this general proposition of independent sovereign powers exercised by the Centre and the Units. I do not want to go into that question as you have prohibited my doing so. But, we have got to recognise this fact that there are only three ways in which the Centre could attract responsibility for the safe custody of Laik Ali in Hyderabad. It has been said in the course of the debate that this is largely a matter of law and order. To be more accurate, I think this is a matter which relates to preventive detention. I speak subject to correction. I thought you, Sir, referred to the authority competent to order the prosecution of Laik Ali. So far as his detention on the 3rd of this month is concerned, on which date he is supposed to have escaped, it was a case of preventive detention under powers which His Exalted Highness the Nizam under his own *firman*s or otherwise possessed. Preventive detention occurs, as hon. Members are aware, in two places in the Constitution. One is in List I, that is, for the purpose of ensuring the security of India, etc. The other occurs in the list of Concurrent Subjects, that is, for the purpose of ensuring the internal security of a State and for maintaining public order in the State. So far as this matter is concerned, we have to take it that the power under which Laik Ali was detained was a power which must be held to fall under item 3 of List III. If that is so, no doubt, the Centre has power to make laws for the same purpose. But, we have got to recognise, as you have yourself indicated, Sir, that the Centre has taken no legislative or executive action in regard to this matter, and there is no law of the Centre, whose terms are different from the terms of the Hyderabad law, to over-ride it. The man was under detention under a State enactment or under the powers possessed by the Nizam. It becomes purely and simply a matter of internal administration and so long as we have not clothed ourselves with legislative power for interfering in a matter of that sort, the State must be held to be supreme in that field. If we concede that position, then, there is no case for bringing a motion of this sort before the Parliament.

Then, taking the other possibilities that could have happened under article 371 without going into the meticulous interpretation of that article, you have yourself indicated that the Centre has exercised neither general control nor has it issued any particular directions for compliance by the Hyderabad Government. That being so, in a field which is primarily that of the Hyderabad State, when the Centre has not clothed itself with any power of this description, I say that the entire field is that of the Hyderabad State. From that point of view, as a point bearing merely on the question of admissibility under the existing conditions and on the facts as we know them, this is not the form to which a matter of that sort could be brought by means of an adjournment motion. The mere absence of a legislature in Hyderabad will not legally oblige us to entertain a motion of this kind. I am only talking on the pure admissibility of it. It is possible, as the hon. Minister for Home Affairs has generously done already in the case of the short notice question that was put to him, on account of the importance of this matter, he might even agree to relax the rigidity of the application of the pure constitutional position and allow the matter to be discussed. I say "generously" for this reason. The question related to a matter which was not primarily the concern of the Government of India. As you know, Sir, one of the rules under which questions could be admitted, says that the question should

[Shri Gopaldaswami]

not be a question relating to a matter which is not the primary concern of the Government. That objection was not taken and the question was answered. There is a history behind all this. The hon. Minister of Law referred the other day to Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar's . . .

Pandit Maitra (West Bengal): Did the hon. Member say that it is not at all the primary concern of the Government of India to have anything to do with the internal administration of the State and does he seriously contest that proposition?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I say it is not primarily the concern of the Government of India; I do not say it is not the concern at all of the Government of India.

Shri Sunder Lall (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I want to know.....

Mr. Speaker: Let him proceed. The hon. Member may raise the point afterwards.

Shri Gopaldaswami: I will explain the position with reference to Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar's explanation to which the hon. Minister of Law referred the other day. In that case, what the hon. Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar said was that we might leave it to the discretion of the President in the case of questions, and the Governor General in the case of resolutions, to decide whether a particular motion or question constitutes an encroachment upon the provincial sphere in which case they had the power to disallow either the question or the resolution.

In this connection, I would only like to refer to one point which does not appear in our existing rules. In the old rules motions for adjournment could not be moved on matters which could not be the subject of ordinary resolutions. That does not appear now, nor does the other thing about the disallowance by the President in the case of questions. The President i.e. the then Speaker of the Assembly had the power of disallowance in the case of questions and the Governor-General in the case of Resolutions. Those two rules do not appear now. What is the effect of all this? I do not think, Sir, you will hold, nor should we as a House agree to its being held in that way, that merely because of the dropping out of these two provisions which gave the discretion to the President and the Governor-General, no motion can be disallowed on the ground that it is not primarily the concern of the Government of India. I say this because of a point which, I think, we should grasp in its full meaning. Now the principle of the admissibility of an adjournment motion is the immediate responsibility of the Government against whom it is directed. I have already quoted to you two illustrations where it was held not to be the immediate responsibility of the Government in a case relating to colonial territories and in a case which related to local authorities in England. If we accept that principle of immediate responsibility, we have to accept the analogous position which was the wording used in our former rules, namely, that, if a matter is not primarily the concern of the Government concerned, then it should not be admitted as a motion. Whereas under the old rules only a discretionary power to disallow could be exercised by the President and the Governor-General. I take it that under constitutional conventions and the practice of the House of Commons which we follow in so many matters, motions which are not primarily the concern of the Government of India should be held to be inadmissible.

Now the House may ask "what is the effect of all this on the present position?" Before I go on to that, I wish only to point out that while there are certain restrictions imposed on the right to move motions of this description, that list of restrictions does not exhaust the grounds on which a motion of that sort could be disallowed. In England, in the House of Commons, all the rulings about a matter being of a definite nature, of urgent public importance, involving the responsibility of the Government—all these are based upon the Speaker's decisions. They are not in the standing orders of the House of Commons. These are so well-known that they thought it unnecessary to incorporate them in the standing orders. If, Sir, you

agree with me that you have got the power to rule out a resolution more or less on the same lines as similar motions are ruled out by the Speaker of the House of Commons, I think, Sir, it becomes your duty to decide whether the present motion is one which involves the responsibility of the Government of India, and if, as you have already indicated, it does not so involve their responsibility, I think, Sir, it is your duty to rule it out.

I do not want the House to misunderstand me in the argument that I have placed before it. It is possible that the responsibility of the Government of India for not having invoked the powers they possess under article 371 could be suitably brought under discussion in this House but my present point is simply that it could not be brought under discussion on a motion for adjournment for discussing a matter of urgent public importance. I, for one, cannot see why if the House felt strongly about it, the matter should not be ventilated say, on the vote on the States Ministry, which is to come up very soon, I take it.

It has been held in the House of Commons that a motion for adjournment of this sort could be refused altogether on the ground that the matter will come up in the ordinary parliamentary way for discussion very soon, and as that contingency will happen within the next two or three days, on that ground also this motion, Sir, I consider, is inadmissible. I had intended to say a good deal on the constitutional position, but I refrain from saying anything further on that point.

Shri Sunder Lall : Sir, the former Prime Minister Mir Laik Ali was acting as an agent of Pakistan, a country with whom we have no cordial relations.....

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. We are not concerned with that just now. The hon. Member must resume his seat. I shall give him a chance to speak. What I say is that we are not concerned with the facts now but we are concerned with the constitutional aspect, about the responsibility of this Government. He need not go into the question of what Mir Laik Ali was ; let us not be perturbed about what he was or what he was not.

Shri Sunder Lall : I have to say that the former Prime Minister Laik Ali was acting as an agent of the country which waged war against Kashmir and if this agent escapes from custody, may I know whose responsibility it is and what is the constitutional position ?

Mr. Speaker : That we shall decide after hearing other Members.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir you have asked us to limit the discussion to two points only. I propose to make a few remarks with regard to the second point only. This point was discussed at length the other day by Dr. Ambedkar and much of what my hon. friend Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar said in his long speech was a corroboration of the view taken by Dr. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar referring to a question answered by Sir Nripendra Sircar in 1937 came to the conclusion that a matter in respect of which the Government of India could exercise authority could be discussed here if a direction was issued by the Government of India, but not otherwise. That was the inference he drew from the terms of Sir Nripendra Sircar's reply. Now, Sir, the question answered by Sir Nripendra Sircar was the result of a question put to the British Prime Minister, Mr. Chamberlain, by Mr. Churchill in the British House of Commons in June 1937.

We shall, therefore, do well to consider the reply given by Mr. Chamberlain and I think it will be safer for us to base our conclusions on Mr. Chamberlain's reply rather than on Sir N.N. Sircar's reply. Mr. Chamberlain, in the course of a long reply to a long question said :

".....I suggest to the House that the broad general guiding principle which ought to be adopted as to the admissibility of questions on Indian provincial affairs is that such questions ought not to be regarded as in order unless it can be shown, either that the action at issue was taken by the Governor without consulting his Ministers or against their advice, or alternatively, that the Governor was in possession of powers applicable to the case which in fact, he failed to exercise."

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras) : May I interrupt my hon. friend ? May I ask him to distinguish between the question of special responsibility laid on the Governor-General or Governor under the Government of India Act, 1935, and the responsibility of the Central Government under article 371 of the Constitution ? Apparently there is some confusion in the mind of the hon. Member.

Pandit Kunsru : There is no confusion in anybody's mind except in that of my hon. friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri San thanam) : May I also draw the attention of the hon. Member that powers may be obligatory or merely permissive, and then the inferences will be different.

Pandit Kunsru : Sir, this distinction seems to me to be more or less, illusory. The question really turns on the judgment of the authority exercising any power conferred on it by the Constitution. To say that a certain power was obligatory, that the exercise of a certain power was obligatory or permissive, is to say something that does not go to the root of the matter at all. It may be that an authority vested with a certain power does not exercise it because, in its opinion, there is no occasion for its exercise. Nevertheless, I think, that the failure to exercise the power can be questioned, the authority concerned can be blamed for not exercising the power vested in it. Sir, I shall give a simple illustration that will make my point absolutely clear to the House. Suppose a riot occurs in Delhi and the Government of India confine the action that they take to the use of the police power in order to quell the disturbance. If this exercise of power is not sufficient for the purpose for which it is used, the Government of India can call in the aid of the military. But if the Government of India fail to do so and the riot goes on, will any Member of this House say that it is not obligatory on the Government of India to ask for the help of the military in quelling the riot and that therefore the matter should not be discussed in this House on a motion of adjournment ? I think, Sir, that when the Constitution invests a certain authority with power, it expects that authority to make the best use of it. If that authority fails to exercise that power, it can be called to account. What I have said, Sir, is not exhaustive. Other questions can also arise with regard to the exercise of such a power. But the broad fact that emerges from the reply given by Mr. Chamberlain to Mr. Churchill and the illustration that I have given is that the failure to exercise a power can be questioned as much as its exercise.

My hon. friend Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar cited British precedents against the view that the matter raised by Mr. Kamath's adjournment motion should be allowed to be discussed here. I am sure, Sir, that Mr. Chamberlain was perfectly familiar with the rulings of the British Speaker ; and if.....

Shri Gopalaswami : May I just point out that Mr. Chamberlain was not on a question of motion for adjournment of debate ?

Pandit Kunsru : Well, I think Dr. Ambedkar relying on the reply given by Sir N. N. Sircar on the basis of Mr. Chamberlain's reply came to the conclusion that in a matter like this there was no essential difference between a demand for information and a demand for discussion. The word used by Sir N. N. Sircar in his reply was "discussion" and that is the word that my hon. friend Dr. Ahmedkar relied on.

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar) : I should like to say just one word with regard to the comment of my hon. friend on the reply given by Mr. Chamberlain and his attempt to establish a sort of analogy between the position which existed when that question was put and the position that will arise under article 371 of our Constitution. I should request him to bear in mind the essential distinction that exists between our Constitution now and the Government of India Act, 1935. That distinction is this, that while Parliament did enact the Act of 1935 and transferred certain responsibilities to the people of India, they never failed to emphasise time and over again, that the ultimate responsibility for the good government in India rested with Parliament, and therefore, to the extent that the power was reserved of giving directions it was really responsible for maintaining good government ; while

under our Constitution we have given over the power of maintaining good government to our States and only in some cases we have reserved to the Centre certain powers of direction. That distinction has to be borne in mind.

Pandit Kunru : I entirely disagree with my hon. friend Dr. Ambedkar, not with regard to the general point that he has raised, but with the construction that he has put on article 371. As my hon. friend pointed out the other day, this article 371 does not apply to States in Class A. It applies only to States in Class B, and why? Why was this article 371 inserted in the Constitution with reference to States in Class B only? It was inserted in order to ensure good government there.

Every Member of this House who was a Member of the Constituent Assembly and who is aware of the discussions that took place there in connection with article 371 knows that the Government of India took the over-riding power conferred on it by article 371 because it thought that the situation in States belonging to Part B was such as to call for special attention on the part of the Government of India. Owing to the inexperience of these States and the absence of an organised Civil Service and various other factors, the weakness of the administration was such that it was felt that the Government of India should have power in the last resort to ensure good Government in those States. The scope of article 371, therefore, is for all practical purposes the same as that of those provisions of the Government of India Act 1935, the effect of which was to retain the ultimate authority for the good Government of India in British hands. Sir, what I have said has a vital bearing on the Constitutional question before us and I venture to repeat that the distinction that my hon. friend, Dr. Ambedkar, drew between responsibility in case of the exercise of a power and freedom from it in case of the non-exercise of the powers is illusory. It does not seem to have any basis in Constitutional Law or in fact.

There remains the question raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar, whether this matter should be allowed to be discussed in this House. And this matter was raised in a different form by my hon. friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari also, some time ago. He pointed out to us the congestion of business that would result if we were allowed to discuss matters relating to States or to Unions of States, in this House on the ground that the Government of India possessed certain over-riding powers under article 371 of the Constitution. It is quite possible for hon. Members to raise trivial matters, to seek to raise a discussion on trivial matters in this House because of article 371. It is for the Speaker then to rule out discussion. I submit that there are two things to be considered, firstly, whether this House is constitutionally entitled to discuss those matters relating to States in Part B which are under the control of the Government of India in view of article 371 of the Constitution, and secondly whether it is desirable to discuss all such matters. Now, on the first point, it seems to me that the right of the House is clear and can hardly be questioned. On the second point, I think, it is for you Sir, to decide whether a matter is sufficiently important to be discussed in this House. I submit, that the importance of the matter sought to be raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Kamath, is clear. It is not a small matter. It is not a matter that raises a question settled by a local body, or an action taken by the Government of Hyderabad with regard to such a matter the admissibility of a case for pension, or a grant and so on. The matter is one of fundamental importance. It is today an all-India matter. It is being discussed all over the country and I am sure it is exercising the minds of the Government of India themselves. I am sure that my hon. friend, Mr. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar, is one of the Ministers who are worried about this matter. It is thus clear beyond doubt that the matter.....

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Why to add to their worries ?

Pandit Kunru : My hon. friend has come forward to ask us to pity these poor Ministers. I do not know whether the Ministers will be thankful to him for his advocacy. They will probably say, "Save us from our friends." I think it is obvious that the matter is of first-class importance. It is further clear that it

[Pandit Kinnara]

can be constitutionally discussed in this House. I submit that, contrary to the view of my hon. friend, Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, it is your duty to allow it to be discussed here as soon as possible.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have said last time that I shall be placing a time limit, and it was agreed that it should be one hour and in case of extreme necessity, another hour or more. I myself feel that the whole ground has been cleared, practically speaking, and it is no use taking up the time of the House from the Budget discussion, because all Members are anxious to discuss the Demands for Grants also. So I earnestly appeal to Members not to take up the time of the House further, and if anybody is further inclined that I should consider his views, he may give a written statement to me. I will consider such statements very carefully and then come to my conclusions. I shall study the matter very carefully. Every aspect that is given to me, I shall surely consider. That is the only promise I can make. So far as the importance of the matter is concerned, if there is any point of importance in the written statements given to me, I will refer to it in the ruling which I shall give. I do not propose to allow any further arguments on this now. All the points which arise, according to me, have already been sufficiently dealt with by the two speeches which we have had here.

So we will now proceed with the Budget.

Shri Kamath: With regard to the ruling you gave just now on the point raised by Shri Jain....

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member did not hear my reply properly.

Shri Kamath: You said that so far as matters relating to other countries are concerned, certainly Government cannot take the responsibility. But the point is that when Government replies to questions of this sort, they accept responsibility only for the accuracy of the information.

Mr. Speaker: That point is irrelevant for the present purpose.

An hon. Member: May I ask the

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to encourage anybody to put any question or advance any argument now.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): But what is the position now ?

Mr. Speaker: The position now is that the discussion on this matter is closed. No clarification is to be asked for now. If any hon. Member thinks that some new point has to be taken into consideration he may, before this evening, give it to me in writing. I shall consider everything.

Shri Tirumala Rao (Madras): May I make a submission with regard to the submission privately of written statements to you ? Parliament being the forum for such purposes, I suggest that we are entitled to discuss these things in the House. But if there has been sufficient discussion, you can choke the discussion. There is no point, I submit humbly, in asking the Members to submit to you privately....

Mr. Speaker: Not privately. It will not be private. I have clearly come to the conclusion that there has been sufficient discussion of the matter. I do not want any further discussion, so far as I am concerned. But I do not want any hon. Member to feel that he has perhaps a point which has not been brought out so far. That point should be brought out. I am making a plain declaration in the open House that I am prepared to entertain written statements on that matter. It is to a private business.

Shri Sidhva: Will it form part of the proceedings, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : I cannot vouch for that.

Shri Kamath : Will this be a precedent for the future also ?

Mr. Speaker : It will be a precedent for the future, if the future House likes it and the future Speaker accepts it. So far as I am concerned, it will be a precedent. But this is an additional opportunity given to hon. Members. I do not know why one should be so very critical about it and characterise it as 'choking' discussion. This is, on the contrary, an offer to encourage all kinds of arguments to come in, consistently with the time of the House. If I am to go to the logical length of the demand made by Shri Tirumala Rao, I must allow each Member to speak fully in this House. That is for the Speaker to decide.

Now we will proceed with the Budget.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh) : When do you propose to give your ruling, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : I will take time to consider this. It will not be before day after tomorrow at the earliest. If hon. Members leave me sufficient time I can give the ruling earlier. Otherwise I will take a day or two more.

Shri Hossain Imam (Bihar) : Can you give us time till tomorrow for the submission of the written statements ?

Mr. Speaker : I cannot do that. The statements can be very brief.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker : I have to make a further announcement. I have to inform hon. Members that the House will sit on Saturday, the 25th March, 1950 for the transaction of the Private Members' Business.

Hon. Members are aware that this business namely, the Private Members' Bills, was originally put down for Saturday, the 18th February and subsequently postponed to Saturday, the 25th February but on account of cancellation of the meeting for the 18th February and urgent Government business on the 25th February, the Private Members' Bills were not taken up on any of those days.

The List of Business already issued for the 18th February, 1950, will operate as the List of Business for the 25th March.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker : Now we shall proceed to the Budget discussions. All these Demands are to be put I understand.

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil) : There is one more Demand, No. 109—Capital Outlay on Development. My friend Shri Shiva Rao has given a cut motion with regard to the progress of the Damodar Valley Corporation. He may have something to say about it. That also may be kindly placed before the House.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha) : Before you proceed further, may I suggest that the House may be allowed to sit one hour more to-day ?

Mr. Speaker : I should not seriously object to it today in view of the time taken for the discussion of other matters.

I have to announce one thing more. The meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Group fixed to be held at 5-15 P.M. to-day has to be postponed.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh) : It may be held at 6-15 P.M.

Mr. Speaker : It is not possible to continue working like that. We will have that meeting next Friday. I shall have notices issued about it, fixing the time. Now we will take up the Demands.

DEMAND NO. 7.—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS MET FROM REVENUE

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue'."

DEMAND NO. 21.—MINISTRY OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951 in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 42.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,29,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

DEMAND NO. 43.—MINES

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,04,000 be granted to the President, to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Mines'."

DEMAND NO. 69—OTHER CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,28,37,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Other Civil Works'."

DEMAND NO. 72.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,73,83,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND NO. 103.—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,75,70,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND NO. 104.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,97,01,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

DEMAND NO. 109.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,90,18,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1951, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Development'."

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri B. Das (Orissa) : Sir, in the second year of our Independence, the House has agreed to.....

Shri Shiva Rao (Madras) : May I point out, Sir, that the Minister in charge of the subject wanted to make a statement and therefore he should have precedence over other Members ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Evidently, Shri B. Das thought that the hon. Minister did not want to intervene at this stage. However, if the hon. Minister wants to start the debate, he may do so.

Shri Gadgil : I find from the Order Paper that there are nine lists and 1173 cut motions, out of which I am honoured with 78. Forty Members have given notices of these motions. I do not know exactly what particular cut motion is to be given preference by the hon. Members. If I know it I am prepared to lay before the House the views of the Government.

Prof. Ranga (Madras) : That question will become relevant after the cut motions have been moved. In the beginning the Minister is expected to give a short account of the manner in which he has been carrying on the administration

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : One of two courses is open. With respect to the previous Demand, the Defence Minister did not open the debate with any speech. He wanted 45 minutes at the end to cover all the points raised in the course of the debate. Now, if the House wants to avoid two speeches by the Minister, hon. Members may straightaway start the discussion. It is for the hon. Members of the House to decide what points are to be brought to his notice. That is one way. In view of the fact that there are numerous cut motions tabled, perhaps the hon. Minister would like to have a chance to reply at the end. If hon. Members insist upon the hon. Minister coming forward now, he has to take it for granted that at the cut motions are moved and touch the important ones in the first instance. My own personal view is that the hon. Minister may save one speech and leave the time available for the second speech to hon. Members to debate on the motions. I would like to know the intentions of the hon. Minister.

Shri Gadgil : I do not want to deprive hon. Members of any part of the time available to them. What I want to say I will say at the end.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Hon. Members have already got the report circulated regarding the W. M. P. Ministry. That may be taken as the preliminary speech of the hon. Minister and he will make his concluding speech.

Shri Shiva Rao : There are only a few minutes more and might we adjourn and meet at 2-25 P.M. after lunch ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Some hon. Members might have accepted luncheon engagements on the expectation that the House will reassemble after lunch at 2-30 P.M. I would like therefore the House to go on with the debate now.

Shri B. Das : Last year the Ministers were asked to produce reports of their achievements during the previous year. This is the second report which the hon. Mr. Gadgil has had the privilege to produce during the first budget of our Republican era. Last year my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil delivered a speech on the floor of the House introducing the report and no other Minister, I think, did that and this year the practice of Ministers has been the same.

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Matthai) *indicated dissent.*

Shri B. Das : As the Finance Minister you have to make a review.

Last year in his concluding remarks the hon. Mr. Gadgil said :

“Brick by brick and dam by dam these projects are being completed and I should say that brick by brick we are building up the Temple of Prosperity.”

[Shri B. Das]

It is my privilege to examine whether that Temple of Prosperity is being built properly by my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil and his colleagues in the Cabinet.

All of us know that last year we passed through moments of depression and a^s result of retrenchment in expenditure the hon. Minister's development projects received a big axing. I do not say that it was improper to axe development programmes but the exigencies of the circumstances compelled the Government of India to request the Minister to reduce certain development programme activities.

Before I go into details I wish again to refer to the report of the Economy Committee which the Government of India has simply shelved by accepting an overall reduction of ten per cent. in expenditure. That was not what I expected when I was toiling and sweating in the Committee. I thought that we would be able to bring forward a recommendation to reconstruct the Cabinet and the Government of India so that they will cater to a Republican India and not continue the old steel-frame policy of the former Government of India. I said the other day and I again say that I recommended that there should be nine Cabinet Ministers and one of them should be the Minister of Production and Power. I think in a proper setup there should be one Minister and one Ministry styled as Minister and Ministry of Production and Power. He will control both power development and production through industrial development. I might mention one or two other portfolios as they come to my mind. The Minister of Production and Power should have state industries, multi-purpose projects, mines and C.P.W.D. He would have the assistance of a Minister of State. My whole idea was to coordinate the activities of all State industries and all development programmes so that there is oneness of purpose and procedure.

When I review the previous year's work neither the Government of India, the hon. Finance Minister nor my hon. friend (I do not know what his intentions are) have indicated that they want to concentrate the production activities of the Government of India through one Minister.

State industries today are controlled by the Defence Ministry, the Ministry of Industry and Supply and even by the Agriculture Ministry. If I am not incorrect prefabricated buildings are manufactured by the Health Ministry for sale at cheap prices to people. Perhaps the authority for building construction is my hon. friend the Minister of Works, Mines and Power. I belong to the party which is governing the country today. One often wonders why the manufacture of prefabricated houses should be transferred to the Health Minister and her Ministry unless it is to duplicate and multiply the staff, which has been the practice of the Government of India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The hon. Member can continue his speech after Lunch.

The House then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The House re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair].

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR DR. ZAKIR HUSAIN FROM THE HOUSE.

Mr. Speaker : Before the House proceeds with any other business I would like to inform hon. Members that Dr. Zakir Husain has written as follows :

" I am very sorry that owing to serious illness which has confined me to bed for the last two months I shall not be able to attend this session of the Indian Parliament for some time yet. As soon as I feel well enough to travel I shall come."

I got this on the 2nd February. So I waited till now. In view of the possibility of his not being able to turn up I am placing his letter before the House. May I know whether it is the pleasure of the House to grant him leave of absence under article 101 (4) of the Constitution in view of his illness ?

Hon. Members : Yes, yes.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 7—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS MET FROM REVENUE—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 21—MINISTRY OF WORKS MINES AND POWER—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 42—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 43—MINES—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 69—OTHER CIVIL WORKS—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 72—STATIONERY AND PRINTING—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 103—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 104—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 109—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT—*contd.*

Shri B. Das : Sir, before recess I was discussing the economy aspect of the Budget that is under consideration and in particular reference to the Minister of Works, Mines and Power I quoted from my own Minute of Dissent to the Economy Committee Report that he should be styled in future as the "Minister of Production and Power" as he is controlling all subjects of power development under him. I also desire that all State industries under the various Ministries such as Commerce, Communications, Defence, Industry and Supply and other Ministries, should be placed under one Minister, so that there could be co-operation and collaboration in technical spheres, in financial spheres and in the pooling of experiences gathered from individual industries. At present it is not done at all under the Economic Committee of the Cabinet. I will come to that point later, if I refer to the Planning Commission today or later when I discuss the Finance Ministry Budget.

My hon. friend is interested in the multipurpose projects. He has at present three multi-purpose projects, namely, the Damodar Valley Corporation, the Hirakud project and the Bhakra-Nangal project which the Central Government is financing and controlling partially. In certain cases there is financial control, in other cases there is none. I was surprised to find that there is no co-ordination in the pooling of experiences and technical knowledge between these three multi-purpose projects. I visited the Bhakra and Nangal dam, and though I became sick there, through exertions it was a very good experience. The engineers there were working wholeheartedly in a spirit of how to bring into fruition that huge project which will require something like Rs. 106 crores or more. As a Member of the Standing Committee of my hon. friend's Ministry I and my other friends have had opportunities to know how the work in connection with the Hirakud project and the Damodar Valley project is progressing. We did not find—at least I did not come to that conclusion—that they have shown similar zeal as is being exhibited in the Bhakra and Nangal works—I am referring to the construction works. Those of us who visited Bhakra and Nangal found that they have purchased scraps from the Disposals. I understood that they purchased some thirty or forty lakhs rupees worth of works materials. They are utilising the bull dozers, the tankers converted into tip wagons, the hangers into workshop sheds. When we asked questions of the Minister of Industry and Supply as to what articles were being purchased by the other two projects, namely, Hirakud and Damodar, we were surprised to find that very little has been purchased by them. One is surprised to find that the Damodar Valley Corporation is purchasing everything from abroad. In their new joy of being a "republic" within the Republic of India they do not think that they should utilise the resources of India. At this stage I must refer to one matter, The other day while talking on the Railway Budget I pointed out that I have definitely come to the conclusion that there should be no statutory authority under the Republic of India. The Railway Board should be under the Minister of Railways and should not be a statutory authority as was defined in the old Government of India Act. This Damodar Valley Corporation,

[Shri B. Das]

about which we very often hear, is a "republic" within the Republic of India, autonomous. What was that autonomy and who conceived that autonomy? The old steel-frame mentality that carried on the old Government, transferred that idea into my Government. In Republican India I am not going to tolerate any other "republic", any other autonomy, save the Government of India.

Therefore, referring to this aspect of another industrial concern which my hon. friend controls, namely, the Delhi Electricity Authority, this Authority borrows Rs. three crores from my Government, the unfortunate Finance Minister will have to pay any loans that the Authority asks, yet my Auditor-General cannot audit its accounts, yet my Government cannot advise them how to utilise the profits of that concern. Last year my hon. friend said that the Memorandum and Articles of Association of that Authority would be done away with and that it would be completely managed by the State under a Central Electricity Authority. But I do not think any steps are being taken in that direction. The sooner we end these pocket bureaux and pocket autonomous concerns, which are like cancers in our body politic, the better it will be for the financial solidarity of India.

I would like to draw the attention of my hon. friend to two or three lines from the Savage Committee's Report. My hon. friend appointed Dr. Savage and two other engineers to go into the question of the successful working of the Hirakud project. Those three lines which I shall quote for the benefit of the House will show that it is applicable to every industrial concern. This is what the Committee said, the Committee presided over by Dr. J. L. Savage, the well-known American Consulting Engineer, on the multi-purpose projects in India :

"It is therefore necessary to start work on various branches which would go to make a complete show *simultaneously* : or, with such time difference that the completion of such works would synchronise with each other and thus protect the investment from lying idle because of non-completion of any of the links involved. This also goes a long way in winning the goodwill of the public by satisfying their psychological reaction."

I would like my hon. friend to tell the House categorically, in respect of these two projects which he controls, namely, Hirakud and Damodar, whether this objective has been kept in view by the Damodar Valley Corporation directors or by the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission in governing the actions in regard to the Hirakud Project.

What I find is that the poor man is forgotten. I have no time to go into details. The Damodar Valley Corporation gave an order for big thermal units worth Rs. six crores, because they thought that they will help the industrialists and capitalists in developing industries. But from the reports that I have seen of the Damodar Valley Corporation I find that the poor man has been forgotten. The development side of the displaced persons has been neglected. So, I want to know what is the control which my hon. friend is exercising and how he is going to coordinate the activities of all these concerns.

I am throwing out a suggestion to my hon. friend. The engineers of these projects—I mean the Construction engineers—should visit one another. They should know the progress and the difficulties in the two others. If the Damodar Valley Project and Hirakud engineers visit the Bhakra-Nangal Project, they will not come forward and ask the hon. the Finance Minister to supply dollar exchange, so that they can buy new bull-dozers and Tip wagons etc. from America. Therefore, the engineers should try to interchange experience and acquire each other's knowledge of manufacturing in India equipments and plants which I was pleasantly surprised to find are so excellently being done in the Bhakra Dam.

I mentioned last time in my speech and my note of dissent from the general recommendations of the Economy Committee that the Central P. W. D.'s activities should be minimised and the Provincial P. W. Da. should share part of the responsibilities of the Central Government in carrying out construction work. Thereby, the huge expenditure in staff in my hon. friend's Department will be reduced.

I also want to say one word about housing. This question was raised on the floor of the House by means of a question and I addressed a letter to my hon. friend. The Ministry of Works, Mines and Power have taken stock of the State owned houses and lying vacant in different States. Yet, we find that Delhi is overcrowded. Although I was told that orders are being passed for removal of various Departments, nobody likes to leave Delhi. Delhi is so nice, and the extra allowance for stay in Delhi is much more so. My hon. friend the Minister of Works, Mines and Power—and also my hon. friend the Minister of Finance—should see that these Departments that are to get out of Delhi get out at once. They need not overcrowd the Union Government's capital. They should be sent away to Jodhpur, Bhopal or Hyderabad or even to Nagpur and Nasik.

I am sorry to take up further time of the House, but I would like to refer to just one more point. We are not getting capital for our multi-purpose projects. Why should we build houses, adding to the burden of the country, raising our unproductive debt of Rs.900 (nine hundred) by further few crores? The present unproductive debt of the Nation includes large sums over building of houses for our staff. For God's sake, remove half the Government of India from Delhi and you will find that the housing problem will be solved. You will find no more need for construction of houses in Delhi by yourselves. By employing so many engineers you are killing private enterprise. If these people are posted elsewhere, private citizens will build houses for your employees, which you are doing at present—thereby adding to the inflation and to the unproductive public expenditure we are suffering from.

Shri Shiva Rao : Sir, I thank you and the hon. Minister in charge of this subject for giving us this opportunity of discussing a very important matter, namely, the progress of the Damodar Valley Project. Speaking frankly, I should have preferred a separate occasion for a fuller debate on this subject, but the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs assured me yesterday that the state of Government business this session was so congested that it would not be possible to find any other time. Therefore, I am seeking this opportunity for raising some very important matters relating to the Damodar Valley Project.

My hon. friend who has just finished speaking made a passing reference to one aspect of that scheme, namely, control of policy. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Works, Mines and Power whether he has forgotten the promise he made to this House two years ago; when the Bill was under discussion, he was very clear and specific in regard to one matter, namely, that in all matters of policy, it would be the voice of the Central Government that would prevail. I would like to ask him, when he replies to the debate, to tell the House frankly in what respects he has controlled the policy of the Damodar Valley Corporation; on how many matters any reference was made to him by the Corporation; what was the nature of the advice he gave and how far it was respected by the Corporation.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras) : It is a very tall order!

Shri Shiva Rao : Before proceeding, however, I would like to assure him—and I am sure that in this assurance the House would be entirely with me—that we are all anxious that this scheme should reach completion as soon as possible and that it should fulfil to the maximum extent the high hopes to which the hon. Minister gave expression two years ago. But equally, the House is anxious to see that, in the carrying out of this scheme, two essential features are respected: (i) the utmost economy is exercised at all stages of construction, and (ii) the House must be satisfied that Indian talent and experience have been utilised to the maximum extent possible.

I remember to have read somewhere that some of the foreign experts who recently visited this country, after going round and seeing for themselves the various irrigation projects—both those which have been completed and others which are in the process of construction—thought that some of them were very impressive. For instance, on seeing the Mettur Project they expressed surprise that Indian engineers,

[Shri Shiva Rao]

without any foreign qualifications, should have been in a position to build a dam of that magnitude and of that quality. In the South, we have had the Mettur Project and the Papanasam Project—both built, I believe, by Indian Engineers. Our Engineers in the South—they may not be impressive to look at; some of them do not shave every day (they are more sensible than us); some of them may go about bare-footed—but in the matter of dam construction, I do assure you, they are second to none in the world. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he or the Corporation has made any efforts to secure indigenous talent and experience before going abroad. I raise this point because I am told that at the present time the Chairman of the Damodar Valley Corporation is in the U. S. A., looking about for a Chief Engineer to take charge of that Project. I do not know whether the fantastic reports that are current in Delhi are correct as to the terms which are proposed to be offered to an American Chief Engineer. But it seems to me that at the present moment there seems to be a two-way traffic in elephants. We send baby elephants across to Washington and we propose to import full-grown white elephants from that country.

Speaking about a Chief Engineer, I came across a very remarkable statement in the Annual Report of the Damodar Valley Corporation :

“For almost a year the Corporation has made every possible effort to recruit a qualified Chief Engineer who would co-ordinate the engineering activities of the various departments and advise the Corporation on all technical matters, but there has been unexpected delay in making this appointment for reasons largely beyond the Corporation's control.”

And the report goes on to say :

“The need for a competent Chief Engineer is obvious in view of the magnitude and complexities involved in the scheme. It is not the question of one or two dams, or an irrigation barrage, or a power station, each taken in isolation. The Corporation felt that it must not take any chance on a vital issue like this and must take every possible step to ensure, through the appointment of a highcalibre Chief Engineer, both quality and economy in the execution of a complex project costing tens of crores of rupees.”

I hope, the Minister when he replies will explain precisely what were the reasons “largely beyond the Corporation's control” which prevented a Chief Engineer from being appointed.

While on this point, I would like to throw out a suggestion derived, if I may say so, with apologies to the hon. the Finance Minister, from my U. N. experience, and I place it at the disposal of one member of the Cabinet undeterred by the cold reception it had from another. It seems to me that the possibilities of utilising foreign talent must be explored through Point Four of President Truman's programme. That is a suggestion which I would like the Minister to consider seriously before he takes any final decision about the appointment of a foreign Chief Engineer.

Now, I would like to remind him of the original purpose of this Scheme. The original purpose was flood control. Only later other purposes were added on—irrigation, hydro-electric power, afforestation and land reclamation—but flood control was the primary purpose and still remains, I believe, the primary purpose of this Scheme. I would like to know how far the authorities of the Corporation have carried it out in practice, because I find from the Annual Report that they have been busy with two dams out of the eight which are visualised under the scheme and a thermal power station at Bokaro. Nothing has been said so far about flood control and I fear that flood control may gradually recede into the background.

In regard to the construction of these two dams, which, I believe, are two of the smallest amongst the eight visualised under the Scheme, the expenditure seems to have been extravagant. I raised a question the other day on the floor of the House at Question Time as to how overhead charges in regard to this Corporation compared, say, with Hirakud or the Bhakra Dam. My hon. friend said that the overhead charges in regard to the Damodar Valley Project had not precisely doubled, but were certainly considerably higher. I am willing to concede that in the earlier stages of

the construction of an enormous project of this kind overhead charges may tend to be higher than in the case of a scheme which has been completed, or has advanced further. Nevertheless, one cannot but feel a certain amount of fear that there has been extravagance in the early stages, at any rate, of the building of the Damodar Valley Scheme. When I look at the personnel engaged by the Corporation I find that there is nothing to justify the appointment of nine Superintending Engineers and I believe 20 Executive Engineers who have not been responsible for more than a partial construction of two small dams, smaller I think than either Mettur or Papanasam, and the thermal station at Bokaro.

That brings me to the financial side of the scheme. The original estimate was, I believe, in the neighbourhood of Rs. 55 crores. It is now stated that costs have gone up, partly through devaluation and the estimate now stands, I think, some where near Rs. 65 crores. But I have heard some disturbing reports about the possibility of the estimates being enhanced still further, and that by the time the Scheme is completed, the total cost may be Rs. 75 or 80 crores. It seems to me that a scheme which was considered remunerative on Rs. 55 crores may not prove remunerative on Rs. 75 or 80 crores. I would like to know from my hon. friend what would happen if the other two partners with the Central Government in the construction of this scheme, the Bihar and Bengal Governments, find the strain on their financial resources too great in the later stages of its construction? What would be the responsibility of the Centre if such a thing were to materialise?

I would like to say a word about the status of the Damodar Valley Corporation and its precise relationship with the Centre. The Corporation consists of three members, an I. C. S. officer of considerable experience in administration, but I believe with very little intimate knowledge of irrigation projects, a Secretary who was a Cultural Attache in the Indian Embassy in Moscow, and a Financial Adviser. Besides these three, there are nominees, one each from the Governments of Bengal and Bihar. The nominee of the Bengal Government was a chemist who did, I believe, good work on the protective side of foods in the Ministry of Food in Delhi. Bihar's nominee was a practising lawyer. I mention this because it seems to me that the Corporation as it is constituted at present does lack expert knowledge of the grave problems which it has to tackle in the course of the construction of this project. Therefore, I would like the Minister to tell us how he proposes to strengthen the technical side of the Corporation. There is, I know, an advisory committee, but even its appointment was delayed by several months and it did not materialise until after a reminder from the Bihar legislature. I would like the Minister to tell us why there was this delay and what are the precise functions of the advisory committee; how often does it meet; what sort of problems are referred to the committee and to what extent does the Corporation feel bound by the advice of this advisory committee.

The Corporation has raised one or two important points in its annual report. It has asked a question, quite frankly, whether it is to be regarded as a Department of Government or whether it is to exercise any autonomy in practice. In this House we have said a great deal about the delays which occur through excessive regard for red tape and the House would readily agree to allow the Corporation to exercise the maximum amount of autonomy. But equally frankly I would say that judging by the annual report that has been placed before us the Corporation has not shown that it deserves that autonomy without some measure of control from the Centre.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the House to some very disturbing remarks made by the Accountant-General of Bengal on the Auditor's Report. It is not my intention to read any of the remarks made by the Accountant-General but it does seem to me that the financial control exercised over the activities of the Corporation does not appear to be adequate and I would like to suggest to the hon. the Finance Minister whether it would not be possible to appoint a Sub-Committee of the Standing Finance Committee to examine the report in full, to see in what respects financial control can be strengthened.

[Shri Shiva Rao]

I have raised these points and I had given the Minister preliminary warning as to the kind of points I would raise on this Debate ; I hope that when he answers, he will allay to the utmost extent possible the anxieties and apprehensions which are felt not only in this House but outside also.

Shri Buragohain (Assam): One of the important matters with which this Ministry is connected is the development of mineral, water and electricity resources of this country. It is with regard to this aspect of the work that I will confine my observations this afternoon.

Two of the speakers that preceded me have commented on the policy of Government. I for one, fail to see in that policy anything very good. It seems to be a policy of pick and choose out of a host of projects without having any regard to the over-all picture of the national development of the country.

Regarding the mineral resources, it is common knowledge that in certain parts of our country we have not only mineral resources which are known but there are potential mineral resources which remain to be tapped. It is for this reason that our country has earned a good place among the nations of the World, and not merely for the spiritual and other reasons. It is perhaps the economic potential of this country that has earned this place for us. Our country, like the rest of the Asian countries barring Japan, is still an agricultural country by virtue of the fact that 80 per cent or even more of its working population still follow agricultural pursuits. Even then it is a pity that we are not self-sufficient in food. It may be laid down almost as a rule that an agricultural country is always self-supporting in food but we have been told that we are going to be self-sufficient. What I was trying to make out is that if we correctly appraise the potential resources of this country, we can convert our country into an industrial one. If we are to raise the standard of life of the people of this country for which expectations have been aroused in the minds of the common man here, then we have to tap our resources. It has been said that even the fundamental work of investigation has to be slowed down for financial stringency. I can not see how a thing like investigation would cost heavily on the exchequer. Money for this should not have been difficult to find.

Coming to concrete cases within my knowledge, a year ago investigations were undertaken for working of gold mines in Assam but nothing has since been heard or known as to what has happened to those investigations. With regard to coal a major coal-field is there in Garo Hills and plans, I believe, were ready for working it and according to an official whom I met last year the work was to begin almost immediately. But I find the working of that mine has not even been mentioned in this brochure supplied by the Ministry.

There are river valley projects. Some of them have been taken up and two hon. Members have already spoken about those projects but I find that the Government also investigated a major project in Assam. I refer to the Assam Valley Project and it was supposed to cost about Rs. 100 crores. But it seems that is also shelved as it is not in the list of projects listed in the brochure.

These make me think as if this Government is not going to develop that part of our country lest it might increase its enemies because that is the only part of India which has international frontiers almost on all sides except for a little bottleneck in the west which connects it with the rest of India. If however it is in the mind of Government that that State has to work out these resources, then it is well known to all that Assam, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are some of the most backward provinces in India. So it is impossible to expect that Government to carry through any project of this kind. I would therefore like this Government to pursue the investigations into these mineral resources and river valley projects and I do not think, if we can make out the economic aspects of the cases, there should be any great difficulty in obtaining the money for that. Private loans can be raised or even

the World Bank can be approached for a loan. So I would like the investigation to be completed after which alone we can frame our proposals for national planning. Planning without these investigations is not likely to lead this country anywhere.

These are some of the failings or shortcomings of Government which I wanted to comment upon.

श्री एस. एन. दास : आज जिस प्रश्न पर बहस हो रही है वह प्रश्न इतना महत्वपूर्ण है कि उसके ऊपर हिन्दुस्तान की करोड़ों जनता का भविष्य निर्भर करता है। यह बात किसी से छिपी नहीं है कि हिन्दुस्तान की प्राकृतिक सम्पत्ति यहां की पृथ्वी के गर्भ में तथा उसकी जल शक्तियों में अपार है। लेकिन यहां की नदियां बाढ़ के रूप में जनता और सरकार के सामने समय समय पर हर साल बड़ी कठिनाई उत्पन्न कर दिया करती हैं। अभी सरकार के इस विभाग के सामने सब से बड़ा सवाल है कि हिन्दुस्तान की जलशक्ति को विद्युत में परिणत कर उसके द्वारा यहां की सिंचाई और औद्योगिक विकास का प्रबन्ध कैसे किया जाय। लेकिन जिस तरह से इस विभाग का काम चल रहा है, उस से मेरा ख्याल है कि हिन्दुस्तान की जनता की आशा जल्द पूरी होने वाली नहीं है। यह बात सही है कि हिन्दुस्तान के विभाजन के बाद बहुत सी कठिनाईयां सरकार के सामने उपस्थित हुई हैं। और यह बात भी सही है कि आज हिन्दुस्तान या हिन्दुस्तान के बाहर जो लड़ाई का बुखार चढ़ सा रहा है, उसमें सरकार के लिये बड़ी बड़ी योजनाओं को हाथ में लेना उतना आसान भी नहीं है। फिर भी मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार के ऊपर जो जिम्मेदारी है और वह जिम्मेदारी यह नहीं है कि देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा कैसे की जाये, वरन् देश के करोड़ों लोग जो भूखे और नंगे हैं, बेकार पड़े हैं और बीमार हैं, उनकी अवस्था की तरफ भी ध्यान दिया जाये। मेरा ख्याल है कि जितनी नदियों की योजनाएं हमारे सामने हैं, उनमें से अगर थोड़ी सी योजनाओं को भी कार्यान्वित किया गया होता, तो आज देश की जनता के बहुत से कष्ट दूर हो गये होते लेकिन नहीं मालूम कि रुपये की कठिनाई की वजह से या कार्यसंचालन में तत्परता एवं कार्यकुशलता न होने के कारण इस विभाग का काम जितनी तेजी से चलना चाहिये था, उतना तेज नहीं चलता है। इसके पहले कई माननीय सदस्यों ने इस विभाग की समालोचना की है। मैं इस सभा का समय अधिक नहीं लेना चाहता हूं। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस सभा का ध्यान उत्तर विहार की उस

[श्री एस० एन० दास]

समस्या की ओर ले जाऊं जिस समस्या पर लाखों जनता का भविष्य निर्भर करता है। उस समस्या की ओर सरकार का जितना ध्यान जाना चाहिये था, अभी तक उतना ध्यान उस का इस दिशा में नहीं गया है। इस सभा के सदस्यों के सामने भी उसका महत्त्व पूरे तौर पर नहीं आया है वह महत्त्वपूर्ण सवाल कोसी नदी की योजना है। बहुत से लोग ऐसा समझ सकते हैं कि कोसी सिर्फ बिहार प्रान्त की समस्या है और कुछ थोड़े से लोगों का सवाल है अगर यह सवाल कुछ थोड़े से लोगों का होता। अगर कोसी से पैदा होने वाली कठिनाई कभी कभी दो चार साल के बीच आने वाली कठिनाई होती। कभी कभी इसके कारण सिर्फ कुछ फसल बर्बाद होती रहती तो फिर इस समय इस सभा का समय में कदापि नहीं लेता। लेकिन कोसी का सवाल न सिर्फ बाढ़ का सवाल है कोसी का सवाल न सिर्फ उपज बढ़ाने का सवाल है कोसी का सवाल सिर्फ विद्युत शक्ति का उपयोग कर औद्योगिक विकास ही नहीं है, कोसी का सवाल इससे भी बहुत बड़ा है। ये सारी बातें तो उसमें हैं ही। परन्तु सब से बढ़कर बाढ़ आने के कारण लाखों आदमी हर साल मलेरिया, डिसेन्टरी (dysentery) और दूसरी बीमारियों के शिकार हो जाते हैं और मेरा ख्याल है कि हर साल हजारों आदमी मलेरिया के कारण असमय में ही काल कवलित हो जाते हैं। वहां की जनता की दयनीय दशा का वर्णन करना कठिन है। जिन लोगों को वहां जाने का मौका मिला है या जो वहां जाने का कष्ट करेंगे उनको मालूम होगा कि इस नदी की बाढ़ के कारण उत्तरी बिहार का बहुत बड़ा भाग, कई जिले, लगभग २०, २५ लाख की जनसंख्या तहसनहस हो रही है, बर्बाद हो रही है। और हर साल वहां लाखों आदमियों के लिये मई से शुरू कर अक्टूबर तक आने जाने के रास्ते बन्द रहते हैं उस समय आवागमन का एक मात्र साधन नाव रहती है। यहां का सवाल न केवल लाखों के माल की रक्षा का है वरन् लाखों के जीवन मरण का सवाल है। इसलिये, गवर्नमेंट का कोसी की योजना में विलम्ब करना या आर्थिक कठिनाई के कारण उसमें देरी करना, मेरी राय में वहां की जनता के प्रति घोर अन्याय करना है। इसलिये मैं आज इस सभा के सामने सरकार का और खास कर अपने माननीय मंत्री का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ कि वे एक बार चलकर वहां की जनता की दयनीय दशा का निरीक्षण करें और उनकी तकलीफों को देखें। ऐसा करने से उन्हें वस्तुस्थिति का पता चलेगा और प्रान्तों की

नदी नियंत्रण का सवाल, वीमारी और भूतपरी का सवाल नहीं है। परन्तु कोसी की बाढ़ का सवाल उस क्षेत्र के लाखों आदमियों के जीने मरने का सवाल है। इस नदी की भयंकरता का अन्दाज आप इस बात से लगा सकते हैं कि कभी कभी बाढ़ के समय में २४ घंटे के अन्दर इस नदी का पानी ३० फीट की ऊंचाई तक बढ़ जाता है। २०० साल के अन्दर अन्दाज किया गया है कि यह नदी ७० मील में उलटती पलटती रही है और जिधर जाती है उधर हर तरह की बरबादी उपस्थित करती है। इस नदी के कारण २०००-३००० वर्ग मील भूमि बाढ़ से बर्बाद रहती है। अगर यह सिर्फ एक फसल की या साल में दो चार महीने की समस्या होती, तो यह बात सहन की जासकती थी। मैंने जैसा आपको बतलाया है साल में लगातार नौ महीने वहां आने जाने की सविधा बन्द हो जाती है और जनता का वहां से बाहर आना जाना मुश्किल हो जाता है। सैकड़ों गांव जलमग्न रहते हैं, बहुत से लोग बाल बच्चे लेकर दूसरी जगह चले जाते हैं, और जो लोग रह जाते हैं उन में से आधे से अधिक असमय में ही काल कवलित हो जाते हैं। वहां की समस्या का अन्दाज लगाना कठिन है। कोई भी आदमी भूमि पर नहीं सो सकता। लकड़ी और बांसों का मचान बना कर उस पर उन्हें रहना पड़ता है। प्रकृति की पुकार का जवाब देने के लिये उस क्षेत्र में कोई सूखी जगह नहीं मिलती। वे नाव पर जा कर खड़े हो जाते हैं और प्रकृति की पुकार का जवाब देते हैं। अगर सिर्फ मलेरिया (malaria) का सवाल होता तब भी कोई बात नहीं थी परन्तु वहां की बाढ़ न केवल मलेरिया लाती है, वरन् अपने साथ भूखमरी और बेकारी भी लाती है। वहां की जलवायु में मवेशी भी बहुत कम जिन्दा रह सकते हैं। कोसी के बाढ़ क्षेत्र में एक पेड़ भी खड़ा नहीं रह सकता है। सारे पेड़ सूख जाते हैं और वहां किसी तरह की फसल नहीं हो सकती है। मालूम होता है कि उस के पानी में किसी प्रकार का विष मिला हुआ होता है। जहां जहां उसका पानी जाता है, वहां सत्यानाश का दृश्य उपस्थित कर डालता है। नदी की धारा अपने साथ बहुत बड़े परिणाम में बालू बहा कर ले जाती है। उस बालू से उर्वरा भूमि भी ऊसर हो जाती है। यह बालू गंगा नदी में जिस में यह आगे चल कर मिल जाती है इस तरह इकट्ठी हो जाती है कि उस जगह जहाज और नाव का चलाना मुश्किल हो जाता है। वह बालू गंगा नदी में पहुंचते पहुंचते हजारों बीघे जमीन को बरबाद कर देती है। इसलिये में माननीय सदस्यों

[श्री एस० एन० दास]

से कहना चाहता हूँ कि सिर्फ बिहार का सवाल नहीं है, यह सिर्फ सिंचाई और खेती का सवाल नहीं है, वरन् यह मानवता का सवाल है, वहाँ के लाखों जनता के प्राणों का सवाल है। अगर सरकार हर साल लोगों को हजारों की संख्या में मरते देखना पसन्द करती है, तो वह इस का दूसरी योजनाओं के साथ मुकाबला करे। कोसी की भयंकरता शब्दों के द्वारा मैं प्रकट नहीं कर सकता। अगर इस सभा के किन्हीं लोगों को अवकाश हो और वह मेरे साथ वहाँ चलें जहाँ सरकार की ओर से अनुसंधान हो रहा है और जहाँ डाम (Dam) बनाने के लिये कुछ प्रारम्भिक काम हो रहे हैं तो वहाँ की परिस्थिति का अन्दाज उन्हें लग सकता है। मई जून के बाद वहाँ हजारों वर्गमील में बहता हुआ समुद्र दिखाई पड़ेगा। नदी का पाट बीस बीस मील तक चला जाता है। एक घर से दूसरे घर में पहुँचने के लिये नावों का इस्तेमाल करना पड़ता है। ऐसी अवस्था में अगर सरकार कोसी की योजना को धरये की कमी के कारण, या अर्थ संकट बनला कर टालती जायगी तो बहुत थोड़े दिनों में वहाँ की जनता मटियामेट हो जायगी और वहाँ का आर्थिक, सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक जीवन सब नष्ट हो जायगा। कोसी की योजना लाखों के जीवन से सम्बन्ध रखती है। इस में देरी होने से लाखों बरबाद हो चुके हैं और लाखों बरबाद होंगे। मैं एक दृष्टिकोण आप के सामने और रखना चाहता हूँ। उत्तर बिहार खेती का क्षेत्र है, खेती तो कोसी की बाढ़ से बरबाद होती ही है, लेकिन वहाँ कोई भी दूसरा पेशा, कोई दूसरा उद्योग धंधा नहीं है, जिस धन्धे को ले कर वहाँ की जनता अपना जीवन निर्वाह कर सके। इसलिये जरूरत है कि वहाँ बांध बना कर विद्युत् उत्पादन की जाय और उसके द्वारा छोटे छोटे गृह उद्योग और कारखाने चलाये जायें। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपने माननीय मंत्री से अनुरोध करूँगा कि वह नदी नियंत्रण की योजनाओं में कोसी की योजना को सर्वप्रथम स्थान दें। ऐसा प्रबन्ध करें जिस से यह काम कम से कम समय में पूरा हो जाय और आज जहाँ गरीबी, बेकारी और बीमारी का साम्राज्य है वहाँ की जनता समृद्ध हो और सुन्दर सुखद जीवन व्यतीत करे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri S. N. Das (Bihar): The issue that is being debated today, is of such vital importance that the future well-being of the teeming millions of India is linked with it very closely. It is a very well-known fact that India's natural resources are limitless abundant particularly in respect of the mineral wealth and water power. But the rivers and streams here, when flooded, set a difficult problem every year both

for the Government and the people of this country. Just now the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power is faced with the most difficult problem as how to generate electric energy from water and utilise the same in the agricultural and industrial development of the country. The way, however, we are proceeding in these matters leads me to think that the hopes entertained by our masses are not going to be materialized in a reasonably short period. It is true that the Government are confronted with many a difficult issue as a result of the Partition. It is equally true that the feverish war-like atmosphere prevailing these days in and around India, has left it no more an easy task for the Government to undertake any large-scale enterprises or schemes. In spite of the situation being as it is, I feel the responsibility resting on a Government does not end merely with the territorial Defence of the country under its rule. It is also the bounden duty of the Government to improve the living conditions of the teeming naked and starving, unemployed and pestilent millions of the country. I am of the view that if only some of the river-projects had been completed by now, many a hardship experienced by our masses at present would have been removed. Whether it is a lack of funds or inefficiency and inexperience on the part of those handling these works which is responsible for this slow progress, one cannot say. Many hon. Members have criticized the working of this Ministry before me. I, therefore, do not want to take much time of the House. I only want to draw attention of the House to an issue concerning northern Bihar which is of vital interest to the future of teeming millions of this country. The Government of the country has not paid sufficient attention to issue of such an importance, nor the House seems to have realised its full importance so far. I mean to refer, thereby, the Kosi River-Project. Many of us may consider this to be a mere local issue concerning primarily Bihar and affecting a limited number of people only. Had it been a question affecting only a few and had the difficulties created as a result of floods in Kosi been a short-lived affair and had the damage done to the crops by it been an insignificant one, I would not have taken any time, at all, of this House. The completion of Kosi Project is not merely a question of controlling of floods nor it is a question of having more prosperous crops. It is neither a question of utilization of electric energy towards the industrial development of the country. The problem of Kosi Project is much more important than any of these. Whereas all these factors are, no doubt, influenced by it, more important than any of these is the fact that because of its floods, lacs of people fall a victim to malaria, dysentery and many a disease of other types and, as far as I know, thousands of these people pass away untimely because of malaria alone. The pitiable conditions of the people there are indescribable. Those who had the opportunity to visit that part of the country or those who are willing to take the trouble to go there, will confirm the fact that many districts populating as many as 20 to 25 lacs of people are being wiped out because of these floods. Lacs of people find all highways blocked to them during the period from May to October and the only means of transport available to them is the boat. This is, then, not merely a question of the protection of property of such a vast number of people but essentially a question of life and death itself for them. I take it as a grave injustice towards the people there that the Government should continue to delay the completion of this project either because of insufficiency of funds or any other reason. This being the situation, I want to draw attention of the Government and the hon. Minister before this House to these facts and I request the hon. Minister to visit the place and see for himself the pitiable conditions obtaining there. He will, thus, see the ways people are suffering there. The visit will enable him to know the real situation. He will then realize that it is not merely a question of controlling the floods or that of saving people from the clutches of starvation nor the problem is merely one of the provincial interests and that this question of Kosi Project is primarily a question of life and death for a vast multitude. The dreadful nature of the floods in that river can be visualized from the fact that, at times, water level rises to 30 feet within 24 hours. There are estimates to the effect that during the last 200 years, this river-bed in this case has been changing within an area of 70 miles and that a complete disaster has been following it everywhere. The land covering 2000 to 3000 square miles remains uncultivated and barren because of the floods there. It could have been bearable, had it been a question of damage to one crop or had the

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duration of floods been a short-lived one. As I have already stated that all means of transport are suspended for as many as nine months in the year and the people there remain handicapped in that respect. Hundreds of villages remain submerged and a considerable number of people shift to other places along with their families. More than half of those remaining behind fall a prey to an untimely death. It is difficult to make a correct estimate of the conditions prevailing in that area. No one there can sleep on the floor. They have to erect raised platforms or scaffolds of wood and bamboo and live up there. Even for answering the call of nature no piece of dry ground is available in that area. They squat on the edges of the boats and canoes and in this way answer the call of nature. Had there been the question of malaria alone then it would have been nothing. But the floods in that area do not only spread malaria but they also bring in their wake starvation and unemployment. In the climate of that place even the animals cannot live for long. In the flood area of Kosi not a single tree can remain standing upright. All the trees dry up and no crops can be raised anywhere. It appears as if the water of this river is contaminated with some sort of poison. Wherever these waters go scenes of devastation and desolation are to be seen. The current of the stream transports vast volumes of sand and silt. This sand and silt make even the fertile soil sterile and fallow. This sand settles in the bed of Ganges, wherein this river ultimately falls, in such a manner that it makes the river so shallow that it becomes well nigh impossible to ply boats and steamers there. Before reaching the Ganges this sand and silt lay desolation over thousand of *bighas* of land. Therefore I beg to submit to the hon. Members that it is not a question of Bihar alone, it is not a question of irrigation and agriculture only, but this is a question of humanity, it is a question of the lives and properties of the millions of people there. If the Government likes to see thousands of persons dying every year then it may put this project also on the footing of the other such projects. I cannot depict through words of mouth the dreadful devastating effect of river Kosi. If some of the hon. Members of this House may be able to spare some of their time and choose to go with me to that place, where land survey is being carried out by the Government and the preliminary stages of constructing the dam are being completed, then they can have an accurate idea of the conditions found in that area. After May and June vast expanses of water extending to over thousands of square miles would be seen there. At places the width of the river extends to more than 20 miles. Boats and canoes have got to be used for going from one house to another. Under these circumstances if the Government would go on postponing the Kosi Dam Project for want of funds or financial stringency then the result would be that in a very short time the entire population of that area would be utterly ruined and the economic, social and cultural life of that place will be totally destroyed. The Kosi Project bears upon the lives of millions of people of that area. The delay in the completion and execution of this project has in the past been the cause of the ruin of millions of people, and millions more would be ruined as a result of this delay. I wish to submit one more view point before you. The northern part of Bihar is mainly an agricultural area, the crops do get destroyed by the floods of this river Kosi, and no other indigenous occupations and industries are to be found there whereby the people of that place may be able to earn their living. Therefore it is essential to generate electricity by damming the river and thus develop and start small scale factories and cottage industries there. With these words I would insist upon the hon. Minister to give first priority to Kosi Dam Project in his river valley schemes. He should work in such a manner whereby this work may be completed within the shortest possible time and where today poverty, unemployment and various diseases are having their unrestricted sway there the people may become rich and prosperous and may be able to lead happy lives instead.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Bihar): There is only one thing about which I would like to elicit some kind of assurance from my hon. friend the Minister of Works, Mines and Power. It is on the present and future policy that he holds in regard to the Damodar Valley Project, the Bhakra and Nangal Projects and the Hirakud

Project. I was shocked when I heard my friend, Mr. B. Das insinuating against the formation of the Damodar Valley Corporation. I remember very clearly the words he said when the Damodar Valley Corporation Bill was before this House. How heartily he supported it.

Shri B. Das : I made a mistake.

Shri Jaipal Singh : The insinuation was all the worse because he seemed to indicate that this House had inherited something from the past. I do hope that is true only in regard to himself. I, for my part, am no longer trammelled by the previous regime's ideas. I have been free, as the rest of the House has been free, to express myself freely on the Damodar Valley Corporation Bill. Equally was I surprised at the apprehensions that my hon. friend, Mr. Shiva Rao expressed in regard to the directors of the Damodar Valley Corporation. The plea that he put forward was that they were non-technical men. If we were to pursue that argument, I am afraid we would have to ask my hon. friend the Minister to give way to some technical Minister. We would also have to ask the Secretaries of that particular Ministry better not to be I. C. S. men but that they should be technical people. I am perfectly clear in my mind that it requires non-technical people to look after technical personnel and again and again, not only in this country but everywhere else—that is the position. Look at the Tennessee Valley experiment. Was the head of it a technical man? I agree he may be a first-class man. All along our personnel have been learning all that has been possible, all that there is to learn from experiments like the Tennessee Valley Authority. He has himself admitted that these experts have gone round the Hirakud Project, the Damodar Valley Project and they have also been to the Bhakra and Nangal Projects and they have been completely satisfied with the progress made during the last couple of years. I would not express unnecessary fear because the personnel, the directors are non-technical men, because I am convinced that we should have non-technical men to look after technical men. Too many experts are a danger anywhere. It is high time that there were non-experts, men who were willing to learn quickly and develop a grasp of things to have a check-up on the technical personnel.

Having said that, I want to have an assurance from the Minister. When the Bill was going through this House, he gave a definite commitment that the Damodar Valley Scheme would be a model scheme and that it would be seen through at any cost. I do not know whether he used that expression, but I think that was the spirit of his utterance at the time. He said that Government were prepared to see that this model project would be seen through at any cost. Now, what is the position today? We are told all round there is financial stringency. We all appreciate that. At the same time he also said "We find that a multitude of other projects are being investigated". My contention is that Government should make up its mind that in the present circumstances it can do only a limited number of things and get on with these limited number of things instead of trying to spread itself out all over the country. There are 50 and odd projects the estimates of which are under investigation, according to the report. Investigations on 16 projects are already complete. These investigations raise false hopes in the people because when the reports are published, the impression is created: "Rajasthan is going to get this; Bombay is going to get that". It is something like a tantalizing sweet-meat, something which the people will not get, but Government keeps on window-dressing its show of promises.

An Hon. Member : What is Rajasthan going to get ?

Shri Jaipal Singh : Whatever it is, I will mention that there are 50 and odd investigations going on. I will be glad if Rajasthan gets something because something like one-fourth of the population of Rajasthan is Adibasi. Having said that, I would still maintain that these three projects must be seen through first because the long term consequences of any procrastination in their

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execution is very serious indeed. In the case of the Damodar Valley Project should there be any delay in the finalization or completion of this project, it will result in higher incidence on the industries that have to benefit from the energy that this particular project has to supply. This is a very serious thing for posterity. On the other hand, if this project is completed by a certain time, the electrical energy will be available at a cheaper rate. By the procrastinating delay of this project, the industrial concerns will for eternity be encumbered with a higher price and this is a very serious thing. We talk about industrialization, but we should bear in mind that we should enable industries to exist and we are not going to make much headway with our industries if there is going to be a permanent, unfavourable and unsatisfactory liability.

The Leader of the House has asked us to remember the psychological side of the displaced persons. I know, West Bengal—I hope I will be forgiven, if I say so—has been the forgotten front as far as relief and rehabilitation in their broad principles are concerned. What is the position today? Thousands and lakhs of people are coming into West Bengal from East Bengal. Up to June we need not worry about because I understand that up to June work is to go on according to schedule and without any retrenchment. The danger is after June and if after that he insists on curtailing the demands that the Corporation has made, it simply means that the Maithon and Panchet schemes have to be put into cold storage. Is that the kind of psychological atmosphere we want to create in a “problem” Province like West Bengal at the present moment, I ask my hon. friend? Is that the way we are going to give them a sense of self-respect? There is land available ready to be irrigated where the work can be started. We talk a lot about food production. There is good land and it only needs water, but we are told that there is not enough money.

Shri B. Das : I am very glad to know from you that these lands will be given to East Bengal refugees.

Shri Jaipal Singh : It is not for me to suggest how the refugees shall be rehabilitated here or there but the question is as my hon. friend stated waste lands are available in North Bihar and in West Bengal and our first duty is to see that we give a sense of self-respect to people who have been displaced.

I would repeat the promises that my hon. friend made a couple of years ago, it is up to him to see that they are implemented. Admittedly he will tell me: “Well there is no money” and to that I have to say “Still you have got to make up your mind as to the projects which are to get priority, and according to your own word, you have already committed yourself to the effect that Bhakra and Nangal Projects, the Damodar Valley Project and the Hirakud Project—these projects will get top-priority”. I have nothing more to add to that.

There is just one point raised by Mr. Shiva Rao and that is that in the executions so far done in the Damodar Valley, it seemed to him that the original idea of flood control and irrigation had been pushed into the background. But my reading according to the Budget demands that have been made is not that. Certainly the picture has been slightly distorted by the fact that there have been heavy purchases for the thermal plant at Bokaro. But there I must thank the hon. Minister that he did give his consent to the heavy purchases for the thermal power plants because all these purchases were made before the devaluation if we had not bought them then, we would have had to pay 40 per cent more for them. That is something that we ought to remember.

To end with, I would like to find out from my friend here whether the system of accountancy is the same in all the projects. My information is that a different type of accountancy is being followed in the case of the Bhakra and Nangal projects and another system in regard to the Damodar Valley Project. I think it would be very misleading if we have to compare the costs unless the same pattern of accountancy is followed in all these cases.

There is the question of overhead charges. Well, it is for the Finance Minister, who has been a very big businessman, to enlighten us, if he has the time and if he remembers this point when he gives his final reply, as to what will be the average overhead charges in the case of a big steel company or any such big concern. I know there has been a whispering campaign to the effect that the Damodar Valley Corporation has been extravagant, that it has been spending something like seven per cent as the amount of their overhead charges. I would like to know what is the corresponding figure, say, in the case of the Bhakra and Nangal projects and in the case of the Hirakud project, and then compare them with that of any commercial concern? Then alone will we be in a position to judge correctly and say whether at the initial stages or at the present stage the Damodar Valley Corporation has been extravagant.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : What is the Ministry's overhead charge ?

Shri Jaipal Singh : And also I think it will be very useful if the hon. Minister will enlighten us as to what is the overhead charge of the Ministry also.

Mr. Speaker : I think we shall take up the other demands at 4-30 P.M. I propose to call upon the hon. Minister at 4 P. M. He will take about half-an-hour, I think.

Shri Meeran (Madras) : I want to speak only on one problem, and that is the housing problem in the country. There is no disputing the fact that at present this problem is very acute all over the country, especially in big cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Simla, and even in smaller cities the position is none the less distressing.

[SHRI HOSSAIN IMAM *in the Chair*]

Even from the report of the Ministry itself we find that in Delhi alone as against 16,086 residential quarters available for occupation there are applicants to the extent of 74,628, that is to say, nearly five times the number of quarters available. There has been considerable increase in the number of people in recent years. This is borne out by the following facts. In 1939 as against the accommodation for 7,000 the number of applicants was only 11,000, that is to say, a little less than double. In 1948 it increased very much and as against an accommodation for 16,000 there were 70,000 applicants, and now the number has come up to as much as 74,628. This means that we are short of accommodation by four-fifths, in other words, only a fifth of the number get any accommodation. Is that a very healthy state of affairs? Of course, the hon. Minister can say that every possible step is being taken to build more houses. But the report of the Ministry itself shows clearly that they are unable to keep pace with the necessity, with the demand. They are not able to build as many houses as are necessary, and that too for various reasons. Of course, finance is there as one of the reasons. Then there is the question of availability of materials also. But what is to be the end of all this? We must find out some solution to this difficult and important problem. Four-fifths of the population are either without proper houses, or are living in very congested quarters, five or six living within the space meant for one. Some method must be found out to house these people in healthy places, otherwise we will be creating a great menace from the point of view of general health. Then it will be a far bigger problem than one of mere housing, or the providing of accommodation to this population. Of course there is the housing department organised by the Health Department and I am aware of the fact that steps are being taken to bring into existence prefabricated houses. But I am not sure if these things will solve the problem that exists to-day because we do not know when these prefabricated houses will be ready for occupation. It is expected that 107 houses will be made in a week by this factory; but there are so many hurdles on the way that we do not know when this factory will start producing.

[Shri Meeran]

And then, we have also to take account of the fact that even if you produce more houses, build more houses, side by side with that there is the increase in the population also. As we know, the annual increase in our population is about 20 lakhs. To this extent the house shortage is also proportionately increased and I do not know where it will all end. Therefore I would urge upon the hon. Minister that this problem must be solved to some extent at least, immediately. Of course, it is just possible to suggest that this is a problem which cannot be solved immediately or completely and that we are trying to solve it by building more houses. But the building of houses will take time. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister whether we cannot have some rational ration of the accommodation available in this country. It is just possible that it may be said that there is not much accommodation available even if rationing is introduced in cities like Delhi. But I am speaking with reference to the country as a whole and whether in other cities we cannot find more accommodation.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is not his province.

Shri Meeran: That is another thing which I have to find fault with,—this departmentalising of the thing. The Labour Ministry says that it is concerned only with the housing of labour. The Health Ministry says it has nothing to do with the general question of housing. If this sort of thing goes on, it is very difficult to solve this problem of housing. I submit, this problem must be taken as a whole and tackled. There must be co-ordination to see that, on the whole, the people get houses to live in, that they get accommodation.

I do not mind whatever way it is done. I am only trying to express the actual facts but would leave it to the Government to devise ways and means of solving the problem. I am not very much concerned about the mode and method of implementing it. I only want to draw attention to the magnitude of this problem. I feel that we cannot solve the problem by the mere building of more houses. As I said, the population is increasing to the extent of nearly 20 lakhs every year, and we do not have enough building materials from the point of view of iron and steel and other things. So far as the industries are concerned, I think they should be compelled to build more houses, but so long as more houses could not be built, I think one of the ways of easing the problem is to see whether as a temporary solution at least there should not be a rational rationing of accommodation. I do not know and I have not got enough material statistics before me, but anyhow it is the duty of the hon. Minister to take statistics all over the country or at least ask the various States to take statistics and see whether this rationing of accommodation is or is not a feasible or practicable proposition. So far as Delhi is concerned, it may be true that you do not have enough accommodation, but with regard to the other States, though this is not a Centrally administered subject, I am quite sure that Government can at least gather statistics from these States to see that this kind of rationing is put into practice at least in some of the big cities. I would also urge upon this House the necessity of seeing that all industries are statutorily compelled to build houses for industrial labour. Whenever a new company applies for registration, whenever an industry wants to get Government sanction or recognition by way of a licence, etc., the first condition to be imposed should be to see that there is adequate provision for the housing of labourers. So long as this is not done, there is no use allowing an industry to be started and allowing the poor labourers to live in houses which can only be an apology for houses. I have seen people in Bombay City living practically in cages. I would not call them houses. They are mere cages. Birds at least have got more freedom of movement than these human beings in some of the labour quarters in the Bombay City. What is the use of our boasting of this industry or that industry so long as the workers who produce the wealth are not able to live in a decent manner or at least have some kind of shelter after their labours in the day? Therefore we must see to it that industries are compelled to set apart

some amount every year for the housing of labourers. Unless the housing of labourers is made a statutory liability on industries, I cannot see any chance of improvement in this direction. I would also urge that earnest efforts should be made to see that Government offices are not too much centralised. I am speaking with reference not only to the offices in Delhi, but with reference to other provincial headquarters also. Efforts should be made to see that there is decentralisation of these offices.

First, we must try and assess the magnitude of this problem and then only we will be able to take effective steps to solve this problem. So long as this problem is not solved, I think we would be failing in our foremost duty of giving shelter to all our citizens.

Shri Sonavane (Bombay): I am glad to see that the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power is in the hands of such a dynamic personality as that of Kaka Saheb Gadgil. I had hoped that this powerful personality would complete within a short period some of the projects that he had outlined, but I am amazed to see that this has not been done. I have heard some of the hon. Members also speaking with a little sense of disappointment. However, the hon. Minister with the limited funds placed at his disposal, is going ahead with the priority projects, and let us hope that during the course of the next year some of the schemes that are in progress will be completed. Now, I would only like to say that these schemes, i.e. schemes for harnessing river waters, which are productive schemes and which would bring prosperity to both the villages and cities, should be the main concern of the Government, because the money spent on these schemes would bring a good return in the shape of increased food and electrical power. If some of these important schemes are relegated to the background, then the raising of the standard of living of our people would suffer a set-back. We had promised to the people of this country that after the attainment of Swaraj, their standard of living would be raised, and people are hoping that the day would soon come when their hardships would to a little degree at least decrease.

I would particularly like to speak today of Bombay State, where in some of our famine districts, when there is no monsoon, people are starving. These areas are declared by the Government as famine areas and they have now and then to rush food and fodder to these areas. These areas are in Maharashtra and the districts are Sholapur and Ahmednagar; and in these areas water for irrigation is absolutely absent, except for a few wells. The problem of Bombay is the problem of irrigation. I would like to read a few lines from the brochure "Provincial Development Programme" under the heading "Irrigation".

"Irrigation is a special problem in this Province, as out of 282 lakh acres of total area cropped every year, only 12 lakhs or about 4 per cent. are under irrigation. Extension of irrigation is obviously necessary if the Province is to become self-sufficient in respect of food. There are 8 schemes already in hand which, when completed, are likely to irrigate an additional 4.2 lakh acres."

When, there are these famine areas and irrigation is the main problem there, I fail to understand why much attention has not been paid to this subject. I would particularly like to refer to the Koyana River project. I hope that Government would very soon undertake this scheme in view of the fact that Bombay is a deficit State in food and year in and year out the Bombay Government has to approach the Centre for food and more food and has to insist that we should import food from foreign countries even at the cost of a tremendous amount of money. In order to solve these, I think such of these areas that I have mentioned, as deserving of attention, should receive the attention of the authorities concerned. The irrigation projects I have mentioned should receive attention.

With these few words I hope that the Koyana river project would command the attention of the dynamic personality which deals with the affairs of this Ministry of Works, Mines and Power. He can work the power with his forceful personality and he can impress upon the Finance Minister that such of the things that are productive and would bring prosperity to the country should be taken on hand. I hope the Finance Minister will ungrudgingly give more money for these projects.

Shri Gadgil: I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in today's discussion. I am particularly glad that all the 77 cut motions have not been moved. The range of these 77 motions varied from high dams to small diamonds and I was afraid that I would have to reply to all of them in great detail. But hon. Members have shown particular interest, if I may say so, in the River Valley or multi-purpose projects. I do not propose to reply in detail to the points raised by the several hon. Members. I will only refer to two or three important points and try to meet them to the best of my ability.

My hon. and esteemed friend who may now be called the grand old man of this House, Shri B. Das, stated that nothing has been done so far as the report of the Economy Committee is concerned. He almost takes paternal interest in the report. I may tell him that this is a matter which is under the consideration of the Government. To the extent to which his speech referred to the general policy of retrenchment, I may say that we cannot avoid retrenching expenditure in view of the fact that our revenues have dwindled to a considerable extent. Although there is a school of thought which believes that it is far better to allow a man to dig a well and then fill it up again than to keep him unemployed, that is a sort of economy which I do not think this country will in its present mood ever accept.

The main objective with which all the river valley projects, to which reference was also made by my hon. friend Shri B. Das, have been started is, as I said on the third reading of the Damodar Valley Corporation Bill, to supply water for irrigation, power for industry and employment all round. That object has been steadily kept in view. One of the Members who observed that there is nothing like an overall planning in this matter is slightly incorrect. I may say, that all these schemes have been integrated in a wider plan so far as it was possible.

My hon. and esteemed friend Shri B. Shiva Rao was very pointed in his criticism. I am grateful to him, because he has given me an opportunity to reply to him to the extent it is possible for me to do. In this connection I recall to my mind some of the criticisms that were levelled against the Damodar Valley Corporation Bill when it was on the anvil of this House. On that occasion when I pleaded that some additional control should be left with the Central Government, the chorus of criticism was that this was an experiment in a commercial undertaking by the State and therefore the maximum autonomy should be allowed to the Damodar Valley Corporation. Now, after just two years, I find the House in a different mood altogether on this question. I am rather confused. I do not know whether I was right then or what I propose to say now would be wrong. In any case, I have always believed that when you are attacked from two extremes, you can always be sure that you are on the right line.

When this point was brought to my notice, when certain questions were asked by my friend Shri B. Shiva Rao a few days ago, I tried to find out what the relationship of the National Coal Board in England with the Ministry of Power and Fuel there was. I found to my great delight that the position that has been incorporated in the Damodar Valley Corporation Act exactly accords with the position that is obtaining in England in the matter of control. The control of policy remains with the Government and, in so far as it is a commercial undertaking, the entire business is left to the Corporation itself.

There is a statutory duty cast on me as Minister in charge of this subject in relation to the Damodar Valley Corporation. I have to answer to the Parliament. But the House will also have to appreciate whether, in the interests of efficiency, they will give more autonomy to the Corporation or whether they will insist on their right to know what is happening, probably to the detriment of efficiency in the working of the Corporation. There are a number of ways in which I can exercise control. In the first place, in the matter of appointments and in the matter of the removal of those who have been appointed, my power is complete. I can exercise control in-

directly on their financial commitments. When they come over here for the purpose of foreign exchange, there is an opportunity for me as well as for my colleague the Finance Minister to exercise a measure of control. Then there is section 48 under which I can certainly issue directions.

My hon. friend Shri Shiva Rao wanted to know what I have done in the course of these two years. I may inform him that I have visited the headquarters of the Corporation, that I have had several conferences with the Members thereof and that every month I receive progress reports from it. Such advice and guidance as a non-technical man like me can offer is always given. Apart from this, when there was some slight measure of dissatisfaction felt by the two provincial Governments of Bihar and Bengal, I decided to constitute an advisory committee. It is not true that it was delayed by the authorities of Damodar Valley corporation. They rightly agreed to it and this advisory committee has met every month since May 1949. The functions of this Committee are very wide. In the nature of things their recommendations are advisory. But, inasmuch as it consists of experts, the advice that they offer is rarely disregarded.

Then, my hon. friend Shri Shiva Rao wanted to know to what extent Indian talent is being encouraged.

I might point out to him that out of 112 technical people employed by the Corporation only two are foreigners and one of them is a Soil Conservation Expert.

My hon. friend wanted to know why engineers from the South were not recruited and he paid a great compliment to Indian engineers, with which I am in full accord. In this particular matter it is also my experience that when I approach Provincial Governments and ask them to put at my disposal the services of great experts they have, none of them has been very obliging. The same has been the experience of the authorities of the Damodar Valley Corporation. When they wanted to have a very senior engineer from the Government of Madras, the latter would not lend his services.

It is true that for some time the Damodar Valley Corporation was not inclined to appoint a Chief Engineer until I suggested it in my own way. Even if I wanted to exercise my control I always do it in such a way that they are convinced about the usefulness of my suggestion, as if it is something that is felt necessary rather than something which is being imposed from above. They accepted the proposal and the question then was whether an Indian Chief Engineer would be the best in the circumstances. That was my view and the view that was presented to me was that it was no doubt true that an Indian Chief Engineer of a very high rank may be competent and have experience of high dams but the scheme contemplated in the Damodar Valley Corporation Act is of a very complicated nature and it has been testified to as such by foreign experts like Voordun and others who visited the country, inasmuch as not merely development of irrigation and power but the setting up of the entire industrial structure of the valley was involved. From that point of view the Damodar Valley Corporation Authority felt that it would be better for them to secure the services of some high calibre engineer from America. So far none has been appointed.

It was stated that the aspect of flood control was neglected and the aspect of power has been given priority and greater emphasis. Apparently it looks so but when you look at the scheme as a whole you have to consider its economics also. If this power aspect is completed sooner the returns will be earlier and to that extent the financial burden will be less at the tail and of the period through which the scheme has to go through.

My hon. friend, Mr. Shiva Rao, said something about purchases being made abroad. I want to give certain facts. During the period April-December 1949 the D.V.C.'s purchases from Government agencies amounted to Rs. 52.25 lakhs out of a

[Shri Gadgil]

total of Rs. 114·98 lakhs, whereas the corresponding figures for 1948-49 were Rs. 35·66 lakhs and Rs. 82·91 lakhs. The majority of direct purchases was in respect of goods immediately needed, and indents for these are not accepted by the D.G.I. & S. A few cases of direct purchase also occurred when deliveries were uncertain or the demand was specific and for small quantities. As a matter of fact the indenting officer of the Corporation has been there all along with the D.G.I. & S.

Another point that was made by my hon. friend, Mr. Shiva Rao, was about the overhead charges. I may frankly state to the House that I have not personally come to any definite conclusion about this. I see the force of the argument of the Damodar Valley Corporation—and it was also advanced by my hon. friend Mr. Jaipal Singh—that in order to compare overhead costs of different establishments there must be comparable figures. In the Hirakud some of the services which the authorities there get are free. For example if there is a question of law the matter is immediately referred to the Law Ministry and nothing is charged. That is not the case with the Damodar Valley Corporation. I am not going to consider the question as to what percentage it works out on the estimates or the actual incurred.

The second point is that this scheme has been visualised on certain assumptions. It is easily understandable that if I want to start construction at half a dozen places I cannot recruit engineers a day before I start them. The other day my hon. friend Mr. Goenka made a point similar to this. I would ask him if he wants to start a newspaper, would he recruit the compositors, proof-correctors and the linotype operators a day before the paper is to be published? You have to assemble the men and material in time. The same is the case here. In fact in these days when engineers of a very high calibre are rare it takes time to recruit them. By the time they are recruited if the financial position changes, are we to turn round and say that the overhead charges are very high? That would not be either logical or fair...

Shri Shiva Rao : May I point out that the hon. Minister is not correct in his analogy? What he has done is to appoint half a dozen editors months before the paper is due to start.

Shri Gadgil : My hon. friend, as usual, knows not much about the printing business and newspapers though he is a very good reporter and special correspondent. Even editors and sub-editors have to be appointed months before. You cannot ask the editor to write on anything without knowing what the policy of the paper is. These projects and the Damodar Valley Project in particular, have been conceived on certain assumptions. There is soil erosion, malaria, industrial survey and several other things connected therewith, the enumeration of which the House will find in the Act itself.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh) : Well conceived.

Shri Gadgil : If they are to do it naturally they will have to recruit the necessary men. As I said I have not made up my mind one way or the other. Therefore I cannot say whether the overhead charges of the Damodar Valley Corporation are higher.

Shri Sidhva : They are higher.

Shri Gadgil : Not according to me as yet. What I have placed before the House is a fair picture of the facts but at the same time I promise this House that I will look into the matter and if I find after a full discussion that the Damodar Valley Authority's overhead charges are greater, I will not hesitate to use my power under section 48 of the Act.

An Hon. Member : Sparingly.

Shri Gadgil : Sparingly of course.

My hon. friend Mr. Shiva Rao said that the original estimate was Rs. 55 crores and now it has gone to Rs. 65 crores and perhaps may go up to 75 crores. There are a number of factors and this increase in estimate is not the speciality of the Damodar Valley Corporation alone. In any scheme the cost of which had been estimated years before such things are bound to happen. After devaluation when we want to import plant and machinery from abroad immediately there will be a rise in prices to the extent of 40 per cent.

Shri Sidhva : Not to that extent within 18 months.

Shri Gadgil : Then, my hon. friend Mr. Jaipal Singh wanted to know whether these three schemes, namely Nangal-Bakra, Damodar Valley and Hirakud, will be pursued. I may inform him and the House also that it is the decision of the Government of India and in order to pursue these schemes and enable the Government of India to do so, other schemes which were ready for construction have been delayed.

As regards investigations, possibly there is some sort of misunderstanding on the part of my hon. friend Mr. Jaipal Singh. Every generation does something by way of a first step; the succeeding generation takes it up at that point and goes ahead. Suppose I stop all investigations and after five or seven years the financial position improves, as is visualized by my hon. colleague here, after his having given generous treatment to the capitalist and investors class. If that happens, if his dream comes true, I have not the slightest doubt that these schemes which have already started will be completed. Then am I to sit idle for seven years because there are no investigated schemes? That would be good economics but poor statesmanship, and I would not like to have at least that charge against me and against the Government of which I am a part.

My friend from Assam said the same thing about the working of coal mines. That is a subject which I am sure the Minister in charge of Industry and Supply will deal with.

Then I come to the question of housing. So far, the Government of India have not accepted the obligation of housing the non-official population. The present policy of Government has been to accommodate its own employees.

An Hon. Member : Officers.

Shri Gadgil :or officers—of all the four classes, from the highest to the lowest. Particularly, the position with respect to housing in Delhi is so acute that the more I build the more acute it becomes. The more I try to persuade some of the men in charge of the offices here to go out, the more representations I get impressing upon me the dire necessity of keeping every office here so that 'efficiency' may result.

Shri Sidhva : So you have changed your view ?

Shri Gadgil : No, there is no change. The present policy, as I said, is gradually to ask certain offices to go out of Delhi to suitable places ; and that will be followed.

Shri Sidhva : What about 1st April ?

Shri Gadgil : But in this matter I also seek the co-operation of hon. members of this House that they will not plead the cause of any office or officers in asking me not to shift this office or that office.

Then, my hon. friend Mr. Sonavane naturally referred to the project of Koyana. *Prima facie*, it is a matter for the Government of Bombay. Last year there was a conference between the officers of the Government of Bombay and the officers of this Government, and the Government of Bombay was asked to do certain things before the 31st of March, 1950. As soon as their report is received, further stage will be contemplated.

[Shri Gadgil]

It is no doubt true that the financial position is bound to affect the rate of progress, but I do hope that this period of slowness will be very short-lived and that the schedule that we have kept before us of completing these projects will be kept up. One thing I will beg of the Members of this House. It is a little more patience and understanding. If Bhagiratha took 27,000 years to bring down the Ganges from the heavens, will you not give me at least seven years ?

Shri Kamath : 27 years ?

Shri Gadgil : As I said last year when concluding my speech that brick by brick we are building the temple of prosperity, I would vary the metaphor and say that moment by moment we are cutting down the period of our captivity in the bonds of distress and poverty.

Shri Sidhva : With your permission, Sir, may I ask one question ? In reply to one of the questions relating to the composition of the Damodar Valley Corporation he stated that it is quite independent. May I know whether he adheres to that statement that the Corporation is absolutely independent ?

Mr. Chairman : That is a point on which the hon. Member can satisfy himself by looking at the Act. When we have got an Act, the Act is the authority and not the hon. Minister.

Shri Sidhva : It is not so.

Shri Kamath : On a point of information, Sir, Bhagiratha brought down Ganga from heaven. What does my hon. friend propose to bring from heaven ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram) : If you become *Sagar* first !

Shri Gadgil : Everything except Kamath !

Shri Kamath : I am glad about the exception. I have no desire to be in his company.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,29,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,04,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,28,37,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘ Other Civil Works ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,73,83,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘ Stationery and Printing ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,75,70,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1951, in respect of ‘ Delhi Capital Outlay ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,97,01,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘ Capital Outlay on Civil Works ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,90,18,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘ Capital Outlay on Development ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : In respect of the Demand under Labour, does the hon. Labour Minister wish to make a speech now ?

Shri Jagjivan Ram : No, Sir, I do not want to make a speech at this stage.

DEMAND No. 20—MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

Mr. Chairman : Motion is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,22,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘ Ministry of Labour ’.”

Arbitration Award in cases of disputes between labour and employers

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa) : I beg to move :

“ That the demand under the head ‘ Ministry of Labour ’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir, in moving this motion I have one particular thing to mention, namely, that under the Industrial Disputes Act arbitration tribunals are appointed and they give their awards, most of which go in favour of the employees. But many of them are not implemented by the employers. The particular one that I have been connected with is a privately owned colliery in Talcher coalfields in Orissa. There, the Arbitration Tribunal gave an award sometime in May last year and the workers demanded that it should be implemented. After many months, the very poor wages which the workers were receiving were raised in accordance with the Award. But the bonus and other facilities were not given and the Union there wrote to the Ministry and the Labour Commissioners. It went on for nearly one year.

[Shri Sarangdhar Das]

They threatened to go on strike many a time. The Labour Commissioner instructed them not to go on strike, because the raising of coal would be stopped, and coal was and is an essential article that must be produced. So, they did not strike. Finally, about 1½ months ago, the employer discharged between hundred and hundred and fifty workers. When they spontaneously struck work, the employer declared a lock-out. Since then, I understand that the case is with the Regional Commissioner. But nothing has been done. The point that I want to bring before the hon. Minister is this. Government appoint a Tribunal in accordance with the Act. It gives an Award, and one of the parties—the more powerful party, namely, the employer—does not implement the terms of the Award. When that happens, do you expect the working man in an one-sided way to observe the truce and produce more, which is what you and I and all people ask the workers to do? To my mind, it is a very important matter and until our Government consider the position in which working men are and their very low wages, and see to it that all parties to an Award implement its provisions, there is no use merely passing legislation calling for truce. My impression of the way in which this matter has been handled is not happy. I have some little experience of the world, having been a working man myself in America, having been in trade unions, having also been a technical man, and in India having been the Manager of factories looking after a thousand or two thousand men. From this experience, I know both employer and labour equally. I say that this way of bringing about truce and asking people to produce more will never do. You must see to it that your laws are obeyed by all parties. You cannot fool the people any more. Because they are ignorant, you tell them that you have passed a law for their good, while, in fact, they do not get any good out of it. So, I wish to tell the hon. Minister and the Government that it is very necessary, in order to step up production, to see to it that whatever laws we pass here are obeyed by all parties. Unless you do that, the slogan of "Produce more" will only be a cry in the wilderness and production will not go up.

There is another matter with regard to labour that I wish to mention, and that is in regard to the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund. In Talcher there are three collieries—two railway collieries and another, a private colliery. Talcher, which used to be a State, has now been integrated into Orissa. But during the time it was under the rule of the Rajah, things were very unsatisfactory. I understand that the Rajah himself was in charge of the Labour Welfare Fund. I also understand that, sometime last year, the Government of India took over that Fund. I wish to know whether there was any balance of that Fund with the Rajah and whether accounts have been properly rendered, so that Government have now got all the money that had been left over. Now, about this Labour Welfare Fund itself, I find that a good deal of money is left over at the end of the year. In other words, the Fund is not being utilised properly for the purposes for which it is meant. In Talcher, there is no facility except a travelling cinema, and even that is enjoyed mostly by clerks and the upper class of employees. The children of the workers have no school to go to. There is no proper dispensary, although there is a doctor. The Labour Welfare Fund was created for the advancement of the miners and for the health and education of miners' children. But, probably due to lack of instructions from the Regional Commissioner, this Fund is not utilised in the best way and workmen do not get any advantage. This is all that I have to say. I hope the hon. Minister will give a reply to the points I have made.

Mr. Chairman : Cut motion moved :

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

Shri Venkataraman (Madras) : On an occasion like this, it is usual to criticise the policy of labour administration from several points of view, depending very largely upon the economic and political conception of the State and also of the organisation of industry. My friends who are in other camps than our own have always criticised labour administration from the point of view that it does not fulfil

their expectations in regard to the order of society which they would like to see emerge in this country. But, I propose to confine my remarks to the purely trade union point of view, that is to say, the point of view of trade unionists who have accepted the existing order of society and are trying to improve the standard of living of the working classes by legitimate and peaceful means within the framework of the existing order.

You have provided the facility of settlement of industrial disputes through the medium of arbitration and conciliation. The machinery in order to yield proper results should be more efficacious. Any defect in the existing machinery is bound to reflect in the faith that the working classes have in that institution. As one who has been editing all the awards of the industrial tribunals in this country, I have seen a greater and greater tendency towards a more legalistic approach to what is essentially a human problem. We find some of the awards going over hundreds of pages and discussing in minute detail that such and such a question had not been, asked in cross-examination or some other matter not cleared in re-examination. In fact, it would be very difficult to distinguish between the judgment of a civil court and the award of an industrial tribunal which has been provided for settlement of industrial disputes.

There are similar institutions in other countries and if you compare the award^s of the National Arbitration Tribunal of England you will find that those awards hardly exceed one page of printed matter. They set down merely the points in dispute and the findings of the arbitrator. Here, in this country a greater tendency towards formalism, ritualism and legalism is introduced into these arbitrations with the result that the working classes which ought to take greater and greater interest, which ought to conduct all these proceedings before the Tribunals themselves are forced to seek legal assistance from trained lawyers. If this institution, namely, arbitration under the Industrial Disputes Act should yield results which we require, which we desire that it should, the air of formality should be removed, the trials should be of a summary nature, depositions need not be read over, explained and interpreted and then signatures taken. It is enough if the notes of evidence are taken and points decided. A greater emphasis should be laid on getting more and more of the working classes themselves to do those disputes before the industrial tribunals. Having myself appeared in several of these proceedings, I know the great danger that lurks behind it. In an ordinary civil litigation the parties fight one another and then they go their respective ways. They do not see each other's face. But in an industrial litigation, they have to work under the same roof and even though in the morning they go and fight before the Tribunal in the afternoon they have to come and work under the same Manager in the same circumstances. Unless a new spirit is infused into these industrial court proceedings, I am afraid these proceedings will become so formal that the working classes will lose their interest in them.

Then, I want to refer to some of the defects in the existing legislation so that they can be removed. I have always been insisting and I have also put a number of supplementaries in this House, that the compensation given under the Workmen's Compensation Act is inadequate. The hon. Minister only yesterday tried to explain that the wages of the working classes have increased and as a result of that increase they are eligible for the higher slab in compensation and therefore there is no great hardship. It is unnecessary for me to deal at great length with the question of increase in the cost of living, the increase of prices and the low wages of the workers in comparison with the increased cost of living. It is sufficient for my purpose to point out that the great national organisation which appointed the National Planning Committee has decided that the compensation payable is very low and hopelessly inadequate and that it should be increased to the level recommended by the International Convention of 1925. I would refer, in this connection to the

[Shri Venkataraman]

recommendation No. 57 which says: "The present rates paid by way of compensation should be raised to the level of rates recommended by the Geneva Convention of 1925".

Then, the Workmen's Compensation Act does not give any relief for what is called the waiting period of seven days. There is no reason or logic why if a worker meets with an accident, he should be denied the wages for the first seven days and should be eligible for wages only thereafter. This matter has gone before the Tribunals and some of them have held that there is no reason at all why the compensation should be payable only after the expiry of seven days and have in spite of the Act recommended such payment. I, therefore, suggest that the time has come for the Government to keep pace with the changing times and with the spirit that is coming over this country.

There is another matter with regard to this workmen's compensation. Occasionally instances occur when impecunious employers are not able to pay the compensation which they are liable to pay under the Act. My suggestion in this regard is that even as you have made third party insurance compulsory in road accidents, you should make it obligatory in the case of all employers to insure their workers against accidents under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Then, we have the Factories Act. Under this Factories Act we have introduced two classes of people who are supposed to look to the welfare of the working classes: the medical officers and the factory labour officers. So long as the appointment and the control and the power of dismissal of these officers vest in the management, these officers merely become either the tools of the management or mere rubber stamps to carry out the order and behests of the employer. I know of instances in which managements have asked the medical officer to disqualify medically a person who was inconvenient to them. My suggestion with regard to the Factories' Act is that the appointment and control of the Factory medical and labour officers should be with the Government, though their expenses may be charged to the establishments in which they serve.

We often hear that the country must produce more and they always look up to the working classes to fulfil their role in production. At the same time I find even enlightened authorities saying: "Produce first and then ask for distribution", as if these are two independent things separated by space or time. I am afraid, except in text books on economics where chapters on 'production' precede those on 'distribution', in actual practice you find distribution and production going side by side. The worker has got to be paid the wages even during the process of production and on the level of wages, the comforts, the housing, recreation and other facilities which you provide to the working classes, depends the efficiency of production and the improvement in production.

I wish that the Planning Commission which is going to plan for the production of this country will take this into account and see that while they plan for production, they see that there is proper distribution of the wealth that is produced so that the working class may be really enthused to put forth their best.

Shri Kesava Rao (Madras): I only wish to make a few observations about the conditions of agricultural labour. I need not worry about the condition of the other labour because the other labour leaders like Mr. Harihar Nath Shastri and Mr. R. Venkataraman will look to those things. I find that the help coming to agricultural labour from the Central Government is very meagre. If we look to the report given by the Ministry, I find that the figure is very low. In the beginning, it was settled that the enquiry as regards agricultural labour should be taken on hand in 2,000 villages but now it has come to 800 villages and even these are not being taken immediately. As the report says they have taken up only 27 villages

for investigation. In general I may say that the condition of agricultural labour in the country is very bad. Agricultural labour forms the major part of the population and according to 1941 census, it comes to 65 per cent. All these years we have been trying to get Independence but in addition to Independence, I think the independence of agricultural labour is also essential. All these years the interests of industrial labour were safeguarded either by the labour leaders or by Government but as agricultural labour is disorganized and the majority of labour is illiterate and there is no concentration of labour in one place, even Government has not attempted to do anything for its uplift. After three years of getting Independence we expected that agricultural labour which forms the majority of the population will be uplifted. What is the condition of agricultural labour to-day? The labourers have no houses; they have no schools and they are not paid proper wages. Regarding education the Minister may say that it is not a Central subject but for industrial labour we know public health and education of labour is a subject of the Centre. So I hope education and the housing problem of agricultural labour also will be tackled similarly. According to the Constitution we have introduced adult franchise. Are you going to ask the majority of the population as illiterates to give their votes to us to-morrow? They have to be educated but you have made no provision in the Budget to elevate their condition. I want the Central Government to put forward many social security schemes. Recently the Minister was telling us that there was only a pilot scheme for social security but I want such schemes to be extended to agricultural labour. We know that there is going to be abolition of *zamindari*. Even if it is abolished, I am doubtful whether it will help agricultural labour. The agricultural labourer is the tiller of the soil. He tills the land for wages but he is never the owner of the land. Even after the abolition of *zamindari*, the land will be vested in the so called cultivator or *kisan* and not the labourer. According to my principle the tiller of the soil should be the owner of the land. For this we must begin with the uplifting of agricultural labourer. In some villages he is a virtual slave and he works in the fields throughout the day and night. He earns only his livelihood and he has no independence. I think the Minister is aware that the condition especially in South India is very bad. There is serfdom as well as child labour. Some legislation should be immediately brought to elevate these people. In villages I am sure the multi-purpose cooperative societies will be able to help labour. Government should encourage this scheme. Regarding wages, the labourer in the village does not get his proper wage nor food nor clothing and Government should encourage these people by forming these multi-purpose societies which will be of some help in elevating them. There is a threefold scheme which will help agricultural labour *viz.* education, public health and medical relief. This should be taken up by the Centre immediately. We know agricultural labourer has work only for six months and in the other six months he has to starve for want of work. I wish that the Central Government should start Cottage Industries in order to help these people in the six months when there is no work for them. We know that we have been trying to fix minimum wages to industrial labour. Without minimum wages, to think of social security measures is just like putting the cart before the horse. According to the Minimum Wages Bill, the minimum wages have to be fixed in 1951. The Labour Ministry has been working on the preliminary enquiry for the last two or three years. If their progress is so slow like this, I am very doubtful whether they would be able to fix the minimum wages by 1951. I wish to point out that this enquiry should be finished as early as possible and we should see that minimum wages for agricultural labour are fixed at an early date.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (Uttar Pradesh): Last year while speaking on a similar occasion, it was my privilege to offer my congratulations to the hon. Minister of Labour. I did so firstly because I felt that the hon. Minister of Labour, backed by a band of devoted officers and men had applied himself with all care to tackle the problems that were entrusted to his care. So far as that ground is concerned, it stands even today and I reiterate the congratulations that I offered him last year.

[Shri Harihar Nath Shastri]

The second ground for congratulation was that during the years 1948 and 1949, the pace of labour legislation in this country was most rapid, perhaps unheard of in even the most advanced countries of the world. Speaking in continuation of that speech, I regret, I do not find myself so enthusiastic today.

Shri Jagjivan Bam : There are four Bills pending already.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri : Yes, I do say that while the pace of labour legislation was most rapid in the years 1948 and 1949, the pace of implementation of these labour laws was equally slow in 1949 and 1950. Take for instance the Employees State Insurance Act. It was put on the Statute Book during the year 1948. It aroused great hopes. But, I regret to say that though fifteen months have already elapsed since the Act was passed, I know of not a single worker in this country who has got any cash allowance under the provisions of that Act.

Shri Kamath : Have patience.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri : Coming to the Minimum Wages Act, that Act was also passed in 1948. But, so far as my information goes, the provisions of that Act and the obligations on the Government in regard to that have not been fulfilled even in regard to one single industry.

I come, now, to the other social and ameliorative measures. Three commitments on the part of Government emerged from what is popularly known as the Industrial Truce. Those three commitments were, provision for housing, fixation of fair wages and profit sharing. So far as housing is concerned, after the said resolution, repeated assurances were given by Government and about five or six months back the Labour Ministry came out with a great scheme; but it is still in the cold storage. Even the assurance of the hon. Prime Minister that mud houses may be constructed for industrial workers has not, till today, been fulfilled.

Coming to fair wages, this was one of the items in the Industrial Truce. I am grateful to the hon. Minister for setting up an Expert Committee in pursuance of that resolution. The Expert Committee evolved a unanimous formula to which the industrialists were a party. About six months back, perhaps in July, a Conference took place where the hon. Minister made a statement that the principles of fair wages will be incorporated in a Bill that would be coming up before the Legislature. Since then, two sessions of the Legislature have already taken place and the third is on. I very anxiously looked into the list of official business; but, I was disappointed to find that this Fair Wages Bill does not find a place there. I would urge very respectfully on the hon. Minister of Labour that labour would wait if the Appellate Tribunal Bill or even the Trade Union Bill were kept pending for some months or years, but would request the Fair Wages Bill to be introduced and put on the Statute Book, because, that is one of the real problems of the working classes in this country.

Coming to profit-sharing, the principle of profit-sharing was accepted in the Industrial Conference and the industrialists too accepted it. But, later on, they backed out. However, the Government members in the Expert Committee and the labour members produced a majority report which was accepted in July last in the Labour Conference by a majority. Labour is waiting most anxiously to see what steps are being taken by Government, in regard to that matter.

Today the problem of growing unemployment in the country, resulting from the closure of certain factories and mass retrenchment under the cloak of rationalisation, is the most important one. The situation in the country is getting increasingly intolerable, and if Government are really anxious to maintain industrial peace in the country, it is very necessary that acute hardships of this kind must be immediately mitigated. I take this opportunity to state here that so far as increased efficiency

is concerned, labour stands for it. But, I want to make it clear, and it may be known to the House from many of the facts that have been revealed in the course of the last twelve months, that if the industrial development of our country is suffering, it is mainly due to gross mismanagement. It is mainly due to extravagance and waste. Unless these factors are looked into, no amount of concessions to the industrialists will improve the position of our industries. Today, the feeling in this country is gaining ground that while one section in the country, guided by no other consideration but narrow sectarian interests, is sitting tight over the industrial development of our country, labour is being made the main target of sacrifice. I may submit that such a situation can no longer be tolerated. For the last three years, labour has striven for industrial peace and it is still anxious for it, because, it feels that industrial peace is essential in its own interests and in the best interests of the country. But, it must be appreciated that industrial peace is not the exclusive concern of labour, but Government has to play a decisive role in the fulfilment of that objective.

In view of the brief time at my disposal, I have only two more submissions to make to the House. The first is, I desire to make a passing reference to the problem of labour in the States which were previously known as Native States, although they have now the privilege of being part and parcel of the whole country. Unfortunately, conditions of the workers in the Native States are still lagging much behind.

Shri Kamath : No more Native States.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : All are States now.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri : While making this passing reference, I appeal to Government to pay increased attention to this aspect.

Lastly, I would like to say a word about the I.L.O. Conferences. I very highly appreciate the work done by the official members representing the Government of India in the International Conferences. I had the privilege of attending two or three of these International Conferences myself and I must say that they have done great credit to the Government of India. The one main reason why I am raising this point is that during the last year the number of delegates and advisers that were sent to those International Conferences were not very much, but they were quite sufficient, and they could do justice to the work allotted to them, although they were much smaller as compared to other advanced countries, but I was pained to find that at the last Regional Conference which met in Ceylon, the strength of the international delegation was reduced, and I hear rumours that it is going to be further reduced. I must submit.....

Shri Raj Bahadur (Rajasthan) : With your permission, Sir, may I ask whether the hon. Member has obtained permission or agreement of Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena in this matter ?

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri : I leave Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena to my friend because I have hardly any time. I would request the hon. Labour Minister, and particularly the Finance Minister, though he is not present here, to see that the original strength of the delegation is maintained and in no case it is reduced beyond what has already been done.

श्री बाल्मीकी : मेरे लिए यह बड़े सौभाग्य का मौका है कि मैं पहली बार हाउस के सामने बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

मैं उत्तर प्रदेश से आया हुआ एक नया मेम्बर हूँ। अभी मुझ से पहले बहुत से वक्ताओं ने देश की मजदूर सम्बन्धी नीति पर प्रकाश डाला है। तो मैं भी अपने विचार आपके सामने लेकर खड़ा हुआ हूँ। देश स्वतंत्र है और उसने अपनी पूरी

[श्री बाल्मीकी]

राजनीतिक मंजिल को प्राप्त कर लिया है। हमारे देश के अन्दर रहने वाले मजदूर मजबूरी और बेबसी की जिन्दगी बसर करते आ रहे थे, मैं यह मानता हूँ और मेरा यह विश्वास है कि अगर देश के अन्दर मजदूरों की बरबादी रही है तो वह अंग्रेजी सल्तनत की जिम्मेदारी थी, आज उन मजदूरों में एक आशा का संचार हो रहा है। इसलिए हो रहा है कि वह हमारे दुःख के दिन जिन को लेकर तमाम जिन्दगी से चलत रहे हैं वह दूर होने जा रहे हैं। आज यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि देश के अन्दर औद्योगिक शान्ति है। इसके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री और अपने नेता श्री जगजीवन राम जी को ज़रूर धन्यवाद दूंगा। और मैं तो इस थोड़े से वक्त में जो कुछ आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि जहाँ तक मजदूरों का सम्बन्ध है, औद्योगिक मजदूरों की ओर सरकार का ज्यादा ध्यान गया है और जाना भी चाहिए था। लेकिन इसके अलावा जो दूसरे मजदूर हैं जैसे खेती से सम्बन्ध रखने वाले और घरेलू मजदूर, उनकी ओर भी ध्यान जा रहा है और आगे उम्मीद भी है लेकिन उतनी आशा नज़र नहीं आती है कि मैं उससे खुशी महसूस करूँ। वैसे खेतिहर मजदूरों की ओर सरकार का ध्यान गया है और उनकी जांच के लिए काम शुरू हुआ है। इससे मैं यकीन के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि तमाम देहात के अन्दर खेतिहर मजदूर सरकार की ओर ललचाई हुई आंखों से देख रहे हैं। लेकिन इतना सब कुछ हो जाने के बाद जो घरों के अन्दर काम करने वाले मजदूर हैं उनकी तरफ मैं आपका खास तौर से ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ। मैं सैनिटरी लेबर (sanitary labour) की ओर विशेषतया आपका ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ। मैं यह जानता हूँ कि बापू जी के महान प्रयत्न से सैनिटरी लेबर को, और मैं खासतौर से भंगी शब्द का प्रयोग करूंगा, उसको बापूजी के आशीर्वाद से और कांग्रेस के प्रयत्न से बल मिला है और उसकी ओर हमारी सरकार का और हमारे नेताओं का ध्यान गया है और जहाँ तक हमारे मौजूदा श्रम मंत्री महोदय का ताल्लुक है वह तो उनके लिए अपने दिल में एक खास दर्द रखते हैं। तो मैं उनकी स्थिति को, खास तौर से मेहतरों की स्थिति को, लेकर आपके सामने खड़ा हुआ हूँ। जब हमारे कानों के अन्दर मेहतर शब्द पड़ता है तो हमारे अन्दर एक खास भावना जाग्रत होती है। आप घरों के अन्दर जाइये और गलियों के अन्दर जाइये तो आप क्या देखते हैं? मैं मानता हूँ कि कांस्टीट्यूशन (Constitution) के द्वारा और रिफारमेशन (reformation) के द्वारा और रिफोरमर्स (reformers) के प्रयत्नों के द्वारा इस छुआछूत के पाप को, इस छुआछूत के कलंक की दूर कर दिया गया है, लेकिन अभी लोगों के दिमाग के अन्दर इस तरह का एक स्थूल मालूम पड़ता है कि जिसे मैं यहाँ जाहिर करना

चाहता हूँ। अभी भी मातायें अपने बच्चों को जब वे मिट्टी में लेट जाते हैं या गन्दे हो जाते हैं तो कहती हैं कि तू भंगी हो गया, तू चमार हो गया। यह एक प्रवृत्ति है जो दिमागों पर प्रभाव डाले हुए है और इसकी ओर मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। भंगी के साथ एक मजदूरी है और मैं तो कहूँगा कि वह सोसाइटी का अम्बलेस्ट सर्वेंट (humblest servant) है और आज मैं उसकी तरफ आपका ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ। आप देख लीजिये कि उनकी हालत क्या है, अगर उनकी हालत का अन्दाजा लगाया जाय तो पत्थर के अन्दर भी आंसू पैदा हो जायेंगे और दुःख का दौर पैदा हो जायगा। मैं यह जानता हूँ कि सरकार की मंशा इस मामले में साफ है लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार का, जिससे कि मेरा सम्बन्ध है, इन लोगों की तरफ उतना ध्यान नहीं है जितना कि होना चाहिये और इनकी तरफ उतना ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है जितना कि दिया जाना चाहिए। मैं जानता हूँ कि आप इसे टालेंगे नहीं। अगर इसको एक घरेलू सवाल कह कर अलग कर देंगे तो इससे कोई फायदा नहीं होगा। आप यह देखिये कि अगर इन लोगों की ओर ध्यान न दिया जायगा तो वह आदमी साम्यवाद की ओर झुक सकते हैं जिसकी आज दुनिया में लहर दौड़ी हुई है। मैं यह जानता हूँ कि हमारा देश उससे बिल्कुल आजाद है क्योंकि हमारे देश की सरकार ने, हमारी राष्ट्रीय सरकार ने रोटी के सवाल को जिसे इकानमिक स्ट्रक्चर (economic structure) कहते हैं, देश की राजनीतिक जट्टोजहद के साथ उसका पूरा हल किया है। तो मैं यह चाहूँगा कि हमारे नेता लोग इन तमाम लोगों की ओर ध्यान दें। मैं उस थोड़े समय में जो कि मेरे पास है यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे जो मेहतर मजदूर हैं वह सारे देश में फैले हुए हैं और यद्यपि लोग इन घरेलू मेहतर मजदूरों को मजदूर तो मानते हैं पर इनको मजदूरों की गिनती में बहुत पीछे धकेल दिया जाता है। इससे काम नहीं चल सकता। हमारे जो मेहतर भाई हैं, अगर उनकी तादाद देखी जाय तो वह हरिजन भाइयों में दूसरे नम्बर पर आते हैं और जहाँ तक उनके कार्य का ताल्लुक है उसे एक बहुत बड़ा कार्य समझा जाता है। कोई उसे माता का काम मानते हैं और माता की तरह उसे उच्च मानते हैं। हमारे देश के अन्दर कबीर साहब ने कहा है :

“आयो मेहतर मिलन तोई”

उन्होंने ईश्वर को मेहतर कहा है क्योंकि वह पांच प्रकार के (काम-क्रोध-लोभ-मद-मोह) मलको दूर करके मनुष्य को पवित्र करता है और यह जो मेहतर हैं यह बाह्य तरीके से सोसाइटी को पवित्र करते हैं। उसकी इस महत्ता को सब महसूस

[श्री बाल्मीकी]

करते हैं तो उसकी आर्थिक स्थिति की ओर क्यों नहीं ध्यान देते ? अगर धार्मिक दृष्टि से देखा जाय तो आज इसका हल हो चुका है, सोसाइटी के अन्दर एक भावना पैदा हुई है, एक बराबरी की भावना पैदा हुई है। यह सब होते देख कर हमें उम्मीद है कि इसका हल हो रहा है।

लेकिन आर्थिक दृष्टि से अगर देखा जाये, तो उसके अन्दर बहुत कुछ कमजोरी नजर आती है और उस कमजोरी को हटाया नहीं जाता है, तो मैं यह जानता हूँ और दावे के साथ कहने के लिये तैयार हूँ और हाथ उठाकर कहने के लिये तैयार हूँ कि इन लोगों की ओर कम्यूनिसट निगाह बांध कर देखते हैं, हालांकि उन्हें कामयाबी हासिल नहीं होती है। मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर खींचना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें ढिलाई नहीं की जानी चाहिये। जहां तक कि म्यूनिसिपल बोर्ड के मेहतरों का ताल्लूक है, उनकी स्थिति अच्छी नहीं कही जा सकती है, हालांकि आशा जरूर बन्धी है। क्योंकि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट इस ओर ध्यान दे रही है और कुछ न कुछ इनक्वायरी कमेटी के द्वारा उन्होंने तय किया हुआ है, उनका कम से कम वेतन जो है, उनकी ओर भी ध्यान गया है, उन्होंने यह भी सझाया है कि उनके घर अच्छे होने चाहियें, उसका भी जिक्र हुआ है। और उनको पेन्शन भी मिलनी चाहिये, इसकी ओर भी ध्यान गया है। और वह उन्हें मिलने भी लगी है, लेकिन इसमें सबसे बड़ी कमजोरी यह नजर आती है कि सेन्टर की तरफ से, हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार की तरफ से कोई विशेष ध्यान इस ओर नहीं दिया जाता है। तो मेरा सुझाव है कि अगर आप मेहतरों को नीचा नहीं मानते हैं और उनके कार्य को बहुत ऊंचा मानते हैं और बापू जी के शब्दों में उन्हें ऊंचा मानते हैं, तो उनकी स्थिति की जांच करने के लिये एक कमीशन मुकर्रर किया जाय, वह कमीशन जब जांच कर ले और उसके बाबत आंकड़े इकट्ठा कर ले और उनके कर्जों की हालत मालूम कर ले—मेरा मतलब उन मेहतरों से भी है जो म्यूनिसिपल बोर्ड में काम करते हैं और जो शहरों में काम करते हैं, घरेलू धंधे करते हैं—तो वह कमीशन जब जांच कर लेने के बाद में अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश कर दे, तो उसके बाद मैं अपने माननीय मंत्री से यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जिनके दिल में मेहतरों के लिए बड़ा दर्द है, कोई एक ऐसा कानून उस कमीशन की रिपोर्ट की बिना पर लायेंगे जिससे उनकी हालत सुधरे। जो लोग यह कहते हैं कि उनके लिए कानून नहीं आ सकता है, तो वह गलती पर हैं। अगर आप दूसरे मजदूरों के लिए कानून ला सकते हैं, तो कोई वजह नहीं है कि मेहतरों के लिए कोई कानून न लाया जा सके। मुझे अपनी बाईस वर्ष

की जिन्दगी की याद आ जाती है, जब अपनी १० साल की उम्र में झाड़ू लिए बुलन्दशहर की सड़कों पर काम करता था, तो बाद में बापू जी की कृपा से और कांग्रेस के कार्यकर्ताओं की कृपा से मुझे मौका मिला और मैंने वह मौका हासिल किया और मैं इस हालत में आज आपके सामने आया हूँ। मैं चाहूँगा कि आप इस ओर ज़रूर ध्यान दें और सरकार जल्द से जल्द कोई कार्यवाही करे ताकि मेहतरों की हालत सुधरे। मैं आपका फिर, अध्यक्ष महोदय, शुक्रगुजार हूँ कि आपने मुझे इतना मौका दिया अपने विचार रखने का। और साथ साथ अपने श्री जगजीवन राम, श्रम मन्त्री को धन्यवाद देता हूँ और प्रार्थना करूँगा कि वह जल्द से जल्द इसके लिए कोई बिल लाने की कोशिश करेंगे। इनके लिए इस दिशा में क्रियात्मक कदम उठाया जाना चाहिये जिससे यह साबित हो जाय कि यहाँ पर कोई मेहतर नहीं है, सब लोग महत्तर हैं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Balmiki (Uttar Pradesh): It is a matter of great fortune for me that I rise to deliver this maiden speech in this House. I come from Uttar Pradesh and am a new Member. Many of the speakers preceding me have just now thrown adequate light on the labour policy. I also rise to give vent to my thoughts. The country is independent and it has successfully achieved its political aim. The labourers in this country have been living a life of utter helplessness and misery. I admit this and it is my conviction that if the labourer had been victimized in the past, it was the responsibility of the British Government and today a ray of hope is penetrating into the minds of the labour. It is so happening because the evil days which had gripped us in the past are now gradually disappearing. It is a matter of great gratification that industrial peace prevails in the country. I should, therefore, like to congratulate the hon. Minister and our leader the hon. Shri Jagjivan Ram for this. And whatever I want to tell you in such a short time is that so far as the labour is concerned, the Government have devoted more attention towards the industrial labour and this should have been done. But apart from this the other workers, viz., the agricultural labour and the domestic servants are also being thought of and it is hoped it will be done in future also. But it does not seem to be so hopeful that I should feel happy about it. The attention of the Government has already been drawn towards the Agricultural labour and the investigation work has been started. Therefore, I can say with confidence that the Agricultural labourers in almost all the villages are very eagerly looking towards the Government. But even after all this is done, I would like to invite your particular attention towards the domestic servants. I should like to invite your special attention towards the sanitary labour. I know this that as a result of the strenuous efforts made by the late Mahatma Gandhi and through his benedictions coupled with the endeavours made by the Congress, the sanitary labour for whom I shall particularly use the word *Bhangi* have gained sufficient strength. Our Government and leaders have also devoted their attention towards them and so far as our present Labour Minister is concerned, he has special sympathy for them in his heart. So I have stood before you to espouse their cause, especially the condition of the *Mehlars* (Sweepers). When the word *Mehtar* is dinned into our ears, a peculiar emotion is aroused in our hearts. What do you see while you pass through the streets and enter your houses? I admit that you have eradicated this evil of untouchability—you have wiped off this slur—by means of the Constitution, by means of reformation and through constant endeavours in introducing the reforms. But still the people are harbouring some such

[Shri Bahmiki]

feelings in their hearts which I would like to expose here. Even now when a mother finds her child lying on the ground besmeared with earth or when he becomes dirty, she rebukes him and says "You have become a *Bhangi* (sweeper)—a *Chamar* (cob-
bler)". This is the bent of mind which has overpowered the people and I should like to draw your attention towards this. The *Bhangi* is under some compulsion and I would even assert that he is the humblest servant of the society. I should today like to divert your attention towards him. You may see what is their condition today? If you just imagine their plight, even the most stone-hearted persons will begin to shed tears and misery and affliction will prevail. I know the intentions of the Govern-
ment are quite clear in this respect, but the Central Government with whom I am concerned are not devoting so much attention towards these people as may be neces-
sary. I know you will not evade this. It will not serve any useful purpose if you detach this as a domestic problem. You may just see that in case these people are not looked after, they are likely to have their leanings towards Communism—the wave of which has today spread throughout the world. I know that our country is quite free from this because our National Government has also, simultaneously with the political struggle of the country, successfully tackled the problem of bread on which depends the so-called economic structure. What I, therefore, want is that our lead-
ers should devote attention towards this community. I should like to say this during the short time at my disposal that our *Mehtar* labour is spread throughout the length and breadth of the country and although the people admit these domestic *Mehtars* as labourers, yet they are precluded from being enumerated under the category of 'labour'. This will not do. If you see the number of our *Mehtar* bre-
thren, you will find that they are second to the Harijans and so far as their function is concerned, that is considered to be the most important one. Many people regard this as the mother's work and revere it like a mother. Kabir has said in this country :

"*Ayo Mehtar Milan toi*".

He has described God as a '*Mehtar*' because He expiates a man after absolving him of five kinds of *mals* (sins) viz., lust, anger, greed, pride and infatuation, and similarly these *Mehtars* purify the society outwardly. While everybody is conscious of his (*Mehtar's*) sublimity in this sphere, why no attention is paid towards the ame-
lioration of his financial condition? If you see this problem from the religious per-
spective, you will find that it has already been solved today and the feeling of equal-
ity has been created in the society. So in view of all this, we hope that a solution in this direction is being found out.

But if you view this from the financial aspect, you will find that they are con-
siderably weak in this respect and if this weakness is not removed, I am sure, and am even prepared to say this authoritatively by raising my hand, that the Communists are persistently casting their looks on these people, although they do not achieve any success in this end. I should like to draw the attention of the Government towards this that no delays should be made in this matter. So far as the *Mehtars* employed by the Municipal Boards are concerned, their condition cannot be des-
cribed as satisfactory although it is hoped to be so, because the State Government is looking towards this aspect and they have at least done something to fix their minimum salary as a result of the findings of the Enquiry Committee who have also suggested that their tenements should be well-built. They have also stated that they should be paid a pension and that is being granted to them. But the greatest weakness that is apparent in it is that no special attention is paid by the Central Government towards this direction. So, my submission is that if you do not treat the *Mehtars* as inferior and regard the work done by them as very sublime and in the words of the late Mahatma Gandhi preserve their loftiness, a Commission should be appointed to enquire into their Condition and after that commission has complet-
ed its enquiry, collected the relevant statistics, ascertained their indebtedness and presented its report—I mean also those labourers who are employed by the Municipal

Boards and who are working in the cities and performing domestic duties—I hope the hon. Minister, whose heart is full of sympathy for the *Mehtars*, shall bring forth such legislation on the basis of that report as would seek to ameliorate their condition. Those people, who assert that no legal measure can be enacted for their benefit, are mistaken. If you can frame legislation for the benefit of other labourers, there is no reason why no measure should be brought forth for the *Mehtars*. I recollect the events that have taken place during the twenty two years of my life, when at the age of ten years I used to work on the roads of Bulandshahr with a broom in my hand. Later on through the kindness of Mahatma Gandhi and the benevolence of the Congress workers I got an opportunity and I today happen to come before you in this capacity. I should again like to express my gratitude for your having given me so much time to enable me to express my views before this House. In addition to this, I should also like to congratulate the hon. Labour Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram and request him to try to bring forth a measure to this effect as early as possible. Some practical steps must be taken in this respect from which it may be clear that there are no *Mehtars* here but all are *Mahattars*.

श्री बी० के० पानी : भारत आजाद होने के बाद हमें मजदूरों की हालत सुधारने की तरफ़ भी ख्याल देना है। कानून तो हमारी कांग्रेस सरकार ने मजदूरों की बाबत पास कर दिया, लेकिन कानून पास कर देने से ही हमारा काम खत्म नहीं होजाता। आप दुनिया भर के आईन पास कर दें और मजदूरों की मांगों के प्रति आप हमदर्दी जाहिर करते हैं कि मजदूरों की हालत बदले। लेकिन यह आईन पास होने के बाद अगर प्रापरली (properly) उनको इम्पलीमेंट (implement) नहीं किया जाता है और उनको इम्पलीमेंट करना स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का फ़र्ज़ हो जाता है और अगर वह उसको ठीक तरह से नहीं करती हैं, तो उसकी जिम्मेदारी आप पर ही आती है। सिर्फ़ कागज़ कलम में आईन पास कर देने से कोई तबदीली नहीं आसकती है, जब तक कि उनपर अमल न कराया जाये। अभी जो मजदूरों के वास्ते फ़ैक्टरी ऐक्ट बना है, वह ठीक तरह से लागू किया जाता है कि नहीं, इसको भी कोई देखने वाला नहीं है। इन्टरनेशनल लेबर कान्फ़ेस (International Labour Conference) का निर्णय है कि औरतें खान के भीतर काम नहीं करेंगे लेकिन आप देखिये कि उड़ीसा में जहां लोहे, पत्थर और कोयले की खानें हैं वहां सौ सौ औरतें दिन में और रात में भी खानों में काम करती हैं, उसको देखने वाला कोई नहीं है। फ़ैक्टरी इन्स्पेक्टर होता है, लेकिन वह काम का नहीं होता, क्योंकि उसका रुख़ अभी तक बदला नहीं है। जब तक इन अफ़सरान के रुख़ में परिवर्तन नहीं होता और यह नहीं समझते कि अब जमाना बदल गया है, तब तक भले आप दुनिया भर के आईन पास करते चले जायं, फिर भी मजदूरों की हालत में परिवर्तन होने वाला नहीं है। इसलिये मैं श्रम मंत्री जी का उधर ध्यान आकर्षित कराना चाहता हूँ। उड़ीसा की पी० सी० सी० के प्रेसीडेंट और सेक्रेटरी की हैसियत से हमारे श्री विश्वनाथ दास जी जो इस हाउस के मेम्बर हैं, उनके साथ मुझे कुछ कोयले की खानों में जाने का मौका मिला था और मजदूरों को मालूम था कि आप वहां जा रहे हैं। वहां के

[श्री बी० कै० पानी]

एक मजदूर ने एक मिट्टी के कलसे में अपना पसीना अंगोछा से पोंछ कर भर के दास जी के सामने प्रेजेंट कर दिया। फिर उसके बाद पी० सी० सी० में मजदूरों की हालत को लेकर बहुत बात चीत हुई है। मैं भी बहसियत वाइस प्रेसीडेंट उड़ीसा नेशनल ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस के विश्वनाथ दास जी को पूछा था कि माइन्स में मजदूर जो काम करते हैं, उनके लड़कों के लिये न पढ़ाने का कोई इन्तजाम है, न अस्पताल का कोई इन्तजाम है, न कोई दूसरा इमिनिटिज (amenities) का इन्तजाम है। दास जी कहते हैं मैंने बारबार श्री जगजीवन राम जी का ध्यान उस तरफ़ दिलाया है और मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि उनकी बेहतरी के लिये कोई कार्यवाही जल्द से जल्द होने वाली है। लेकिन यह तो एक साल बीत गया, एक साल से ऊपर हो गया जब हम से यह कहा गया था लेकिन अभी तक उन मजदूरों की हालत में कुछ भी सुधार नहीं हुआ है। इसलिये मैं अर्ज करूँगा और बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि खाली कानून पास करने का कोई मतलब ही नहीं होता।

हमारे उड़ीसा प्रान्त में मंगनीज (manganese) और कोयले की बहुत सी खानें हैं मगर वहाँ पर जो लेबर की हालत है वह बयान नहीं की जा सकती है। करीब ३० और ४० हजार मजदूर उड़ीसा की खानों में काम करते हैं मगर उनके रहने के लिए मकानों का बिल्कुल ही प्रबन्ध नहीं है। B. L. S. Co. and Bird & C. दो साहब कम्पनी जो की खदाम मालिक हैं वे अपने मजदूरों को रहने के लिये जो घर दिये हैं उसकी हालत बहुत बुरा है। वह मकान इस तरह के हैं कि शायद ही हमारे बकरी और दूसरे जानवर उस तरह की जगहों में रहते होंगे। मैं तो कहूँगा कि उनको घर न समझ कर बकरियों और जानवरों का घर कहा जाय तो अच्छा होगा। यह हालत वहाँ के मजदूरों की है। हम लोगों ने आईन पास कर दिया है मगर उन गरीब मजदूरों के लिए इसका कोई भी फायदा नहीं हुआ। उनको इस समय कोई सहारा देना वाला नहीं है। उनको हमारी सरकार के आने से कोई भी चेन्ज नहीं मालूम होता है और जो कानून है वह उनको कोई सहारा देने वाला है वे महसूस नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि उन मजदूरों के लिए हाउसिंग (housing) का प्राबलम (problem), उनके पीने के लिए पानी का जलर स्याल किया जाना चाहिये। वहाँ पर उनको अस्पताल वगैरा, शिक्षा का सब तरह का उनके बच्चों के लिए इन्तजाम होना चाहिये। अगर यह सरकार इस तरह की सुविधा उनको नहीं देती तो यह सरकार अपने फरायज को पूरा नहीं करती। अगर आप यह महसूस करते हैं कि स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट

अपने काम को पूरा करने के काबिल नहीं है तो आप एक कानून बनाकर लेबर को आप कंट्रोल में ले आइये जिससे उनको फायदा होगा और वह यह समझने लगेंगे कि हमारी सरकार ने हमारे लिए इतनी सुविधा दी है। यह काम जब तक नहीं होता तब तक वह लोग परिवर्तन महसूस नहीं करेंगे।

दूसरा प्रस्ताव मेरा यह है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसको ठीक तरह से पूरा किया जाय। मजदूरों की हालत को जांच करने के लिए लोकल कमेटी और एडवाइजरी कमेटी का प्रोविजन (provision) जरूर रखना चाहिये। शायद इसके सहारे से बहुत कुछ काम हो सकता है। इसमें पब्लिक इन्स्टीट्यूशन (public institutions) और कांग्रेस कमेटियाँ और दूसरी संस्थाओं का इसमें सहयोग हो। इससे यह होगा कि जो अधिकारी हैं वह ठीक तरह से इस कार्य को कर सकेंगे और मजदूरों की जो कठिनाई और असुविधा है उसका अच्छी तरह से पता लगा सकेंगे।

उड़ीसा में सम्भलपुर जिले में और तालचेर में कोयले की खानें हैं। वहां पर जो कोयले के खानों में काम करने वालों के लिए वेल फेयर फंड (welfare fund) है वह क्यों नहीं मजदूरों की भलाई के लिए काम में लाया जाता है ? मैं इस बात के लिए मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकषित करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस बात को देखें कि मजदूरों का जो फंड है वह मजदूरों की भलाई के ही काम में शीघ्र लाया जाय। पहले यह बनलाया गया था कि मजदूरों के लिये १० लाख मकान बनाये जायेंगे मगर हम देखते हैं कि हजार मकान भी उनके लिये नहीं बनाये गये होंगे। इस काम को पूरा करने के लिए क्या कठिनाई है यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आया। अगर इस काम को करने के लिए सिमन्ट की कठिनाई है, आइरन (iron), स्टील (steel) की कठिनाई है जिसकी वजह से ये मकान तैयार नहीं हो सकते हैं। मगर मैं देखता हूँ कि कठिनाई कुछ भी नहीं है। हम लोग अगर चाहें तो मिट्टी के भी घर तैयार कर सकते हैं। इस काम के लिए हमारे पास सब कुछ सामान है और काम करने वाले भी हमारे यहां के ही लोग हैं। टाइल और खपरैल हमारे कुम्हार तैयार कर सकते हैं और अच्छे मकान तैयार हो सकते हैं। फिर भी मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि क्यों मकानों के बनाने में दिक्कत आ रही है। इन चीजों से हम हवादार और अच्छे सेनीटेशन (sanitation) वाले मकान तैयार कर सकते हैं।

तो मेरा यह अर्ज करना है कि जितना हम हज़म कर सकें उतना ही हम अपने सामने रखें। ब्रिटिश सलतनत २०० साल रहकर हम लोगों को बरबाद कर गई है

[श्री बी० के० पानी]

यह बात तो सब लोग महसूस करते हैं। फिर भी हमको यह सोचना है कि जितना हम हज्म कर सकते हैं उतने ही काम पर हमको हाथ डालना चाहिये। इसलिए अब सही बात तो यह है कि एग्रीकल्चरल लेबर (agricultural labour) की हालत को ठीक करना है और उसमें परिवर्तन लाना है उनके मिनिमम वेजज (minimum wages) को ठीक करना है। ब्रिटिश सरकार के समय तो लेबर कानून से २५ लाख मजदूर एक्ट के अन्दर आते थे मगर आपके लेबर कानून से करीब १ करोड़ मजदूर इसके अन्दर आ रहे हैं। इनके भीतर अभी काफी असन्तोष है एग्रीकल्चरल लेबर करीब दस करोड़ की है। अगर खाली कानून बना कर ठीक रूप से उसकी अमल पर ध्यान न दिया जाय उनमें भी परिवर्तन नहीं हो सकता है

इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जो हमने आईन पास किया है उसको दृष्टि में रखते हुए उसके एक एक शब्द को मको ठीक तरह से लागू करना होगा। क्योंकि हम लोग महसूस करते हैं और हम को अक्सर दिक्कत आती रहती है जबकि हम उन लोगों के पास जाते हैं और वह लोग हमसे पूछते हैं कि हमारी सरकार ने हमारे लिए क्या क्या किया है। इसके साथ ही साथ जो वहाँ पर अफसर लोग होते हैं और जो अफसर जायेंगे तो वह लोग अपने पुराने ख्याल से जायेंगे और कांग्रेस वालों को बदनाम करेंगे। I am concerned with Congress organisation इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से यह प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि हमको आईन में जो बातें पास की गई हैं उनको पूरे तरह से लागू करना चाहिये। इस बात को पूरा करने के लिए हम सब लोगों को कोशिश करनी चाहिये ताकि मजदूर लोगों को हर तरह का फायदा पहुंच सके।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri B. K. Pani (Orissa): Sir, Now that India has attained freedom we should also attend to the amelioration of the lot of the labourers. Our Congress Government has of course passed legislation for the benefit of the labourers but our duty would not end there. You may pass any number of laws and express any amount of sympathy for the demands of labour and wish to ameliorate their lot, but if a law that is passed is not properly implemented it becomes a duty of the State Government to implement it and if it too fails to do so the responsibility falls on you. Putting a law into black and white would not in itself bring about a change until this is followed by practice. Even in the case of the factories Act recently passed for the labourers it appears nobody is going to see whether or not it is enforced properly. The International Labour Conference has decided that women shall not be employed to work inside the mines. But, in Orissa, where there are steel and coal mines and stone quarries you find hundreds of women working inside the mines both by day and night, but nobody takes any notice of that. The Factory Inspector is there but he is of no use as there is no change in his attitude

yet. So long as there is no change in the attitude of these officers and they do not realize that the times have changed, there is not going to be any change in the lot of the workers no matter what number of laws are enacted by you. Hence, I wish to draw the attention of the Labour Minister to this. I and Shri Biswanath Das, who is a Member of this House, had an opportunity to visit some coal mines in our capacity as the Secretary and President of the Orissa P.C.C. The workers knew about the visit of Shri Das. One of them wiped his sweat with a towel and then squeezed it over an earthen jug, filling it with the sweat, which he presented before him. A lot of discussion took place thereafter in a P.C.C. meeting about the plight of the workers. As Vice-President of the Orissa National Trade Union Congress I too brought it to the notice of Biswanath Dasji that there were no arrangements for the education of the children of the labourers working in the mines, nor a hospital nor any other amenities. Dasji replied he had time and again drawn the attention of Shri Jagjivan Ramji to that and he hoped that some early steps were going to be taken in that direction. Over a year has elapsed since I said this to him but there is no improvement in the condition of the workers yet. That is why I say that the mere passing of legislation has no sense.

There are several manganese and coal mines in Orissa Province but the plight of the workers there beggars description. About 30 to 40 thousand labourers are working in Orissa mines but there are absolutely no arrangements for residential accommodation for them. The houses which the two English companies, *viz.*, B.L.S. Co. and Bird & Co., who are owners of mines, have provided to their workers for residence are in a wretched condition. Those houses are of such a type that they are hardly fit for our goats and other animals to live in. I should prefer to describe them as pens and stables rather than as houses. Such is the plight of the workers there. We have passed a law but it has brought no benefit to them. They are at present not getting any support from any quarter. They feel no change has come by the coming into power of our Government. Nor do they feel the law is going to afford any relief to them. Hence, I want that something should be done to solve their housing problem and to make provision for drinking water for them. There must be arrangements for a hospital for them and also provision for the education of their children. The Government will be failing in their duty if they cannot provide them with amenities of that kind. If you feel that the State Government is not in a position properly to discharge its functions in that behalf then you should, by means of suitable legislation, take the labour under your own jurisdiction. This would be beneficial to them and they would start feeling that their Government has granted some amenities to them. Until this is done those people will not feel there has been any change.

Another suggestion which I should like to be followed up is that provision must be made for the constitution of a local committee and an advisory committee for finding out the condition of the workers. A lot of work might be done with their help. The co-operation of public institutions and Congress Committees should be sought to that end. This would help the officials in discharging their duties more efficiently and in finding out more exactly the difficulties and inconveniences of the labourers.

In Orissa there are coal mines in Sambhalpur and Talcher districts. Why is the Welfare Fund, which is meant for the coal mine workers there, not being utilized for their benefit? I wish to urge upon the hon. Minister that the workers' fund should be utilized early in their interest. It had been announced that ten lakh houses were to be constructed for the workers but we find that not even a thousand such houses have been built. I fail to understand what could be the obstacle to the accomplishment of that task. If it is for lack of cement, iron or steel that these houses are not being constructed I think this is not an insurmountable hurdle. We can build mud houses if we want to. We have every kind of material for such an undertaking and the workers are all available here. Tiles and

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bricks can be prepared by our *Kumhars* and good houses can be built with them. I, therefore, fail to understand what is the difficulty in the way of the construction of the houses. With this material we can build airy and sanitary houses.

I would submit that we should undertake only such tasks as we can properly attend to. That the 200 years' long rule of the British has left us ruined is realized by all of us. Yet we must consider that we should attempt only as much as we can reasonably accomplish. Our real problem now is to ameliorate the lot of agricultural labour. We have to determine minimum wages for them. The labour legislation during the British regime covered only 25 lakhs of workers but your law is going to apply to about one crore of them. There is yet a lot of discontent among them. The number of agricultural workers comes up to about ten crores. The mere enactment of legislation in respect of them without its proper enforcement is not likely to make any difference.

I should also submit that we must see to it that every provision of the law passed by us is made applicable. We are often hard put to it and feel very awkward when we approach these people and they ask us "what has our Government done for us?". Moreover, the officers who are working there at present or those who might go there in future have a tendency to retain their old mentality which brings discredit to the Congress. I am concerned with the Congress Organisation. Hence, I would ask the hon. Minister to see to it that the provisions of the legislation passed by us are enforced fully. To that end we all must bend our efforts so that the working people might be able to enjoy all possible benefits.

Mr. Chairman : Does the hon. Minister want a full half an hour or can he spare a few minutes ?

Shri Jagjivan Ram : I can spare five minutes.

Shri Chandrika Ram (Bihar) : At the fag end of the day, I will confine my remarks to agricultural labour only. A lot has been said about the grievances of agricultural labour, and these grievances are right and just, but we must see also the reason why nothing has been done for them. The whole question is this: Industrial labour is concentrated in certain places only where they could easily organise themselves, but agricultural labour is scattered all over the country. They are not organised and they are not vocal. You know that in this country or anywhere only those who are organised and those who are vocal will be heard. Otherwise, nobody will hear you. That is the condition of the agricultural labour.

Then another difficulty is that we do not have sufficient data about the number of these people. According to the International Labour Office, the number in this country is calculated at about 70 millions. Yesterday we discussed about food and agriculture, but nothing has been done for these people, and unless something is done for these people, we cannot increase our food production. Therefore it is very important that the condition of these people should be ameliorated.

I would like to say in brief what is the condition of these people. In my own province of Bihar, in north Bihar they are called *Jamoursi*, and in south Bihar they are called *Karuias*. *Karuias* are of two kinds: one is attached and the other is free. A *Karuias* has to accept any wage given by his landlord or big tenant who is keeping him. Not only that, his wife and his whole family will have to work for him. If he incurs a debt, as years pass by this debt will increase rather than decrease and sometimes generation after generation he has to work for a small debt. That is the condition of the *Karuias*. I recently visited north Bihar with the Harijan Enquiry Committee and I have seen that in the districts of Darbhanga and Purnea even today these people are sold like cattle from one farmer to another and from one *samindar* to another. The *Mussars* who are in large numbers in Bihar have to accept whatever is given to them by their landlords. Their wages are only three

or four seers of *Kacha* grain. If you convert it into money you will get only annas fourteen or fifteen. Whereas industrial labour has housing facilities, medical relief, provident fund and all that, these people do not get even adequate wages. They have no land of their own. Today they will be here and tomorrow they will be going to another place. In the United Provinces, in December 1944 an enquiry was held by the Government in regard to the wages paid to these people. It was found that they were being paid 0-5-7 to 0-7-0 and in the eastern districts from 0-1-6 to 0-2-0. The Flood Commission found that in Bengal the average wage paid was also the same. In the Central Provinces wages are paid mainly in kind and it came to 0-4-0 or so average. In Madras it was somewhat higher, ranging from 0-11-6 to Rs. 1-2-0. The same hard conditions prevail in Orissa and other places and States.

Agricultural labour is very difficult to organise. The whole credit for organising it for the first time in the history of labour must go to the hon. Shri Jagjivan Ram who for the first time in the history of labour passed labour legislation and brought into existence agricultural labour organisations. He also brought this matter to the notice of the Asian Labour Conference which was held recently and he presided over it. I have personal knowledge that he has devoted some time and energy for the welfare of these people. As soon as he came to power, he passed the Minimum Wages Act and made it applicable to agricultural labour. I hope that in the very near future this Act will be implemented. The most creditable thing that he has done is to institute an enquiry into the conditions of agricultural labour. The object of the enquiry is to collect data of employment, of the standard of life and of the indebtedness of agricultural labour. One thing that I have to say is that the progress of this work is slow and that it is not going as rapidly as it should. I would ask that in the very near future definite legislation should be introduced and passed in this House bringing agricultural labour to the level of other labour for which my hon. friends here have urged. Agricultural labour, at present, has no medical relief, no housing provision, and no arrangement for education of children. Even in the countryside they have no houses to live in. Unless we improve their condition, we cannot produce more in the country. So my earnest appeal to the hon. Minister and his Department is that they should ask the State Governments to implement the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. I know the difficulty is that the actual execution of any scheme lies with them—the various States with whose Ministers our Labour Minister has personal contact—and he can ask them to organise agricultural labour on trade union principles. I would request Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, who is the leader of the Trade Union Congress, to take this matter up and do something for these people and I would request the hon. Minister and the labour leaders and the Members as a whole to do something for these unfortunate people. Unless they help this labour, nothing will ever be done for them and nothing more will be produced in the country.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : After a great prolonged world war, the position of Labour Minister in any country is uneviable and, if my friend Mr Shastri is not prepared to congratulate me, it would not come to me as a surprise.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar) : Love's labour.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : Not lost. As a matter of fact, I was prepared for greater criticism. But I know that there was not much scope for it, not because there was not enough time, but because there was not enough justification and material for levelling those criticisms which may be justifiably levelled against Labour Ministers in other countries. I have good reasons for saying this. You compare the industrial unrest in far more industrially advanced countries of the West with that in India. You compare the level of wages, the social security facilities that are

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available to the working classes in this country with those which are available to the working classes in other countries. If you compare also the strikes and the man-days and man-hours lost in those countries with that in India, I am sure you will agree that I deserve some credit.

Shri B. Das : Take all credit, but do not sit late.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : But I do not want to take this credit entirely to myself. I must take this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations and sincere thankfulness to the sense of patriotism and duty of the working classes of this country. That is the one thing that has sustained us and our strength. I do not claim any credit for having done anything substantial for them. Their sense of patriotism was amenable to appeal. In spite of rise in prices and a number of other difficulties they have maintained, and very sincerely and scrupulously too, the industrial truce.

Our objective and policy are well known. That has been laid down in the Constitution itself. My task has become therefore easier. I have only to make some efforts to follow the line chalked out in the Constitution. We stand for a co-operative commonwealth and we have to strive for industrial democracy, nay economic democracy. That is the line on which I am trying to take the working classes of this country. Today, if sometimes people find that I am occasionally a bit harsh to the working classes, it is because I want to make them responsible and I want to make them realise the responsibility that awaits them in the future. A few amenities, a few facilities or a slight increase in wages are not the solution for the problems of the working classes. These are only palliatives. We have to develop economic democracy and we have to make the working classes fully equipped for that. That is where I want to lead the working classes of this country to. That in a sentence is the labour policy of the Government of India.

There has been some criticism regarding the implementation of the various legislations passed by this House. In this connection I want, just in passing, to refer to the constitutional provisions themselves. The responsibilities have been divided between the Centre and the States by the Constitution. Though in respect of the subjects included in the Concurrent List this House is competent to pass legislation, I am not competent to implement the provisions of those Acts. There lies the difficulty. Though in the Constitution there is a provision that Parliament may specifically, in respect of certain matters, empower the Central Government to look to the administration of those Acts, that power has to be utilised very sparingly. In a vast field of labour activities the administrative power lies with the States. I am not saying this to shirk my responsibility but only to indicate to hon. Members who have raised this question, namely that more and more emphasis should be laid on education, sanitation and other facilities for the working classes from the Centre. I do not know what answer to give to that question but I want to point out that these subjects are exclusively the charge of the State Governments and it will not be possible for the Union Government to do anything substantial in these respects.

All the same I am quite aware that the staff at the disposal either of the Union Government or the State Governments is not enough to cope with the burden of work that has been thrown upon them. The reason is well known, namely the financial difficulty.

My colleague, the hon. Finance Minister, in this Budget has tried his best to restore confidence in that section of the community which fortunately has managed to control those resources which if made available to the Government will be helpful in surmounting our difficulties. It is to be seen how far the hopes of my colleague will be realised. My task becomes difficult, because I have to work between two parties, the employer and the employee, and it has become more difficult because both sides appear to be displeased with me. I cannot help it. . . .

Shri B. Das : Displeased with you and displeased with each other.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : I cannot help it. There are those who think on the lines of my hon. friend Mr. Das. They feel and sometimes express emphatically that the Government is very much pro-labour and that we are running with very rapid strides for the progress and improvement of labour. On the other side, the labour friends blame us that we are pro-capitalist and whatever action is taken by this Government is mostly in the interest of the vested interests....

An Hon. Member : And they are right.

Shri Kamath : That policy must be right then.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : My colleague, the Finance Minister may afford to please only one section or only the other section but I have to look to both of them and I have to try to please both of them; or if I displease both of them I have the satisfaction at least that I am following the right path, which is fair to both sides. So I try to hold the balance evenly but holding the balance does not mean not to side with the weaker party....

Shri Sidhva : You also help only one party.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : I frankly admit that I believe in holding the balance, but I do also believe at the same time that holding the balance even meant giving weightage to the weaker party and I try to do it. How far I succeed I cannot say.

I was saying that if we have not got enough of staff it is not that we do not realise that the staff is insufficient but we find that the financial resources at our disposal are not enough.

My friend Mr. Sarangdhar Das (of course, I do not claim to be as versatile as he claims to be) complained that the awards of the Industrial Tribunals are not implemented or enforced. There are some complaints but not to the extent he tried to make out. We found that there were some defects in our existing Industrial Disputes Act and that is why we have taken this opportunity to make up these defects and we have already introduced the Labour Relations Bill, which seeks to give us more and more power for the enforcement of the awards of the Tribunals. One particular instance he quoted, that, of the Talcher Colliery. I know that in the Vellies' colliery the award has not been implemented fully. The workers not only threatened but actually went on strike. I am telling this for the information of my friend, Mr. Sarangdhar Das.

Shri Sarangdhar Das : Yes, after two or three times when you had to stop it.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : That is of course the legitimate duty of the officers of the labour relations machinery of the Government of India, namely, to try to see that the threatened strikes do not materialise....

Shri Sarangdhar Das : That is the point I wish to remind you, that the award was given in May and uptil now it was not implemented.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : The difficulty arises somewhere, where the employer says "I have no capacity to implement the terms of the award and I will rather close down than implement the award." In that case we find ourselves helpless. Either we allow the employer to close down his establishment, and thereby throw the workers to face unemployment, or, we have some arrangement in order to run that concern or establishment. These are the only two alternatives, and the latter powers we are taking in the Labour Relations Bill.

The third alternative, as at present provided in the Industrial Disputes Act, is the prosecution of the employer.

An Hon. Member : With two hundred rupees fine !

Shri Jagjivan Ram : Whatever the fine may be, prosecution of the employer. That is not going to solve the problem. Of course, in that particular colliery our officers are looking into the matter and further inquiries are being held. But I do feel that prosecution of the employer is not the remedy which will remove the grievances of the workers. Even the provisions under the Industrial Disputes Act are not quite effective. I do frankly admit that, and that is why we are going to amend that.

As regards the welfare activities in the coal mines, as has been stated by Mr. Das himself, Talcher was in the so-called Native States and the Fund was being managed by the Ruler of that State. Of course, the account was not very well maintained, but we have taken the administration of the Welfare Fund in Talcher area also. We are going shortly to appoint an Advisory Committee for that area. As a matter of fact, we have already requested the Orissa Government to give us the names of the representatives of workers so that we may form a local Committee there to advise in the matter of welfare activities in those areas. The conditions in mines were not very good in those States which were known as the Native States. As a matter of fact, we are going to take over the administration of those mines from the 1st of April next. After that only will our officers be going to those areas, and we will try as far as we can to enforce the provisions that are laid down either in the Mines Act or in the Factories Act.

The money that has been realised on account of the Welfare Fund has not been spent completely. There are some balances because we have not been able to spend on housing as much as we ought to have. But there are other activities on which we are spending some money. Even in the coal fields of Orissa we have an anti-malaria campaign which is very useful, and it has been admitted both by the workers and the employers and others that it is doing good work. Other activities we are soon going to start in the Orissa coal fields also as we have started in the coal fields in Bihar, Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. Housing programme also we are going to take up, and I think we are going to have some hospitals also there.

Mr. Venkataraman has raised one or two questions. As regards our labour relations machinery, though we have got in the Centre a number of staff and officers, our responsibility is growing with the growing consciousness among the workers, not that the situation has deteriorated, but because the consciousness among the workers is growing and there is greater demand and greater pressure on our labour relations machinery, and our officers find that they have to handle a larger number of cases now than they had to do in the past. It is a happy sign. The implementation and enforcement of any Act cannot be left entirely to Governmental machinery. The enforcement of any Act also depends upon the social consciousness among the workers and as to how far they want to take advantage of the provisions provided by law. If they are not in a position to take advantage of the provisions contained in the law, only Governmental machinery cannot give them all the advantages and benefits that are provided in the Acts. They will have also to make an effort to take advantage of those provisions. That is where the usefulness of labour workers and trade unions comes in. Our trade unions will have to be more and more alert, more and more active, more and more constructive, on the lines of pure and simple trade unionism. Then they will be able to place the workers in a position where they can take more and more advantage even from those provisions which exist in our Acts.

About lengthy procedure and lengthy awards, Mr. Venkataraman has given the example of awards in other countries which are very summary in character. But he forgets that in the U.K. and the U.S.A. the workers are so united and their unions are so developed that there are very rare occasions for compulsory adjudication. They settle everything by collective bargaining and mutual negotiations,

and that is why if on some points of difference the matters are referred to arbitration the arbitrator has to give a very summary award. For, the issues there are very limited and the differences are crystallized. But here we have embarked on a new venture. If in a judicial court—in a civil or criminal court—where the award or judgment of the presiding officer affects the relations of two individuals or two parties, where it is not going to have any effect on the social structure, judgments can be written in hundreds of pages, certainly in those cases where the awards are going to lay the foundation of a new social order or change the social outlook or change the precedents already existing, if the awards take more than a hundred pages, I will not grumble. This distinction should be realized, this distinction should be appreciated that the judgment of a High Court judge in a criminal or civil case between two parties will affect two persons or three persons or at the most half a dozen persons, but the award of a tribunal will not only affect, say, a thousand or hundreds of workers but it may affect the whole society. Therefore, the judge presiding over a tribunal will have to bestow greater care, greater vigilance, and examine in greater detail as to what repercussions his award will produce on society, or whether the trend that he will indicate for a social change is in the right direction or in the wrong direction.

As regards the Workmen's Compensation Act, I think I told the House yesterday 6 P. M. that the amount of compensation also arises, as it is linked up with dearness allowance and basic wages. All the same, I have myself found that there are certain difficulties apart from this point which require to be considered and I have already ordered that the Act should be examined from that point of view.

Regarding agricultural labour, it is heartening that the country is realising more and more that, if food production is to be increased, something substantial has got to be done for the agricultural labour. It is heartening that in this House also a larger number of hon. Members are taking interest in the problem of agricultural labour. I was analysing the cut motions and I found that no less than fourteen hon. Members have given notice of cut motions to discuss the problem of agricultural labour, and the distribution of these hon. Members among the various States in the country is also enlightening—they hail practically from every State. So, it appears that the problem of agricultural labour is assuming serious proportions, not in one State only, but practically in all the States. When we talk about production, it is unfortunate that some persons feel that it is only capital, or implements, or machinery which is going to increase production, but they forget that there is the human factor which neither capital nor implements nor machinery can produce. The earlier we realise this fact, the earlier we realise that the human element is indispensable for increased production, the better it will be for the country. (*Hon. Members* : Hear, hear). Howsoever we may placate capital, howsoever we may try to import improved machineries, howsoever we may try to give better facilities for irrigation, improved varieties of seeds and implements, production is not going to increase appreciably so long as we ignore the human element. Whether it is industrial production or agricultural production, whether it is production of goods or whether it is increment of efficient services, one cannot afford to ignore the human side of it. (*Shri Kamath* : That is it). Unfortunately, upto now enough amount of attention has not been paid to those vast masses of people who, by their hard labour, sustain the society—I mean, agricultural labour. Their number is vast ; their problems are varied ; their difficulties and problems are sometimes baffling. I remember once, some fifteen years ago, when I raised this question of agricultural labour, a friend of mine said that I was raising the hornets' nest. I said that I knew that. Sometimes, as you know, it lies in some persons just to discover the problem, to place it before the society, the thinkers and the doers, and when the problem comes in the forefront, we will have to think of the solution too. It is gratifying to me personally that the question which I raised a decade ago—at that time, mine was perhaps a solitary voice—has now gathered momentum

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and today hon. Members of this august House also feel that there is a problem like the problem of agricultural labour in the country. Ten years ago, nobody knew that there was such a problem, and when it has been brought to our notice that there is that problem, I have no doubt that it will be solved today or tomorrow.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): If we do not solve it, the problem will solve itself.

Shri Kamath: The day after tomorrow.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: But, at the same time, I know and I want to tell the House that if we solve it today, the solution will be graceful.

Shri Kamath: You strike the right note there.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If we leave it for tomorrow, perhaps it will be.....

Shrimati Benuka Ray (West Bengal): Late?

Shri Jagjivan Ram:not late, nor too late, but it will be only force of circumstances and not we who will be solving it. We will not solve it, but conditions will be solving it. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to express the hope that the State Governments who have directly to face this problem will expedite the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, which is their responsibility.

I want to mention one or two more points in this connection. We have taken up the enquiry, but at the same time, wherever we have started the investigation into the condition of agricultural labour, our officers have persuaded the Governments of the States concerned to extend the welfare activities of their Rural Development Departments in those areas, so that the agricultural workers there may get some benefit of the welfare activities. It is heartening that many of the State Governments have agreed to do this and have made some modest beginning. I am sure the enquiry will be expedited and the minimum wages will be fixed, but more than that,—more than the fixation of the minimum wages, more than the solution of their problem by Acts and Statutes,—their problems will be solved by the growing social consciousness amongst social and welfare workers, and I expect more from that, because no social problem of any appreciable dimension can be solved by legislation and Statutes alone. It requires the active cooperation, help and service of public-spirited people, and I hope India has still got a host of such public-spirited social workers, who will devote their services and attention to the problem of agricultural labour with which we have to reckon at every stage in our drive for food self-sufficiency.

As regards fair wages, the report of the Committee has been received. A Departmental draft has been prepared and a Bill is being drafted by the Ministry of Law and I may assure my hon. friend, Mr. Harihari Nath Shastri that the earliest opportunity will be taken to introduce it.

As regards housing, my hon. friend, Mr. Harihar Nath Shastri said that we have not implemented the terms of the Industrial Truce Resolution. I have no hesitation in admitting that there has been no progress in this respect. The real difficulty has been, not one of building materials but of money. I hope that as a result of the concessions proposed in this Budget Government loans will meet with greater response from the investing public and my colleague, the hon. the Finance Minister will be able to raise more capital and give a substantial amount for the housing programme. In that respect I have to say only this much that we have not abandoned that scheme and there is a provision of one crore of rupees in the present

Budget. But that is not very encouraging. Let us hope that the employers and industrialists of this country will also realise their responsibility and feel that while they have to look after their machinery, they have also to look after their labour. They feel that it is cheaper to replace a worker than to replace a part of the machinery. The sooner they give up, the sooner they banish this notion from their mind, the better it is for them and for the country. It is a fact that in India even at present it is cheaper to replace a worker than to replace a part of the machinery. But let the employers realise that human life has greater value and greater utility than the machinery.

As regards profit-sharing as my hon. friend, Mr. Shastri himself is aware, there was no unanimity in the detailed scheme. The employers who themselves agreed to this idea of profit-sharing in the resolution which was unanimously adopted at the Industrial Truce Conference, at which the employers of this country were amply represented in a very large number, when it came to the question of brass tacks, backed out—I will have to use that phrase. They brought in the plea that this was not the proper time to give effect to the scheme of profit-sharing. Some of them frankly admitted that they were in a tight corner because labour troubles were increasing and so they had to promise something in order that labour troubles would abate. When the troubles abated and when better days came they brought forward the plea that this was not the proper time to give effect to any scheme of profit-sharing. Government will examine the scheme which has been submitted to them and will come to certain decisions. That is all that I have to say in that respect.

Retrenchment is another question—a great problem at present and the causes of retrenchment are manifold. In some cases it is shortage of raw material; in other cases it is accumulation of stock. In yet other cases it may be rationalisation or shortage of finance. Whatever may be the cause of retrenchment, the fact remains that it increases the difficulties of labour. Where we find that the difficulties of the employer are genuine, where the employer wants to keep his establishment running but is forced by circumstances quite beyond his control, we cannot ask him to keep his workers in employ whether his establishment pays or not. This is the dilemma with which we are faced. We have been considering a scheme of limited benefits to retrenched workers so that for a short duration they may be able to maintain themselves and be able to get some sort of subsistence allowance for the period they are without employment, so that the rigours of unemployment may be lessened to some extent. We are considering that scheme and I hope that we will come to certain decisions in the near future.

The other measure that we are considering is some sort of training in some trades, vocational trades, to the retrenched workers, so that they may be able to earn their livelihood even if they go to the countryside. Such trades are carpentry, black-smithery, etc. We have got a number of training centres for adult civilians where we are giving training in various technical and vocational trades. We are trying to utilise those centres for imparting training to retrenched persons in the morning and evening shifts and the period of training may be shortened to three or four months. We have already taken up this question with the Governments of the States and I hope we will be able to do something in this direction as well. So, these are the two schemes we are considering in connection with retrenchment and unemployment. But I want to make it clear that placed as we are at present, it may not be possible in the near future to solve the unemployment problem in this country.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri : What is the fate of the working parties or working commissions to enquire into this question?

Shri Jagjivan Ram : Working parties are going to be set up and my hon. colleague, the Minister of Industry and Supply, has already taken up this question. I hope working parties will be set up very soon.

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

My hon. friend, Mr. Kanhaiyalal Balmiki has raised the question of municipal labour, the scavengers or *mehitars*. I may at once tell him that we are not making any distinction in our labour legislation between the other type of workers and municipal workers or scavenging staff. Whatever benefits we are giving to other workers in the factories, if there are scavengers in those factories, they get the same benefits. In the coal fields where we have introduced the provident fund and bonus schemes, the scavenging staff get the same benefits and advantages as other industrial labour. The scavenging staff and the other types of workers are treated on the same footing. Even under our Industrial Disputes Act, scavengers are treated on a par with any other workers. A worker is a worker, irrespective of the fact that he is a sanitary worker, technical worker, manual worker or a clerical worker. They are to be treated on the same footing.

Shri Sonavane : Distinction is being made between Harijan workers and non-Harijan workers in the textile mills—particularly in the weaving departments—of Bombay. What is Government doing in this direction?

Shri Jagjivan Ram : It is not prevalent in Bombay. I have information that there is some such practice in Ahmedabad. But that is not in regard to scavenging labour. All the same, I shall deal with that point also.

Mr. Chairman : How long is the hon. Minister likely to take to finish his speech? Because, if he wants to make a long speech I would suggest that we may adjourn now and he may resume his speech tomorrow. It all depends upon the hon. Minister.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : I will finish in about ten minutes. But all the same we shall examine his suggestion of appointing a committee to go into this matter.

I know that the various State Governments have already appointed Enquiry Committees to investigate into the condition of municipal labour in their States and it may not be necessary to have an All-India Roving Commission like that but all the same I will get that point examined. I may assure my friend that in all our labour legislations we are not making any distinction. If you will look into the definition of 'worker' or 'employee' in the Acts passed in this House, you will find that no distinction has been made between the various categories of workers in this country.

As regards the special question which has been raised by my friend, Mr. Sonavane, it was brought to my notice sometime last year and then I took that question up with the Bombay Government and from the statistics that were submitted to us it appeared that in certain departments of the textile mills in Ahmedabad the number of Harijans were negligible. From the reading of those statistics it might have led one to the conclusion that the Harijans were debarred from those Departments. We further took up that question and it appeared that in certain Departments, Harijans were predominantly employed and in those Departments others were rarely to be found.

Shri Sonavane : This was particularly in the Weaving Department.

Shri Jagjivan Ram : Whereas in the Weaving Department others were predominantly employed and Harijans were few. The reason that was given to us and which appeared to be quite sound, was—of course I took up that question with Mr. Khandubhai Desai as well and he is trying his best—that in particular Departments some groups of particular castes have entered from the very beginning and they don't relish the idea of allowing any other person, be he a Harijan

er a non-Harijan, in that Department. There is some sort of a guild monopoly system in those Departments and especially in the Weaving Department of Ahmedabad where a particular community—I forget the name—has created a sort of guild for themselves and will not allow Harijans or any others in that Department. All the same we have taken up this question with the State Government of Bombay and also with Mr. Khandubhai Desai who is the prominent labour leader in Ahmedabad also.

I was surprised to learn that in some of the mines in Orissa female workers were working underground. I cannot say anything authoritatively but under the Act, the employment of female workers underground is prohibited and if they are allowed, they are allowed only for works in connection with surface works. I will get this point investigated, and if it still persists, I will see that it is eliminated.

One point also has been raised that the control of Labour Welfare Officers and Medical Officers in the factories should be under Government. Hon. Members who are acquainted with the two Factories Acts, the one which existed before 1948 and the one which was passed in 1948, will see the distinction between the two Acts. In the previous Act, of course, there was no compulsory provision for Labour Officers and there was no control by Government on the conditions of service of the Labour Welfare Officers employed by the Factories. There were a number of complaints that Welfare Officers in the factories could not exercise their independence and do anything substantial for the labourers because they had always to please the management and could not afford to displease them. That is why we have included a provision in the Factories Act that the conditions of service of the Labour Officers will be determined by the State Government concerned and this has provided a sense of security to Labour Officers and also the Medical Officers. Let us wait and see. If by experience we find that this provision is also not satisfactory, we will amend that. I have a feeling that this will work when the employers know that they cannot dismiss Labour Officers or Medical Officers at their sweet will and that they will have to satisfy the Labour Commissioner or some officer of the State Government. In that case there will be greater sense of security among the officers concerned and the employers will not be allowed to play with them. This is what I have to say.

I know that there is a very difficult situation ahead of us, when there are contracting chances of employment. When the country is faced with retrenchment, when there is growing volume of unemployment, the task of any Labour Minister cannot be easy and I know my difficulties and troubles. I want cooperation from this House and also from friends, outside—employers and employees. It is in the interest of the employers also to try to maintain the existing volume of employment. Not only in the interest of the country and community but even from a narrow selfish point, it is in their interest not to alienate the sympathy of the vast masses of population. Let us hope that the working classes and their organisations will continue to extend that amount of cooperation and help to our requests and appeals which they have hitherto extended to us. Let me take this opportunity of congratulating the employers also. They have, in spite of the difficulties that they had to face, tried to maintain the wheel of production though it has not been as efficient as it ought to have been. I hope that when they realize that the Government is trying to satisfy them as far as possible, they will also play their part. Let them show to the country that the game is not one-sided and they are also prepared to respond to the call from the Government. Let them show that they are also prepared to grasp the hand of cooperation which has been extended to them. That will amply repay them, otherwise it is very difficult to say what will happen.

Mr. Chairman : Does Mr. Sarangdhar Das wish to press his out motion ?

Shri Sarangdhar Das : Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

“ That the demand under the head ‘ Ministry of Labour ’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,22,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘ Ministry of Labour.’ ”

The motion was adopted.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 15th March, 1950.